I came to FGCU in the Fall semester of 2007 after having worked with the National Audubon Society for nearly a decade. Of course, I immediately connected with Jerry Jackson upon my arrival here, given his research background and interests. Little did I know at that time that this soon-to-be mentor would take me on such wonderful flights!

I had the opportunity of sitting in on Jerry’s Environmental Biology class one spring semester as he was recovering from a health scare. This was a marvelous opportunity for a young Instructor - learning from a world-renowned ornithologist with years of wisdom and teaching experience! I absorbed his every word like a sponge and tried my hardest to replicate some of his style in my own classroom; his passion, his mannerisms, his knowledge, his care, … his fantastic way of connecting society, ethics, and science enhanced the learning experience for all of his students.

Following that Spring semester, I joined Jerry and two of his graduate students on a trip to Washington, DC, where we were to pack up his colleague’s lifelong books and journals collection and bring it back to the FGCU library. Here’s the cool part about that trip: his colleague was retiring from the Smithsonian, which meant we all got access to the bird specimen collections. Jerry trained us in proper technique and research methodology before we left and asked us each to consider a research question we could investigate while at the Smithsonian. Of course, it was a no-brainer that I would look at the collection of Roseate Spoonbills since my Everglades-related research had centered on this majestic wading bird. Thanks to this trip with Jerry, I was able to measure spoonbill specimens from South America that were collected in far-away wetlands in the late-1800’s. Jerry showed us specimens of extinct birds that I would likely have otherwise never seen: and we toured the national birdbanding lab facility outside of DC.

From that point on, Jerry continued to serve as a mentor for me professionally: by helping me think deeply about my science and by improving my teaching. Countless conversations have happened over the years, formal and informal – all have been meaningful. He has served as a guest speaker repeatedly in my classes, where we show an award-winning documentary in called “Ghost Bird” in which Jerry is featured. This film helps students discuss scientific integrity, ethics, and political influences while learning about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. It helps makes science that much more meaningful to students’ daily lives.

There comes a time, though, when all birds must leave the nest. And our own Eagle, Jerry Jackson is no different, as he is soon flying on to other adventures in life. I was asked to reflect on my time with Jerry here at FGCU, and though my words cannot even begin to capture the entirety of his life experience, I hope they give some insight into the relationship I have with a wonderful mentor. He once jokingly told me in relation to birdbanding, “Too many birds, not enough time!” Enjoy your retirement, Dr. Jackson, and may I continue to pass-on at least some of your knowledge and wisdom to the future generations! Too many lessons to learn, … not enough Jerry Jacksons to teach them!
Dear College of Arts and Sciences Colleagues:

It's been a busy 6 months in the Dean's office. While some days were busier than others, time has flown by. Collectively, the STEM competition, Southwest Florida Band Masters Solo and Ensemble competition, Moonlight on the Marsh and Whitaker Center lecture series, Promising Pathways autism conference and Center for the Arts annual Celebration for the Arts, brought several thousands of visitors and participants to FGCU main campus and off-campus centers. These events highlighted FGCU’s excellence in teaching, scholarship and public service.

Our undergraduate and graduate students presented papers at various National and International conferences. Ms. Anne Rolton, a Ph. D student in the FGCU-University of Brest program, won the Thurlow C. Nelson Award for best student presentation at the 105th National Shellfisheries Association / World Aquaculture Conference held in Nashville, TN. Tia Brown, a student from the Communication and Philosophy Department was featured on National Public Radio for an article she wrote along with Kalhan Rosenblatt, which originated as a classroom assignment. Lindsay Lehan, a Sociology student, was recognized as the 2012-13 FGCU Student of the Year; while Shannon Blizzard, Chemistry major, was inducted into the FGCU Hall of Fame. Of course, these are just few examples of the wonderful accomplishments of our students.

FGCU Faculty and Staff swept the FGCU 2013 Celebration of Excellence Awards: Ms. Kendra Carboneau (USPS Employee of the Year), Dr. Billy Gunnels (Faculty Excellence Award for Service), Ms. Melanie Stanis (Advising Excellence Award), Dr. Michael Parsons (Senior Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarship), Matthew Palmtag (Junior Instructor Faculty Excellence Award), Dr. Adriana LaGier (Junior Faculty Excellence Award), and Dr. Edwin Everham (Senior Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching) won awards for teaching, scholarship and service. Winning these awards is indeed a great accomplishment for the College; but it is also gratifying that the phenomenal work of our faculty and staff was recognized. I am privileged and honored to work for and work with such accomplished colleagues.

I am also pleased to announce some new scholarships – thanks to the generosity of community members. The Marco Island Shell Club previously endowed a $1000 Undergraduate Marine Science scholarship and a $2000 Graduate Marine Science scholarship. They have added the following additional scholarships: $1000 Undergraduate scholarship in Marine Science, $3000 Graduate Marine Science Scholarship, and $3000 Graduate Environmental Science Scholarship. I would like thank Carolyn Ginther and members of the Marco Island Shell Club for their generosity and continued support of FGCU’s students.

