The Sanibel Island Writers Conference invites aspiring writers to its fourth annual gathering at BIG ARTS on Sanibel Island, November 5 through November 8. Participants can attend a variety of workshops, panels, lectures and readings presented by celebrated and experienced writers and teachers. Attendees participate in a variety of morning workshops in fiction, poetry, screenwriting, children’s literature, memoir, songwriting, and creative nonfiction. Afternoon panels include workshops in publishing, freelance writing, journalism, obtaining a literary agent and the creative process. Says Tom DeMarchi, director of the conference and FGCU instructor, “The conference is open to any aspiring writer who wants to create new work or refine a project already in progress.” In between events, participants are encouraged to nap, explore the beautiful twenty-six miles of Sanibel, collect seashells, exercise, manuscript conference, or enjoy cocktail hour at BIG ARTS (held daily between 4:45-6pm).

In addition to keynote speaker Carl Hiaasen, presenters include celebrated writers Erin Almond, Steve Almond, Julianna Baggott, Lynne Barrett, Ishmael Beah, John Brandon, Christine Buckley, Don Bullens, Tom Chiarella, John Dufresne, William Giraldi, William Greenway, Sue Henshon, Jeanne Leiby, Nina Romano, Abby Sher, Lauren Small, Laura Valeri, Willy Vlautin, Sidney Wade, Jay Wexler, and Liza Wieland. Literary agents Molly Lyons and Christopher Schelling will also be present to discuss how they recruit clients and manage their careers. Literary editors Kristen Iversen, CD Mitchell, and Tom Williams will hold panels on choosing which authors to publish, and how much they edit.

Each evening will feature readings and book signings with two to three authors, as well as musical performances from Willy Vlautin and Dan Bern on Friday night. Bern, who will conduct a songwriting workshop, has a discography that includes 2001’s New American Language, 2006’s Breathe, and 1998’s 50 Eggs, produced by Ani Difranco. People registered for the whole conference can attend all events. Nighttime events are open to the general public. Tickets for nighttime events will be available through BIG ARTS and at the door.

For more information on registration or to view the schedule of events, visit the conference website at [http://www.fgcu.edu/siwc/](http://www.fgcu.edu/siwc/) or contact Tom DeMarchi at (239) 590-7421 or tdemarch@fgcu.edu.
Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our faculty and staff for their hard work this Fall in accommodating 11,000 students, offering them nothing short of an innovative and unique learning experience. Your passion and dedication to a high quality of teaching can also be seen in the attendance of our first two Teaching Breakfasts (see page 3), which featured The Malaria Project and an Earth Charter Breakfast with a presentation on Food Synergies. We are pleased to offer three additional upcoming sessions to continue our dialogue and discussion of civic engagement!

This Fall 2009, the College of Arts and Sciences offered 18,000 seats to our students across General Education, service courses, and upper level courses. In Fall 2010, this number is expected to climb 13%—to well over 20,000 seats. As a result, CAS has been given 15 new faculty lines for the 2010-2011 academic year. We anticipate a busy spring semester of interviewing new potential colleagues.

As the Fall semester comes to a close, we look forward to the opening of AB7 when the Dean’s office, advising, and many science faculty will relocate into the building. Classes will be held in the building beginning in January. Additionally, the Kapnick Center in Naples will be hosting functions starting in January and the Music Education and Performance Building, having celebrated its groundbreaking, is making strides toward its opening in Summer 2010.

I wish you all a smooth wrap-up to the semester and a restful winter break!

Best regards,

Donna Price Henry, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Biology
Composition Awards Journal

The Department of Language and Literature celebrated the writing of first year students by introducing the first annual Composition Awards Journal, an electronic collection of essays written by students in Composition I and Composition II. The six essays showcased in the journal were selected from among over 100 that were submitted for consideration during the 2008-2009 academic year. Winning students shared $500 in prize money, generously provided by Pearson Publishing. Pearson has pledged to fund this endeavor every year, thus the journal will become an integral part of the Composition Program at FGCU.

Composition faculty encouraged students to submit the best work they had written for their Composition classes for consideration. Entries ranged from reflective personal experience essays to carefully researched arguments to analyses of literary works. Members of the Composition faculty, led by Instructor Lori Cornelius, carefully read through each entry and chose the six winners.

“The journal is a lovely way for our Composition students to showcase some of their best work,” Cornelius said.

Director of Composition Linda Rowland added, “It was clear that the students were proud of their writing. It is that pride of ownership that makes our work meaningful.”

The students who won included one English major, one Communications major, two Biology majors, and two Criminal Justice majors.

With the Composition Awards Journal becoming an annual event, students in first year Composition courses will soon be asked to consider which of their essays they believe could possibly be considered for this honor.

The journal is available to view at http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/English/composition.htm.

Teaching Breakfast Series

The College of Arts and Sciences has held the first two of its Teaching Breakfasts in support of FGCU’s commitment to civic engagement. The first breakfast saw Neil Wilkinson and Courtney Satkoski present on the Malaria Project, with over forty faculty in attendance. The second event enjoyed an Earth Charter breakfast sponsored by the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, with Kris De Welde presenting on Food Synergies.

The next breakfast will actually be a lunch featuring Tricia Fay and the Empty Bowls Project, taking place Friday, November 13 at 12:30 PM in the Arts Complex Ceramics Studio. Faculty are encouraged to bring their lunches and enjoy drinks and dessert at the event.
“Wings of Hope” Florida Panther Posse Program

Connecting FGCU students, elementary students, and their families with the natural world!

Over two thousand 4th & 5th graders are bussed on their yellow limo (school bus) during the FGCU fall semester to participate in the FGCU “Wings of Hope” Florida Panther Posse program. The “Wings of Hope” program is an integral part of the Environmental Humanities curriculum and service learning at FGCU. University students are introduced to native Southwest Florida wildlife species, their habitats, water conservation, research, “green” ways a person can help our earth, and Future Careers presented at FGCU.

Then, as part of service learning, they bring this knowledge to elementary students and their teachers with science-based environmental education. Each elementary and college student takes the information they learn and educates at least two other people about the natural world.

