Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome all of you back to what is sure to be a lively Fall semester. Many exciting events are unfolding with the arrival of our new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ronald Toll, along with groundbreaking for construction of Academic Building 7, and the relocation of Humanities faculty into Reed Hall.

This past summer saw several study abroad programs, including trips to Nicaragua, the Bahamas, and Brazil. You will find articles dedicated to the Nicaragua and Brazil trips on pages 7 and 8. Also covered in this issue is the recent mangrove planting at Vester Field Station, the upcoming Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures and fundraisers for the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, Rebecca Totaro’s Folger Shakespeare Library fellowship, a retrospective from outgoing Chairs as well as an introduction to new incoming Chairs.

Looking ahead, plans are in motion for the Naples Botanical Garden Facility as well as the Fine Arts 2 building. I am also pleased to announce the guest speaker for the First Year Reading Project Freshman Convocation, Ishmael Beah, the #1 bestselling author of A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier. You can find details about his upcoming visit on page 4.

With the ongoing challenge of budget cuts and growing enrollment, the College of Arts & Sciences continues striving toward a focus on quality teaching and learning. You can read about several of our students who have excelled in areas such as internships and the arts in our new “Student Highlights” section.

I hope you enjoy this second issue of CAS Quarterly following a restful and enjoyable summer.

Best regards,

Donna Price Henry, Ph.D.
Outgoing and Incoming Department Chairs

The 2008 Fall semester begins with the farewell of three department Chairs, Maria Roca of Communication and Philosophy, Eric Strahorn of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Joe Wisdom of Language and Literature. They will be succeeded by Glenn Whitehouse, Joe Cudjoe, and Jim Brock. We took time to get reflections from those who are stepping down and projections from those stepping in!

Language & Literature
Outgoing Chair Dr. Joe Wisdom arrived at FGCU along with the first students in the Fall of 1997 as the Director of the Collegium while also teaching several Interdisciplinary Studies courses. In the Fall of 2000 he became the Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies after acting as Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences for two years. The Division of Humanities & Arts was reorganized in 2005 to form three new departments, one of which was the Department of Language & Literature—Joe was appointed as the first Chair of that department. He holds a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in 20th Century U.S. Literature from Florida State University. Here are some words of Wisdom following his three-year service as Chair, “My term as Chair was a great experience. We have an incredibly eager and productive faculty, a secretary who has all the answers, and a very supportive College administration, so the job of Chair in our department really is quite straightforward—facilitate, and otherwise, stay out of the way!”

Succeeding Joe is Dr. Jim Brock who joined the FGCU faculty in 1998 as a writing instructor, serving as the first Writing Program Leader. During his first semester, he staffer sixteen sections of Composition I, with an enrollment cap of twenty students per section. “Yes, those were the days,” says Brock. Jim has never served as Chair of a department, but for the past three years he has been the Coordinator of the M.A. Program in English. He holds two terminal degrees: an M.F.A. in Poetry Writing and a Ph.D. in American Literature, both from Indiana University. When asked to share his thoughts on becoming the new department Chair he said, “I come into a department of committed, hard-working, and talented teachers, writers, scholars, and colleagues. My goal is to ensure a working environment where we can each be challenged and discover our own ways to grow. As Chair, if I may mix metaphors, I hope to be one part umbrella, one part champion, and one part cheerleader. The Department of Language and Literature will continue to build integrated programs in literature, languages, and writing, while we are able to celebrate our ventures and student accomplishments in the language arts.”

Communication and Philosophy
Outgoing Chair Dr. Maria Roca is a founding faculty member, she has taught at FGCU for over ten years. Commenting on her three-year experience as Chair, Maria says, “Although serving as Chair can remove you from the mainstream of campus life and turn you somewhat invisible, it also allows you to focus on your home department and really get to know the work of your colleagues—it reminded me that I am blessed to work with extraordinary people! I won’t miss the report writing, the budget concerns, or the piles of paperwork. However, I will miss sitting around the Leadership Team table with the other Chairs and with our exceptional Dean and her staff. I am passing the baton to one of the finest men I know, Glenn Whitehouse. His fairness, clear thinking, and sincerity will contribute to his ability to serve the department well. Returning to the faculty now allows me to focus on my GreenFaith Fellowship and I’m enthusiastic about being in the classroom full-time, the place where I feel most comfortable and confident.”

Accepting the baton from Maria is Dr. Glenn Whitehouse. Dr. Whitehouse has been with the University for the last ten years but has been on sabbatical this past year. Of preparing to return to FGCU and his role as the new Chair, Glenn had this to say, “I have spent my sabbatical year reading and writing, and have cherished the opportunity to reconnect with my intellectual interests and develop as a scholar. At the same time, I’m humbled by the responsibility of chairing the Department of Communication and Philosophy next year. The department is going through some exciting times as we grow our existing programs, plan for new ones, and welcome new faculty. We also face a challenge to serve our students and the University during a time of budgetary austerity. I’m confident that we can all work together to meet the challenges and I’m excited about what the department can accomplish in the years to come.” Glenn has taught Interpretation Theory, Philosophy of Religion, and Ancient Philosophy.

