Dear Colleagues,

As the spring semester comes to a close, I would like to highlight several outstanding aspects of the College of Arts & Sciences. This past academic year saw a 12% enrollment increase in the number of majors in the College from 2,300 to 2,600; in addition, CAS continues to generate about 55% of the university’s total enrollment. Because of this growth, the college was provided 18 new faculty lines for the 2009-2010 academic year. Looking ahead to the fall semester, enrollment will increase to 2,050 FTIC (first time in college) students, and we will add about 1,000 transfer students, mostly at the upper level. We are working to accommodate this increase with a continued commitment to a high quality education, providing students with access to full-time faculty.

In addition to meeting the challenges of growth, our faculty continue to excel in service and scholarship. The following members of the FGCU CAS family were nominated for Angels of the Arts Awards, sponsored by the Alliance for the Arts: Tom DeMarchi, Director of the FGCU Sanibel Island Writers Conference, for Arts Organization Leader of the Year; Patricia Fay, Associate Professor of Art, for Arts Teacher of the Year; Katherine Pankow, English major, for New Artist of the Year; and Anica Sturdivant, FGCU Gallery Director, for Arts Organization Leader of the Year. Several faculty were also awarded grants in February and March, including David Ceilley, Peter Corcoran, Nora Demers, Sharon Isern (two), Sean Kelly, Michael McDonald, Michael Parsons, Ricky Pires (two), Greg Tolley, and Aswani Volety. In addition, the Marine & Ecological Sciences department held its sixth annual Oyster Reef Restoration on Saturday April 4th, an event that has been critical to improving local waters. The university also recently hosted the annual Florida Conference of Historians in Fort Myers on February 27 and 28.

Among many other exciting events, the college hosted an international group of Earth Charter scholars on campus as part of the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture Weekend in February. At this event, which deepened the university’s commitment to sustainability, President Wilson G. Bradshaw signed an Affiliation Agreement with Earth Charter International. This established a formal association between the two organizations to facilitate appropriate dissemination and use of the Earth Charter. The Agreement states that it “builds on a shared interest in the vision of the Earth Charter…. and (was) written in the spirit of promoting decentralized activity and the empowerment of individuals, communities and organizations.” Continuing to move toward a goal of sustainability, May will see the first ever Humanities and Sustainability conference held on campus, an event sponsored by FGCU’s Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education and the departments of Communication & Philosophy and Language & Literature. Read more about the Distinguished Lectures and Humanities-Sustainability Conference on page 11 and 12.

Best regards,

Donna Price Henry
On Friday, January 30, CAS faculty gathered to discuss the current status of pertinent issues facing the college. The meeting opened with remarks from Provost Toll, who discussed the importance of keeping focus on student learning outcomes and goals, recent ventures of the university (i.e. faculty academy, AACU conference, planning and budget council) and state budget cuts. The Provost highlighted several strong points for the college and university, including AB7 and AB8 planning, SoVi learning facilities, human capital and resources, and the ability of faculty and staff to stay focused on students. He then opened up the floor to a Q&A. Faculty’s questions ranged from enrollment growth to university-wide equity regarding summer schedules, revisions to the PECAP, and the effect of budget issues on sustainability in the college mission.

The meeting continued with an overview of the current budget status, as well as projections for the coming year. The summer 2009 course allocation report touched on the enrollment target (10,976 SCH) and average class size (30). The report also provided guidelines for managing summer enrollment. The College Governance Team presented information on the new bylaws document and led discussions about syllabus guidelines, Dean and Chair evaluations, and the need for a quorum in the voting process.

On Thursday, March 19 the CAS Deans office hosted a reception called a “Meet and Greet” to bring students and CAS faculty together. This event allowed any interested students—freshmen and sophomores in particular—to learn about the departments and programs offered in the College, become familiar with faculty members, and get direction on choosing the best academic path. Many faculty and chairs, along with Dean Henry and Associate Deans Hess and Wohlpart, were on hand to greet students. The event took place in the Library Courtyard and provided free pizza and soda.

First Year Reading Project

Florida Gulf Coast University’s First Year Reading Project (FYRP) introduces incoming students to the expectations of learning at an institution of higher education. The committee-selected book is discussed in Composition I and II classes and in the First Year Humanities Seminar in the fall semester, and sometimes in other classes.

The FYRP 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.

The FYRP committee has selected Greg Mortenson’s Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time in order to explore FGCU’s Learning Goal Community Awareness and Involvement. Mortenson’s title comes from a Baltistan proverb: “The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time, you are an honored guest. The third time you become family.” This tale describes the way in which Mortenson builds schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan, overcoming enormous cultural divides and fostering peace. The book broadens our understanding of community and provides depth to our notions of civic engagement and involvement.

The summer reading assignment expects students to analyze the issue of civic engagement in the book as well as to consider the relationship between what students learn in the book and their own interactions with diverse communities.

For more information, please visit www.fgcu.edu/FYE/reading.html.
Dominican Republic Trip

by Ann-Marie Navidomskis

This past Spring Break, students from 11 different majors of varying ages and backgrounds committed to an “Alternative Spring Break” in Santiago, Dominican Republic. These dedicated individuals are members of FGCU’s Dominican Republic Service Learning Club, a philanthropic club in its ninth year, founded by Associate Professor Ingrid Martínez-Rico.

The club’s intent in traveling to Santiago was to teach lessons of empowerment, self-value and teamwork through fun activities to children at two different organizations: Acción Callejera (“Street Action”) and Niños Con Una Esperanza (“Children with a Hope”). The team spent several months planning activities and fundraising in order to make this trip the huge success that it was. “We wanted to give the boys of Acción a way to express themselves in an outlet that was fun, safe, versatile, open to their own interpretation and that they could reflect on after we left; that’s how we came up with the idea to make journals with them,” said club member Ann-Marie Navidomskis. “Most of the children [in the organizations] haven’t received any sort of formal education, so they can’t read or write. Our goal with the journals was to show them that although reading and writing is important and can enhance what they have to offer, they’re smart and unique and have other means of showing their individuality.”