Thanks to the generosity of the Provost’s office, we are currently expanding equipment and infrastructure to support faculty, staff and student activities across various programs in the College. I hope you enjoy this issue of CAS Quarterly. Please consider sending in a contribution for a forthcoming newsletter. I wish you a productive and relaxing summer.

Best Regards,

Aswani K. Volety, Ph. D.
Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Professor of Marine and Environmental Sciences
What’s New at the Whitaker Center

We had a great Spring at the Whitaker Center. Thank you for attending events in Teaching and Learning and/or the STEM Seminars! We had great attendance at both series. If you missed them, don’t worry, we are planning more for the Fall.

The Shrimp Boil and Boat Trip on February 22, co-sponsored with the Center for Environmental Sustainability Education, was a wonderful evening of food, social-time with friends, and a ride on the inlet. If you missed it this year, plan for it next year!

Congratulations to the Spring 2013 Whitaker Mini-Grant recipients:
Faculty Travel - Alexander Sakharuk, Megan McShane, and Sally Mayberry.
Student Travel - Joshua Vitali, Ryan Gumpper, Thomas Paul, Cynthia Clairly
Faculty Research - Gregory McManus
Student Research - Victoria Grille, Salvatore Grasso, Tyler Jacobson, Logan McDonal, Kyle Martins, and Fernando Estrada

Upcoming Outreach Events

May 28-June 7 – Lee/Charlotte Summer Research Opportunity (SRO)
Middle school students are introduced to a variety of science disciplines by participating in research endeavors, demonstrations, and scientific discussion with FGCU faculty. This year’s theme is chemistry and light reactions.

Weeks of June 10 and July 22 – STEM Institute K-12 Teacher Workshops at the Conservancy of SW FL
FGCU faculty and staff from the Imaginarium and Edison and Ford Estates partner with the Conservancy of SW FL to offer two week-long workshops for K-12 to introduce teachers to integrated inquiry-based methods in STEM subjects through their curriculum.

The Whitaker Center supports all facets of STEM education including grant writing, project evaluation, undergraduate research, community outreach, and K-12 education. If you are interested in finding out whether we might be able to assist your project, please call the center at x7444 or stop by Whitaker Hall 225.

2ND Annual FGCU STEM Competition

On March 5th, 2013, students from 30 schools from around the state converged on the FGCU main campus to participate in the second annual STEM contest. The event is open to all middle and senior high school students and is designed to follow the tenants of the latest STEM initiatives. Students participate in both individual and team test rounds, with the day culminating in a joyous awards ceremony. The contest is organized by the CAS Mathematics Program with faculty from multiple disciplines helping out with test writing and scoring. A special thank you goes out to the Whitaker Foundation for helping sponsor the event.

The top five schools in both the middle and high school divisions took home sweepstakes awards to proudly display in their trophy case and serve as an incentive for continued academic diligence.

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The Actuarial Science Club, founded in September 2012, was created to promote “America’s #1 Career of the Next Decade (Wall Street journal 2012),” Actuarial Science, to the students of FGCU. Founder/President and FGCU undergraduate Dana Workman felt compelled to start the club after he passed an Actuarial Exam and earned an internship with Humana, a Fortune 100 company worth over $80 Billion. Workman’s ‘internship’ paid him $20/HR, and he enjoyed free housing in a five-star hotel while walking across the street to work in the Humana Corporate Tower. Not bad for an intern! While sharing his excitement with his fellow Math and Business majors, Workman found other students asking the same question over and over again: What is Actuarial Science? He did not encounter a single undergraduate Math, Business, or Finance major that was aware of this career opportunity available to them. In the fall of 2012, seven students set out to change this by starting the FGCU Actuarial Science Club.

Sarasota, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville have many consulting firms and insurance companies who regularly employ students with Bachelor’s degrees. In the past, these jobs have gone to graduates of FSU, UF, UCF, USF among others. In Lee County, there is one Actuarial Consulting firm—Foster & Foster. In November, over 30 students and faculty attended an informative and entertaining presentation given by CEO Brad Heinrichs and two of his actuaries—Drew Ballard and Christine O’Neal. It was a great first step in developing a relationship between the successful local firm and our students.

In January, the Actuarial Science club was asked to assist the Math department with the ASPIRE conference, an undergraduate research fair in the College of Arts and Sciences. The club also had an information table on the first floor of AB7 from 9-4. A career in Actuary Sciences could be a very attractive opportunity for Mathematics, Business, Finance, and Accounting Majors, along with Statistics/Computer Science minors.

