Waiting for the Silver Bullet Against Cancer

We are all eagerly awaiting that new miracle drug; waiting for the news that cancer is something of the past, like polio, chicken pox and massive deaths from cholera. Why has there been such limited success against cancer? What happened to the articles that “figured out” the cancer code? These questions deserve a good answer; but the most important question, in my humble opinion, is what are we going to do while waiting for the silver bullet to be discovered?

Comparing cancer to a viral or bacterial disease is unfitting. After all, cancer is an enemy from within our bodies, and there are very few exceptions when cancer is precipitated by viral infection. Killing cancer is not the issue; the trick is how to spare other normal tissues and their host. Cancer is a silent enemy that takes years to develop, leaving us unaware of when and where it will hit. The genetic risk factors that increase one’s susceptibility to cancer fail to explain close to 90% of cases. A human cancer cell is merely a regular human cell gone wild or out of control, following one or several changes in our DNA. Cancer is not a bacterial infection that we can eradicate with an antibiotic, and malignant tumors do not have a unified signature to easily create a protective vaccine.

The scientific literature for the past 10 years holds an astonishing amount of research and effort spent on this field, unfortunately, with limited practical success. Discoveries appear great in a well-controlled laboratory experiment, but when applied in a clinical setting with hundreds of variables including different cancer cell types and an uncontrolled individual environment, conclusive evidence is rarely found. Nonetheless, major leaps have been achieved in cancer treatment, and patients once counted as dead men walking are now receiving treatments. Recent academic findings have brought us closer to understanding the process of cancer vaccination and bringing us a step closer to the light at the end of the tunnel. But thus far there is no “global” silver bullet for cancer, and there probably won’t be one for the next 10 or more years.

If cancer cells are not alike, and the news of a true miracle drug will not come as soon as we wish, where does that leave us? Are we, the research and academic community, ready to throw in the towel? From crime TV series we learned the following lesson: whenever there is an elusive criminal we generally have two approaches. 1) Detailed profiling of every behavioral aspect. 2) Understand the psychological and socioeconomic roots. A parallel approach is undertaken by investigators working to figure out cancer and its behavior, as well as determining the preventable risk factors that increase the incidence of cancer development.

Aided with substantial leaps in bio- and information technology, immense effort has been directed towards studying everything about cancer and trying to paint a complete picture of what genes are turned on, what others are turned off, how proteins are different in the cancer cells, and the host response against cancer. We are also trying to understand why some tumors are more aggressive than others and why some cancer patients are treatable while others are not. For this purpose, massive genetic and proteomic databases have been created in an effort to design the ultimate treatment against cancer and in developing creative clinical diagnostic tools in order to “catch” cancer before it becomes surgically unreachable.

The second parallel approach is to understand the roots of cancer development, an area that my lab has been actively investigating for the past several years. Examining the risk factors for cancer is comparable to determining the causes of automobile accidents; not everyone driving a car gets in an accident or dies, but there are clear factors that can continued on page 19
Dear College of Arts and Sciences Colleagues:

As I move into the Interim Dean position, I am looking forward to working with all of you to continue the work of the College. I’d like to express appreciation to Donna Henry, the Department Chairs, and the Dean’s Staff for their support in the transition to my new responsibilities. Thanks to the strong foundation that the previous Deans, Chairs, faculty and staff have built, we are in a great position to capitalize on these strengths as we move forward.

As I met many of you in recent months during your department or the college meetings, I am amazed at all the wonderful things in which our students, faculty and staff are engaged. Examples include: seminars by our students and faculty, as well as internationally renowned scientists, involved in the Whitaker Center, Kapnick Center’s Moonlight on the Marsh lecture series, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education’s Rachel Carson Distinguished lecture, and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide studies; involvement in 56th Annual Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair; the Math Departments’ Advancing Student Participation in Research Experiences Conference; the Bower School of Music’s Chamber Choir and vocal performance; and, last but not least - mesmerizing Ms. Priscila Navarro’s debut piano recital in Carnegie Hall in New York City under the tutelage of Dr. Michael Barron. I am privileged and honored to work for and with such accomplished colleagues.