Each member of the group was encouraged to bring their skills forth, whatever they may be, and find a fun way to incorporate them in face-to-face time with the children. Many of the group members seized this opportunity to teach music, play basketball, read books, take pictures and even practice conversational English and Spanish.

Lourdes Campusano, a senior and the club’s Vice President, spoke about the importance of the club: “I’ve been a member of this club for three years now and no previous year has impacted me or affected me to [the degree of this year’s group]. Everything we did this year was done so to bring honor to the name and reputation that Ingrid has instilled with this club.”

The DRSL Club has been faced with several instances of adversity but stayed focused and committed with lots of help and support from the community, FGCU students and faculty, student government and the members’ drive. “I really appreciate each student’s hard work and dedication toward helping to continue on with Ingrid’s dream and I want to extend further warm thanks to Marta Ramos for not only committing to and leading our group but for really making it happen; without her this year wouldn’t have been possible,” gushed Danika Cornelius, the club’s President and a Spanish major here at FGCU. If you’d like further information about the club or on future club endeavors please feel free to contact them: E-mail: dccornel@eagle.fgcu.edu Facebook Group: Dominican Republic Service Learning Club Blog: www.fgcuhrsproject.blogspot.com

One of the Santiago childrens’ favorite activities was taking as many pictures as possible of, and with, their new friends from the DRSL. (From left: Kerry Laing, Vanessa Balazs, Ramon, Lindsay Scott and Ann-Marie Navidomskis)

FGCU’s students were greeted excitedly with a “Bienvenidos” (“Welcome!”) and a map of how Ft. Myers and Santiago are now connected.

It was important to the members of the club to not only “teach lesson plans” but to bring and incorporate things that are special and enjoyable to them and share them with the children. Here, Tom Everts teaches Ramon, a frequenter of Accion Callejera, a few guitar chords.

One of the children from Accion Callejera working purposefully on the group’s planned journal project while enjoying teaching some Spanish to the DRSL Club’s non-Spanish speaking members (Jamie Flatley and Liz Brewer)

The group of students arrived in Santiago, Dominican Republic, on Friday February 27, 2009 and stayed through March 8, 2009. (not pictured: Dr. Erik Carlson)
Sanibel Writers Conference 2009

The fourth annual Sanibel Writers Conference has been announced for November 5-8, 2009. Tom DeMarchi, FGCU Instructor and Director of the Conference, has summed up the event with the following: “Think of the best party you’ve ever been to. Now think of paradise. Now think of that book you want to write. Put it all together and you have the Sanibel Island Writers Conference.”

More than $1,000 was raised for the conference at a jail-and-bail held on the main lawn on campus March 10 and 11. Among those jailed were Sheila Bolduc-Simpson, Jim Brock, Tom DeMarchi, Jesse and Lyn Millner, Dewie Robinson, Maria Roca, Karen Tolchin, Provost Toll, and Sam Walch.

Confirmed presenters for the 2009 conference include:

- Carl Hiaasen -- Keynote Speaker
- Steve Almond (Writing from Your Obsessions)
- Julianna Baggott (Young adult and/or Screenwriting)
- Lynne Barrett (Fiction)
- Ishmael Beah (Memoir)
- Dan Bern (Songwriting)
- John Brandon (Fiction)
- Christine Buckley (Freelance Journalism)
- Tom Chiarella (Esquire fiction editor--freelance journalism)
- John Dufresne (Fiction)
- Carmen Edington (Editor--Fiction Collective Two)
- William Giraldi (Memoir)
- William Greenway (Poetry)
- Sue Henshon (Children’s Lit)
- David Hilzenrath (Washington Post--newspaper journalism)
- Jeanne Leiby (Southern Review editor/short story)
- Molly Lyons (Lit Agent)
- CD Mitchell (Editor)
- John K. Samson (of The Weakerthans--Songwriting)
- Christopher Schelling (Lit Agent)
- Abby Sher (Memoir)
- Laura Valeri (Fiction)
- Willy Vlautin (Noel & Songwriting)
- Sidney Wade (Subtropics Poetry Editor)
- Jay Wexler (Political Writing)
- Liza Wieland (Fiction)
- Tom Williams (Editor--American Book Review)

The conference is open to anyone interested in writing, networking and publishing. Past conferences have attracted a whole range of attendees: retired journalists, napkin poets, published memoirists, aspiring novelists, junior high songwriters, and big readers who just want an excuse to spend a weekend on Sanibel. College students can earn 3 (THREE) credits for taking the Sanibel Island Writers Conference class. Non-students can come and go as they please and attend whatever sessions meet their interests.

The official website is still being updated (http://www.fgcu.edu/siwc/index.html). You can also find the event on Facebook. There is currently an early-bird registration special for those who want to secure their spots. Contact Tom DeMarchi at tdemarch@fgcu.edu for more details.

Paul Loeb Lecture

Associated scholar at Seattle’s Center for Ethical Leadership Paul Loeb was on FGCU campus for a two-day residency March 17 and 18. The residency included a major lecture and workshop on how citizens, teachers, and students in particular, can learn to take responsibility for our common future. Loeb’s talks focused on his award-winning books on civic engagement, Soul of a Citizen, The Impossible Will Take a Little While, and Generation at the Crossroads.

Courtney Satkoski’s Foundations of Civic Engagement class participated in the faculty/student workshop with Loeb on the 18th. Of the event, Satkoski stated: “The excitement was palpable in the classroom and around campus. It was an amazing opportunity for students to see and intimately talk to the author of a text they enjoy so much. I greatly look forward to sending Paul our feedback for his second book edition. Again, what an amazing event! Thank you for allowing my students to be a part of such a rich, round table discussion. This was the highlight of our semester!”

