Another academic year has begun and we’re off to a running start! I’m sure many of you share my amazement (and sometimes dismay) at the bustling corridors and long lines at campus eateries—all signs that FGCU is no longer a “small” regional institution. Thanks to all of you who continue to do the heavy lifting for our large department: our secretary, Lynne Garcia who handles so many tasks without staff assistance; our full-time faculty, who continue to offer our students creative, engaging learning experiences even when asked to raise course caps or teach large enrollment courses; and our adjuncts and TAs, without whom we’d fail to meet our program’s and institution’s growing needs. As we continue to deal with the effects of our state’s budget woes I am reminded again how proud I am to be associated with this department! Your humor, professionalism, and concern for students are the reason that the trains are still running on time...You’re the best!

REMINDE...UPCOMING EVENTS

Language Club Updates: FGCU students formed a language club last semester with the help of faculty supervisor, Dr. Anne-Marie Bouche. Due to the club’s great success and students’ enthusiasm for learning languages, the club has been expanded to include new and “exotic” languages such as Creole, Croatian and Hungarian. The emphasis has been changed slightly to provide more one-on-one tutoring, a change that will better meet students’ individual needs. In addition, the language club is scheduling a regular “Stammtisch” (conversation round) for the languages taught. A new group of teachers is being trained in 4 sessions with the help of Warren Fulton, Method and Training Director of the inlingua Language Centers (husband of our incomparable German Instructor, Carol Fulton). Please let your students know about this wonderful initiative! Interested students should contact Yan Bohyn at ypbohyn@eagle.fgcu.edu.
The National Council of Teachers in Education is sponsoring its second year of the National Day of Writing. We had over 100 submissions last year by students, staff, and faculty in our Florida Gulf Coast University Writers gallery. Please encourage you and your students to submit to our gallery and publish to the world any piece that is important to them—a paragraph, a poem, an email message, an essay, an original movie, etc. This is a nice way to give our Composition program some visibility and a great way for our students to expand their readership beyond the classroom walls. The link to the Florida Gulf Coast University Writers gallery: <Florida Gulf Coast University Writers>. You can contact Diane Cox, our gallery curator this year, if you have questions.

It’s that time of year again—and what a great time it is! The Sanibel Writer’s Conference is scheduled for November 4 - 7, 2010. The keynote speaker is Augusten Burroughs, and a host of events are planned again this year. Participants at all stages of development – from notebook scribblers to published novelists – are invited to attend a variety of three-day morning workshops in fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and creative nonfiction; afternoon panels on publishing, collaborative writing, and humor writing; and nightly readings – all presented by celebrated and experienced writers and teachers. For an additional fee, participants also have the opportunity to meet privately with a writer or editor to discuss (a maximum) 10 pages of a pre-submitted manuscript. The conference is open to any aspiring writer who wants to create new work or refine a project already in progress. Contact Tom DeMarchi with any questions!

Thanks to our dear Director of Composition, Linda Rowland, the First Year Reading Project is now the property of the Department of Language and Literature, specifically the Composition Program! As part of the Reading Project, the Composition Program is bringing a local, eco-photographer to campus to present his work to students as a compliment to this year's FYRP. This will be part of the Live and Learn series. Many thanks to Julie Hoffman for coordinating this event! Mark your calendars! Monday, September 27th @ 7:30 in the SU Ballroom, an event to support the First Year Reading Project, Josh Manring will present Captivated: Images of our Wild Gulf Coast. Invitations have already arrived in your email inboxes. Please try to attend to support Composition Program!

Remember to support our 2nd International Humanities and Sustainability Conference by attending events as possible! It takes place on campus October 8th-9th, 2010. The program is available on the conference website:
http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/HandSCon/program.html.

Your department Chair is trying out a new “tech savvy” approach to department exchanges (oh, oh)! It’s called “Wallwisher” and you can post messages and respond to others’ questions or comments. Given the name of the program, I figured it would be great to start off with your 2010-11 “wishes” for the department, your teaching, etc. Sheila alerted me to this site and I thought it might be fun to give it a try. You can simply post comments (yes, like using a “post it”) and we can add to it anytime. It’s worth a try! Check it out: WALL LINK: http://www.wallwisher.com/wall/LangLit Happy Posting!
What did you do this summer?

Carol Bledsoe, with the cooperation of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction sponsored a one-day Summer Writing Institute this summer. The Summer Writing Institute is a free, on-campus professional development opportunity. The first session, “Encouragement and Accountability: Improving Student Writing Through the Revising Process” was presented by our own Anna Haney-Withrow.

Sheila Bolduc-Simpson had a busy and productive summer! She received the Registered Student Organization Advisor of the Year award from the Office of Student Involvement 2009 – 2010! The student organization she worked with is the Dominican Republic Outreach Program. Sheila presented a poster session for the Society for Information Technology (SITE) in San Diego entitled "I Think, You Think: Teacher-Student Reflections Using Free Online Technologies." She was also awarded a Whitaker Center STEM Academy grant in the amount of $500 to do a poster session for the International Society for Teachers in Education in Denver, Colorado last June. Congratulations, Sheila!