One part of the Florida panther posse is a fundraiser called “Pennies for Panthers.” Helping one cent at a time, this fundraiser purchases infrared motion cameras with pennies collected by Posse students. These images provide researchers with crucial data about panthers, their kittens, and other wildlife.

Check out new wildlife photos from the posse camera: [www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope](http://www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope)

For more information on Wings of Hope, please contact Director Ricky Pires rpires@fgcu.edu

Bower School of Music Building

This fall, the Bower School of Music welcomed more than 110 music majors. Having fast outgrown its temporary classroom space, the School’s September 16th groundbreaking ceremony for the new Music Education and Performance Building brought with it much anticipation for the music program and the university alike.

The new 23,000-square-foot, two-story signature facility will be a destination site for the greater community, overlooking a scenic lake and wetlands in a developing arts corridor on the main campus of the University. The building, due to open in winter of 2010-11, will house an attractive Grand Lobby to welcome students and visitors; a 3,260-square-foot, 196-seat Recital Hall with superb acoustics, stage, sightlines and plush seating with ample leg room and personal space for optimum music experiences; and an equally large Rehearsal Hall. In addition, the facility will house 10 faculty studios for individual instruction; 10 student practice rooms, classrooms and technology laboratories for student use; and a music library. This specialty building, designed to accommodate growth both in enrollment and audience, is a collaborative design by six different companies spanning Fort Myers, New York and Los Angeles, and will be constructed by Owen-Ames-Kimball Company.

With the Bower School of Music’s first class graduating next year and qualifying the School for program accreditation, FGCU’s plans include the expansion of academic instruction to include graduate studies and music therapy.
Sustainability Tour

University Colloquium Coordinator Dr. Annette Snapp organized a sustainability tour of campus on Wednesday August 12, 2009 for the staff, interns and volunteers of ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization)—a community partner in the university Colloquium program. University Colloquium Instructors Sarah Davis and Dr. Mary Kay Cassani, along with student naturalist Erica Klopf, assisted with the tour of campus, highlighting our sustainability initiatives on campus including architectural and landscape design, LEED certification for building AB7, recycling, solar panel project, the campus trail and our ecological design of campus.

We shared with ECHO our approach and commitment to sustainability and education of these important issues to students through the University Colloquium class requirement for all undergraduate students. Megan Barr gave a complete tour of initiatives happening with the Physical Plant, and Director Jim Hehl showed the efficient chiller cooling plant. The group stopped at the campus nature trail head and Sarah and Erica shared with the group our protected habitats on campus. Rhonda Holtzclaw and Kathleen Crawford from Environmental Health and Safety shared their initiatives with ride2fgcu.com carpooling program and the campus chemicals solvent recycling. Many of the interns, staff and volunteers had not had a chance to visit our campus and learn about our approach to sustainability.

We are thankful for this valued partnership with ECHO and look forward to continuing our partnership and similar missions in promoting environmental stewardship.

Mission 350: FGCU Students Plan to Participate in Global Event

In an effort to raise awareness about climate change, FGCU students organized an event (“Mission 350”) to plant 350 bald cypress trees along the northeastern edge of the pond in front of FGCU’s library on October 24th. While details are still being ironed out, this tree-planting event was part of a worldwide awareness effort to highlight global warming and climate change. There are nearly 2,000 events planned in 146 countries, and that list now includes FGCU.

FGCU students learned about these events through 350.org (http://www.350.org/), a grassroots organization encouraging people to hold events on October 24th that bring attention to the number 350 (the amount of parts per million, ppm, of carbon dioxide that scientists consider to be the safe upper limit for our atmosphere). Participants in 350.org hope that their efforts will send the message to political leaders that they should use the latest data from climate change scientists in crafting an equitable and appropriate response to the worldwide crisis when meeting for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in December of this year in Copenhagen, Denmark (http://unfccc.int/2860.php). Many students will be using this tree-planting event as part of their Service Learning requirement at FGCU in becoming involved and participating in their community which in this case is the global community.
**Visual and Performing Arts 2009-10 Schedule**

**Art Gallery Exhibition**

**Purvis Young: Urban Expressionism**
A Gift from the Rubell Family Collection

October 22 - November 20, 2009
Opening reception Thursday, October 22 • 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Gallery Talk with Juan Valadez of the Rubell Family Collection prior to reception: 3:30pm

Purvis Young was born in Miami’s Liberty City in 1943. He became an artist of the street without any formal training, making art generated from obsession and desperation. His first major work was a series of hundreds of painted panels attached to the walls of dilapidated buildings in Overtown, called “Goodbread Alley,” which provided Young with tremendous visibility and media attention. Within two years, he was given a show at what was then the Museum of Modern Art in Miami. As a result, galleries and collectors began to acquire his work. In all his work, Young points to the consequences of racism, to the plight of the underprivileged, to the years of neglect, to the cosmos of despair.

**Theatre Lab Production**

**Our Town**
Written by Thornton Wilder
Directed by Mark Danni
November 4-15, 2009

OUR TOWN is one of the warmest and most deeply human plays to have come out of the theatre. In the first act, the author genially outlines the history of Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire, and carries you into the houses of the Gibbs & Webb families. You arrive at breakfast time and are carried through one entire day in the lives of these good people. The second act concerns the love affair between young George Gibbs & Emily Webb, and thus culminates in a moving wedding scene. In the third act we are led to the cemetery on the hill, where many of the townspeople we have come to know so well are patiently and smilingly awaiting not “judgment,” but greater understanding. Into their midst is led a girl, a little wishful to go back to life, to live again with her memories. But she is shown how futile it is to return. The past cannot be re-lived. Living people, humans, occupied by their petty occupations and small thoughts, know little of true joy or happiness.