Loeb with Courtney Satkoski
Naples Botanical Gardens

On February 25, the Naples Botanical Gardens held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the building of its joint-use facility with FGCU. The structure is scheduled for completion in March 2010.

Department of Visual and Performing Arts Upcoming Events

**Gallery**

Celebration of the Arts: FGCU Juried Student Art Exhibition
April 1-11, 2009

Finals: Senior Project Exhibition
April 17-May 2, 2009
Opening Reception: April 17, 5pm-8pm

Artistic Discovery: 14th Congressional Art District Competition for High School Students
May 9-15, 2009
Opening Reception: May 9, 10am

The Formers: Current Works by FGCU Art Graduates
May 22-July 31, 2009
Opening Reception with the Artists: May 22, 5pm-8pm

Library Gallery

Out of the Box: Art from the Inside Out
March 19-April 24, 2009
Opening Reception: March 19, 5pm-8pm

The Formers: Representative Works
Sister exhibition to the main gallery exhibition
May 22-July 31, 2009

**Theatre**

TL001: A Performance Constellation
An Original Ensemble-Created Performance
Directed by Michelle Hayford
April 1-5, 8-10, 15-18, 2009

Orphan Bunko
Written by Sarah Bond
Directed by Barry Cavin
June 24-28, 2009

For more information about gallery events, please visit http://artgallery.fgcu.edu or call Anica Sturdivant at 590-7199. For more information about theatre events, please visit http://theatrelab.fgcu.edu or call Karen Ludington at 590-7238.
Promising Pathways: The Road to Best Practices in Autism

The first ever conference addressing autism spectrum disorders held in April last year prompted an overwhelming response to continue the event. Therefore, the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences is pleased to announce that this year’s Promising Pathways conference has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, held on FGCU campus from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

The one-day event is planned and led by Conference Committee chair, Armando Galella of Eden Services, Florida Gulf Coast University faculty, including Joanna Salapska-Gelleri (CAS) and Marci Greene (COE), staff from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education, as well as representatives from a number of local agencies including the Lee county school district, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and parents of children with autism. National and local experts in the research and study of autism will address topics including the causes of autism, evaluation and treatment, early identification and intervention, treatments for behaviors associated with autism, arrangement of long-term finance for persons with disabilities, sexuality and more.

Last year’s conference received more than 350 attendees, ranging from healthcare workers, civil servants, and social workers, to parents, grandparents, and family members of individuals with autism and autism spectrum disorders. More than one third of all attendees provided overwhelmingly positive feedback through a post-conference survey. “We came from Miami, leaving at 5:00 am and it was well worth it,” wrote one family in their evaluation. The conference was opened by FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw and Interim-Provost Peg Gray-Vickery. Students from both the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education provided support throughout the event. Psychology Club Student Members and College of Education Kappa Delta Pi honor society students assisted during the planning of the event and participated as conference stewards on April 19th. One attendee wrote: “Everything was very informative. And a special thank you to so many students who provided guidance and directions to next class rooms. They were so helpful and polite.”

A complete agenda of this year’s conference is available on the conference website www.fgcu.edu/events/promising-pathways

Members of the Conference Committee at the 2008 conference.

FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw with student members of the Psychology Club at the 2008 conference.

Attending last year’s conference left to right: CAS Dean Donna Henry, Joanna Salapska-Gelleri, Associate Professor Eric Strahorn, the event’s keynote speaker, and Professor Lakshmi Gogate.

Florida Conference of Historians

On February 27 and 28, the History program hosted the 48th Florida Conference of Historians. The event was held in the Harborside Convention Center and was followed by a dinner cruise and awards ceremony on the Caloosahatchee River. The FCH brings together historians at all levels of the profession, including university faculty, museum curators, librarians, high school teachers, and undergraduate and graduate students to discuss the latest research. Participants came from all over Florida, from neighboring states such as Georgia and North Carolina, and from as far away as Illinois and Washington, D.C.

FGCU history students were especially well represented at the conference. Nine graduate students and nine undergraduates presented their research, on topics ranging from the connection between Greek and Irish Mythology to the role of Native Americans in the U.S. psychology profession. All of the student papers were of exceptionally high quality, and their skill and accomplishment was noted by all who attended.

Other members of the FGCU community also participated in the conference. History professor Mike Cole and librarian Rachel Cooke both presented papers, while history faculty Mike Epple, Mike Cole, John Cox and Nicola Foote all chaired panels.

At the meeting, History program leader Mike Epple was elected President of the organization for 2009-10, and Nicola Foote was elected chair of the section on undergraduate research.

David Seurkamp, an FGCU history MA student, presents.
Annual Estero Bay Oyster Reef Restoration

Together with the Coastal Watershed Institute, the Department of Marine & Ecological Sciences hosted its sixth Oyster Reef Restoration on Saturday, April 4. This ongoing project of improving local waters involves loading bags of oyster shells (20-30lbs) onto boats and then placing them in the water to form oyster reefs. The objective is to stabilize mangrove islands eroding due to boat wakes, offer substrate of larval oysters to attach and grow into oyster reefs, thereby not only cleaning the water, but also offering habitat to numerous marine organisms. This project will be followed up by sea grass restoration.

The community-based event, funded by the South Florida Water Management District, last took place in September 2008 and attracted the biggest crowd—150 participants including Provost Ron Toll and Commissioner Ray Judah. Volunteers from FGCU, various local, state, federal and NGO agencies as well as middle schools and community members participated in the event.

Professor Terry Wimberley Authors Book, Nested Ecology

On Monday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. Professor Terry Wimberley will be holding a lecture and signing at Moorings Park for feature his new book, Nested Ecology: The Place of Humans in the Ecological Hierarchy (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).