Our university will see (at least) 7 students take Actuary exams this August. It is only a matter of time before FGCU is competing with the University of Florida (30 club members, Actuarial Science minor) for the attention of top recruiters in and out of the state.
MOM Lecture Series a Success

In its inaugural season, the Moonlight on the Marsh lecture series sponsored by the Everglades Wetland Research Park was a success for outreach to the academic community, to the Naples community and to our students.

About 650 people attended the 7 invited seminars by distinguished scientists from October 2012 through March 2013. Five of the seminars were at the auditorium at the Kapnick Center near the Naples Botanical Garden; seminars were also held on the Ft. Myers campus and on Sanibel Island. All of the seminars were provocative and generated lots of questions from the audience. In addition, an FGCU class of 23 students followed all of the seminars in spring semester and had opportunities for separate class discussions with each of the speakers.

The list of speakers, most of whom spent several days as visiting scholars at the Everglades Wetland Research Park in the Kapnick Center included:

- Maria Hernandez, Ph.D., Environmental Biotechnology Unit, Institute of Ecology, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico
- George Archibald, Director, International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin
- William J. Mitsch, Ph.D., Juliet C. Sproul Chair for Southwest Florida Habitat Restoration and Management and Director, Everglades Wetland Research Park, Florida Gulf Coast University, Naples, Florida
- Sven Erik Jørgensen, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Copenhagen University, Copenhagen, Denmark
- John W. Day, Jr., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, School of Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Donald L. Hey, Ph.D., Founder, The Wetlands Initiative and Des Plaines River Wetland Demonstration Project, Chicago and Lake County, Illinois

Planning has already begun for the 2014 Moonlight on the Marsh lecture series. For more information please contact Bill Mitsch at 614 946 6715 or wmitsch@fgcu.edu

Institute for Youth and Justice Studies

Dr. Sandra Pavelka, Director of the FGCU Institute for Youth and Justice Studies, along with PACE girls, support the Florida Legislature during PACE Days in Tallahassee.

The PACE Center for Girls serves as a model gender specific prevention and intervention program with sites across Florida.

Dr. Pavelka is a co-founder of PACE-Lee and serves on the state PACE Board of Trustees. For more information see www.pacecenter.org.
The 6th annual, FGCU sponsored, “Promising Pathways: Road to Best Practice in Autism” conference hosted over 400 participants on April 13. The keynote address was given by renowned autism researcher and specialist, Dr. Amy Wetherby, Director of the Florida State University Autism Institute. She spoke about her research on improving outcomes for early detection and intervention for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The CDC estimates that 1 in 88 children have been diagnosed with some level of the disorder, which can manifest itself in a combination of social, communication and behavioral challenges; boys are five times more likely to be diagnosed than girls (CDC, 2013). Dr. Wetherby’s research focuses on early diagnosis and treatment techniques which are critical to the intellectual and social development of those on the spectrum. An alarming statistic, quoted by Dr. Wetherby during her keynote address, puts the possible prevalence not at 1 in 88 children, which is already disturbing, but about 1 in 38; according to a recently conducted study by Dr. Roy Grinker, Professor of Anthropology, International Affairs, and Human Sciences at The George Washington University, in a South Korean population (Kim et al., 2011).

This year’s conference was opened on Friday, April 12, by President Bradshaw, Provost Toll and CAS Dean Aswani Volety. A reception was held for sponsors, volunteers and organizers at the FGCU Sugden Resort and Hospitality Building, emceed by Wink News’ anchor Cayle Thompson, who has been part of the event for the past three years. The reception featured two remarkable young men, Hector Mellen and Brad Karpel, who have overcome their own ASD challenges to give back to their community and raise awareness about the disorder. Hector, a student at Riverdale High School's International Baccalaureate program, organized the Art Through the Eyes of Autism auction to benefit the Kids Night Out program. The program helps children with autism at Trafalgar Middle School in Cape Coral learn social skills and make friends. Brad Karpel, a student at Edison College, is co-founder of Autism Connection of Southwest Florida, a social support group for adults with Asperger syndrome and high functioning autism.

This unique national conference has a deep-rooted mission to provide attendees with the most up to date, relevant, scientifically-based information about ASD. It is estimated that taking care of an individual on the autism spectrum can cost a family over $1.2 million dollars over the lifetime of the individual. For these reasons the planning committee, composed of a diverse group of FGCU faculty, staff, and community members, have vowed to bring this conference to attendees at no cost, with speakers waiving their fees, and volunteers and sponsors helping to make the event possible. Lee County Parks and Recreation provided respite services for parents and caretakers so they might be able to attend.