In the task of finding a new permanent Dean, I will work with the College and Academic Affairs to move that process forward. Thanks to you, our College has strong traditions of innovative teaching, shared governance and research excellence. These qualities will enable us to maintain our mission during this transitional period, and provide the foundation for success in our upcoming search for a permanent Dean. Although, at times it feels like I am drinking from a fire hose, thanks to all your help, I am settling in well and looking forward to leading the college during this transition period. I am humbled by the tasks to come, but grateful for the opportunity to work with all of you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of CAS Quarterly. Please consider sending in a contribution for a forthcoming newsletter. I wish you a smooth Spring semester.

Best Regards,

Aswani K. Volety, Ph. D.
Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Professor of Marine and Environmental Sciences.
CAS Welcomes New Dean

The College of Arts & Sciences is pleased to welcome Dr. Aswani Volety as our new Interim Dean. Dr. Volety has been part of the growth of CAS from an early stage, arriving in 1999, the second year of classes at FGCU. Aswani has worn many hats as a faculty member and an administrator. As a professor of Marine Science, he has been active in teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level, with an extensive record of publications and grants. He has served as Director of FGCU’s Vester Marine Field Station, and was Chair of the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences for six years. Dr. Volety will serve as Interim Dean during the transitional period, from Spring 2013 to Fall 2014.

Public Affairs Welcomes New Executive Secretary

Jhaniene Bogle the new Executive Secretary for the Department of Public Affairs, is in her senior year pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice. Her goal once she obtains her Bachelor’s degree is to immediately go into a Master’s program here on campus. Ultimately, Jhaniene would love to obtain a job with the Department of Homeland Security either as an Immigration Officer/a Border Patrol Agent. While working towards her AA from Edison State College, she was an OPS here on campus; first starting off her journey in the Office of Equity and Diversity, then in the Office Of Research and Sponsored Programs. Jhaniene is originally from New York City and has two children (both boys) that she loves dearly; Jacory age 6 and Cayden age 5.

Professor Emeritus Jørgensen presents at Wetlands Center

The Everglades Wetland Research Park, hosted 18 participants, including graduate students, research staff and professors from 4 states and 5 universities in a 3-day short course on Systems Ecology at the Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden, January 31-February 2, 2013. Eight of the 18 students were FGCU graduate students taking the class as a 2-credit-hour course. This course, with most of the lectures by Professor Sven Erik Jørgensen, Professor Emeritus, Copenhagen University, Denmark, introduced the basics of systems ecology to the participants. The students also developed ecological models from scratch using the software STELLA and presented them at the end of the course. Professor Bill Mitsch, Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park and Dr. Li Zhang, the Assistant Director of the EWRP, assisted with instruction of the course.
FGCU Everglades Scientist Contributes to Supreme Court Hearing

Prof. Bill Mitsch, Director of Florida Gulf Coast University’s new Everglades Wetland Research Park (EWRP) at the Naples Botanical Garden, Naples, Florida, was one of 12 wetland scientist signatures on an Amicus Brief that was part of a U.S. Supreme Court hearing in Washington DC on January 15, 2013 on wetland protection. He also attended the hearing on January 15.

The case, entitled “Coy A. Koontz, Jr. v. St. Johns River Water Management District” takes up the issue of whether the Federal and Florida state laws having the right to require mitigation for wetland destruction. The Koontz party argued that this represented a “taking” of resources in the St. John’s watershed when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the St. Johns River Water Management District denied him a Clean Water Act permit to drain wetlands because of inadequate mitigation. In the United States, there is an important policy called “no net loss” whereby if someone or some organization destroys a wetland, they are usually required to compensate for that loss with a wetland creation or restoration of a similar or greater area.


The decision should be made public later this year.