Edward T. Wimberley asserts that a practical ecological ethic must focus on human decision making within the context of larger social and environmental systems. Think of a set of mixing bowls, in which smaller bowls sit within larger ones. Wimberley sees the world in much the same way, with personal ecologies embedded in social ecologies that in turn are nested within natural ecologies. Wimberley urges a complete reconceptualization of the human place in the ecological hierarchy. Going beyond the physical realms in which people live and interact, he extends the concept of ecology to spirituality and the “ecology of the unknown.” In doing so, Wimberley defines a new environmental philosophy and a new ecological ethic. (jhubooks.press.jhu.edu)

The Follett Bookstore at FGCU will be present to sell signed copies.

Moorings Park, 120 Moorings Park Drive in Naples, FL 34105 (239.261.1616).
The Nazi regime nearly succeeded in its quest to erase thousands of years of Jewish history from Europe, if not the world. But seventy-five years after Hitler came to power, Holocaust-studies programs and curricula flourish in the United States and much of Europe. This could certainly never compensate for the terrible loss to humanity brought about by Nazism, but it represents in some small way the frustration of Hitler’s goal of eradicating Jewish culture.

As the Nazi plague spread across central Europe, twelve-year-old Ann Reisner was among the “lucky ones.” Five years after the Reisners left Berlin for the relative safety of Vienna, Ann and her parents were once again just a step ahead of the Nazis, whose occupation of Austria compelled the Reisners to look across the Atlantic for a safe haven. A few months after Kristallnacht made clear the Nazis’ murderous intentions, the Reisners boarded a ship to New York. Like other Jewish families that managed to escape occupied Europe, their story was not entirely joyous, to say the least: Ann’s two uncles perished in Warsaw, and another relative died at Theresienstadt.

Ann settled in Kansas City, where she married Elliot Jacobson. After her husband’s death in 1992, Ann Jacobson relocated to Naples, Florida. In the spring of 2005, Mrs. Jacobson received some “restitution funds” from the Austrian government for her father’s life insurance. “I wanted to do something special with those funds,” said Mrs. Jacobson, “and I contacted the president of FGCU regarding the possibility of establishing a Holocaust literature collection in memory of my parents, as well as the unswerving support of the university—the Center has been able to organize an impressive array of activities. Among the more noteworthy:

• “Art of Hatred” exhibit, on loan from the Jewish Museum of Florida, displayed in the FGCU Art Gallery, Fall 2006

• Guest lecturer on the Darfur crisis, Spring 2007


• Holocaust Remembrance Concert, April 2007

• High school teacher-training workshops with the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida, Summers of 2006-2009

• Adult Education lecture series on Islam, Christianity, and Judaism at the Temple Shalom, Naples, October-November 2007

• First Annual Interfaith Clergy Seminar, led by Dr. Michael J. Cook, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, January 2008

• Visiting scholar Deborah Lipstadt, author of Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory, February 2008

• Film-showing: “Swimming in Auschwitz: Survival Stories of Six Women,” with discussion led by director Jon Kean, April 2008

And in November 2008, the Center—with the help of Naples’s Holocaust museum—displayed the World War II-era boxcar that the museum recently acquired. The boxcar exhibit was accompanied by several film-showings, a panel discussion organized the campus’s Hillel chapter, and a major lecture by genocide scholar James Waller.

In the first weeks of this year, the Center brought leading Holocaust historian Christopher Browning to campus—he spoke to an overflow crowd of nearly 300 people—and also hosted its second annual clergy seminar. In early 2010, Amy-Jill Levine, another highly renowned scholar and author of The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus, will lead our third seminar and speak at other venues in the area.

The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Human Rights Studies looks forward to building upon these accomplishments and deepening its roots in the community. For more information about the Center, please visit http://www.fgcu.edu/hc.
Connecting in Cyberspace With Vokis by Sheila Bolduc-Simpson

Hello out there! Is anyone online? Virtual ENC 3250, where are you? Who are you? I stare at a roster of 50 names with uploaded photos in Angel. Occasionally, I will recognize a name or a face from an old face-to-face or hybrid Composition I or II class. Is Creighton already a junior? I dash off an email and ask him if he is ready for another semester with me. Are my cyberspace learners feeling disconnected from me and their peers? I know some of them hunger for more connection, when Jay writes in his end-of-course reflection:

Other aspects of the course were lost due to its distance-learning nature. As an experienced student in distance learning, this was by far the most communication I have seen throughout my college career. However, online learning is impersonal. I found myself wanting to hear more about the other students and the professor.

Online learning is impersonal! How dare he say that after I offered the Course Questions Forum, asynchronous discussion boards, synchronous chat rooms, collaborative team projects, study teams, and peer editing groups. Then, it hit me. He and others want more than graded forums where the focus is on clarity, conciseness, correctness, completeness, and courtesy. They want the other two Cs: chit and chat. They seek a venue for sharing social space and connecting with others. The “irrelevant” chatter connects them to me and to one another. My presence as the gatekeeper of the asynchronous discussion forum and the synchronous chat session inhibits them from making their online learning experience personal. In response, I invoke the muse of the information highway and Voki answers my call.

Voki is a combination of “vox,” which is Latin for voice, and “Loki,” which is a prankster character in Norse mythology. It is also a freeware application offered by a New York-based company called Oddcast that allows users to create avatars, or speaking characters of themselves on the web using their own voices. Users can customize their Voki to look like them or take on the identity of other types of characters, from animals to anime. Users can have their Vokis speak with their own voices via microphone, an upload of a recording, or simply by phone. Speaking time is limited to about one minute.

I began with my own Voki creations on my weekly course announcement page. Below are a few of my talking characters. The professional and, I must confess, much younger version of me appears at the beginning of the semester. At midterm time, I sometimes transform into an edgier, more stressed-looking character. Springtime brings April showers and the Sheila flower ushering in optimism, good cheer, and new life for students from Weeks 9 to 15. The Nemo me speaks of group projects, collaboration, and sinking or swimming as a team. Intermingled in the weekly announcements are personal snippets of my stressful weekend, my spring break, or my latest triathlon event.