Personnel from the College of Arts & Sciences and Education, along with representatives from the Collier and Lee Country Boards of Education, and parents and advocates, work year-round to plan and execute the conference on a minimal budget composed of in-kind and financial donations. FGCU undergraduate and graduate students volunteer each year to help host this event on our campus. The group is also extremely grateful to the support they receive from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education in helping to make this conference a reality for the many individuals it serves; including parents and family members, caretakers, physicians, educators and civil servants. The committee has already begun preparations for next year’s event. Please visit our website at www.fgcu.edu/events/PromisingPathways/index.html for information and resources related to ASD. We hope to see you next April, 2014 for our 7th year!
Twice, since 2010, a diverse group of 12 to 15 Florida Gulf Coast University students have traveled to Ghana, West Africa, to conduct new sea turtle and primate research. For a month, students expand their worldview, leaving behind the American way of life and venturing into uncharted cultural territory. These students discover not only new research but find deep connections to their soul.

Phil Allman, a co-instructor for this program, worked in 2006 as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar in Ghana. The thought of establishing an international research program for students started coming together when Allman was hired in 2007 as a biology professor at FGCU. He quickly discovered that his colleague, Allison Elgart, an anthropology professor at FGCU since 2006, had conducted her own research in Africa specified in the study of primates. In 2010, professor Allman and Elgart began a collaborative Ghana wildlife program devoted to the research of sea turtles and primates.

In the two years that the program has been offered, the pricing has varied from $4,800 to $5,400. Yet, the steep cost hasn’t hindered student’s ability to attend; they express eagerness to return. The trip was designed to expose students to a culture unlike the U.S.

“While abroad, the students witness poverty they have never seen before,” Allman said. “You can look at the photos on TV and look at the photos on National Geographic, but they mean nothing until you walk in a village and you see the poverty with your own eyes. It makes a lasting impact.”

The students are quick to point out that one community service project, the planting of 650 mangroves with the Ghana Wildlife Provision and a Ghanaian school’s Wildlife Club, proved to be one of the most influential moments of their trip. “Planting the mangroves was really incredible,” Jessica Drummond, an FGCU junior Environmental Studies student, said. “We put that sign down [that read], ‘FGCU students working with the Wildlife Club and the Ghana Wildlife Division.’ It was remarkable to leave something like that behind knowing that they’re protecting the environment and doing restoration.”

The data the team collects and analyzes not only allows the students to learn how to conduct hands-on research, but it helps Ghana gain a greater understanding about its wildlife. These projects presented at FGCU Research Day include, “Demography and Habitat use of Home’s hinge-back tortoise in a West African Rainforest,” “Examining the impact of cultural beliefs, local knowledge, and government protection on community-based sea turtle conservation in Ghana,” and “The food choice of colobus monkeys.”

For Drummond, the act of drinking water became a humbling experience when she came back to the states. Katie Broomfield and Sarah Norris came to the realization that they need to slow down and to not take life so seriously. Joan Firth, who had never been more than 25 miles out of the country before venturing to Ghana, simply said, “Experiencing a different culture expanded my worldview infinitely.”

By: Aubrie Gerber, Journalism student
Guyana Study Abroad Program

Professors Tricia Fay and Mary Voytek took a group of students to study the history and culture, and explore the environment of the little-known South American country of Guyana through FGCU’s study abroad program. Following eight weeks of extensive preparation on campus, the two-week study abroad experience began in the capital of Georgetown, then moved west through the rainforest and into the savannahs and riverways of Macushi Indian country. The highlight of the trip was an extended stay in the village of Yupukari where FGCU students followed a morning program learning the essential life skills of the Macushi people. In the afternoons they offered their own efforts, teaching arts and crafts classes for the students of the Yupukari Primary School. Their journey included nighttime boat trips to assist local researchers catching giant black caiman (alligators) to collect valuable biometric data; and a memorable journey in a very small plane to Kaieteur Falls, the longest single-drop waterfall in the world. When students returned to FGCU, they shared what they learned and experienced in Guyana through a public program for the university and regional community, and through the presentation of research and service projects at the FGCU Research Day in April. The mini-grant provided by the Center for Environmental Sustainability Education helped fund part of the travel and lodging for the trip.

Program participant Maria Jijon sums up this amazing adventure in her final entry for the Guyana Program blogsite:

Our experience in Guyana was like no other. The interaction and close connection with everyone we encountered was amazing. The people from Iwokrama, Surama and specially Yupukari opened their hearts to us and taught us about the love of nature, their own culture and simplicity of life. This is something I had lost in my busy life. I will never forget their kindness and smiling faces and I am eternally grateful for their hospitality. The friendships we made between us will remain in my most precious memories. The sounds of the rainforest will always be my quiet and calming place to go if I feel unease. I never thought I could feel so at home in another country, but I can say today that I am part of this amazing planet earth that has so much more to offer than what I ever thought.

For more information on the Guyana Program, please visit our website and blog at:
http://clubs.fgcu.edu/studyabroadguyana/
Spring Break Service Learning in Costa Rica

Over spring break two of the History Program faculty, Michael Cole and Erik Carlson, served as faculty trip leaders for a service learning trip to Costa Rica. The project was organized by the FGCU Rotaract Student Club, an affiliate of Rotary International. Rotaract clubs give young people around the world the opportunity to be involved in Rotary-style service projects before they are eligible to join Rotary. Seven members of FGCU Rotaract were able to go on the club’s first international community service trip, March 3-10 of 2013.

