Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS) recently received a grant from the Zonta Club of Bonita Springs. Zonta International is a global organization whose mission is to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. The organization started in 1919 and is derived from an Indian word meaning honest and trustworthy.

The grant funds will be used to host a forensic “who-dunnit” activity on Saturday, May 8th for two local middle schools, Bonita Springs Middle School and Bonita Springs Charter School. These middle schools were selected because they have a wide diversity of student ethnic groups and income levels. The middle school students will solve a murder mystery using chemistry, biology and physics and be led through the activities by FGCU undergraduate students. Faculty members Sue Coticone (Chemistry) and Jan DeJarnette (biology) will coordinate the science activities.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with GEMS, it consists of science workshops for middle school female students from Lee and Collier counties and was developed by Jo Ann Wilson (biology) and Terry Dubetz (chemistry) in 2006, to address a shortage of professionals in the fields of math, science and engineering. Females are under-represented in many areas of science and math, and increased numbers of females in these fields could help solve the shortage of workers. The GEMS mission is to encourage and stimulate interest in science and math in girls at an early age so they will consider these fields as a career.

The program has partnered with local organizations in past events, including an ecological activity last year with the Girl Scouts. Grants from The Whitaker Center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education and the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education provided sponsorship for the event, which took the Girl Scouts to “Whitaker Pond” next to Whitaker Hall, where the girls collected and observed pond life, such as fish, insects and larger critters. The Girl Scouts classified the animals and then quickly returned them to their natural environment without harming them.

GEMS has been making science and math fun for girls for three years and we hope to continue the program for many years to come!
Dear Colleagues,

As we wind down another academic year, I am grateful for all of the hard work of faculty and staff. Over the last year, we have worked as a team to maintain quality teaching and learning, to add new programs, and to continuously improve our curriculum based on a vibrant assessment process. We kicked off a pilot of assessing the learning outcome of community awareness and involvement in our Foundations of Civic Engagement class, which we will report on in the Fall.

We have held a very successful series of Teaching Breakfasts, ranging across disciplines and topics. Among the first three presentations were Neil Wilkinson and Courtney Satkoski presenting on The Malaria Project, Kris De Welde presenting on Food Synergies, and Tricia Fay presenting on the Empty Bowls Project. This year saw an Earth Charter Teaching Brunch sponsored by the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, as well as two presentations in March and April, including Mike Savarese and Sasha Wohlpert presenting on Student Research, and Martha Rosenthal, Kris De Welde, Michelle Hayford, and Nicola Foote presenting on Team Teaching. All presentations provide faculty with valuable insight into innovations in teaching and civic engagement, demonstrating our strong commitment as educators. We look forward to resuming the Teaching Breakfast series again in the fall.

Three Study Abroad trips are scheduled to take place this summer, including Tricia Fay and Win Everham traveling to St. Lucia, Noemi Creagan and Brian Bovard traveling to Brazil, and Rob Erdman and Randy Cross traveling to the Bahamas. These trips will offer students the opportunity to experience the application of disciplines in a unique setting under the guidance of faculty.

We expect 2,250 FTIC in the fall, with an increase of 10% in overall enrollment. We are in the process of hiring 28 new faculty to accommodate this growth. A request for new staff is currently under review. We look forward to welcoming our new faculty and staff at our fall college retreat. The grand opening of Academic Building 7 is scheduled to take place in the fall, when we plan to announce the LEED Certification, which we expect will be “Platinum.” At that time, certification will be officially commissioned. I will keep everyone posted, and look forward to having time to celebrate together.

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer!

Best regards,

Donna Price Henry, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Biology
Whitaker Center Hires Director

Dr. Douglas Spencer was selected as the new Director of the Whitaker Center for STEM Education at FGCU following a national search.

An expert in planning and evaluating education in emerging technologies, Dr. Spencer founded two companies – Edu, Inc. in 1993 and DonorWealth™ in 2000.

Edu, Inc. is a national education consulting group that helps clients like Harvard, Cornell, the University of California, PBS, and the National Science Foundation evaluate multimillion dollar education programs. DonorWealth™ advises university Boards on fundraising for education.

“I am excited about joining the Whitaker Center and for the opportunity to provide leadership to help FGCU position itself as a preeminent provider of STEM education for undergraduates. There are exceptional opportunities for the Whitaker Center to partner with leading universities and national foundations to develop best practices for STEM education and innovative use of educational technologies,” Spencer said.

Dr. Spencer earned a Ph.D. in Education at Cornell University. He is currently studying education using mobile devices at Stanford University.

Listening to Students

Assistant Professor of Biology Charles ‘billy’ Gunnels asks a panel of students “Do you prefer a syllabus that is strict and legalistic or one that changes based the interests of the class?” Twenty faculty members expectantly wait a response.

Camila Avila a senior in Biology begins “Students are looking for clear expectations from a good brief syllabus. Deadlines should be firm and communicated up front. No flexibility – no student excuses.”

Sarah Larsen—a Marine Science major—continues “I agree. Dr. Jamie MacDonald (Geology) has the very best syllabus! He specifically spells out expectations on one page.”

In February—Listening to Students—gave faculty inside information to understand student wants, needs and interests. The event was organized by Whitaker Center STEM Academy – a professional development seminar series designed to help faculty plan and assess active student-centered learning. Students urged faculty to be brief and to the point in their teaching. They encouraged memorable stories, relevant real world examples and active learning.