After my midterm and spring break announcements, I hear from one of my Composition II students who writes, “I love your Vokis. Imagine if we did not have face-to-face meetings. You could communicate to us through the Vokis only. I can actually imagine myself being taught solely by a cartoon flower or a cartoon gothic chick. It would be cool. The future of online learning is here.” Another student commented, “Okay, the Voki thing just creeps me out. I think I have to have one. You’re doing amazing work here!”

I was connecting, and it was time to share this “Voki thing” with my students. I began with my two sections of virtual ENC 3250 Professional Writing in the Week 1 Introductions Forum. There, students were asked to introduce themselves in the forum with the Vokis they created and to respond to at least two other peers. The characters, backgrounds, and clothing they chose spoke volumes about their identities that an uploaded photo would never reveal. Students were going beyond the requirement of two replies as students engaged in the social networking experience usually relegated to face-to-face classes.

From ice breaking introductions, I began to explore simulated phone job interviews in Angel with Vokis. I posted five Voki job interview questions and had my students respond to three of the five questions using their professional-looking talking characters. The students were told to look and dress their Vokis for the part choosing appropriate interview clothing and accessories. While there are challenges to using Vokis, if you want to add interest, fun, and some personal connection for your students, check out www.voki.com. Send me a Voki at sbolduc@fgcu.edu and let me know what you think!
Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS) is a program of science workshops for middle school female students from Lee and Collier counties. This program, discussed in an earlier issue of CAS Quarterly, is co-directed by Jo Ann Wilson (biology) and Terry Dubetz (chemistry). It was started in 2006 to address a shortage of professionals in the fields of math, science and engineering. Since females are under-represented in many areas of science and math, increased numbers of females in these fields could help solve the shortage of workers. GEMS mission is to encourage and stimulate interest in science and math in girls at an early age, so girls will consider these fields as a career. The program partnered with the Girl Scouts on March 21st at the FGCU campus. 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.

Approximately eighty Girl Scouts attended with half of them coming from Desoto County. They participated in two sets of activities, an ecological and an engineering activity. Sasha Linsin-Wohlpart (CAS, Environmental Studies) and Dr. Tanya Kunberger (School of Engineering) developed and lead the activity sets and they were assisted by nine FGCU undergraduate and graduate students.

The ecological event took the Girl Scouts to “Whitaker Pond” next to Whitaker Hall, where the girls collect and observe 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. The activity was fun, developed an appreciation for nature, and resulted in some very muddy girls!

The engineering activity allowed the Girl Scouts to explore the concepts of surface tension and adhesion. The girls duct taped a volunteer to the wall trying to determine a placement of the tape so that a minimal amount of tape is needed to hold the girl to the wall, up in the air and not touching the floor. A second engineering activity had the girls design a catapult to hurl objects through space, allowing them to learn basic the physics concept of trajectory as well as developing the problem-solving skill of brainstorming in groups to design the catapult. Of course, the girls liked it because they got to hurl objects across the room!

The Girl Scouts thoroughly enjoyed the activities and were already making plans to return to FGCU next year. 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!
Florida Gulf Coast University, led by the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, recently hosted a group of Earth Charter Scholars for their Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture Weekend and the signing of the Earth Charter Affiliate Agreement. The event provided faculty, staff, students, and the local community with the opportunity to interact with some of the leading thinkers in the world working toward a just, humane, and sustainable Earth.

On Friday, February 20, 2009, on the campus of FGCU and then on Sanibel Island, two Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures were held entitled “Working on Behalf of the Beauty and Bounty of Earth: An Earth Charter Scholars’ Panel.” The first lecture featuring Steven C. Rockefeller, Kiran Chhokar, Brandon Hollingshead, Brendan Mackey, Michael Slaby, and Shafia Sucar Succar, was moderated by Mary Evelyn Tucker.

Immediately after this lecture, senior administrators from Florida Gulf Coast University, including President Wilson G. Bradshaw, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Toll, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Donna Henry signed an Affiliate Agreement with the Earth Charter Initiative. For the Earth Charter office, Steven C. Rockefeller and Brendan Mackey, co-Chairs of the Earth Charter International Council, and Mirian Vilela, Director of the Earth Charter International Secretariat, signed the document. The Affiliate agreement provides a direct connection between the work of the university and the Earth Charter.

In the afternoon, FGCU hosted the Earth Charter Scholars for a series of workshops. Steven C. Rockefeller spoke on “Human Rights and the Earth Charter”; Mary Evelyn Tucker and Michael Slaby spoke on “Faith Traditions, Spirituality, Religion and the Earth Charter”; Shafia Sucar Succar, Kiran Chhokar, and Rick Clugston spoke on “Earth Charter and Higher Education Including the Possibilities in the FGCU Curriculum”; Brendan Mackey spoke on “The Earth Charter and Climate Change”; and Mirian Vilela and Brandon Hollingshead spoke on “Framing the Earth Charter for University Students: Colloquium and Beyond.” The morning lecture was attended by approximately 140 people; each of the afternoon workshops was attended by 15-40 people.

In the evening, the venue shifted to nearby Sanibel Island for the second of the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures. The evening lecture featured Steven C. Rockefeller and Mary Evelyn Tucker, moderated by David W. Orr. The event was attended by over 200 people.

Two other activities marked the weekend celebration. The Earth Charter Scholars who were in attendance met to advance Earth Charter scholarship, developing a bibliography of Earth Charter materials and developing a guide for teaching with the Earth Charter. In addition, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education held its Fifth Annual Fundraising Celebration at the home of Peter and Mallory Haffenreffer with brief remarks by Mary Evelyn Tucker and David Orr who are co-Chairs of the Center’s Board of Advisors.
Food Synergies

What do the Earth Charter, a Hunger Banquet, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), FGCU’s Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education (CESE), and a “Feeding America” national hunger study have to do with each other? Everything! In Kris De Welde’s Special Topics: Sociology of Food, students are working on service learning projects that address local and global food insecurity, with an emphasis on the "politics of choice."