Rotary of Bonita Springs awarded FGCU Rotaract a Matching Grant of $18,000 to be used to purchase school supply packages for one thousand children in need throughout Costa Rica. Public school is free in Costa Rica, but only children who can provide their own required school supplies are allowed to attend. This money was transferred to Rotary of San José so the supplies could be purchased locally, ensuring each package would contain the correct items. Donating these packages was the primary purpose of the trip.

Under the guidance of Dr. Carlson, Dr. Cole, and Faculty Advisor Miles Mancini (Department of Communication and Philosophy), FGCU Rotaract planned the trip budget and itinerary. Together the Rotaract Club and Rotaract of San José developed the plan, including appropriate lodging and daily ground transportation for the group, as well as daily activities distributing the school supplies, and leading activities with various groups of children. FGCU Rotaract also planned and held a number of donation drives prior to the trip to collect additional school supplies to take to Costa Rica. FGCU Rotaract fundraising events, along with a grant of $5,000 from FGCU Student Government, helped pay the group’s travel expenses.

Dr. Carlson and Dr. Cole accompanied the FGCU students in Costa Rica as they visited many of the schools and children receiving donations. In addition to distributing packages, there were other service activities such as the one pictured here, at a club for children living in a very poor squatters’ settlement in Alajuelita, a small town just outside San José. The club is run by local missionary Juan Carlos, the man in the background of the photograph playing the guitar. His club is open to any of the local children, from preschoolers to young teenagers. The students participated in some of the club’s typical activities: singing with the children, leading them in games, and helping them practice speaking English.

The last full day of the trip was set aside for an excursion to Poas Volcano National Park. The photograph of the group was taken at the edge of the volcano’s crater, which is surrounded by cloud forest. Pictured are all seven of the FGCU students on the trip, the faculty trip leaders, and four San José Rotaract members who were involved in most of the group’s activities. This was one of the few opportunities they had to explore the area beyond the schools and other organizations where they volunteered their time. The work on this trip was hard and most days were very long and tiring, but FGCU Rotaract accomplished its goals of distributing the school supplies, as well as serving as model representatives of FGCU.
Spring Break Exclusive

FGCU Students Spend Spring Break with Lemurs

During Spring Break 2013, six students decided to spend their time studying lemurs in Florida instead of lying on the beach. The Anthropology Program inaugurated its Research Methods in Primatology Field School, March 3-9 at the Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF) in Myakka City, Florida. Students lived on site and conducted research on 12 lemurs of three different species, which roam free in a pine flatwoods forest. Under the direction of Professor Alison Elgart, the students studied the behavior, social structure, feeding ecology, and animal husbandry of these lower primates. Anthropology students Erin Broemel and Katherine Brownell tracked the movements of red-ruffed lemurs using GPS, and easily created a map of their daily path. To determine foraging habits in the forest, all students observed what types of vegetation the lemurs were consuming in the forest, and compared it with a phenological study. In addition, all students had a wonderful time collecting and washing feces in order to further examine what the primates were eating and how well it was digested.

The Lemur Conservation Facility provides an excellent home for these endangered species and is a great place to conduct research. This reserve is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and is dedicated to ensuring the conservation and proliferation of lemurs. The entire lemur colony consists of about 50 individuals (one is about to give birth!), of six different species. Dr. Elgart and the students helped the LCF team create diets from produce donated by Whole Foods (wishing they ate as well as the lemurs), and also helped clean the large cages for those animals that cannot roam free in the forest because they are too young, too old or are sick. Student Katelyn Kersey summed up the groups feelings best when she said, “I was hesitant about giving up my spring break for this, but this is way better than being on the beach”.

[Images of students and lemurs]
Bower School of Music hosted the Southwest Florida Band Masters Solo and Ensemble competition April 1 & 2. Every room in BSM, the Music Mod and some rooms in the Art Complex were used! There were 1,000 high school students plus their parents, high school music directors and adjudicators from Stetson University, University of Florida and University of Southern Florida on campus these two days.

The BSM and Arts Complex had students everywhere—performing, rehearsing or waiting to be judged. All of the high schools expressed excitement at coming to FGCU and were very pleased with the facilities. This was a great recruiting opportunity for the entire campus as only a small percent of these students will be music majors. Visiting students had the ability to walk around campus and experience FGCU.

In addition, the Opera Scenes concert with vocal students was held April 1 & 2 in Tobe recital hall. The concert presented songs from American Theatre as well as the staged opera Signor Deluso.

On April 3, The Naples Music Club brought approximately 40 members to “spend the day” on campus. They attended some music classes, watched rehearsals, participated in masterclasses and lessons and attended a student recital.