When asked about technology several students favored office hours using instant messaging or an on-line chat room but still want person to person office hours. A computer science major said “Faculty need to be welcoming.” Students agreed that YouTube videos embedded in PowerPoint presentations bring a difficult subject to life. A student advised faculty to “Bring in something fun and interesting that will take us somewhere. Make us think. We love to learn.”

Located on the second floor of Whitaker Hall, the Whitaker Center for STEM Education is emerging quickly. Since October the Whitaker Center completed renovations, acquired new technologies, enhanced programs, and hired the Center’s first permanent Director.

Established in 2002, the Whitaker Center for STEM Education provides Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs for faculty and students at FGCU. The Whitaker Center serves over 100 faculty members from colleges across the university. Faculty can participate in professional development seminars and get assistance with grant applications. FGCU students may apply for internships, travel and research grants through the Whitaker Center.

The newly renovated Whitaker Center establishes a new presence and visibility on campus. An open office design provides workspace and a high-tech conference room for members and students. One thing you won’t see in the new office is filing cabinets. A digital system replaced all paper files and a new membership database helps the Whitaker Center serve faculty members. A web-based service streamlines faculty and student applications for travel and research grants offered by the Whitaker Center.

Susan Fohs is an Administrative Assistant at the Whitaker Center for STEM Education and 15-year veteran of FGCU. Susan created the design that architects used to renovate the Whitaker Center office suite.
Summer 2010 Study Abroad

St. Lucia Interdisciplinary Field Experience: The Human-Land Relationship
Faculty contacts:
Patricia Fay, 239-590-7229, pfay@fgcu.edu
Win Everham, 239-590-7169, eeverham@fgcu.edu

This summer, FGCU faculty members from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts and from the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences will lead students from both areas on an interdisciplinary, international field experience to St. Lucia, an independent, English-speaking country in the Eastern Caribbean. Throughout the Spring 2010 semester, students have been meeting together for language training, fundraising projects to offset trip costs, and cohort community building. Beginning in May, the course experiences will include two weeks of disciplinary training related to intended service projects, and shared interdisciplinary experiences to deepen and expand the cultural context. From May 22 – June 4, students and faculty will be in St. Lucia to explore the human-land relationship through the study of traditional craft practices and tropical island ecology. While on the trip, FGCU students will participate in community-based service-learning projects, including kiln building, classroom teaching, and establishing of interpretive nature trails. Community partners in St. Lucia include the Folk Research Center, St. Lucia Heritage Tourism, the Balenbouche Estate, the Ministry for Social Transformation, and the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School. Returning to FGCU, students will document and share their experiences with the regional and FGCU communities.

Tropical Island Biology
Faculty contacts:
Robert Erdman, 239-590-7503, reredm@fgcu.edu
Randy Cross, 239-590-7545, rcross@fgcu.edu

When most people hear talk of a trip to the Bahamas they think about Nassau, piña coladas on the beach, tiki bars, and cabanas. When we meet with students taking the Tropical Island Biology class at the Gerace Research Center on San Salvador Island, we talk about mosquitoes and sand gnats, mystery meat at the cafeteria, and riding around the island in the back of an open truck that saw its better days a few decades back.

Once again Drs. Erdman and Cross will be taking sixteen science students to the GRC for two weeks of experiential learning. Students will be snorkeling on coral reefs, and through mangroves and seagrass meadows. Students will also visit iguana and bird sanctuaries on nearby islands, explore plantation ruins and caves, hike into interior marine lakes and conduct small group research projects and presentations.

Teaching Breakfast Series

The last two Teaching Breakfasts for this academic year include Mike Savarese and Sasha Wohlpart presenting on Student Research Integrated into the Classroom on March 19th in AB7 Room 115, and Martha Rosenthal, Kris De Welde, Michelle Hayford, and Nicola Foote presenting on Team Teaching on April 16th in AB7 Room 115.

Thank you to all faculty who have presented and participated in the series!
Jesse Millner Wins Florida Book Award

Instructor Jesse Millner of FCCU’s Language and Literature department received the Florida Book Award bronze medal for his book of poetry, *Neighborhoods of My Past Sorrow*.

The Florida Book Awards, coordinated by the Florida State University Library and co-sponsored by the Florida Center for the Book, the State Library and Archives of Florida, the Florida Historical Society, the Florida Humanities Council, the Florida Literary Arts Coalition, the Florida Library Association, “Just Read, Florida!,” the Governor’s Family Literacy Initiative, the Florida Association for Media in Education, the Florida Reading Association, the Florida Center for the Literary Arts, Friends of the Florida State University Libraries, Friends of the FSU Libraries, Program in American and Florida Studies at Florida State University, and the Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America is an annual awards program that recognizes, honors, and celebrates the best Florida literature published in the previous year (www.fsu.edu/~ams/bookawards).

Winning books and their authors are featured in the Summer issue of FORUM, the statewide magazine of the Florida Humanities Council. The seven Gold Medal Winners will also be recognized on March 24 at the Historical and Cultural Awards Ceremony sponsored by the State of Florida’s Division of Cultural Affairs at the R.A. Gray Building in Tallahassee. All awardees will be recognized at the Florida Library Association Conference Banquet on April 8 in Orlando.

Jesse has published four poetry chapbooks: *The Drowned Boys* (March Street Press), *On the Saturday After the Rapture* (Main Street Rag Press), *I Give You This Ghost* and *Holy Numbers* (Pudding House Publications). The *Neighborhoods of My Past Sorrow* is his first full-length collection.