“Our Town is an attempt to find a value above all prices for the smallest events in our daily life.”
- Thorton Wilder

For more information please visit http://theatrelab.fgcu.edu or call 590-7268.
International Film Series

A Film by
Ousmane Sembene (Senegal, 2004)
Time & Date: Thursday October 1, 2009 @ 6:00pm
Location: Sugden Resort & Hospitality Management Hall #111
Sponsored by Farshad Aminian-Tankei & Sachiko Tankei-Aminian

“Female genital mutilation is practiced in 38 of 54 member states of African Union. Whatever the method used (traditional or modern) to excise is a violation of the woman’s dignity and integrity. I dedicate Moolaade’ to mothers, women who struggle to abolish this legacy of bygone days.”
-----Ousmane Sembene May 2004

“For me, Sembene was a firebrand, a teacher, an intellectual, a humanist who worried about the tragedies of modern life...At the core of his work is a profound humanism. He deplored erratic, hurtful behavior, crippling customs, blind obedience, religious fakery, demeaning poverty and ignorance, the arrogance of the rich and powerful.”
-----Daniel Talbot, Founder and President of New Yorker Films

Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue

Ishmael Beah, author of A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, will return to FGCU to participate in the Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue on November 4, 2009. The Dialogue seeks to raise awareness among Florida Gulf Coast University students and faculty about critical sustainability issues in our region.

In A Long Way Gone, a chronicle of his experience as a child soldier in Sierra Leone, Beah uses words to create a powerful message of hope in extreme adversity. A Long Way Gone was read by all incoming FGCU freshmen in 2008 as part of the First Year Experience Readership Project. Beah was also the special guest speaker for the 2008 Convocation.

This year, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education has invited him back to FGCU to join a discussion on how young people can communicate and collaborate for a sustainable and peaceful future. The event will include other youth speakers on topics such as digital collaboration toward sustainability, critical engagement with consumer media, and the theme of hope, despair, and the future. Other confirmed panelists include Meghan Cohorst of the Student Farmworker Alliance and a representative from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

The Dialogue will take place on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 7:00pm in the Student Union Ballroom B. The Center will host stakeholders, students, and campus leaders for conversation and snacks outside the Ballroom before the event at 6:15pm.

The Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue is an event for students, by students. Faculty are encouraged to invite students to attend, as students organize the Dialogue and comprise most of its audience. The series focuses on education for a sustainable future, including our role as stewards of our natural, cultural, and political environments. Intended to spark youth action and inspire the intellectual climate among the FGCU and southwest Florida communities, the initiative fosters an open space for dialogue and student ownership of that dialogue.

The Dialogue is hosted by the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. For more information, please contact the Center by email at cese@fgcu.edu or by phone at 239-590-7166.
Bower School of Music

2009 Fall Concert Schedule
All events are at 7:30 p.m. on the FGCU Main Campus
Student Union Ballroom

November 9  Guest Artist Recital—Claire Aebersold and Ralph Neiweem, duo-pianists
November 17 Instrumental Chamber Recital
November 19 String Orchestra/Symphonic Band Concert
December 3  Holiday Concert - South Fort Myers High School
(14020 Plantation Road, Fort Myers)

V.O.I.C.Experience
By Sarah O’Brien, FGCU Junior and Music Performance Major

The V.O.I.C.Experience summer studies program, artistically directed by distinguished soprano Maria Zouvres in the Coronado Springs resort at Walt Disney World, provided a wonderful learning experience to thirty-four bright young vocalists from across the United States. Young artists were able to work with fantastic teachers from prestigious music schools, such as Julliard Conservatory and the Royal Academy of Music, alongside the famous Sherrill Milnes. The teachers and coaches were able to exchange important information about the opera and music business, while effectively influencing and polishing students’ development in vocal studies. Daily vocal coachings, voice lessons, lectures, and master classes were scheduled. The V.O.I.C.Experience summer study program supplemented my university training at FGCU’s Bower School of Music, and helped me to understand the gravity of what is necessary to reach the next level in my singing career.

The activities included a lecture by individual image consultants on “how to present yourselves as performers,” a movement and yoga class was taught that focused on singers’ breathing and the releasing of tension (singers generally tighten when nervous and stressed), and also a stunning recital called, “Death by Aria,” performed by the participants of the program, where each singer performed his/her best aria selection for one another (it was a great ice-breaker).

Amidst rehearsals for the V.O.I.C.Experience performances to be performed in the Rotunda of Epcot at the end of the program’s duration, we also attended a master class presented by Tito Capobianco, who has staged over two hundred and fifty productions worldwide and presently serves as Director of the Opera Center at the Julliard, as well as a master class led by Sherrill Milnes, one of the leading Verdi baritones of the twentieth-century, and a three-time Grammy winner who sang over six-hundred and fifty performances in the Metropolitan Opera house. The final day before our performance at the Rotunda, we had the “Mission Audition.” At this audition, the students performed one piece of repertoire and received immediate feedback from a judge panel. The panel gave constructive criticism to help us recognize what we needed to work on in order to improve our vocal and performance techniques, and made suggestions on bettering our overall appearance to make the best impression at an audition.

We finally performed three different shows to the Epcot audiences at the Rotunda. Each show opened with everyone singing “Seasons of Love” from Rent and ended with “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” Our first performance focused on an opera theme and contained famous arias and duets, the second show centered on the popular songs and show tunes of musical theatre, and the last performance was dedicated to Disney songs, such as “A Whole New World” from Aladdin, “Part of Your World” from The Little Mermaid. When the last concert came to an end, Maria Zouves, the executive director of the camp, and wife of Sherrill Milnes, gave a heartfelt goodbye to the audience and the participants, since it would be the last time they would perform at Disney.

I gained a lot through participating in V.O.I.C.Experience last August that will have a long-term impact on my vocal career. This camp enriched my educational training and has opened my mind to future opportunities for success in the music world. I am grateful to the Naples Opera Society and Florida Gulf Coast University’s Bower School of Music for their generosity in granting me money to pay the tuition necessary to attend this program.
Excellence in Advising Award

Mary Swanson, Academic Advisor II, was presented with the Excellence in Advising Award for the 2009-2010 calendar year during the Celebration of Excellence Ceremony in April. The Excellence in Advising Award is given to recognize and emphasize excellence in the ability to engage in, promote and support professional advising. Candidates for the advising award prepared portfolios which included reflection of professional growth & development over time in area of advising, proactive monitoring of student progress toward academic and career goals, facilitating strong relationships with advisees and participation and support of advisor development programs.