Social and Behavioral Sciences
Completing his term as Chair for the Social & Behavioral Sciences department is Dr. Eric Strahorn. Eric has worked at FGCU since August of 1997, serving as Chair since August 2005. A word of advice from Eric to the new department Chair, Dr. Joseph Cudjoe: “No matter what it is, it will take longer than you think.” With research interests that include Colonial and Post-Colonial South Asia, Modern and Imperial Britain, environmental history and wildlife conservation, Eric will return to his former role as Assistant Professor of Asian studies.

Incoming Chair Dr. Joe Cudjoe grew up in Ghana, West Africa and arrived at FGCU in 1997. A founding faculty member, this is Joe’s second go round as Chair of Social & Behavioral Sciences—he first served from Fall 2000 to Summer 2003 and then as Assistant Chair (Ecological & Social Sciences) for two years afterwards. “I hope to foster team spirit within the department, and enhance the professional growth of faculty and staff. I will be a strong advocate for my department. I will listen, and remain respectful, fair, firm, and consistent. Nobody stays Chair forever so I have to remind myself that in the not-too-distant future, I too will leave the Chair position and join my colleagues as regular faculty,” says Joe.

The College of Arts and Sciences wishes to extend a big thank you to Maria, Eric and Joe for their hard work and dedication. An enthusiastic welcome goes out to Glenn, Joe and Jim for their new role as department Chairs!
Academic Building 7

Construction of the University's newest building, Academic Building 7, is currently underway. Located between the new Engineering building and Whitaker Hall, this building—the first LEED certified building on campus—will be a new four-story home for the College of Arts and Sciences in many capacities, including teaching and state-of-the-art research space as well as faculty offices. The CAS Advising suite will be housed on the first floor along with a math lab and computer classroom, a 220-seat lecture hall, and two general classrooms. The second floor holds two scale-up classrooms for physics and biology, faculty offices and two lab classrooms. Two scale-up classrooms for marine science and chemistry can be found on the third floor along with Research Labs including: BSL-3 (Bio Safety Level), cell, Histology, and DNA. The fourth floor will be home to the CAS Dean's suite with research labs and faculty offices.

AB7 will be built to be LEED certified, exercising pollution prevention, renewable energy, recycling and much more. The building will maximize sustainability and conservation in aspects of both its construction and operation. For instance, to reach these standards many materials for the construction of AB7 had to be acquired within 500 miles of the construction site to cut down on vehicle emissions. Among other noteworthy sustainable efforts, the building will use “low flush” toilets to maximize water efficiency, as well as potential solar panels on the roof and alternative transportation (i.e. bicycle storage).

The LEED Lowdown

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to provide voluntary, consensus-based standards for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED is composed of more than 15,000 organizations from across the building industry with projects in 41 different countries (www.usgbc.org). Although the rating system is different for each state, it addresses six major criteria that determine whether a building is LEED certified: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, Innovation and Design Process. Each of the six criteria lists certain credits that the building can claim such as water use reduction, alternative transportation, recycled content, etc. Points are awarded for each credit that a building claims, breaking into four categories: Certified (26-32 pts), Silver (33-38 pts), Gold (39-51 pts), and Platinum (52-69 pts). Although designs for the building were originally geared to reach ‘silver’ certification, AB7 may reach 42 points, earning potential gold certification.

The AB7 building marks a major (sustainable) milestone for the University and the College of Arts and Sciences, one that we hope will help set the “green” bar for other institutions in Southwest Florida and elsewhere. Stop by Reed Hall 220 to check out the complete plans for the building!

Naples Botanical Garden

Starting off as a converted strip mall with a one-acre garden, the Naples Botanical Garden (NBG) has grown considerably since its founding in 1993. Thanks to donations and strong community support, it now operates with more than 1,900 members and 200 active volunteers. Most recently, NBG was closed to the public so that a 160-acre site expansion in east Naples could be completed. The new sustainable site will include a birding tower, performance lawn, garden café, hands-on children’s garden as well as an Asian, Brazilian, Caribbean, and Florida Garden. As part of this exciting transformation, NBG reached out to FGCU in 2003 with an offer to donate...continued on page 4

Fine Arts 2 Building

The campus architecture office refers to it as “Fine Arts 2,” but the new structure being planned for the Bower School of Music (BSM) will likely be called the “music building” by the College of Arts and Sciences and most importantly the BSM students, faculty and staff. Like several other departments, BSM has been in need of a new home. Situated “over the bridge and through the woods,” in what are affectionately referred to as the “MODs,” the current accommodations are not sufficient to house a program boasting over 75 majors. After competitive vetting of various design firms providing architectural, interior design and planning services, Pfeiffer Partners (Los Angeles and New York), and Reynolds, Smith and Hillis (Fort Myers) were hired for the construction of the music instructional facility. The former firm specializes in University and community performance (music and theatre) facilities, and they partnered with the local firm. These firms will also do master planning for Phases 2 and 3 of the performance facilities on campus, which will include a performance hall, a theatre and further theatre instructional spaces—an exciting complement to the Arts Complex and a tremendous asset to the theatre program.