Egan Observatory Featured in the News

ABC’s 7 O’Clock News and NBC News 2 at 5 featured FGCU’s Egan Observatory on February 9. The Observatory boasts three powerful, computerized telescopes, in addition to a “state of the art” 16-inch Ritchey-Chretien reflective telescope, which is the same optical design as the Hubble Space Telescope on a smaller scale. FGCU has an advantage over many other locations in the United States being situated in the southernmost region. Unlike areas to the North, FGCU has greater visual access to starry southern skies.

Dr. Michael Fauerbach of the Marine and Ecological Sciences Department was interviewed in both broadcasts, commenting on the advantage students receive thanks to the observatory, “If you talk to the students, it’s a lot more fun to not just see textbook images, but see pictures that we took here, so they can be involved in these issues, too.” Of the new telescope upgrade, he added, “You know how it is when you have a new toy, you cannot wait to try it out. So we went ahead and actually took some pictures, and we were surprised by how good they came out.”

The regions pictured here are rich with newly formed stars that emit lots of UV light that excites the (mainly) hydrogen gas to glow red in color. The Pacman Nebula lies around 10,000 lightyears from us. The Orion Nebula is actually visible with the naked eye, and lies much closer at a distance of only ~1,500 light years.
Coastal Watershed Institute

Now beginning its seventh year of operation, the Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI) was founded to promote interdisciplinary research; to assemble a shared pool of resources for faculty and students, including laboratory instruments, boats and tow vehicles; and to enhance the overall educational experience of FGCU students. The primary goal is simple: to listen to the concerns of the local community regarding the health of our watersheds and then apply these resources, including people power, to tackle those concerns. In this effort, the CWI brings together FGCU faculty from a range of disciplines, including Biology, Environmental Studies, and Marine Science, and boasts affiliate faculty from such organizations as Mote Marine Laboratory and the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Lab. Behind the scenes, CWI staff work tirelessly to ensure that the Institute’s programs are carried out rain or shine, day or night, high tide or low.

Much of the Institute’s funding supports the training of undergraduate and graduate students through internships, senior research projects, and Master’s thesis research. Our students spend a significant amount of time on the water, in the field and in the lab collecting and analyzing information about our coastal watersheds. They contribute in a very real way to the understanding of how local ecosystems work and how we influence the natural resources they support.

CWI also works to expand the classroom experience for FGCU students. This spring, Dr. Jeffrey Allen, Director of the South Carolina Water Resources Center at Clemson University, spoke to an FGCU Forest Ecology class about predicting urban development, and Dr. Graham Shimmield, Executive Director of the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, talked to an Oceanography class about the potential ecological effects of oil spills. Both visits were sponsored by Florida Sea Grant as part of the Elise B. Newell Seminar Series.

Marine Science students also get their feet wet courtesy of the Florida Institute of Oceanography: this April they will embark on the research vessel Bellows, where they will learn firsthand how to operate oceanographic equipment, collecting and identifying marine organisms from Florida’s continental shelf; last fall they participated in a field expedition to the Florida Keys Marine Laboratory on Long Key, where they tested hypotheses about coral reef, seagrass, and mangrove environments using data they collected themselves. All of these opportunities were underwritten by grants attained by the efforts of CWI.

If you’d like to learn more about the Coastal Watershed Institute’s, students, staff, faculty and many activities, please visit our website at www.fgcu.edu/cwi

Current Research Ventures in CWI

- Trophodynamic magnification of mercury in Southwest Florida coastal waters
- Freshwater inflow and estuarine production in the Caloosahatchee River and estuary
- Bioavailability and sources of nutrients and the linkages to nuisance drift algae
- Geomorphologic and ecologic response of Southwest Florida’s wetland marshes to accelerated sea-level rise

Oyster Reef Restoration

On April 3, FGCU students, staff, faculty and community volunteers will form a human chain, passing bag after bag of fossil oyster shells from a barge on the water to their new home at the bottom of Estero Bay. When organized into reef-like structures, these shell bags will help ensure that young planktonic oysters, adrift in the waters of the Bay, will have a suitable hard bottom on which to settle and grow. The Oyster Reef Restoration Project of Southwest Florida is an annual community event; initiated by Dr. Aswani Volety, it is organized and sponsored by FGCU’s Coastal Watershed Institute, with help from friends and sponsors.
The Malaria Project

The Malaria Project was a civic engagement, service learning initiative conducted by two classes at Florida Gulf Coast University during the summer of 2009. Students in Foundations of Civic Engagement IDS 3300 taught by adjunct instructor Courtney Satkoski and The University Colloquium IDS 3920 taught by instructor Neil Wilkinson worked jointly to raise public awareness of the ongoing plight of individuals living in sub-Saharan Africa from mosquito vectored malaria. This preventable disease deprives those who live in afflicted areas of economic development, education, and health. But, with proper use of inexpensive insecticide coated bed nets, the incidence of malaria can be dramatically reduced. Last year, these two classes worked together with the initial goal to not only raise awareness but to raise $5,000 to purchase 2,000 nets to be delivered to the village of Kanke, Nigeria by the beginning of July when the rainy season typically gets underway.

These events benefitting The FGCU Malaria Project will kick off the next fundraising initiative:

California Pizza Kitchen: March 23 or 24 (All day)
Malaria Project 5K: March 27 at 8:00 a.m. on the FGCU Campus

Campus Trail Clean-Up

Students gathered for the Spring Campus Trail Clean-up on Saturday March 13, 2010. Students from across campus came to the trails bright and early to earn service learning and take care of our native habitats and trails on campus. We had over 75 students participate and get their feet wet for the event. The trails were a little soggy from the previous Friday’s rains. Students removed dead brush and debris on the trail using garden tools. Student Government provided funding for snacks and lunch and supplied participants with water bottles. It was the first event of the ALOHA Active Lifestyles of Healthy Adults - This is a week of interactive and engaging events and workshops that physically and mentally stimulate students to promote awareness about personal and environmental health.