One group of students is working closely with the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education (CESE) to develop a small-scale FGCU food/environmental audit that builds on the results of CESE’s “Food Working Groups” more comprehensive study of FGCU’s food systems. With an emphasis on humane and environmentally sustainable food choices, students are joining with Eagle Dining to cater an “Earth Charter Breakfast,” April 9, 2009, during which the results of their study will be presented to an invited audience. All items served at the meal will uphold key principles of the Earth Charter. The breakfast is funded by a CESE mini-faculty grant, which De Welde received this semester to support this project.

A second group of students is immersed in the local community’s efforts to participate in the Feeding America (formerly Second Harvest) National Hunger Study. Working with the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Fort Myers, students have been trained to administer surveys to clients of local emergency food centers, and are in the process of gathering data for this important study. The current economic situation has forced many previously “food secure” households to turn to emergency food in their communities. Understanding the impact of this on both the individual and social levels is pivotal in collectively managing the crisis we face. These students will present summarized findings from their participation in the national Hunger Study at the Earth Charter Breakfast their peers are hosting.

The third group of students is focusing their efforts globally, by sponsoring a “Hunger Banquet” on Wednesday, April 1st, from 6–9pm in the Student Union Ballroom to raise awareness about global food insecurity. Students have familiarized themselves with global food issues by reading extensively on the global food crisis (or rather, the global poverty crisis), visiting the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) community center, and also by spending several work days at our (amazing!) ECHO Farms in Fort Myers, which is dedicated to fostering food sovereignty within communities in developing countries. Students will present information from their experiences at the banquet.

Each project will produce a “fact sheet” on the specific topics of interest, and will be circulated widely…stay tuned for more!

Humanities and Sustainability: Ecology in the Information Age

On May 8–9, FGCU will host the first ever Humanities and Sustainability conference on campus. The keynote speaker at this event is Dr. Bron Taylor. Trained in ethics, religious studies, and social scientific approaches to understanding human culture, Dr. Taylor engages the quest for environmentally sustainable societies. Appearing in articles, books, and a multi-volume encyclopedia, he examines a wide range of phenomena, especially grassroots environmental movements and organizations, and international institutions, with special attention to their moral and religious dimensions. An academic entrepreneur and program builder, Taylor led the initiative to create an academic major in Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and later initiated and was elected the first president of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, while also founding its affiliated journal and becoming its editor. Recruited to fill the Samuel S. Hill Ethics Chair at the University of Florida and appointed in 2002, he played a leading role in constructing the world’s first Ph.D. program in Religion and Nature. Most recently, he has been involved in an international think tank exploring more effective ways to promote an environmentally sustainable future.

**Bower School of Music Summer Camps Schedule**

**String Retreat** (June 5-7, Directed by Dr. Rod Chesnutt)

**Friday, June 5**
- Registration and Residence Hall Check In: 9:00 -11:00 a.m.
- Auditions/Chamber Assignments: 9:30 -12:00
- Music Modular Building on the FGCU Campus
- Chamber and Full Rehearsals begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

**Saturday, June 6**
- Sectional Rehearsal, Full Rehearsal and Master Class
- Preparation for All State Auditions are in the morning starting at 8:30 a.m.
- Afternoon consists of Music Theory,
- Chamber Rehearsal and Full Rehearsal until 6:00 p.m.
- Recreational activities in the evening.

**Sunday, June 7**
- Chamber Rehearsals, Full Rehearsals, All State Preparation and Music Theory Classes from 8:30 a.m.
- Concert is 4 p.m., conducted by Dr. Rod Chesnutt.
- String Retreat concludes at 6 p.m.

**Wind & Percussion Camp** (June 17-19, Directed by Dr. Rod Chesnutt)

**Wednesday, June 17**
- Registration and Residence Hall Check In: 9:00 -11:00 a.m.
- Auditions/Chamber Assignments: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Music Modular Building on the FGCU Campus
- Chamber and Full Rehearsals begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

**Thursday, June 18**
- Sectional Rehearsal, Full Rehearsal and Master Class
- Preparation for All State Auditions are in the morning starting at 8:30 a.m.
- Afternoon consists of Music Theory,
- Chamber Rehearsal and Full Rehearsal until 6:00 p.m.
- Recreational activities in the evening.

**Friday, June 19**
- Chamber Rehearsals coached by the Boston Brass,
- Full Rehearsals, All State Preparation and Music Theory Classes from 8:30 a.m.
- Concert is 6 p.m., conducted by Dr. Rod Chesnutt featuring the Boston Brass.
- Wind and Percussion Camp concludes at 7 p.m.

**Piano Institute** (June 23-27, Directed by Dr. Michael Baron)

A special opportunity for high school (and exceptional junior high) pianists to sharpen and learn new skills, polish their repertoire, and socialize with others while providing a memorable musical experience. Includes private lessons with Dr. Michael Baron, masterclasses, and classes in Piano Literature and Keyboard Skills.

**Tuesday, June 23**
- Registration and Check-In 3:00-4:00 PM
- Placement Exams
- Masterclass

**Wednesday through Saturday, June 24-27**
- Scheduled Practice Times
- Individual Lessons
- Piano Literature Class
- Keyboard Skills Class
- Masterclass
- Social Activities

**Saturday, June 27**
- Final Gala Concert on a nine-foot Steinway Grand Piano 4:00 PM – Open to the Public
- Presentation of Certificates
- The Institute Concludes at the End of the Concert

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**Student Vocalists Excel in Regional Competitions**

Soprano voice students Jaimie Bocco and Sarah O’Brien were named the finalists in the classical vocal division of the 2009 Alliance of the Arts Young Artist Competition (Ft. Myers) and Heather Jones was the first runner-up. All three are music majors at FGCU.