This $12.6 million music building will have close to 23,000 gross square feet. It will include a 200-seat Choral Rehearsal/Recital Hall that will double as a small recital hall, along with a director’s office, reception and staff office, nine faculty studios, a music education classroom and two other smaller classrooms. In addition, there will be a 10-12 station class piano lab, a separate music technology lab and ten practice rooms for students. The instrumental rehearsal hall and the choral hall/recital hall will have recording capabilities. All of these spaces will be built with acoustics as a prime consideration. Construction is set to begin late Spring 2009 with occupation by Summer 2010. The building will be located in proximity to the current Arts Complex, but the...continued on page 4
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 before the Fall semester begins. The book is then discussed in Composition I and II 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 this year, the project’s fifth, all incoming first year students at FGCU will read Ishmael Beah’s #1 bestselling work, A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier in order to explore FGCU’s Learning Goal Cultural Diversity. A Long Way Gone is a memoir of a young man recruited to fight in the civil war in Sierra Leone, Africa, in the 1990s. The tale of his journey through this horrific experience provides an insight into another world, broadening the reader’s horizons and deepening our empathy for other cultures. The tale’s hopeful ending provides insight into the elasticity and fortitude of the human spirit.

Ishmael Beah will be present on campus Sunday, August 24. A VIP and faculty reception will take place at 12:30 pm with a Convocation speech to follow at 2:00 pm in Alico Arena.

For more details regarding Ishmael Beah’s visit, contact CarolAnn Popovich at cpopovic@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7869. For information on the First Year Reading Project, contact Linda Rowland at lrowland@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7254.
Vester Field Station in Use

The newly opened Vester Field Station, located on Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs, provides an ideal setting for education, research and scientific exploration. The “brainchild” of Norm and Nancy Vester, the property is comprised of three buildings that provide Marine and Environmental Science programs with access to diverse habitats such as mangroves, oyster reefs, mud flats and sea grasses. Since its dedication on February 19, it has been put to good use by faculty and students.

On May 18, some local Cub Scouts from Pack 102 in San Carlos helped complete a mangrove restoration project at the Vester property. The Scouts worked in collaboration with scientists and students from FGCU and Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF). They experimented with several techniques for replanting red mangrove propagules, which were collected last fall from behind Whitaker Hall, in areas subjected to boat wakes. CVS Pharmacy provided drinking water for the project and lunch was provided by Keep Lee County Beautiful. This project was initiated by graduate student Rachel Harris in completion of her thesis. Rachel has been working with Eric Milbrandt of SCCF on his plots as well as developing a proposal for mangrove restoration on Sanibel. Although the proposal was not funded, Marine Education & Outreach Coordinator Bob Wasno suggested the propagule planting to help restore some mangrove habitat that was lost following Hurricane Charlie.

Several FGCU classes have also experienced life within an estuary thanks to the Vester Field Station. Located at the southern end of the Estero Bay, the property provides an ideal launching point for the exploration of critical habitats. Instructor David Green’s class, Environmental Biology: Ecosystems of Southwest Florida, has used the facility to introduce students to mangrove and estuarine ecology and Calusa history (as related to Estero Bay and reliance on a productive estuary for food sources).

Instructor Sasha Wohlpart’s Environmental Biology of Southwest Florida is also among those classes that recently utilized the lab. Students used canoes to venture out to the Imperial River where they discussed the impacts of altered fresh water quality and quantity emptying into the estuary. From there they took a turn onto a brackish water pathway that meandered through the mangrove forest. Along their travels they encountered a large diversity of macro flora and fauna associated with mangrove communities, providing an opportunity to discuss the role of estuaries as productive feeding and breeding grounds. One group also measured changes in temperature, salinity and turbidity along their route. This wild and remote pathway was also a perfect location to consider what it must have been like during the time of the Caloosa Indians who likely paddled the same waters.

In the mudflats directly adjacent to the field station, students used nets and buckets to collect a variety of estuarine life, including plankton, oysters, and comb jellies. With the help of the Vester staff and pontoon boat, specimens were transported back to the field station for further examination.