This was the 7th trail clean-up on campus. It was started by student Chris Epifanio for his Colloquium and Civic Engagement project in conjunction with Campus Naturalist Sarah Davis. She and Chris have been working together to host the event every year. Physical Plant, Campus Recreation, Environmental Health and Safety and Inland Ecology Research Group and University Colloquium support the event by loaning us supplies. This year they were fortunate to have funding from Student Government; during past clean-ups Student Government, Housing and the President’s office have been instrumental in providing resources to make this possible. This trail project engages students in the natural world and exposes them to the unique habitats we have on campus; many never realized that the trails even existed before they came to the clean-up. It encourages their sense of place giving them a chance to give back to their campus community and take care of our campus habitats.
Samuel Pepys Readings

Feb 18 and March 17 saw Sam Pepys Open Mic Readings in the Student Union Building Bookstore. The featured reader for the February 18 event was Jill Allen, FGCU Instructor, and an award winning poet and essayist. She received an MFA degree from Florida International University in Miami, where she was also the editor of Gulf Stream magazine. Jill’s poems and essays have appeared in TriQuarterly Review, RUNES, Southeast Review, Creative Nonfiction, Crab Orchard, the Margie Review and in the book Silence Kills. She read from her new poetry chapbook.

A final reading for the semester is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00pm in the campus Bookstore. For more information about the readings, contact Jesse Millner at jmillner@fgcu.edu or 590-7228.

Report on Florida Conference of Historians 2010

The history department continued to build on its strong relationship with the Florida Conference of Historians, with no less than 16 students presenting their research at this year’s annual conference in Tallahassee from Feb 18-20. The FCH is an annual meeting of local historians that brings together researchers, teachers, students and public history professionals from around the state in an engaging and energetic forum. Topics presented on by the students ranged from the role of West Indian workers in the construction of the Panama Canal to the spread of bubonic plague in ancient Athens. All of the student papers were of exceptionally high quality, and their skill and accomplishment was noted by all who attended.

The department’s connection to the FCH extends beyond student paper presentations. History faculty member Mike Epple was the outgoing President of the organization, and FGCU has been granted the honor of editing the conference Proceedings for a three year term.

Vagina Monologues

FGCU’s inaugural 2010 Vagina Monologues performances were a great success! Approximately 325 total people attended performances on Feb. 11, 13, & 14, and GEO (Gender Equality Organization) raised just over $1,800 for their selected beneficiaries: Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc. (HTAP); Abuse, Counseling and Treatment (ACT); and V-Day’s spotlight campaign for 2010, “The City of Joy,” a facility and community for women survivors of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. For more information see www.vday.org, or contact Kris De Welde.

This success was due in part to the generosity of Dr. Joe Cudjoe, Social and Behavioral Sciences Chair and Dean Henry, on behalf of the college.
Music Student Highlights

Three students place in the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions Competition in Bradenton on Saturday, February 27:
- Lorena Vargas—1st Place freshmen women/classical division
- Jaimie Bocco—2nd Place sophomore women/classical division
- Carolyn Greiner—1st Place senior women/classical division

They competed against other women at several other Florida universities and colleges.

Carolyn Greiner was also featured in Opera Naples’ Outreach Program at Cambier Park Feb. 20 for the Naples Art Festival.

Heather Jones (sophomore in voice performance) has been accepted into the University of Miami’s Summer Opera Program in Salzburg, Austria, where she competed against young artists nationally for this opportunity.

Lorena Vargas was a finalist in the Ft. Myers Alliance for the Arts Contemporary Voice Division of the Young Artist Awards Competition.

Three students from the Voice Area placed in the Fort Myers Alliance for the Arts Young Artist Competition:

- Jaimie Bocco (sophomore, BA in Music Performance) was declared the overall winner for the Classical Voice category, and for her division, age 17-21. She won $1000. Lorena Vargas (contemporary voice) and Ian Denson (piano) were declared the runner-ups to their divisions, and won $500 each.

- Lorena Vargas (freshman, BA in Music Performance) was selected as finalist in the Contemporary Singing Division.

Jaime Taveras (sophomore, BA in Music Education) was selected as runner-up to the College Classical Singing Division.

Heather Jones, sophomore in the BA Music Performance degree, was selected from a national pool to participate in the University of Miami’s Salzburg Opera Program.

Spring 2010 Schedule

All events are at 7:30 p.m. and on the FGCU Main Campus Student Union Ballroom unless otherwise specified by **

- April 1** Duo-Piano Concert—Michael Baron and students Steinway Piano Gallery at 7:00 pm
- April 2 Senior Recital—Anthony Schons, horn; Ed Rizo, guitar
- April 5 Symphonic Band Concert
- April 6 Symphony Orchestra Concert
- April 8** Choral Ensembles Spring Concert Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Myers at 7:30 pm
- April 9** University Chorus and Chamber Singers Bower Chapel, Moorings Park, Naples at 7:30 pm
- April 11** Senior Recital—Roy Samuelson, bassoon at 1:00 p.m.
- April 13 Guest Artist Recital—Sharon Mabry, mezzo-soprano; Patsy Wade, piano
- April 15 String Orchestra/Wind Orchestra Concert
**2010 President’s Concert**

Friday, March 12 saw ten competitively selected students representing the Bower School of Music perform in this special concert honoring the President of FGCU.