Our ever-prolific writer-teacher Sue Henshon delivered a paper this summer, "Popular Culture for Young People: A Look at Recent Trends" at The University of Cambridge, England. Hope it was a great experience, Sue! She also published the following pieces in the past few months: Review of Sandy Asher's Writing it Right! How Successful Children’s Authors Revise and Sell Their Stories. The Writer (March 2010): 12 and a study based on her dissertation work, “Talent Development and the Creative Writing Process: A Qualitative Study of High-Ability and Gifted Teenagers.” Perspectives in Gifted Education: Creativity 5 (Fall 2009): 144-168. Whew! What a busy bee—well done, Sue!

STUDY ABROAD

Yours truly taught an Honors course at the University for Peace in Costa Rica along with a colleague in the Political Science program, Rick Coughlin. The group was comprised of 10 Honors students from FGCU and 12 from West Texas University. It was a great learning experience for all!
Five FGCU German students tried out their newly acquired language skills on location this summer! Amber Nabors, Jacob Schoonover,Brittney Brady, Lauren Eckels and Michael King all spent part of the summer travelling though Germany and Austria and/or taking intensive German courses to get a head start on this semester. They visited places like Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich and even visited Carol Fulton (for a little culture 😊) in Vienna. All in all, the summer was a great success and its impact is clearly reflected in this semester’s German classes.

Pictured below, Lauren Eckels, Michael King and Carol Fulton at the Mozart Statue in front of the Hofburg, in Vienna.
Ah, Salzburg!

A beautiful place to visit and to study German!

Thanks to our dedicated, industrious Carol Fulton, this will soon be a dream come true for our students! An exchange agreement between FGCU and the University of Salzburg is in process and Jennifer Dake, a junior in psychology, is making arrangements to be FGCU’s first student in the Spring of 2011! Once this agreement is finalized, our students will be able to study German there and their students can take classes in our department. Faculty will also have opportunities to participate. This is an exciting opportunity for all involved. Thanks so much, Carol, for all you’ve done to set this in motion!

News Tidbits and Tasty Morsels...

Please extend your heartiest welcome to our new faculty in the Department: Delphine Gras, Julianna Hoffman, Conan Griffin, and Tim Sutton. They’re a great addition to the “family”! Our wonderful Marta Ramos was hired as the new Assistant Professor of Spanish. Marta has served our program for years as Instructor of Spanish and we’re delighted that she has been rewarded for her hard work!

Congratulations are in order for Amy Towne and Kim Jackson, who earned promotions this year! Amy moves up to Instructor II and Kim to Associate Professor. Three Cheers!

The Gulf Coast Reader has finally come into existence! This is the first FGCU custom Composition I text! Kudos to Nathan Hill, Conan Griffin and Amy Towne for the work they
did to develop this text with Pearson Custom Publishing. Thanks also to the Composition faculty and the Composition Steering Committee for their willingness to support this effort and adopt The Gulf Coast Reader for their courses. Twelve faculty adopted the text this fall. Review copies are available from Lynne Garcia or Linda Rowland.

Conan Griffin has kindly stepped up as our new Faculty Advisor for Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Rebecca has led the group for several years and I can’t think of anyone better to step into those BIG SHOES than Conan, who was a very successful Sigma member and then president as both an undergrad and graduate student. Thanks, Conan!

Last April, Karen Tolchin and a group of our English MA students contributed to the annual national joint session of the Popular Culture and American Culture Associations in St. Louis. Their panel, “Rhetoric, Composition, and Popular Culture: Innovations in First Year Composition” was a great success! Joseph Weakland’s contribution was “Composition as Ecological Study: Writing and Sustainability at FGCU”; Rob Hiatt’s was titled “Uncritical Unconsciousness: The Paternalistic Oppression of the Five-Paragraph Essay”; Chris Force gave his talk the name “Another Satisfied Customer: Getting Students to Think Creatively by Injecting Advertising Strategies into the Composition Classroom”; and Karen delivered a paper called “The (Role) Play’s the Thing: Preparing for the Composition Classroom with Worst Case Scenario-esque Improvisation.” Karen reported that “Our Masters candidates gave the sort of poised, intellectually rigorous presentations one normally expects from seasoned professionals, and the panel was well-attended. The Q & A session lasted approximately half an hour, and several members of the audience stayed after to compliment Joe, Rob, and Chris. I’ve encouraged all three to try to develop their papers—originally written for ENC 6745—for publication. They represented our graduate program and FGCU very well, and we distributed some of Kim’s excellent brochures to get the word out to an even wider audience.” These collaborative research/teaching projects are a boon to our program and a credit to all of us! Thanks, Karen, for leading this expedition!