Mary has been with CAS Advising since August 2004 and faced many difficulties and challenges, since at that time there were only two advising positions and one of the Advisors was on medical leave. Mary has over 9 years of advising experience in the State University System and has found Academic advising to be very rewarding. She plans to continue to grow professionally with FGCU and is always looking for ways to improve her service to students, the college, the university and the southwest Florida community.

Mary has served as a CAS Representative for Eagle Expo, been instrumental with the CAPP Degree Evaluation build, and has represented CAS Advising for multiple committees including the Math Substitution, University Articulation and Athletic Compliance. Dr. Debra Hess states that “Mary is our liaison for CAPP, working with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction in creating the online advising system for our students. She has also served as a mentor and teacher for newly-hired advisors within our college and across the university. She has made a dramatic difference in helping them transition into their jobs at FGCU. When we entered into Division I Athletics, Mary worked closely with FGCU’s Compliance Officer to research and disseminate information about the intricate record-keeping that is required for all NCAA Division I athletes. Mary epitomizes excellence in advising. FGCU and CAS are better places because of her dedication and commitment.”

Mary says of her profession, “One of my most important roles as an advisor is being a resource and liaison for students. An important part of my job is to advocate for students and encourage contact with faculty and available campus resources. As an advisor, I have the unique opportunity to be an advocate and teacher for FGCU students.”

The College of Arts and Sciences celebrates Mary’s recognition and her dedication to our students, the college and the university.

Social Media Event

The Department of Communication and Philosophy, in conjunction with the Social Media Club of Southwest Florida, sponsored an event on Oct. 20 to focus on how employers are using social media to identify, screen and hire employees. It touched upon the issues surrounding privacy and employment strategies and tactics in today's hyper-competitive marketplace, primarily serving as an educational forum for our students' internship and employment efforts. The event was held from 7-9 p.m. in our Embarq Auditorium (AB5 112), with a post-event networking opportunity at Blu Sushi.

For more information on this event, please visit http://www.smcswfl.org/events/october-20-2009-%E2%80%93-social-media-hr-and-job-hunting-in-southwest-florida

Kapnick Center

The Kapnick Center, part of an educational outreach effort between FGCU and Naples Botanical Gardens, will begin hosting classes and community events beginning January 2010.
Accelerated Medical Education at FGCU

The number of biology majors in the College of Arts and Sciences is approaching 700, with many of these students setting their career aspirations in medicine. At FGCU, we have exciting opportunities for them to achieve their goals! We have opportunities for an MD (doctor of medicine), DO (doctor of osteopathic medicine), or PharmD (doctor of pharmacy) degree in accelerated programs earning a baccalaureate degree and professional degree in a minimum of seven years of study.

By agreement between the FGCU College of Arts and Sciences and the University of South Florida College of Medicine, FGCU offers a BS to MD degree. And by agreement with Lake Erie College of Medicine, Bradenton, we offer a BS to DO and a BS to PharmD degrees. Students in the programs earn 90 credits within the Department of Biological Sciences and then matriculate to the professional school. At the end of the first year of medical school or pharmacy school, 30 credits are accepted by FGCU for completion of the BS Biology degree.

The FGCU program provides students with a sound and rigorous baccalaureate foundation that includes an interdisciplinary curriculum in the chemical, mathematical, and physical sciences as well as a broad basis in the biological sciences preparing students for medical or pharmacy school. Students are provided opportunities to work closely with faculty and are mentored in the application process, research, MCAT and PCAT preparation, shadowing, volunteering, and curriculum advising.

The program began in the Fall 2007. The program has 6 students in the FGCU/USF program (Brent Tilseth, Megan Thies, Matthew Holt, Anthony Kinney, Farah Leclercq and Nicholas Ghanem), 4 students in the FGCU/DO program (Lily Diaz, Wes Finn, Abel Echemendia, and Akshay Kshetrapal) and 5 students in the LECOM PharmD program (Jennifer Greenup, Ashley Ferrise, Megan Fenicle, Shaun Gutstein, and Jordan Brown). This fall, FGCU student Julie Salibi joined the LECOM pharmacy program as our first student to complete her program requirements at FGCU and head to a professional school. In Fall 2010, Brent Tilseth will join University of South Florida College of Medicine, and Jennifer Greenup will begin her professional journey at LECOM School of Pharmacy.

The accelerated program is rigorous with high acceptance standards and adherence to strict requirements to continue in the program. Deadlines for program applications each year are April 1 for the FGCU/USF program and September 1 for the FGCU/LECOM programs. All program participants must be US citizens or permanent residents with Florida residency and be admitted to FGCU. The additional requirements for application are as follows:

All programs have ongoing requirements that students must meet including GPA, shadowing, humanitarian volunteer service, and professional interviews. All programs require strong performance on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the Pharmacy College Admissions Test (PCAT). Program Director, Dr. Jo Ann Wilson, reports, “Our FGCU students are well prepared. This is a very rigorous, but rewarding program offering our students exciting opportunities. The expectations for them to perform at the upper division level by their sophomore year are met with these bright and ambitious students. Our students are well-rounded and include sports and leadership in their lives as well as volunteer service. It is very rewarding and exciting to work with them.”

You may gain more information regarding the programs at [http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/BiologyBS/leecom.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/BiologyBS/leecom.html) and [http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/BiologyBS/medicaleducation.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/BiologyBS/medicaleducation.html) or contact Dr. Jo Ann Wilson at jwilson@fgcu.edu.
First Amendment Free Food Festival

On September 17, FGCU held a First Amendment Free Food Festival to commemorate Constitution Day. This national event strikes a deal with students: Surrender your First Amendment rights temporarily, and you’ll get a free meal.

FGCU’s event was sponsored by The Society of Professional Journalists, the American Democracy Project, Eagle News, Student Government Civic Engagement and the Board of Eagle Entertainment Programmers (B.E.E.P.).