The concert featured instrumental and vocal music, and includes works by Arutunian, Chopin, Debussy, Donizetti, Handel, Maslanka, Mozart, Puccini, Rachmaninoff, Schubert, and Weber.

Students Hyae-jin Hwang, piano and Emmanuel Lima, trumpet

Student Faron Vassen accompanies during a performance

**Bower School of Music Invitational Choral Clinic**

Florida Gulf Coast University Bower School of Music Choral Department, under the direction of Melinda S. Doyle, is presenting Franz Schubert’s Mass in G featuring members of the Naples Philharmonic Harmonic Orchestra. Performing Choirs include Naples Philharmonic Center Chorale, FGCU University Choir and Chamber Singers, and the High School Invitational Choir. Our clinic is designed for exceptional high school choral musicians—to provide an opportunity for them to perform with other select singers under the direction of an outstanding conductor.

Guest conductor, Dr. Raphael Bundage is the Director of Choral Activities at Middle Tennessee State University and is Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master of the Nashville Opera Association. He holds bachelor degrees from Texas Christian University and graduate degrees from the Eastman School of Music. Prior to his graduate study, he was Supervisor of Choral Music in the Texas Public School System. While at Eastman, he was Director of the Eastman Chamber Chorus and the Assistant Director of the Eastman-Rochester Symphony Chorus. He is an adjudicator in the choral field and a teacher of conducting. He is the product of an extraordinary host of master teachers including Alfred Mann, Julius Herford, and Robert Shaw.

The performance will take place April 24, 2010, 4:00pm at the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples.

For more information contact: Melinda S. Doyle, mdoyle@fgcu.edu or 239.590.1266
2010 First Year Reading Project

All incoming first year students at Florida Gulf Coast University will read Susan Cerulean’s *Tracking Desire: A Journey after Swallow-tailed Kites* in order to explore FGCU’s Learning Goal Ecological Perspective. A work of nonfiction, *Tracking Desire* charts both the natural history and biology of swallow-tailed kites and the author’s own encounters with this spectacular bird. The summer reading assignment expects students to analyze the issue of ecological perspective in the book, as well as to consider the relationship between what students learn in the book and their own interactions with the natural world.

Florida Gulf Coast University’s First Year Reading Project introduces incoming students to the expectations of learning at an institution of higher education. All first-year students read a common book during the summer, usually a novel or work of non-fiction, and complete a writing assignment regarding the book. The book is discussed in Composition I classes and in the First Year Humanities Seminar in the fall semester, and sometimes in other classes.

The First Year Reading project engages students in critical thinking and writing skills, preparing them for a rigorous academic experience, and connects them to the campus community so that they are supported in this experience. In this way, students become a part of the community at Florida Gulf Coast University and come prepared for our unique learning experience. For more information, please visit [http://www.fgcu.edu/FYE/reading.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/FYE/reading.html)

Visual and Performing Arts

The **artGallery** is located within the Arts Complex on FGCU’s main campus. The university is located off Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, east of I-75 between exits 123 and 128.

The **artLab** is located within the FGCU Library on our main campus.

Parking is available in Lot 7 for gallery visitors, parking passes are available at the parking kiosk located at the university’s entrance.

**artGallery**

- **April 1 – April 9, 2010**
  - 2010 Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition
  - Opening reception with the artists:
    - Thursday, April 1 • 5:00 – 7:00pm

- **April 16 – May 2, 2010**
  - Finals: Spring Senior Project Exhibition
  - Opening reception with the artists:
    - Friday, April 16 • 5:00 – 7:00pm

**artLab**

- **Wooden Mouth**
  - Writer and Director: Barry Cavin
  - In the forest, tucked back into a mountain hollow, live a peculiar people who possess an ancient mask that gives a great gift to the wearer- the ability to strip away all lies spoken by others. An uncertain lover adventures to find the mask but discovers a secret more extraordinary than honesty and fidelity. Tickets on sale now.

- **Beyond Therapy**
  - by Christopher Durang
  - June 16-20 March 29

- **theatreLab**
  - **Curtain Times**
    - Monday thru Saturday 8pm
    - Sunday 2pm matinee

For more information please visit: [http://theatrelab.fgcu.edu](http://theatrelab.fgcu.edu) or call 590-7268
Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education

The FGCU Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education held their Sixth Annual Fundraising Celebration on Sanibel Island on Thursday, March 18, 2010. The major fundraising event for the Center, the evening served to support its sustainability initiatives locally and globally. Entitled, “Bloom Where You’re Planted: Focus on the Local,” the occasion highlighted the role of the Center at FGCU and in the local community, while fostering intergenerational dialogue between students and the Center’s eldest supporters.

One hundred and thirty people attended the sunset gathering. David Orr, Center Board Co-chair and author of Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse (2009), gave remarks. Other event contributors included members of the Center’s Board of Advisors, FGCU Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Donna Price Henry, community donors and stakeholders, and student assistants and volunteers.

Guests of the event enjoyed organic hors d’oeuvres prepared with ingredients grown by local organic gardeners, wine, and the original citrus cocktail infusion, “Bloom Where You’re Planted,” while socializing and learning about the initiatives taken on by the Center. A more detailed measure of the Center’s progress is exhibited in the Center’s Five Year Report, Works Toward Realizing the Dream (pictured).

For information, contact the FGCU Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at (239) 590-7166 or e-mail: cese@fgcu.edu.