Hutch Haines (tenor) placed second in the vocal division of the Southwest Florida Symphony’s Young Artist Competition in December 2008.
History: Remember a few years back when it came to light that many Americans, especially young college-age students, received most of their world/national news from shows like the “The Daily Show” and “The Colbert Report?” Enter “The Mancini” and his Fundamentals of Human Communication course. The Mancini pays homage to the creators, actors, and comedians that produce the “The Daily Show” and “The Colbert Report”. If we can learn about serious world events and leaders through a comedy show, why not address our educational needs in a similar way?

Purpose: At its core the Fundamentals course is an introduction to the many areas of human communication ranging from interpersonal and intercultural to nonverbal and group. The class is offered as a large-lecture with up to 180 students in attendance. Students are expected to show up as early as 8am (for one of the sections), actively read through assigned material, complete multiple assignments, and take an array of exams and quizzes.

The Difference: While the objectives and assignments don’t seem much different from your average large-lecture offering, the delivery is where the course separates itself. “The Mancini” is a larger-than-life character equipped with his very own personalized music video to start each class. Accompanying the video is his weekly address: “The Mancini Says…” His mission in the course is quite clear from the beginning. He is teaching the class to right the wrongs of poor communication and aid the ill-equipped academic response to such an urgent issue. The students are referred to as “The Body” in order to enlist their services and unite everyone under a common cause. Throughout the course there are challenges. Actual villains appear from time to time in class (sorry, you have to sign up for the class to know more) to foil The Mancini and The Body. Ultimately though, The Mancini brings in his own cadre of super-academic allies. Guests from the Communication and Philosophy department regularly join the class and participate in a Q & A with The Mancini and The Body. The Mancini ultimately determines whether his guests are friends or foes through a grueling interview. So far, all of the guests have returned to the class in subsequent semesters.

Out-of-Character: Says Mancini: If you can’t tell, I really enjoy teaching the course. It’s fun to use a little creative embellishment here and there and utilize a wacky narrative to teach the course. The students that serve as The Mancini’s teaching assistants are the absolute finest. They regularly contribute ideas, segments in class, and help the overall operation. It has been an absolute honor and pleasure having some of the Communication program’s best students serve their internship with me. The guests, my colleagues that have joined the class each semester, have really made the course exciting. Most (of the guests) did not know what they were in for but the students learned a lot from just a half-hour of meeting them. Some of the guests have included Maria Roca, Glenn Whitehouse, Jon Braddy, Susan Moniz, and Kathy Norris. Without the support of my colleagues this class would have never been the success it currently is. Students are genuinely excited to meet the faculty, learn from them, and have a little fun in the process. The Mancini looks forward to inviting new guests each semester, so look out colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences! You might be the next “friend” or “foe” invited to The Mancini’s Report. It’s an amazing experience. Don’t take my word for it though, take a look at the student response. For a few extra credit points listen to the wonderful things being said about The Mancini. I’m kidding about the extra credit…or am I?

And the students say…

“Fundamentals of Communication is an exciting class. The Mancini keeps you on the edge of your seat!”

“I’m impressed that he can keep 180 of my peers awake and interested at 8 a.m.”

“It’s a very interesting class, and in fact the only class and professor that can keep me awake and interested at 8 a.m.”

“The Mancini goes beyond the reach of average professors. His talents and teaching techniques are awesome.”

“The Mancini presents each topic in a different and exciting way. He allows all of the students to be involved in our class discussions.”

“I love that he introduces media that we, as students, can relate to while it simultaneously speaks to the elements of communication that we are learning in class.”
Student Highlights

Sophomore sings the National Anthem at Red Sox Game

by Stephanie Ogilvie, FGCU sophomore

To be honest I've been singing ever since I learned how to talk, and it is absolutely my greatest passion and my best attribute. I found out about the audition by accident in the Music Modular. My friend was practicing the National Anthem and I asked him why. He told me that The Boston Red Sox were looking for singers to sing the Star Spangled Banner for their upcoming spring season. So within ten minutes, I walked into the room, introduced myself, sang, and just gave it my best. The next day I received an email asking me to pick out potential dates to sing at for different games. They finally emailed me back after two weeks and said that I couldn’t perform from the dates I had picked out, but they were wondering if I would like to sing at the opening spring training game of the season at the City of Palms Stadium in Fort Myers on Wednesday the 25th, at 1:05 p.m. I immediately responded with a big YES!

Livin’ La Vida Local: Project Sustainable Community

Dr. Maria Roca’s Communication Senior Seminar classes presented an event celebrating, and showing support for, local businesses and the surrounding community on March 17. The event, sponsored by Artisan Bread Company, held a Media panel in Reed Hall, followed by the main event which took place on the Library Lawn.

Covering the event, the News Press reported that several students’ projects urged classmates to spend their money in local retailers, eat at local dining establishments and buy produce grown at local farms.

The News Press also quoted Maria Roca, associate professor of communications: “Community is how we sustain all crises. Community is how we get through it all.”
Alumni Highlights:

Tina Kaestner, ’02 (Psychology) has earned her doctorate degree in clinical psychology at Nova Southeastern University. She completed an internship at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital and a postdoctoral residency at the Renfrew Center. Tina has recently relocated to Naples. She works in a group private practice providing therapy and testing in English and German to children, teenagers and adults.

Kris Scheppe (Environmental Studies) started his own computer consulting business in February 2008. He specializes in web development, networking, and computer repair projects. Kris is also founder and chairman of the board of Blind Sailing Unlimited, Inc., a 501 © 3 non-profit whose mission is to teach sailing to blind and visually impaired persons. He currently lives on his 29' sailboat in North Fort Myers and is planning an expedition to become the first legally blind person to sail around the world.