Two hundred and twenty-six students showed up, forming a line from the entrance of the Perch through the lobby of the Student Union and out the front entrance. Once students signed away their rights, they were issued a passport (actually an educational flier about the First Amendment) and then entered the cafeteria, where student volunteers performed skits to illustrate what life could be like without First Amendment rights. Goons arrested those who tried to practice the rights they’d surrendered. A makeshift jail housed the offenders. Students who were exceptionally compliant relaxed in the dictator’s lounge.

By federal law, educational institutions that receive federal funding must observe Constitution Day with a program of some kind. FGCU students chose to bring this event to campus for its two powerful motivators: humor and free food.

“The festival reaches students through their stomachs,” said Michele Boyet, a student at Florida Atlantic University. Boyet has helped run festivals at eight other schools. She and her colleague Dori Zinn crossed the Alley to help with ours.
Teaching Corner

Dr. Kris De Welde

FGCU’s mission statement includes an emphasis on cultivating community partnerships and fostering civic responsibility. Lately, President Bradshaw has been quoted widely as stating that Civic Engagement is the “DNA” of FGCU. “Service learning” is woven into our students’ required curricula and expectations for graduation. What does all this mean for the individual faculty member who perhaps has not had experience with service learning (and presumably is interested)? This edition of “The Teaching Corner” is written precisely for those who are interested in furthering students’ civic engagement by adopting a service learning component in their courses, but are not entirely sure where to begin. Let’s start with the terms themselves.

Civic engagement is praxis; linking theory with action. It is a way of being in one’s local and global community that is driven by a sense of responsibility, an understanding of global citizenship, and an awareness of oneself as an agent of change. Civic Engagement has evolved into what the Association of American Colleges & Universities calls an “essential learning goal” for students in higher education.

Service learning is a pedagogical strategy that combines community service with classroom learning. It is a tool used widely by educators to encourage students to make connections between course materials and ideas and their communities (campus, local, global). The consensus of scores of articles and books written about the benefits of service learning is that when effectively implemented, Service Learning greatly enhances the educational experience for students and teachers, for the college/university, and the community at large. It teaches civic responsibility, the importance of strong communities, and it promotes learning through active participation in service experiences. In other words, service learning is one strategy to advance civic engagement.

What’s in it for you? Broadly speaking, service learning contributes to the personal and professional growth of professors/instructors and students, and it encourages collaborative investment into the college/university, and the broader community. For professors/instructors, it can be an effective way of combining teaching, service, and scholarship. For students it offers hands-on learning, which helps them see themselves as responsible citizens. The university benefits by advancing its mission and purpose while simultaneously strengthening the community. The community benefits through interested and invested “volunteers” who can be counted on. Everybody wins!

And yet, initiating a new pedagogical strategy can be daunting. All of us have heard that Service Learning is intense, time consuming, and can backfire. Although all can be true, the benefits can be remarkable and transformative if carried out effectively. I started small, with an optional assignment for a few students in an introductory-level course. I now offer service learning courses, I have organized workshops and given presentations on the topic, received curricular grants to develop Service Learning courses, and hope to encourage even just a few of my innovative FGCU colleagues to experiment with Service Learning.

Despite the advantages, it is important to think through the costs and benefits of engaging your students with service learning. Utilize the following “Ten Steps” to get started (Adapted from Heather Sullivan-Catlin, How to Engage Your Students in the Community with Service Learning, Winter 2003; sullivha@potsdam.edu.)

1. List the courses you currently teach (or hope to in the future). List them all; do not close off possibilities just yet!
2. List the community organizations you support, know of, or work with in some way (or hope to in the future). If you do not know of specific organizations in the community, list the issues you would most like to work on (do not limit these by the courses you teach).
3. Look back over the first two lists and try to identify a match. That is, choose a course and a community issue(s) or organization(s) that can be connected in some way. This is a potential service learning project! The rest of this activity will focus on this pair.
4. What are a few of your primary course objectives? Can you develop a new one that addresses more specifically the issue(s) you’ve identified?
5. Is there a theme you might employ to help connect the course topic and the issue (e.g., globalization, sustainability, inequality)?
6. What type of service learning component would work best? Options include a one-time service project for the whole class, a semester-long requirement for the whole class, or an optional project. If you want to start small, consider creating an extra credit assignment, or an optional stand-alone project that would replace another assignment if chosen by the student.
7. What do you expect your students to gain from the service experience (e.g., learning skills, applying knowledge, development of values and attitudes)?
8. What kinds of activities (assignments, readings, reflection) will be used to help students make connections between the experience and classroom learning? How will you grade students?
9. Explore the plethora of resources available to you on our campus and on the web.
10. Draw on faculty colleagues experienced in service learning for ideas.
Estero Bay Watershed Public Symposium: A Student’s Perspective
by Sarah Larsen, FGCU Junior and intern with Coastal Watershed Institute

After four months of planning, the Estero Bay Watershed Public Symposium came to life on September 28 in the Student Union Ballroom at FGCU. The purpose of this event was to increase public awareness of the environment and issues surrounding the Estero Bay Watershed. As a student, I was given the opportunity to join the planning committee for this symposium.

Prior to the first planning meeting, I wasn’t even sure what made up the Watershed, let alone what terms like DR/GR meant. I came to learn that the Estero Bay Watershed encompasses over 192,000 acres and includes all of Estero Bay, the adjacent barrier islands, Hendry Creek, Mullock Creek, the Estero River, areas of Corkscrew Swamp, Flint Pen Strand, Spring Creek, and the Imperial River.

I also learned that DR/GR stands for the Density Reduction and Groundwater Resource area, which includes approximately 83,000 acres of protected wetlands, conservation areas and agricultural lands in southeastern Lee County.

Through my work on the planning committee, I was able to network with professionals from agencies such as the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, the Responsible Growth Management Coalition, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. I worked with local organizations to coordinate field trips for the general public, including a tour and boat ride at the Vester Field Station.

Marilyn vos Savant, an American journalist, once said, “The length of your education is less important than its breadth...” The opportunity to work on the planning committee for the Estero Bay Watershed Public Symposium is one such experience that adds breadth to my education at FGCU.