The 2nd International Humanities and Sustainability Conference

Building on the success of our inaugural meeting in Spring 2009, Florida Gulf Coast University’s Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, and Departments of Language & Literature and Communication & Philosophy seek again to join the international conversation on sustainability in our 2nd International Humanities and Sustainability Conference. To be held Thursday, October 7th to Saturday, October 9th, 2010, this conference will serve dual—but intertwined—purposes, one of which is to address the issue of sustainability in all of its complexity: the definition, ambiguity, and even problematic nature of the term; its widespread application to crises in ecology and culture; and especially its implications for and within humanities disciplines. In an era increasingly dominated by technology-, economics-, and business-related areas of study, the humanities’ role in fostering environmental and cultural sustainability can only be appreciated if humanities disciplines are valued and pursued with the same enthusiasm that administrators, students, and the public show toward these more “practical” fields. The 2nd International Humanities and Sustainability Conference will thus also be a forum for addressing the sustainability of humanities study itself.

The 2010 conference will coincide with FGCU’s annual Sustainability Week, sponsored by FGCU’s Student Government. From Monday, October 4th through Friday, October 8th there will be a number of events showing how the University and its students and faculty are engaging the issue of sustainability.

Please submit 300-500 word paper and panel proposals, with AV requests, by email to HandSCon@fgcu.edu. The deadline for proposals is June 4, 2010 at midnight EST. Include all text of the proposal in the body of the email (attachments will not be opened), and be sure to include full contact information for all panel members. See http://www.fgcu.edu/cas/HandScon/ for more information.
In Honor of International Women’s Day

A panel discussion on “Reproductive Rights: Global and Local Issues” took place March 8 in Suden Hall Resort and Hospitality Management Building.

The panel of speakers included:

Kevin J. Collins, M.D.
Medical Director of Clinical Services, FGCU Student Health Services

Kim Slote, J.D.
Director of Education & Advocacy, Planned Parenthood of Collier County

Dr. John Cox
FGCU History Professor
Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Human Rights Studies

Dr. Nicola Foote
FGCU History Professor

Stephanie Johnson
Student Representative for VOX (Voices of Planned Parenthood)

Sara Afflerback
Gender Equality Organization (GEO) President
Planned Parenthood of SWCFL Clinic Assistant

Casey Smith
Gender Equality Organization (GEO) Vice President
Planned Parenthood of Collier County Patient Escort

Discussant & Moderator: Dr. Kris De Welde
FGCU Sociology Professor
Sponsored by GEO (Gender Equality Organization), GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), and PSA (Progressive Student Alliance)

Staged Reading in honor of Women’s History Month

On March 25, in honor of Women’s History Month, a Staged Reading of Top Girls, by Caryl Churchill took place in Whitaker Hall. Churchill’s play Top Girls—a dinner party that brings together diverse women spanning history and cultures around one table. A talk back after the reading will discuss the biographical details of these extraordinary real and legendary women’s lives. Come meet Pope Joan (854-856), a woman believed to have served as Pope until her sex was discovered, and Lady Nijo (b. 1258), a Japanese courtesan of the Emperor, among others!

Sigma Tau Delta is hosting a student literary conference this Friday, April 2nd. Students will be showcasing their writing and presentation skills, so please support their efforts by attending this event on Friday! PLACE: Sugden Resort & Hospitality Building (SRHM 240) TIME: 1-4:00 PM.

The Creative Writing Club is proud to announce its second annual writer’s conference, CWC Mini-Con 2010, a FREE event featuring workshops in fiction, poetry, and blogging.

The conference will be held at the Ft. Myers FGCU Campus (Ben Hill Griffin Bldg. first floor) on Saturday, April 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is open to the first 150 participants. FGCU students and staff receive priority registration through April 6th.

For registration and/or conference materials or information, please contact the CWC Faculty Advisor, our own Lori Cornelius. Help support this fabulous event!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month/Week

Brought to you by GEO (Gender Equality Organization)

April 5-9: FGCU’s yearly National Clothesline Project; look for it in the breezeway all week long

April 6: Frozen by Fear awareness day; a day of silence to honor victims and survivors of sexual assault.

April 7: Take Back the Night Speak Out and Candlelight Vigil at the waterfront, 7-9pm

April 8: Women’s Self-defense Seminar, co-sponsored by the FGCU Martial Arts Club, Auxiliary Gym, 6-8pm
CAS Mourns Two Faculty Members

The College of Arts and Sciences was saddened at the loss of two faculty members, Dr. Patrick Greene and Dr. Robert Michael.

Patrick Greene, associate professor, had been teaching at FGCU in the field of instructional technology since the University opened in 1997, and in June 2008 he was promoted to associate professor. A memorial service for Pat was held on March 20 at 4 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

Pat Greene and Marci Greene have a daughter, Katana (Tani), who has Angelman Syndrome. It is the family’s request that memorial donations be made to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation in memory of Patrick Greene. www.angelman.org If donating through the website, choose the “Memorials” link and go to the “In Memory of” page for Pat Greene.

Robert Michael was a distinguished scholar who taught part-time for the History program for the last several years. Dr. Michael was a Professor Emeritus of European History at University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, where he taught the Holocaust for nearly thirty years. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Boston University in Philosophy, Dr. Michael published poetry in addition to more than 50 articles and 11 books on the Holocaust and the history of anti-Semitism. Among his numerous distinctions, Bob was one of the 1997 recipients of the American Historical Association’s James Harvey Robinson Prize for the “most outstanding contribution to the teaching and learning of history.”

Professor Michael McDonald’s book

Food Culture in Central America

Forget the French fries and choose platanos fritos (deep-fried plantains) to accompany that burger. Start your meal with anafres, a Honduran refried black bean and cheese fondu. Treat yourself to some Guatemalan elotes, roasted ears of corn seasoned with butter, cheese, salt, lime juice, and chili powder. These are just a few examples from the Central American cuisines making inroads across the United States.