Nothing brings ecological sciences to life more than having an opportunity to get out into the environment and explore. The Vester Field Station provides just such an opportunity for FGCU students engaged in the study of coastal ecology of Southwest Florida.
Summer Science
Institute for
Elementary
School Teachers

The Whitaker Center sponsored its second annual Summer Science Institute for fifteen Collier County public elementary school teachers for a week in early July. The Institute, designed and facilitated by Drs. Michael Savarese, Win Everham and Diane Schmidt, provides teachers with an opportunity to develop science investigations for the second through fifth grade. The investigations address the newly adopted State Science and Mathematics Standards while also providing teachers with a better understanding of the philosophy and operation of scientific inquiry. Teachers will be implementing these investigations at four elementary schools across the county this coming academic year. Savarese and Everham, this summer’s institute instructors, will be maintaining communication with these schools throughout the school year. The hope is that this effort will be expanded to more elementary school teachers across FGCU’s five-county service area in subsequent summers.

Fact or Fiction?
A Middle Holocene Sea-Level “Highstand”

Dr. Michael Savarese, FGCU Graduate Studies Director, Professor and Interim Director for the Whitaker Center, has studied sea-level history here in Southwest Florida and he recently set out to investigate and explore the history of sea-level rise in the Bahamas.

Sedimentary rocks record the history of sea-level fluctuation. Most geologists agree that the rock record for the last 12,000 years demonstrates that sea level has risen considerably since the planet’s last glaciation when sea-level sat 120 meters lower than today and gradually rose to its current position within the last 1,000-3,000 years. A few published studies have suggested that a sea-level “highstand” existed approximately 5,000 years ago during an interval of time known as the middle Holocene, with a sea-level height exceeding the current level by as much as two meters. These studies, for regions in the northern Gulf of Mexico and portions of the western Pacific, have been highly controversial with unsubstantial evidence. Dr. Savarese has found no local evidence of a middle Holocene sea-level high.

Along with graduate student Brian Hoye, he spent ten days conducting geologic field work on the island of San Salvador in the eastern Bahamas to further test the hypothesis of a 5,000 year-old highstand. Certain limestones, which sit 1-2 meters above current mean sea-level on San Salvador, contain numerous lines of evidence supporting their formation in beach swash zones (areas where waves run up the sand). The rocks await radiocarbon age dating to establish the time of their formation. Dr. Savarese’s findings raise several questions: If the Bahamas did experience a middle Holocene sea-level highstand and this was a planet-wide phenomenon, why isn’t evidence for its existence more prolific? Or might this merely be an expression of relative sea level caused by some local process (e.g., crustal uplift or bulges in sea-level height caused by perturbations in the earth’s gravitational field)? If the phenomenon were global but short lived, the likelihood of its preservation within the rock record would be low. Such a situation would have great implications for future sea-level fluctuations and climate change—abrupt changes in global temperature and ocean volume, due to ice breakup, are conceivable on decadal time scales.
The Shared Language of Clay: Ceramics Study Abroad in Nicaragua

For the Summer A session at Florida Gulf Coast University, Art Program Professor Patricia Fay and ten students had the opportunity to study ceramics in Nicaragua by traveling to this beautiful country and working closely with potters in their studios.

The student participants included FGCU Art Professor Patricia Fay and FGCU students Ashley Williams, Ellen Boliek, Rebecca Ferguson, Julie Hendrickson, Ehren Gerhard, Alexa Garcia, Danielle Glunt, Mary Romanowski, Lindsay Clark, and Jan Erickson.

For the first three weeks of the course at FGCU, students engaged in intensive study of Nicaraguan history and politics, and contemporary transitions in global pottery traditions. In addition to their academics, a collaborative service-learning project formed the heart of this experience. The students worked in two-person research teams, each of which was given a separate assignment to develop marketable ceramic designs and innovative techniques to share with the potters in Nicaragua. Working hard in the compressed time frame, the students produced a wide range of products including jewelry, masks, candle lanterns and extruded vases.

From May 24 to June 6 FGCU faculty and students traveled throughout northern Nicaragua visiting pottery cooperatives to learn local ceramic traditions and to share the results of the research projects. All in-country trip logistics were handled by the program’s wonderful Nicaraguan partner Potters for Peace (PFP), founded in 1986 to provide traditional potters with technical, design, and marketing assistance, and to train potters worldwide in the manufacture of highly efficient ceramic water filters. At each of the four potteries visited, students would watch demonstrations of pottery forming, decorating, and firing methods used in Nicaragua. These sessions were followed by FGCU student presentations on their prototype designs and new techniques. The longstanding relationships between PFP and the cooperatives visited allowed for immediate familiarity and an unexpected level of social interaction.

The intention of the Nicaragua study trip was to balance the learning received with the learning offered, but the resulting experience far surpassed expectation. There is truly a magic in the shared language of clay, a connection and an intimacy that overcame language barriers, complex political histories, and radical differences in culture and lifestyle. The interactions with the Nicaraguan potters were warm and joyful, and the breadth and depth of learning from this experience was unprecedented.

“"In Nicaragua, I found authentic beauty and truth, not in tangible objects, but in laughter and hugs, powerful relationships, a sense of community, and in the essential genuine human openness and interaction.”
— FGCU student Ashley Williams

“They extended such a warm welcome to all of us and this really made it so much easier to enter their studios and work with them. They made me feel very comfortable and not at all like I was intruding on their space. I felt as if I was included as a member of their family. I hope I will remember this quality and try to be as welcoming to others I meet in the future.”
— FGCU student Ellen Boliek

Ten FGCU students with volcanoes across Lake Managua.