Creative Writing Club Hosts Jail and Bail

The FGCU Creative Writing Club’s second Jail & Bail fundraiser was a lovely success. We jailed several teachers and administrators and received about $600.00 in contributions. The weather was a little too hot, so we allowed a few folks to escape early.

The donations will be combined with other fundraiser contributions to send six students from our club to the Sanibel Island Writers’ Conference in November.

We’re currently looking for some additional ways to raise funds so that we can host the free MiniCon this coming spring. The MiniCon is a free one day writers’ conference on campus. Last spring we brought in Steve Almond and John Dufresne who hosted workshops and presentations. Jim Brock, Suzanne Henson, Lyn Millner, and Mary Beth Lundgren also held breakaway sessions in poetry, journalism, children’s writing, and picture books. It was a fantastic experience for FGCU students, staff, and the local writing community.

List of Detainees

Linda Rowland
Lori Cornelius
Nathan Hill
Susan Moniz
Tom DeMarchi
Lyn Millner
Sheila Bolduc-Simpson
Kristine De Welde
Monika Renard
Sherree Houston
Susan Kohler
Jim Wohlpart
Dean Henry
Jesse Millner

The Orange Grove Digital Repository

The Orange Grove Digital Repository is an online library of free, high-quality learning resources. David Green, Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences, is your Faculty advisor for learning about this resource. Information is available to assist with searching, using, repurposing and contributing to the Orange Grove.

Last semester, each College was introduced to the Orange Grove digital repository, its contents, and how they are applicable in the classroom. This semester, look for upcoming workshops related to general searching and usage techniques, open digital textbooks, and also how to contribute your own educational materials. If you would prefer, one-on-one meetings are available upon request. Collaborations with “University Colloquium” have been initiated and exciting products are soon to follow! Feel free to start exploring these resources now and don’t hesitate to contact David directly if you have any questions (dgreen@fgcu.edu). Take a look at the Orange Grove and create your free account today: 
http://www.theorangegrove.org/
Wangari Maathai and Peter Blaze Corcoran address climate change education conference in Nairobi, Kenya

FGCU faculty member Peter Blaze Corcoran spoke alongside Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on August 31, 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya. Their keynote address was to an invited audience of one hundred diplomats, United Nations officials, local dignitaries, and scholars from African universities gathered for a “Symposium on Climate Change Education and Sustainable Cities.” The symposium was part of the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) which manages the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD).

Maathai urged her audience to bridge the gap between ethical principles and practice, saying, “We know what to do. Why aren’t we doing it?” Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, which for nearly thirty years has worked to improve the lives of poor women through a holistic approach to sustainable development. In 2004, she became the first woman from Africa to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

The occasion represented a powerful opportunity to elevate the role of the Earth Charter within the Decade and within UNEP. Maathai and Corcoran challenged UNEP and the IAC to adopt the Earth Charter as an organizing principle for the remainder of the Decade. The Earth Charter is an international people’s declaration of sixteen ethical principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society.

Corcoran also directs FGCU’s Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. In his speech he described the Earth Charter’s development and recognized Maathai’s great contribution to a better future for Africa. “She touches our hearts and minds with her courage, with her commitments to environmental education and self-determination for Africa, and her stubborn hope that governments and intergovernmental agencies will bring about the people’s desire for peace through environmental sustainability.”

The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University works toward realizing the dream of a sustainable and peaceful future for Earth through scholarship, education, and action. For further information on the Center and its initiatives, please call (239) 590-7166.

History Professor Attends Military Academy Seminar

Erik Carlson secured a prestigious fellowship last summer to participate in the United States Military Academy’s Summer Seminar in Military History (USMA). 30 fellows were selected from more than 90 applications from around the world. The Seminar consisted of a full slate of daily readings, lectures and writing projects, while fellows also went on “Staff Rides” to several battlefields in the region, including Saratoga, Antietam, and Gettysburg.

Celebrity Read-A-Thon

International Literary Day, September 8, saw a Celebrity Read-A-Thon hosted at Barnes & Noble in Fort Myers. Among the celebrity readers were FGCU President Bradshaw, Myra Mendible, FGCU professor, tutor and board member of the Literacy Volunteers of Lee County, FGCU Professor Rebecca Totaro, State Representative Gary Aubuchon, and FOX 4 Anchor Amy Sedlacek.

The event enjoyed free refreshments and an all-day book fair as well.
Making, Giving, and Getting the Most From Service

About eleven years ago, Ecology Professor Jerry Jackson was asked by the Children’s Environmental Trust Foundation (CET), a non-profit organization, if he could teach a course on tropical birds to a class of middle school children from Noblesville, Indiana—in the Peruvian Amazon. CET’s philosophy was one he shared. They believed that if they could take whole classes of North American middle school or high school classes to the Amazon and teach them about the ecology and culture of the region, the students would grow up to be a cross-section of our society who would appreciate the region and its needs. The job didn’t pay, but they were willing to pay his expenses as a volunteer. Having never been to the Peruvian Amazon, he only briefly entertained the thoughts that (1) “I don’t know any of those birds,” (2) “I’ve never taught middle school kids,” and (3) “I can’t do that!” In a split second he said, “Of course.” He offers the following rules:

Rule #1: When opportunity knocks, don’t be afraid to open the door.

Rule #2: Don’t sell yourself short. Consider your audience, your interests, and your background. I had been to other rainforests; I had been teaching ornithology (the study of birds) and biogeography (the study of plant and animal distribution); and I had taught high school.

Rule #3: Always remember that teaching is an opportunity for you to learn.

Rule #4: Everything you do contributes to who you are and the job you can do. This was an opportunity that would contribute experience and insight to all of my university classes and at the same time open up new research opportunities.

Jackson says, “I believe that if you can teach someone the ‘gee whiz’ things about plants, animals, and their environments—give them some understanding—they will want to protect them. Basically, I hold firmly that ‘to know it is to love it’ and that a positive message wins friends and changes attitudes.” Thus began annual summer trips to the Amazon to teach Tropical Ornithology and Tropical Ecology. His wife, Bette, joined him as a teacher, and their sons also joined middle school and high school classes in the Amazon.