Also on the 3rd, the Center for the Arts held its annual Celebration for the Arts. The collaboration of music, theatre and art made for a wonderful afternoon and evening of performance and visual art, including a student recital, the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit, a Chamber Music Recital, and a Theatre Production of Michelle Hayford’s “Dog Wish.”

Priscila Navarro performed in Palm Springs, California during a nine-day music competition for the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition as the youngest of 12 contestants chosen from 14 countries. While Priscila did not win, it should be noted that the other final contestants were all working on their Doctoral degrees!
Faculty-Led Study Abroad to London and Edinburgh 2013

The Theatre Program will debut a new pilot study abroad program to the United Kingdom in the summer of 2013. The program will give FGCU students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the art of live performance, with the centerpiece of the experience being the chance to participate in the opening week festivities at the 2013 Edinburgh International Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Theatre companies, musicians and performance troupes from all over the globe gather for the largest annual showcase and celebration of living theatre on the planet during the festival. Over a million people come each year to see the festivals. Other highlights will include admission to plays in London’s famed West End and at Shakespeare’s reconstructed Old Globe Theatre, a side trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, and a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company. The program is open to students of all disciplines, and is designed to give those with an interest in international culture, visual art, history, literature, architecture, design, movement, dance and philosophy a new appreciation of theatre as the most collaborative of art forms.
The Canvas Transition

FGCU will transition to Canvas Learning Management System on May 6, 2013. Most Summer A and C classes begin on May 8, 2013.

Faculty and staff may choose to transition their courses and groups and learn about Canvas’ features by attending a two-part face-to-face workshop or a three week online course. There will be additional opportunities to attend “Canvas Camp” during Summer sessions, as well as the one-on-one consultations with e-Learning designers.

The workshops cover the Canvas interface and configuration, communication, course design, quizzes and discussions, as well as building assignments, grading student work and providing feedback. Participants also step through the process of moving content from ANGEL to Canvas.

Register today!

Canvas’ robust features include:

- Video (seamless playback, students able to upload)
- Performance evaluation (outcomes, rubrics, accreditation artifacts)
- Intelligent course features (communication, calendar, syllabus, plagiarism detection integration)
- Innovative applications (SpeedGrader mobile, ePortfolio, peer review)
- Optimized user interface (consistent, built-in workflow)
- Assessment feedback (activity reports)

“We strive to find ways to improve the experience of e-Learning for both faculty and students, and Canvas can have a significant impact. The energy levels are running high among the faculty and staff involved in the Canvas Soft Launch this Spring and I see this as a confirmation that Canvas is a good fit here at FGCU,” said Dave Jaeger, Director of Web, e-Learning and Publications. “We have the opportunity to conduct online teaching and learning in a more engaging and exciting way.”

Dr. Carolynne Gischel is part of the Canvas Soft Launch Group, a team of fourteen faculty who volunteered to teach their Spring classes with the Canvas LMS.

In describing course design in Canvas, Gischel says: “I am absolutely thrilled with Canvas! I was happy with ANGEL, but designing a course in Canvas is a much more logical, organized, efficient process. My course imported from ANGEL easily and Canvas knew just where to put everything! I’m amazed at how smooth these first few weeks have been – for me and for my students. Of course my favorite part is the Speed Grader! Between the rubrics and audio comments, assessing student work and giving meaningful feedback has never been easier or faster!” ANGEL will be accessible to all users through June 30 at which point the university will transition to an archive license for a year.

Faculty Highlights

Robert Hiatt proudly represented FGCU at the International Popular Culture Association /American Culture Association conference in Washington D.C. on March 29th. He presented his paper, “Cosmic Dichotomy in the Fiction of Flannery O’Connor”. It was very well received (and quickly sold out at the paper exchange!). He has also been approached about publishing the paper in the “Journalism and Mass Communication” academic journal.

Robert also had his short story, “The Cherry Tree,” published in The Alarmist, an international print literary journal from England.

Irvin D. S. Winsboro’s article (with a secondary author), “Florida Slaves, the ‘Saltwater Railroad’ to the Bahamas, and Anglo-American Diplomacy,” recently came out in the prestigious Journal of Southern History. This article helps historians understand slave escapes that, instead of the traditional route following the North Star, actually went in a southern, water route direction, what Winsboro has now termed the slave escape “Saltwater Railroad.” Winsboro has received inquiries from scholars interested in pursuing research on slave escapes south from places like Florida and South Carolina to the British Bahamas, where they found freedom from U.S. slave catchers under British imperial policy. Winsboro’s three years of research for this study took him to Nassau, Bahamas as well as repeated trips to the National Archives and Library of Congress in Washington, DC and other archival holdings around the state and country. Winsboro gave a talk on the new concept of a Saltwater Railroad to a historical society event in Nassau, Bahamas on May 24.