Lester Perez demonstrates wheel throwing in San Juan de Oriente.

The group hikes across farm fields and downstream beds to see the site where the potters of the Santa Rosa Cooperative dig their clay.

FGCU students present their new design prototypes at each pottery cooperative, followed by demonstrations of new techniques.
**Destination: Social and Environmental Exploration in Brazil**

On May 8, Instructors David Green and Noemi Creagan departed with fourteen students from each of FGCU’s five colleges to Brazil for a near month of cultural, social and environmental exposure. Their destination of Mato Grosso do Sul provided Green, an instructor of environmental science, and Creagan, an instructor of anthropology and a Brazilian native, with an idyllic setting to introduce the students to a new culture. The group set their sights on critical social and environmental issues specifically related to the Terena indigenous people and the Pantanal wetlands.

The group visited a rural town called Miranda (state of Mato Grosso do Sul), which is the southern “doorway” to the Pantanal. Miranda was the specific case study to examine cultural and environmental issues, while the Pantanal wetlands (roughly 15-20 times the size of the Florida Everglades and the world’s largest intact freshwater wetland system) provided the natural backdrop. Leading up to the trip, students had a choice of three classes: Intro to Study Abroad, Latin American Environments, and Cultural Ecology. They could choose as many of these classes as they wanted.

Provided with volunteer service opportunities through various townspeople and organizations, students immersed themselves in all manner of the town’s cultural activities, including making pottery and crafts with local Terena artisans, teaching English to Terena schoolchildren, working with the Rural Association and even learning medicinal plant information from a Terena medicine man. One group assisted the Environmental Police riverboat patrol by helping lift illegal fishing traps from the river while another group worked with a local poor river family.

FGCU students also participated in a Symposium at the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, each giving a presentation about their experiences in Miranda. Graduate students from Federal University in turn shared their own research projects, specifically on Pantanal jaguar hunting and bat ecology. Creagan and Green also gave presentations.

This first trip to the Pantanal has laid the foundation for future study abroad excursions, with a network of contacts in place for future research activities pertaining to cultural and environmental issues. Noemi Creagan commented of the trip, "David and I would like to take the time to thank Dean Henry, Elaine Hozdik (Office of International Services), and Aswani Volety (Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences) for their support of the program. Without their resources and encouragement, this program could not have happened.”
Group Piano Classes for Children

The Bower School of Music offers a beginner group piano class for children currently in first and second grades. Classes will be offered Mondays 4-4:50 pm on campus beginning Sept. 8 through Dec. 15. Classes in spring run from January to May.

Previous piano instruction is not required, but students must be evaluated for readiness to study through a 30-minute session with the instructor. Readiness testing will take place in July at the Bower School of Music. A parent or guardian is required to accompany the child. Students accepted into the program must have access to a full-sized piano with weighted keys for daily practice. Classes for beginners will be taught by Joanne Smith, Professor Emerita from the University of Michigan School of Music and nationally renowned children’s piano pedagogy specialist.

Cost for the 28 classes is $900, with $450 payable to Florida Gulf Coast University at the beginning of each term. To schedule a test, contact (239) 590-7292.

Music Professor Performs in China

Professor of Music and Head of Piano Performance, Dr. Michael Baron, performed recitals in several cities in China in June including Nanjing, Yantai, Chengdu, Wuhan and Huangshi. He also gave public masterclasses, taught private lessons, and consulted with faculty and administrators at the FGCU sister universities of Yantai University and Hubei Normal University. He was made an honorary professor at both universities for a period of five years. Classes and recitals were attended by 600-1,000 people at each university.
Wind and Percussion Camp for High School Students

The Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University, in partnership with the Boston Brass, offered a wind and percussion camp June 18-20 for students in grades 9-12. High school instrumentalists had the opportunity to study with the Boston Brass at the camp. Students also participated in chamber rehearsals, full rehearsals, master classes, and preparation for All State Auditions under the direction of Bower School of Music associate professor of Instrumental Music, Rod Chesnutt.

FGCU Professor Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. is the premier library in the world for the study of Shakespeare and the Renaissance in England. This year, the Folger awarded one of its prestigious fellowships to Florida Gulf Coast University professor Dr. Rebecca Totaro.

Totaro moved to D.C. for the fall term of her sabbatical year, lived and worked just two blocks from the nation’s capitol, and conducted research for her second and third books: the second an edited collection of early writings on bubonic plague and the third a study of meteorology in early England. Her first book, Suffering in Paradise: The Bubonic Plague in English Literature from More to Milton (Duquesne, 2005) led conceptually to these current projects, the weather considered in Shakespeare’s time to be a cause of the plague.