Following the events of 911, parents were afraid to send their children out of the country, all classes were cancelled, and CET was dissolved. But the idea didn’t die. A year later some of the CET leaders organized a new non-profit called “Global Explorers,” pursuing the same mission. Jerry and Bette jumped on board and have both taught for Global Explorers in the Amazon. More recently, Jerry has also been taking high school classes to the Canadian Arctic to teach Arctic Ecology. (He had never been to the Canadian Arctic, but he had been teaching about Arctic ecosystems and had been in tundra environments in Alaska and in the Rocky Mountains.) In 2007, he taught in the Amazon in June and the Arctic in July. Jackson says, “Since then, I have had the pleasure of having my son Brent accompany me as an assistant instructor teaching Arctic Ecology—and learning firsthand about polar bears, tundra ecosystems, Inuit culture, and changes in the Arctic associated with climate change.”

According to Jackson, a major part of the CET and Global Explorers experience is a day spent working with both the U.S. kids and local kids on a service project to benefit a local community. Service projects have included things like painting schools, building playground equipment, thatching a roof, planting trees, and creating a native plant garden.

Rule #5: Giving, volunteering, serving inspires others to do the same and builds lasting memories... and connections. “At the end of a hot, hard day of building playground equipment, the appreciation of the Peruvian kids is evidenced by their immediate insistence on using it—even if the paint is still wet. The smiles tell the story. But the greatest satisfaction can come when least expected; just a week ago I received an email from Kate Crossley, a former Indiana junior high school student in one of my Amazon classes who went on to get a college degree in environmental science and who is now working for the Naples Conservancy... passing on the enthusiasm, understanding, positive attitude, and penchant for service that she gained from her Amazon experience,” says Jackson.

Rule #6: The payoff for service is continuous, often comes when least expected, and grows with time as service begets service.
Student Highlights

Alex Pena, FGCU sophomore and communication major, has had two stories that he uploaded through ireport.com aired on CNN and CNN Headline News. One story featured the solar panels at FGCU, and the other was about a homeless wedding in Hollywood, Fla. Click here to view his story on the solar panels aired on abcnnews.com’s “on campus” site [http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=8519589]. He has worked as a video journalist for Eagle News for two years, reporting, shooting and editing his own stories for the EN Web site for EN video. His video on the solar panels also aired on EN video [http://media.www.eaglenews.org/media/storage/paper1344/news/2009/09/16/Media/En.Video.Solar.Farm.At.Fgcu-3776654.shtml].

As a freshman, he held internships with NBC-2’s “Health Matters” program as well as WFTX FOX 4. Currently, he is interning at Naples Daily News, having already written a couple of bylines.

Danielle Koleniak, senior, interned this summer at FUSE-TV, covering events including the Dave Matthews concert this summer. “Interning at Fuse TV was an experience unlike any other. From the day I walked into the doors of Madison Square Garden I knew my summer was going to be one that I would never forget. Over the course of 3 months I worked on projects for a variety of artists from Kanye West to the Dave Matthews Band and assisted in preparing for festivals like Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza. I also assisted in the launch of the music news segment “The Daily Noise” and even appeared as an extra for one of Fuse’s commercials. Overall, I got a glimpse of what my future in television could be like and now know I wouldn’t want anything less for my life.”

Brittney Bartling, 2009 alumna, lives in Manhattan and is working as a customer service and accounting assistant at a luxury home accessories design firm: Kim Seybert Inc. She completed her internship there last year, which led to a full-time job. Says Bartling, “There is always something new to do, and there are always people to meet and network with, at work and in the city. Work can mean long hours and it can be stressful, but it is a great experience, and I love it!”

Theatre Majors Participate in Airport Exercise

On Wednesday October 15th, eleven Florida Gulf Coast University Theatre majors and thirteen students from Lehigh Senior High School participated in the Southwest Florida International Airport Emergency Plan Exercise. The scenario for the training exercise was a major aircraft accident with multiple casualties and fatalities. There were over 1,000 people involved in the mock disaster which is used as a training session for the Lee county emergency management team as well as the port authority, local fire stations, EMS, hospitals, the Red Cross, and airport personnel.

The students were responsible for applying moulage makeup to 150 of the aircraft’s “victims.” From 5:45am until 8am the students gave the passengers cuts, abrasions, broken limbs, bruises, lacerations, and head injuries. Many of the victims looked so realistic that incoming volunteers were startled and truly concerned for the victims.

The FGCU students held a makeup workshop at LSHS on October 2nd to help their students prepare for the mock disaster, and were also required to attend a workshop on FGCU campus as well. The work of the Theatre majors and LSHS students was well received by all of the “victims,” and the personnel in charge of the event. One of the more amazing accomplishments was that our students were gathered at 5am with enthusiasm to participate in this event.

Our students had a great time participating in this county wide exercise and will remember it for many years to come.
“Got food? Thank a farmworker!”

On October 6, Progressive Student Alliance & FGCU Center for Judaic, Holocaust, & Human Rights Studies sponsored an event featuring speakers from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and the Student/Farmworker Alliance (SFA).

Florida tomato pickers are among our country’s most exploited workers. The CIW is a community-based organization of mainly Latino, Mayan Indian, and Haitian immigrants working in low-wage jobs throughout the state of Florida. At the October event, CIW and SFA representatives discussed their groups’ histories and their current efforts to confront human-rights abuses.

Meghan Cohorst of the student Farm Worker Alliance and a representative from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers will be speaking as a panelist at the Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue on November 4th.

For more information on this event, contact Angela Cisneros acisner@eagle.fgcu.edu or John Cox jmcox@fgcu.edu

Spotlight

Dr. John Cox joined the FGCU history faculty in 2006, shortly after completing his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He has directed the university’s Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Human Rights Studies for the last two years, following the pioneering work of Dr. Glenn Whitehouse and local Holocaust survivor Ann Jacobson, who started the program. The Center—which under Cox’s leadership has brought to campus such world-renowned scholars as Christopher Browning and Deborah Lipstadt—balances academic rigor with public service, and has organized an array of lectures, interfaith clergy seminars, film showings, art exhibits, and teacher-training sessions.