Wedding Bells are ringing…

Our dear Amy Towne and Ian Peddie tied the knot this summer--a match made--if not in heaven, in the L & L department! Congratulations and much joy to Amy and Ian!

Anna Thompson, Visiting Instructor of Composition last year, moved back home to Nebraska and married this summer. She sends greetings to all her colleagues in the department. Congratulations, Anna!
Three Cheers for our new department faculty books!

Once again congratulations are in order for our own Rebecca Totaro on the publication of her latest book, co-edited with Ernest Gilman, *Representing the Plague in Early Modern England* (Routledge, June 2010). “This collection offers readers a timely encounter with the historical experience of people adapting to a pandemic emergency and the corresponding narrative representation of that crisis, as early modern writers transformed the plague into literature. The essays examine the impact of the plague on health, politics, and religion as well as on the plays, prose fiction, and plague bills that stand as witnesses to the experience of a society devastated by contagious disease.” Way to go, Rebecca!

*Representing the Plague in Early Modern England*
Rebecca Totaro and Ernest Gilman, Editors

This summer our own Jim Brock published *Gods & Money*, his *fourth* book of poetry! The book features poems that contemplate beauty and God, set in relief of 9/11, war, and millennial greed. Brock examines the idols of our worship and the currencies of our human exchange. Over the next year, Brock will be giving readings throughout Florida, including locally in Fort Myers, Edison State College, and on Sanibel. *Gods & Money* is available at the FGCU bookstore and your favorite on-line bookstore as well.

*Gods & Money*
James Brock
Yours truly saw her new edited collection, *Race 2008: Critical Reflections on a Historic Campaign* in print this summer! *Race 2008* brings together a diverse group of scholars and activists to examine the gendered politics, rhetorical practices, and racial/ethnic conflicts that served as a backdrop to this momentous election. It provides critical insights on the social dynamics fueling campaign rhetoric, grassroots activism, and intergroup conflicts in 2008 and beyond. My Intro, “Post-Election Blue” sets a context for the study, while “Baiting Red, Turning Blue: The Dynamics of Change in Cuban Miami” focuses on the spectacle that is Miami politics!

*Kudos to our new Assistant Professor of British Literature, Tim Sutton, who had quite a year—landing a job in our fabulous department AND publishing his first book!* *Catholics Modernists, English Nationalists* examines how the Catholic conversions of Gerard Manley Hopkins, Ford Madox Ford, T. S. Eliot (an Anglo-Catholic), Evelyn Waugh, and Graham Greene influenced and were influenced by literary modernism in England. Congratulations, Tim, on this achievement!
Updates on our English students and graduates...they’re making us proud!!

Behzad Afsharnaseri (FGCU BA English 2009) is living in Northern Saudi Arabia, working as the Academic Supervisor at Al Jouf University. He is managing 37 teachers from Syria, Egypt, Jordan, UK, Canada and the U.S.! Best wishes, Behzad, from your FGCU professors!

Jonathan Glover (FGCU BA English 2007) is well on track to completing his dissertation, Memory, History, Modernity: Rwanda, Haiti, and the Narration of Political Crisis in the Postcolony. Join me in welcoming Jonathan to his old haunt, FGCU, as he’ll be contributing to our Second Annual Humanities Conference in October, reading excerpts of a work he recently published in a special Human Rights and the Humanities issue of the South Atlantic Review. Go, Jonathan!

Scott Ortolano (FGCU English BA, MA 2008) has completed all of his coursework for the PhD and is starting work on his dissertation. He was awarded his department’s writing/research fellowship that only lets him carry a 1-1 load at Florida State! The Edward H. and Marie C. Kingsbury Graduate Award, administered by the FSU Department of English, is given for academic writing that meets the following criteria: originality, persuasiveness, accuracy, insightfulness, clarity, reasonableness, vividness, timeliness. Well done, Scott!!

Francesca Marinaro (FGCU English BA, MA 2008) passed her oral qualifying exam for the PhD in English at the University of Florida in August! Francesca is now working on her dissertation. Hooray!

Mike Vastola (FGCU English BA, 2006) successfully defended his dissertation, “Signatures of the Possible: Writing and Political Rupture in the Archives of Industrial Unionism” last August at the University of Florida! That’s DOCTOR VASTOLA now, folks!

Niki Constantino (FGCU English, MA) was granted an ORSP Student Travel Support grant to present a paper at the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Conference in October! She wrote the paper in Rebecca’s Plague Lit class.

Anna Marano (FGCU English, BA, 2008) was admitted to FSU’s Italian Studies graduate program! She’s also teaching Beginning Italian as a TA and will continue her academic career in the literature and culture area so close to her heart!

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Language and Literature Department

That’s all folks...till next month! Remember to send me your news, updates, and announcements!