A Folger Fellowship award recognizes scholarly accomplishments and future promise. In the summer of 2006, for example, Totaro delivered a paper at the World Shakespeare Congress in Australia. In 2006-2007, she traveled each month to D.C. to participate in the Folger Institute’s Year-Long Colloquium on the medicine in the Renaissance, a seminar for advanced scholars. In the spring of 2008, at the Shakespeare Association of America conference, she led a group of eleven scholars from around the world in a seminar on Shakespeare and early representations of the plague. The result, she has recently reported, is another book project: a collection of the papers presented in this seminar, which she will co-edited with Margaret Healy (University of Sussex).

Totaro has been at FGCU since 1998. An associate professor in English, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Shakespeare, Milton, Literature of the Plague, and Composition. She currently serves as the advisor for the FGCU chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society. She has chaired the General Education Council, co-chaired the university Convocation committee, served as a faculty senator, and has held the positions of English Program leader and assistant chair for the Department of Arts and Humanities. In the local community, Totaro is the discussion leader at the monthly Fort Myers Barnes and Noble Novel Night, and she is a member of the Literacy Volunteers of Lee County board of directors. Totaro earned her Ph.D. in English from University of Massachusetts, Amherst; her Master’s degree in Religion from Yale University; and her B.A. at Whittier College, double-majoring in English and Religion.
Student Highlights

Art student Christina Penuel (painting and sculpture) has been accepted into the Atlantic Center for the Arts’ 19th Annual University Student Exhibition in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. This show is only open to undergraduate students enrolled in the State University System art programs. Twenty students were nominated and four, including Christina, were accepted. The exhibit opened June 14 and ran through July 26, 2008. There was an opening reception Friday, June 13 from 5-7 pm in Atlantic Center for the Arts Pabst Visitor Center & Gallery. This continues the tradition of FGCU art students being recognized by the most prestigious state-wide undergraduate art exhibition in Florida. Recognition should also be extended to Mary Voytek, FGCU Assistant Professor of Art who organized the FGCU selection process and helped students prepare their portfolios.

Thomas Holt, communication major, landed an internship this fall at “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” in New York. Holt is one of several communication majors pursuing internships. In the Spring ’08 semester, communication students completed over 10,500 hours of work throughout southwest Florida. Summer communication interns are currently fulfilling an estimated 6,030 hours within our local community and out-of-state. Sara Gottwalles and Rachel Wise are both interning at the Naples Daily News as contributing staff writers. Tanya Schmidt is currently interning with Major League Baseball’s Tampa Bay Rays. In addition, senior Andrea McCrory was recently awarded 1st place in the Florida Associated Press Broadcasters College Division for the “Best Use of Sound,” as well as the Paul and Aline Flynn Scholarship Award for her outstanding work at WGCCU Public Radio.

Students interested in pursuing a communication internship should contact Instructor Susan Moniz, Department of Communication & Philosophy.

Bower School of Music sophomore Satoko Hayami won first place in the Gray Perry Young Collegiate Piano Competition sponsored by the Florida State Music Teachers Association (FSMTA) held on May 10. Satoko competed at the University of Central Florida against other undergraduate piano majors from throughout the state. This is the second consecutive year that a piano student from the Bower School of Music has won this award.

Piano majors Faith Lanctot Sam and Hyae-jin Hwang won first place in the Byrd Memorial Piano Ensemble Competition also sponsored by FSMTA at UCF on May 10. This competition is open to all university music students regardless of age or degree being earned. Junior Hyae-jin Hwang also won third place in the Artist Series of Sarasota Music Performance Competition held May 4 in Sarasota. Hwang was awarded $2,500 for her win. All three students are from the piano studio of associate professor Michael Baron, Head of Piano Studies at the Bower School of Music. “I am proud of all of our talented and hardworking music students who are bringing great distinction to the Bower School of Music,” said Baron. Founding director of Music Nancy Cobb-Lippens added, “These wins by Satoko, Faith and Hyae-jin are the result of much hard work, not only by them but also by their teacher, Michael Baron. I congratulate all of them.”
“Spotlight” on the CAS Advising Team

The CAS Advising Team provides academic guidance to all students who are pursuing a major and/or minor in the college or are undeclared. Their office includes four advisors and one advising assistant, all of whom are cross-trained in every major and minor offered by the college. Advisors are classified as 12-month non-teaching faculty and assist students individually by appointment. Advisors play a critical role in students’ academic careers from their initial entrance into the college until their degree is completed.

Native students are transitioned to the college from First Year Advising at the beginning of their second semester and work with the Advising Team until graduation. Transfer students, who enter the college at various stages in their academic careers, are provided information at orientation to get on track in their program as soon as possible. Advisors review all transfer students’ articulated credit closely and work with the department Chairs and program leaders to have course substitution requests evaluated when necessary.