Andrew Schmid (English) has received the Case New Holland Scholarship in Journalism from The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF). Scholarship winners are selected based on academic merit and are academically outstanding, with an average GPA of 3.95. Andrew is attending Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and is majoring in investigative journalism.

Alumni Update

The FGCU Alumni Association (FGCU- AA) is pleased to partner with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to provide informative updates regarding our CAS Alumni. With only four years since its conception, the FGCUAA is thriving, boasting many opportunities for alumni and friends, including monthly networking nights, expanded alumni communication channels, five- and 10-year reunions, group travel program as well as an alumni insurance program launching this year.

Over 9,000 alumni, including those from CAS, are making a positive impact worldwide. Among them are community leaders working to provide public relations services for non-profits. There are alumni making the Gulfshore Life “40 under 40” lists, and others committing to the Peace Corps where they are making an impact abroad. Some have committed to reducing our carbon footprint, and still others who are making names for themselves in the art community, to name a few.

The FGCUAA is proud of our alumni and their accomplishments. We are a family who share experiences and memories of FGCU, who cares about the University and want to stay connected.

Upcoming Events:

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

Apr 20-22: Senior Finale Week | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Graduating seniors are invited to visit the Alumni tent located outside of the Library during finals week to celebrate their last week on campus. Enjoy complimentary breakfast snacks and coffee and receive information on life after graduation as an Eagle!

Apr 21: Seats and Eats | 5:30 p.m., Tailgate, Hammond Stadium, Fort Myers | 7:30 p.m., Game

All alumni are invited to this historic sporting event at Hammond Stadium as the FGCU men’s baseball team take on the Florida Gators.

May 22: Alumni Art Show Opening Reception | 5 – 8 p.m., Art Gallery, main campus

The FGCUAA proudly announces an opening reception for the 2009 alumni art show titled, The Formers. Guests will enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres, wine and beer. Come out and view the great art work and catch a glimpse of the professional careers of our art alumni. Entry is free.

June 9: Webinar Series- Dynamic Letter Writing | 12 (noon),Virtual

Join fellow Eagles online for a presentation by FGCU alumnus and career advisor Reid Lennertz who will provide tips on writing effective cover and prospective letters. Sessions are free.

June 17: ACE Networking Luncheon | 12 – 1 p.m., Location TBD

Save the date for an opportunity to join fellow alumni campus employees (ACE) as we network during the lunch hour. Please check our website for additional information.

August 20: Networking Night

Save the date for an opportunity to network with alumni professionals in the Southwest Florida area. Please check our website for additional information.

Stay Connected at:
alumnirelations@fgcu.edu | www.fgcu.edu/alumni | (239)590-1087

NEW! Find us online at Facebook and LinkedIn.
Congratulations to the following faculty for their success in professional and scholarly endeavors!

Randall McClure, Associate Professor and Director of First-Year Composition, has recently published two articles. His article “How Do You Know That? An Investigation of Student Research Practices in the Digital Age” coauthored with his colleague Kellian Clink appears in the January 2009 issue of *portal: Libraries and the Academy* published by Johns Hopkins Press, and his article “Perception, Production and Online Writing Courses” appears in the Winter 2008 issue of *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. He will soon be working on the “CCCC Interactive Reviews” that he co-edits for the online journal *Kairos*. The reviews highlight the events at the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication.

The following members of the FGCU CAS family have been nominated for Angels of the Arts Awards, sponsored by the Alliance for the Arts: Tom DeMarchi, Director of the FGCU Sanibel Island Writers Conference, for Arts Organization Leader of the Year; Patricia Fay, Associate Professor of Art, for Arts Teacher of the Year; Katherine Pankow, English major, for New Artist of the Year; and Anica Sturdivant, FGCU Gallery Director, for Arts Organization Leader of the Year. The awards ceremony takes place April 6, at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater.

Kris De Welde, Dept. of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Martha Rosenthal, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Richard Schnackenber, Dept. of Mathematics, and Mary Walch, Dept. of Communications, each were invited as guest authors for the 4th Edition of *The Teaching Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Improving Performance and Promotion/Tenure Decisions*, Jossey-Bass Publishers. Their teaching portfolios, developed in last summer’s workshop with authors Peter Seldin, Clement Seldin, and Beth Miller, will be featured as exemplary models of teaching portfolios in their disciplines in the upcoming edition of this widely acclaimed book (forthcoming, 2010). With two other contributors from the College Professional Studies, FGCU has more participants than any other institution in the country!

**March grants awarded**

Peter Corcoran, Germshausen Foundation - $75,000  
Sharon Isern with Jose Barreto and Scott Michael, Defense Threat Reduction Agency - $1,500,000  
Michael Parsons, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - $20,000  
Ricky Pires, South Florida Water Management District / Fort Myers - $20,000  
Greg Tolley with Aswani Volety, Florida Sea Grant - $2,207  
Aswani Volety, South Florida Water Management District - $49,500

**February grants awarded**

David Ceilley, South Florida Water Management District Lake Trafford Phase III - $50,000  
Nora Demers, Southwest Florida Watershed Council, Inc. Shoreline Match 2009 - $300  
Sharon Isern, Defense Threat Reduction Agency Novel Protection & Decontamination Strategies - $726,327  
Sean Kelly, Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking Human Trafficking Awareness - $15,000  
Michael McDonald, Seminole Tribe of Florida Archaeological Research - Fort Shackelford - $15,000  
Ricky Pires, South Florida Water Management District / Ft. Myers Wings of Hope 2009 - $20,000
Mark Your Calendar

Promising Pathways Autism Conference
April 25, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom

Commencement
Sunday, May 3

Grades Due from Faculty by Noon
Monday, May 4

Humanities and Sustainability Conference
May 8 and 9

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