Terry Leary et al. published “The Relationships of Leadership Dysfunctional Dispositions with Employee Engagement, Job Satisfaction & Burnout” in the May 2013 edition of the Psychologist-Manager Journal (published by the APA). Terry and the authors (Jerry Schoenfeld, Lutgert School of Business, and the Psych faculty, Dean of Business School [Texas A&M University-Commerce]) are very honored for this recognition.

Talal El-Hefnawy recently published his article “A study of parabens and bisphenol A in surface water and fish brain tissue from the Greater Pittsburgh Area” in Ecotoxicology. The article researches the discovery of pollution in the aquatic environment of the Greater Pittsburgh Area, which is suspected to be caused by the failing sewer system.
Student Highlights

Congratulations to the following CAS Students for their accomplishments:

Social & Behavioral Sciences:
Lindsay Leban, FGCU’s undergraduate STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2012-2013. Lindsay is a senior sociology major and has been awarded a graduate assistantship and admitted to the University of Florida’s doctoral program in Sociology, Criminology & Law.

Chemistry & Mathematics:
Shannon Blizzard, chemistry major, was inducted into The Florida Gulf Coast University Hall of Fame. This is the highest recognition given to student leaders at FGCU. The Hall of Fame is reserved for those students who have demonstrated superior leadership, integrity and achievement through their leadership activities, service, scholarship, and academic excellence while members of the Florida Gulf Coast University community.

Math students, Jennifer Barreto & Joshua Jorgenson received the FGCU Who’s Who award.

Language & Literature:
Intro to Creative Writing student, Lindsay Heighes, had a short short story “Ciroc” accepted for publication in Issue 3 of Flash Flood (a flash fiction journal).

Allison Serreas and Morgan Souza, graduate students in the M. A. Program in English, presented papers at the 2013 Sigma Tau Delta Convention in Portland, OR. This international conference is one of the most respected graduate conferences in the United States.

Communication & Philosophy:
Spring 2013 has been an exciting semester for the Journalism program, now completing its second year.

The students’ work has appeared in a variety of professional publications, including the Fort Myers News-Press, GulfShore Business and Naples Illustrated.

Another highlight was seeing junior Kailah Casillas write a guest column for the New York Post. Her article started out as a classroom assignment. Kailah had the idea to write a first-person perspective on March Madness during the Eagles’ amazing run. She shopped it around, and the Post sports section picked it up for both its online and print version. Her accomplishment was featured on WINK News.

Another student, Tia Brown, used her audio-video skills to become the official videographer for the local Ronald McDonald House. She and Kalhan Rosenblatt, the new Editor-In-Chief of Eagle News, were featured on National Public Radio for an article that also originated as a classroom assignment.

Senior Jenny Williamson, who graduates this Spring, will be pursuing a graduate degree at Antioch University New England, studying and writing about environmental issues. She is one of the Journalism program’s first graduates. While at FGCU, she won the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Award in Radio Feature Category, and first place in the Florida Associated Press Broadcasters Hard News Feature category.
CAS Has Strong Presence at Civic Engagement Day

On Friday, April 12th, FGCU’s Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement hosted its 3rd annual showcase of outstanding service-learning projects, better known as Community Engagement Day 2013.

According to Provost Ron Toll, who welcomed the over 200 participants and 300+ guests, “the desire to learn, to educate, to improve the community, and to make the world a better place” is what brought these students together for this event. The participants, this year, represented the “best of the best” from each course, as only 3 projects per class were given the honor to showcase their projects. CAS was well represented with over 40 course-based service-learning projects being displayed. Multiple awards were given to projects housed in CAS courses such as Foundations of Civic Engagement. Moreover, 2 CAS faculty members created posters to highlight amazing service projects connected to their courses. Patricia Fay, Professor and Art Program Leader, exhibited pictures and projects connected with the Guyana Study Abroad Trip and Win Everham, Professor of Environmental Studies, displayed multiple projects connected to the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring.

Additional CAS Notables:
- President Bradshaw recognized CAS student, Eliza Juezan as the Newman Civic Fellow Award recipient and spoke of her commitment to the issue of food insecurity and her accomplishments as they relate to FGCU’s Campus Food Pantry.
- The keynote speaker at the event was FGCU alumnus, Scott Stimpson, who graduated in December 2011 with a degree in Environmental Studies.
- Michelle Hayford, Assistant Professor of Theatre, performed with her students, a scene from Dog Wish, an original play created in collaboration with The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane University.
- David Green, Instructor - Marine and Ecological Sciences, was the recipient of the “Commitment to Service” Faculty Award.
- 3 CAS students, Veronica Arrieta, Elizabeth Buchanan, and Crystal Marietta, were the first-ever recipients of the “Excellence in Civic Engagement” Award, offered by the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. This award recognizes up to 10 graduating seniors each semester who greatly excel in engagement and service to their community. Students must complete the application process and if selected, may proudly don their “Excellence in Civic Engagement” stoles at FGCU’s Graduation Ceremony.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Community Engagement Day 2014, to be held on Friday, April 11th. If you’ve ever considered integrating service-learning into one of your courses, please contact Jessica Rhea (jrhea@fgcu.edu or 239-590-7016) to set up a meeting to brainstorm ideas and discuss effective strategies.
The 16th Annual Celebration of Excellence awards celebrating the achievements and accomplishments of our faculty and staff over the past academic year were announced on April 12th to the University community. The College of Arts and Sciences received the following recognitions of excellence:

- USPS Employee of the Year: Kendra Carboneau, Executive Secretary, CAS Advising
- Individual Faculty Excellence Award for Service: Charles “Billy” Gunnels, Assistant Professor of Biology
- Advising Excellence Award: Melanie Stanis, Academic Advisor II
- Senior Faculty Excellence Award for Scholarship: Michael Parsons, Professor of Marine Science and Director of the Coastal Watershed Institute
- Junior Instructor Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching: Matthew Palmtag, Instructor of Biology
- Junior Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching: Adriana LaGier, Assistant Professor of Biology
- Senior Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching: Edwin Everham, Professor of Environmental Sciences

Congratulations to everyone!
Kudos to CAS Faculty

The College of Arts & Sciences would like to acknowledge the following award recipients from Research Day held on April 19th at Alico Arena:

Multidisciplinary Research Initiative Awards
• Mustafa Mujtaba, Michael Parsons (with Jose Torres): 
  *Biosensor Assay Development for the Rapid Detection of Marine Biotoxins*
• Nora Demers, Anne Hartley, Serge Thomas, Jan-Martijn Meij (with Simeon Komisar and Jong-Yeop Kim): 
  *Determining Anthropogenic Sources and Concerns about Nutrients in Stormwater Systems: An Interdisciplinary Approach*
• Jaffar Ali Shahul-Hameed (with Ramana Gadhamshetty): 
  *Electricity Production from Solid Organic Wastes at Room Temperature*
• Yinghong Sheng (with Dahai Guo and Changjian Feng): 
  *An Integrated Approach to Study Mechanisms of the Intrinsic Regulation of Electron Transfer in Nitric Oxide Synthase*
• Nicola Foote, Charles “billy” Gunnels: 
  *Science and Society in the Galapagos Islands*

Presidential Awards
Oral Presentations
Undergraduate Student
• Andres Machado, Public Affairs 
  The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People’s Army (FARC-EP): A Problematic Issue for the Colombian Administrations

Graduate Student
• Tatiana Devia, Justice Studies: 
  Forensic Anthropological Perspectives on the Meta-Analysis of Forced Disappearances, False Positives and Extrajudicial Executions in Colombia

Graduate Students
College of Arts & Sciences
• Christian Ercolani, Lou Squiccimara, Joanne Muller, Michael Savarese, Sasha Wohlpart: 
  Tracking Hurricane Landfalls in Southwest Florida using Paleotempestology in an Inner Coastal Lagoon

Highest Rated Poster, Best Practice in Teaching
• Charles “Billy” Gunnels, Mustafa Mujtaba, Win Everham, Brian Bovard, Mary Kay Cassani, Nora Demers, James Douglass, David Fugate, David Green, John Griffis, Anne Hartley, John Herman, Joanne Muller, Darren Rumbold, Serge Thomas: 
  Funding Panel Simulation in the Scientific Process Course

Undergraduate Students
College of Arts & Sciences
• Robert Bubar, Ryan Shepard: 
  Cloning of APETALA 1 and LFY Genes in Melaleuca quinquenervia

Watershed Council of Southwest Florida Best Poster Award
• John A Ferlita (student), David Ceilley, Serge Thomas, Win Everham: 
  Lake Trafford limnological assessment: tracking lake dynamics following dredging

Dean’s Best Poster Awards
College of Arts & Sciences
• Michael Saenz: 
  Soil Quality Assessment of the FGCU Food Forest Garden with Implications for Future Research
• Jeffrey Talbott: 
  Statistical Analysis for Improved Water Quality Targets with Sparse Data: Dissolved Oxygen in Southwest Florida Impaired Waterbodies
• Jordan Montgomery, Brice Pelliccioni: 
  Ectopic Expression of Buckwheat Fagopyritol Synthase Genes in Transgenic Arabidopsis thaliana Plants: A Pilot Study for Developing Novel Methodology for Plant-Based Drug Production
• Kristen Caballero: 
Photo Op

Professors Joseph Kakareka and Phil Allman took 12 students to Yellowstone National Park as part of their Spring ISC 2930 and IDH 3955 courses. The team-taught interdisciplinary courses introduced students to geological, chemical and biological processes that have shaped the ecological environment of Yellowstone. The following are some images of their experiences and sights seen during their studies…