Advisors introduce students to the college by preparing and presenting advising workshops to all transitioning freshmen and transfer students. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an advisor at least once per semester. During the appointment, the advisor reviews outstanding degree requirements (including coursework and state/university requirements) and provides scheduling recommendations to keep the student on track for timely graduation. Priority registration and the first week of classes are the two busiest times for the advising team. Walk-in advising is offered during these periods so that all students can be seen. During their penultimate semester, students are encouraged to come in for a graduation check to ensure that they have registered for their final courses and have completed all state and university requirements.

At the close of each term, advisors certify degrees and work with students who applied for graduation but did not successfully complete their remaining requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions From Faculty

1. My course has low enrollment. What can I do to promote it?
If you are offering a new or ‘special topics’ course, please send course information to the CAS Advising Team as early as possible (ideally before priority registration begins). Information should include both the description of the course and the program requirement it fulfills. Application to program requirements may need to be approved by your department chair.

2. If my course is full or if I want to waive a prerequisite, how do I allow a student to register?
The authorization must come from you (course instructor) in writing. Your written authorization may be granted by your signature on an add/drop form or an email of approval from your FGCU email account.

3. A student in my class is confused about her degree requirements. How can I help?
The student should be referred to the advising office in the college that offers her major. In our college, the advising team is cross-trained and can assist students with all majors and minors.

4. A student would like to add my course to their schedule, but the drop/add period has ended. Can they still be added?
Unfortunately, no. Students cannot make schedule changes after the add/drop period, which ends at 5:00 pm on the Friday of the first week of classes.

5. A student missed my class for several weeks and is now earning a poor grade. They emailed to say that they are experiencing extenuating circumstances and need to withdraw. What should I recommend?
Refer the student to the CAS Advising Office as soon as possible. If it is prior to the deadline to withdraw without academic penalty (posted on academic calendar), the advisor will explain the consequences and procedures for the withdrawal. If the deadline has passed, the advisor will explain other options (e.g. re-taking the course and applying for grade forgiveness).

6. A student in my course has received an Incomplete (I) or Not Reported (NR) grade. How will this affect them?
Unless you have submitted a change of grade form, university policy dictates that an Incomplete grade will convert to an “F” after one year from issuance. An NR will convert to an “F” after one semester from issuance (including summer). A student cannot graduate with either an “I” or “NR” on her/his record.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Rice</td>
<td>Advising Assistant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:price@fgcu.edu">price@fgcu.edu</a></td>
<td>590-7196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucero Carvajal</td>
<td>Academic Advisor II</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcarvajal@fgcu.edu">lcarvajal@fgcu.edu</a></td>
<td>590-7204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Fitch</td>
<td>Academic Advisor I</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lfitch@fgcu.edu">lfitch@fgcu.edu</a></td>
<td>590-7434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Stanis</td>
<td>Academic Advisor I</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mstanis@fgcu.edu">mstanis@fgcu.edu</a></td>
<td>590-7221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Swanson</td>
<td>Academic Advisor II</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mswanson@fgcu.edu">mswanson@fgcu.edu</a></td>
<td>590-7203</td>
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Wings of Hope

The South Florida Water Management District has continually supported our FGCU “Wings of Hope” environmental education program through a “Grant of Hope.” They have continued this crucial support for several years. This generous support enables elementary school students from Lee and Collier counties to visit our campus and take a field trip to CREW Lands and Water Trust hiking trails. Students become part of the Florida Panther Posse where FGCU Environmental Humanities undergraduate students teach 4th and 5th graders about the importance of protecting Florida Panther habitat, southwest Florida wildlife, water conservation and “green” ways to be kind to the earth. With support of our crucial partnerships we are able to engage over 200 FGCU students and over 1,500 elementary schools students each semester who in turn educate over 4,000 community friends and family members about critical steps in protecting the Florida Panther, conserving water and making “green” choices in their daily lives. For more information about our Wings of Hope programs check us out at www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope.

Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures

American marine biologist and nature writer Rachel Carson is best known to most through her book, Silent Spring, which has been called the most important book of the twentieth century for catapulting environmental concerns into the public eye in an immense way. Her contributions, most relevant to the mission of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education (CESE), are public policy-based on sound science and ethics, active participation of an ecologically literate citizenry, and appreciation of the natural world through the literary arts and environmental education. With its mission of realizing the dream of a sustainable and peaceful future for Earth through scholarship, education, and action, CESE is sponsoring two Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures in the coming academic year.

The first, Finding Beauty in a Broken World: An Ensemble for Earth, will take place Friday, September 5 at 5:30pm at the Portland Museum of Art in Maine. It will include readings by Terry Tempest Williams and Alison Hawthorne Deming. A fundraising reception will follow.