Food Culture in Central America illustrates the unique foodways of the region in depth—and in English—for the first time. Important foods and ingredients, techniques, and lore associated with food preparation are surveyed. Typical meals eaten at home are presented, with attention to the cultural context in which those meals take place, including regional or national differences. The book also examines various meal settings—street vendors, modest comedors, and fancy restaurants. The role of food in common festivals and life cycle rituals is explored as well, including Christmas, Semana Santa, and Quincineras.

Author Michael R. McDonald emphasizes the living process of “metatezation,” referring to the use of the traditional metate, a stone platform used to grind ingredients, resulting in the unique flavors and textures of the cuisines. The process echoes the concept of “mestizaje,” the intense hybrid mixture of identities throughout Latin America, which is also explained.

Professor Farshad Aminian on Behalf of his spring 2010 rtv video documentary class presents:

A Night to Document

A feature Film presentation Showcasing the talents of:

- Fiorella A. Bazan
- Laurence J. Colleton
- Alexis C. Conde
- Sara Harris
- Christopher T. Lucente
- Grant Marlowe
- Donielle N. Nardi
- Armando L. Rivera
- Shane T. Snyder
- Daniel Virella
- Juliana Yesulitis

April 22nd, 2010
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sugden Resort & Hospitality Hall Room #111

Free of cost and open to the public.

Come support the poignant compositions of your peers’ concerns and passions.
Student Highlights

Graduate students April Brandon and Jennifer Thera, under the supervision of Professor Darren Rumbold in the department of Marine and Ecological Sciences, made presentations at the 30th Annual Meeting of The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) held in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 19-23, 2009.

April Brandon won 2nd place for her poster titled “Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Mercury Concentrations in Blood and Hair of Florida Panthers (Puma concolor coryi): 1978 – 2008.” Of the SETAC conference, Brandon states: “My experience at SETAC was exceptional. I met many professionals with experience in the environmental toxicology field who were very engaging and interested in my research. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to discuss my work with confidence while learning about the innovations and interests of other students and professionals.”

Jennifer Thera presented a poster “Mercury Concentrations in King Mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla) from Southwest Florida” at the SETAC conference. Jennifer Thera stated, “Attending the SETAC conference this year was a positive and great learning experience. One highlight was being able to listen to presentations by well published authors, many of whose research I’ve read and discussed in classes. I was also able to talk to other graduate students with the same research interests as mine and learn of opportunities that I would not have known about otherwise.”

Fox 4’s “The Morning Blend” with host Bill Wood included a segment called “FGCU Day” on March 15. Wood featured students Jenica Ervin and Jessica Fieberts who are working on The Malaria Project in Courtney Satkoski’s Foundations of Civic Engagement class, as well as Communication interns with internship coordinator Susan Moniz. Wood, wearing an FGCU sweatshirt, interviewed communication major Christine Deramo, along with Moniz. The segment also featured Melissa Migliore, Communication alumna, who started at Fox 4 as an intern, and was recently promoted to producer for “The Morning Blend.”

The segment (links below) starts off with Christina and Susan Moniz, with Melissa featured midway through. The second link is the Malaria Project feature.


Melissa Migliore, a former communication intern, is now producer of “The Morning Blend.” Says Migliore, “I was an intern for FOX 4’s ‘Morning Blend’ for 3 semesters, graduated from FGCU in May 2009, and was working at FOX 4 as a Production Specialist for FOX 4 Rising news and FOX 4’s ‘Morning Blend.’ After months of training, I was just promoted to Producer!” Migliore credits her professional success to her internship, which was coordinated by Instructor Susan Moniz. Migliore emailed Moniz, “I am so excited and wanted to share this fantastic news since you were my sole supporter throughout my internships at the station. Thank you, again for all you’ve done!”

Adam Whitelaw, Fall ’09 communication major graduate is now employed at Digital Trafficking Liaison. Of his new career, Whitelaw states, “So digital trafficking is uploading creative (agency lingo for ads) into our ad server and then assigning it to ads that will be placed on various websites. Another important role of the position is applying tracking tags, that allow us to report on the progress of individual ads (clicks, impressions, etc.) Basically, I am a middle man between the creative agencies, the client and the websites (vendors). The digital campaigns I am working on are for Buena Vista Pictures (Disney) so I have been working on Alice in Wonderland, The Last Song (chick flick) and Prince of Persia, amongst others. Since digital advertising seems to be the future of the industry- this is a great place for me to learn. And I have learned a lot.”

Lyndsey Cooke started as an intern at K-ROCK. Lyndsey started as an intern and moved up to evening on-air personality and now landed the midday spot (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) on K-ROCK. The News-Press quoted Lyndsey (article link below), “Meanwhile, former evening personality Lindsey will be moving to the midday shift, appearing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It’s a plum assignment for Lindsey, who has worked her way up at K-Rock, going from intern to popular on-air host.”

Of her experience at K-ROCK, Lyndsey stated, “I’ve been busy, busy, busy, and I started my new shift today! I think the promotion was due to a large part of me putting in the unpaid internship hours towards the production side of K-rock. Thanks!”

Eagle Extras expands alumni discounts

Florida Gulf Coast University alumni have benefited from discounts and services through the Eagle Extras program since its inception in 2004. That program has recently expanded, adding more than 500 merchants offering discounts on thousands of national brands. Through a secure Web site supported by Motivano, a New York-based company with thousands of governmental and Fortune 500 clients, alumni can purchase goods and services at prices 10 percent to 60 percent less than those available to the public.