Cox recently published his first book, Circles of Resistance: Jewish, Leftist, and Youth Dissidence in Nazi Germany (Peter Lang Publishing, 2009). Leading Holocaust historian Karl Schleunes wrote of the book that it “manages to rescue for history a long-obscured dimension of resistance in wartime Berlin—that of left-wing Jewish youth to a regime determined to destroy them.” As Circles of Resistance was rolling off the press in July, Cox signed contracts for two books with Pearson Prentice Hall: an examination of genocide in the twentieth century, and a biography of German socialist leader Rosa Luxemburg.

His work has also appeared in several important edited collections and major journals. He has presented papers at conferences in Krakow and Lisbon on various aspects of the German-Jewish experience before, during, and after the Holocaust, and is giving a paper at this winter’s American Historical Association annual conference. This July, Dr. Cox gave the closing keynote address, “The Legacy of the Holocaust for Today,” at a large Summer Symposium at Appalachian State University, and he has delivered featured lectures for Edison State College’s last two “Holocaust Memorial Weeks.”

John has also written for popular publications and websites on topics ranging from the Abu Ghraib scandal to international soccer and its political overtones. He was a founding member of editorial board of the Journal of Jewish Identities, which began publishing in 2008 and has already earned a strong international reputation, and is faculty adviser to the Progressive Student Alliance, Hillel, and the Islamic Awareness Society. John also enjoys speaking for local audiences, giving about ten public lectures in our area each year on topics ranging from the Holocaust and Jewish resistance, to U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, to Islamic history.

While his research has been principally on the Holocaust and anti-Nazi resistance, Cox argues that Nazi genocide must be understood in a broader context of racism, imperialism, and genocide, and this year he is offering undergraduate and graduate courses on “Genocide in World History” while completing his next book, To Kill a People: Genocide in the Twentieth Century. Like his colleagues in the department, Cox derives great satisfaction from teaching and mentoring undergraduates, and helped several of his students prepare research presentations at a recent conference of Florida historians. In addition to offering popular classes on the Holocaust and other modern European topics, he helped the program fill a void by developing a course on Islamic civilizations.
Alumni Highlights:

‘06 Danielle Brant (Art) graduated from Florida State University with a master of science in art therapy degree. She is a grief/art therapy counselor at Big Bend Hospice in Tallahassee.

‘06 Ryan Uhler (Communication) has been named the marketing manager for the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce.

‘07 Carolyn Greene (Communication) joined the Office of Community Outreach at FGCU after serving 11 years in the Foundation Office. She assists the director of community outreach with fostering relationships in the community as well as recruitment and retention of students, in the five-county area, who are underserved and underrepresented through specialized programming and training.

‘09 Tiffany Esposito (Communication) has been named the communications manager for the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Eagle Escape to the Caribbean – June 28 – July 3, 2010

Embark on a 5-night Western Caribbean cruise with Royal Caribbean out of Fort Lauderdale with your CAS alumni and friends of the FGCU Alumni Association! Ports of call include George Town, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico and rates are as low as $774 per person.

Why travel with us you ask?

• Completely FGCU: Reconnect with classmates, relive your FGCU memories and create new ones. Alumni, friends and family are welcome. Get ready for great times together.

• Hassle free: Travel planning can be hard work. Let us handle the details. Simply register, pack and enjoy the trip. We’ve got you covered.

• Great value: five fabulous nights aboard the Royal Caribbean ship the Grandeur, a private cocktail party for FGCU, all meals on board, entertainment, round trip coach transportation from FGCU, and all port and government taxes.

• Flexibility: There are boundless activities on board and on shore. Stick with the group – or explore on your own. You pick – after all, it’s your vacation!

Whether you’re ready to book or still have questions, contact Sandi Hamann our FGCU cruise specialist at (800) 523-3716 or visit us online at www.preferrednaples.com/FGCUAA.
Social Scene:

For a complete listing of event details, pricing and registration, please visit www.fgcu.edu/alumni

Alumni welcome incoming students back to campus

Incoming students had the opportunity to attend Convocation at Alico Arena. They were welcomed by Alumni speakers, Angela Hodge, ’04 (Communication) and Mathew Visaggio, ’05 (Communication). After the ceremony alumni, students, parents and the FGCU community attended the President’s cookout at SoVi, FGCU’s newest dining facility.

Learning the basics

Alumni learned the latest self-defense techniques at Griffin’s Martial Arts Center in North Fort Myers. Alumnus Sean Griffin, ’01 (Secondary Education) empowered Orv Curry, ’02 (Computer Information Systems) and Kim Williams, ’06/09 (Bachelor’s, Communication/Master’s, School Counseling) to break a board with their fist.

Alumni and friends bowl for a good cause

Alumni, faculty and staff and friends of FGCU showed their support by attending the third annual Dollars for FGCU Scholars fundraiser on September 26 at Beacon Bowl in Naples. Proceeds benefit the FGCU Alumni Association Scholarship fund which supports current students in pursuit of their education. From left: President Bradshaw, Krista Polulak, ’07 (Elementary Education), Jo Anna Bradshaw and Brad Piepenbrink, ’08 (Liberal Studies).

Alumni and friends wine down

Alumni, friends and fans welcomed special guest Ken Kavanagh for a wine tasting reception at 55° Cool Wine and Cheese. Guests enjoyed a variety of select wines and delicious hors d’oeuvres while learning about FGCU’s growing athletic program. Marie-Josée Hebert, ’08 (Liberal Studies) and Coach Deiros chat about the softball team’s upcoming season.
Mark Your Calendar

Sanibel Writers Conference
November 5-8 at BIG ARTS on Sanibel Island

Veteran’s Day
November 11

Teaching Luncheon
November 13 at 12:30 p.m., Ceramic Studio (Arts Complex)

Wednesday Classes only meet
Tuesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Break
November 25-27

Commencement
Saturday, December 12 in Alico Arena

Peter Seldin Academic and Teaching Portfolio Workshop
December 14-17

Grades due from Faculty by Noon
December 18