The second, Working on Behalf of the Beauty and Bounty of Earth: An Earth Charter Scholars’ Panel, will take place February 20, 2009 on Sanibel Island with talks by Steven C. Rockefeller, Mary Evelyn Tucker and others. The Fifth Annual Fundraising Celebration is set for February 21, also on Sanibel Island. You can find more information about the Center’s initiatives by visiting http://www.fgcu.edu/CESE.
New in the Nest

CAS welcomes all new faculty, including the following individuals:

The Bower School of Music welcomes Charise Lindsay as the new Assistant Professor of Music Education at Florida Gulf Coast University. Her Ph.D. is in Music Education with a Piano Pedagogy emphasis and she recently held the position of Coordinator of Music Education at Kentucky Christian University.

The Department of Language & Literature would like to welcome the following two former adjuncts turned Instructors, Diane Cox and Paul Szczesny. Emily Vallier also joins the department as an Instructor. Joining us as Associate Professor and Director of First Year Composition is Randall McClure.

The Mainz exchange program will continue this fall with the arrival of Christian Schaefer, visiting German Instructor. Mr. Schaefer will teach two composition classes and a course in German literature in English translation. He holds bachelor’s degrees in German, Creative Writing, Electrical Engineering, and a “Staatsexamen” (State’s Exam) the equivalent to a master’s degree in English and German literature.

Language and Literature also welcomes Liu Ying, Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant.

The Department of Communication & Philosophy announces two new Communication Instructors, Susan Moniz and Kathy Norris. Susan has been coordinating the internship program for the department since Fall 2007 and was hired as a visiting Instructor last Spring. Farshad Aminian-Tankei arrived at FGCU as a visiting instructor in the Fall of 2007 has now been hired as an Assistant Professor of Media Studies with the department.

The Coastal Watershed Institute welcomes Ms. Lacey Smith as a marine science laboratory manager. Lacey graduated in 2004 from FGCU with a Bachelor’s degree in Marine Science. After graduating, Lacey taught marine and environmental science courses at Cape Coral High School for four years before returning to FGCU to join the Institute.

The Chemistry and Mathematics Department welcomes Jaffar Ali Shahul Hameed as Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Greg McManus as Assistant Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, and Mary Ann Moore as Instructor of Mathematics.

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts is joined by Anne-Marie Bouche, Associate Professor of Art History and Andrew Owen, Assistant Professor of Drawing.

The Social and Behavioral Sciences Department welcomes Mari DeWees, Instructor of Sociology and Kevin O’Neil, Assistant Professor of Experimental Psychology.

New Faculty Seminars

Last year, the College of Arts and Sciences sponsored a series of seminars and workshops for new faculty in order to assist them in joining our community. During the Fall 2008 semester, we will again sponsor a New Faculty Seminar Series, beginning with an open forum for new faculty and mentors. Other seminars will follow on a monthly basis and will include discussions about teaching and learning and other aspects regarding the culture of the college. While the seminars are designed for new faculty, all faculty in the college are welcome to join us. Please mark your calendars with the upcoming events:

- **Open Forum – Brown Bag Lunch**
  Friday, September 12 from 1-2:15 pm in Whitaker Hall 129

- **Teaching Tips: From Syllabus to Classroom**
  Tuesday, October 7 from 3-4 pm in Student Union 213

- **Effective Models of Interdisciplinary Teaching**
  Monday, November 3 from 10-11:15 am in Student Union 213
Promos and Props

Congratulations to the following faculty for their success in professional and scholarly endeavors!

Promotions to Full Professor
Michael Baron, D.M.A. Music: Piano Performance
Barry Cavin, M.F.A. Theatre

Promotions to Associate Professor
Rebecca Austin, Ph.D. Anthropology
Debra Darnell, D.M.A. Music – Voice Performance
Patrick Greene, Ph.D. Educational Technology
Scott Karakas, Ph.D. Art History
Ai Ning Loh, Ph.D. Marine Chemistry
Joan Manley, Ph.D. Sociology

Promotions to Instructor II:
Carol Bledsoe, MA English Literature
Mary Kay Cassani, MS Environmental Science
Ron Hefner, MA English Literature
Jesse Millner, MFA Creative Writing
Linda Rowland, MA English Literature
Neil Wilkinson, MS Environmental Science

Promotions to Advisor II:
Lucero Carvajal
Mary Swanson
Mark Your Calendar

Welcome Back Celebration and Luncheon
Hosted by President Bradshaw
August 19, 10:30 am -12:30 pm in Alico Arena

New Faculty Workshop 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
in Alico Arena, VIP Suite

Reception for Provost Ron Toll
With Faculty Senate and President Bradshaw
August 19, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm in Student Union 214

CAS faculty College Meeting
August 20 in Academic Building 5 Room 112

10:00 am - Noon – New Faculty Orientation
Noon - 1:00 pm – Luncheon
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – All Faculty
4:00- 5:00 pm – Reception

First Year Reading Project Convocation with Ishmael Beah
Sunday, August 24 at 2:00 pm in Alico Arena
Reception for VIP and faculty at 12:30 pm

Classes Begin
Monday, August 25

Add/Drop Period Ends
Friday, August 29

Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education Fundraiser
September 5 at the Portland Museum of Art, Maine

New Faculty Seminars

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