Among the many offerings are computers and electronics, apparel, beauty items, entertainment and travel. Participating companies include Apple, Barnes & Noble, Costco, Dell, Walt Disney World, 1-800-Flowers and hotels.com. All alumni may take advantage of most of these benefits, although some are exclusively available to Alumni Association members.

Besides realizing great savings on goods and services, alumni who browse the site also help support the Alumni Association, which receives money for its scholarships and programs when anyone visits the Web pages of merchants through the site.

“Not only do I receive valuable discounts, but I support FGCU as well,” says Barbara Cornellier, an Alumni Association member. “By shopping on this site, I saved $200 on Broadway show tickets for my family.”

Local businesses and vendors who were partners previously will now be accessible through the Web site. These include programs such as FGCU Testing Services, Liberty Mutual Insurance, FGCU Athletics and @eagle e-mail.

Alumni can log on to www.fgcu.edu/alumni, navigate to the Eagle Extras link and sign in on the secure site. For questions, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (239) 590-1087.

Alumni Highlights:

‘03 Laura Puerto (Communication) was honored as the 2009 chapter member of the year award for the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA). She was also previously honored by FPRA in 2007 as the Chapter Rising Star. Laura is the public relations specialist for LCEC, an electric distribution cooperative serving a five-county area in Southwest Florida. She also married longtime boyfriend, Brandon on March 15, 2008. They couple honeymooned in St. Lucia.

‘04 Suzanne Decopain (Liberal Studies) is the assistant state attorney for the 20th judicial circuit in the Punta Gorda office misdemeanor division.

‘08 Jennifer Hamilton (Communication) has been promoted to account executive at RFB Communications Group. She has been with the company since February 2009.
### Upcoming Events:

For a complete listing of events and details, please visit [www.fgcu.edu/alumni](http://www.fgcu.edu/alumni)

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| **May 11: Webinar Series- Prepare for Hurricane Season**                          | Noon | Virtual Join fellow Eagles online for a free presentation by Liberty Mutual representative Kelly McCann, who will provide tips on how to properly secure your home, vehicle and family for Hurricane season.  

| **June 24: Eagle Networking Night- Summer Soirée**                                | 6 p.m. | Pizzaiolis (Naples, FL) Join us as we celebrate the beginning of summer. Enjoy delicious appetizers while networking with fellow alumni, colleagues and friends. Be sure to bring your business card for an opportunity to win a special Eagle alumni souvenir.  

| **June 28 – July 3: Eagle Escapes- Cruise to the Caribbean**                      |          | Embark on a 5-night western Caribbean cruise on Royal Caribbean with fellow FGCU alumni and friends. Set sail from Fort Lauderdale to George Town, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. Contact Sandi Hamann our FGCU trip specialist at (800) 523-3716 for further information.  |

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### Dr. John Fitch, Associate Professor in Marine and Ecological Sciences, to retire

![John Fitch](image)

This spring semester, John Fitch celebrated his 15th year at Florida Gulf Coast University and his 20th year in Florida. He came to Florida originally in 1990 to be President and CEO of The Conservancy of Southwest Florida. In that role he was able to help to conserve Key Island from development, built an effective wildlife rehabilitation center, expanded work in environmental science and education, and increased The Conservancy’s endowment from a few hundred thousand dollars to six million dollars in five years.

John was brought to FGCU as a Senior Faculty Fellow in 1995 to help build an Environmental Studies Program at FGCU with other founding faculty. Since that time he has developed and taught nearly 20 courses at FGCU; conceived of and obtained support for the Colloquium, a required environmental literacy course for all undergraduates at FGCU; chaired a university-wide committee in 2000 reviewing FGCU’s progress in environmental studies and edited its report to the FGCU president; attracted Clyde Butcher and Mr. Sugden as early supporters of FGCU; initiated the FGCU Green Building Project, the EPA Environmental Management Systems Project, the FGCU Institute for Sustainability, the Environmental Stewardship Council, the FGCU Solar Research and Demonstration Facility, and the Sustaining Tomorrow Today Project; and served on a variety of state-wide councils including the Governor’s Commission on Florida Greenways and the Governor’s Council for a Sustainable Florida. He also worked with undergraduate and graduate students helping to guide the construction of the first sustainable, affordable housing project in SW Florida: five of those houses are now built and occupied in Bonita. He received several grants from the EPA P3 Program to work with students; in April 2009, he was invited with several students to display their sustainable affordable housing project at the National Sustainability Expo on the Washington Mall.

“I have increasingly concentrated my scholarly and service work on sustainability because I believe that we humans have a very narrow time window in which to make our economic, societal, and environmental adaptations less maladaptive for our own survival and that of the biosphere that supports us and other species” said John. At the end of the Spring 2010 semester, John will be retiring from FGCU to take on some wonderful new opportunities and challenges, including building a sustainable home in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado that will have a LEED residential certification. He will continue with his speaking, writing, research, and education in such topics as ecosystems conservation and sustainability on regional, national, and international levels from the vantage point of Colorado’s Front Range.
Mark Your Calendar

Oyster Reef Restoration
April 3

Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 5-8

Teaching Breakfast
April 16, AB7 Room 115
3:00 – 5:00 P.M.
Presentation on Team Teaching

Commencement
May 2, Germain Arena

Deadline for Humanities and Sustainability
Conference Proposals
June 4

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Please consider submitting an article to a future issue of CAS Quarterly!