A copy of the Amicus Brief can be found at: [http://www.fgcu.edu/swamp/files/Koontz_v._SJRW-MD_NRC_scientists.pdf](http://www.fgcu.edu/swamp/files/Koontz_v._SJRW-MD_NRC_scientists.pdf)

What’s New at the Whitaker Center

Free coffee every Friday from 8-10AM at the Whitaker Center! Come in for some coffee and stay for some conversation with us.

The computational modeling research sprout is back this spring. Contact Derek Busazi if you are interested in attending this group.

We hope you have been able to attend at least one of our teaching and learning seminars, Excellence Across the Academy, co-sponsored with the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Initiative (TLAI) this spring. Resources from these events are available through ANGEL.

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 X-7444 or stop by Whitaker Hall 225.

Upcoming Outreach Events

Spring 2013

March 5 – STEM Competition for middle and high school students. [http://www.fgcu.edu/events/mathcompetition/STEM/index.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/events/mathcompetition/STEM/index.html)

Contact Jerry Ellis to assist.

April 6 – STEM TOUR Awards Ceremony and Solar Go-kart Challenge hosted by FGCU. Come out to SOVI circle and watch local high school teams race their solar go-karts along with the winners of the year-long STEM TOUR series of challenges.

Summer 2013

June 10 and July 29 – STEM Institute. FGCU faculty and partners from the Imaginarium and Ford and Edison Estates partner with the Conservancy of SW FL to offer two week-long workshops for K-12 teachers enhancing teacher self-efficacy through training integrating inquiry-based STEM subjects through their curriculum.

June 17-28 – 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.
International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On January 27, 2013, Florida Gulf Coast University’s History Program and the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, together with the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide Studies recognized International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2013 by inviting Dr. Robert Melson, Emeritus Professor of Political Science from Purdue University, Indiana, to speak on the remarkable tale of how his Jewish family survived in hostile war-torn Europe.

Dr. Paul Bartrop, FGCU’s professor with responsibilities for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide education, welcomed those attending. The nearly 100-strong audience then stood for a minute’s silence to honor the victims of the Holocaust. Dr. Bartrop said, “Despite the promise of ‘never again’, there are still millions of people who are, or have been, victims of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, political belief or gender. It is incumbent on all to remain vigilant of our freedoms and keep in mind those around the world who do not share in these freedoms.”

Dr. Bartrop noted, “The date of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27, was instituted by the United Nations as the anniversary of the date on which Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp was liberated in 1945. The U.N. resolution that established this date also required that future generations know this history so that all peoples may enjoy the protection and rights for which the United Nations stands”.

Dr. Bartrop identified Dr. Robert Melson’s background and extensive academic work in the area of genocide studies, particularly Nigeria and Armenia, and noted that he was also a survivor of the Holocaust.

Dr. Melson then presented the enthralling story of how his Polish Jewish family found itself in 1939 in Poland at the outbreak of World War Two. He outlined how his family survived the Holocaust in Poland between 1939 and 1945 by masquerading under false papers as Polish Catholic nobility. As a child in that family he was “Count Bobi Zamojski”. It was not until the war was over that he was told that his family was a Jewish family named Mendelson which was Anglicized to Melson when the family came to America.

Dr. Melson had taped the family history in interviews with his father and mother, but put these interviews aside for several years owing to the pressure of his other academic research. Eventually he wrote the story of the family’s survival against all odds in a very hostile environment, both under the German regime and under that of the Soviets in Eastern Poland. His parents had been born in Poland, but his father had attended school in Berlin, and spoke German more easily than Polish. Anti-Jewish laws were passed in Poland, and in order to survive his mother sought to obtain false papers from the Zamojski’s, a well-known aristocratic family, she had met at a social function. She memorized enough details of the Zamojski family to obtain duplicate papers from a local priest, and the family then masqueraded as the Zamojski, surviving until the end of the war on these false papers.

Professor Melson spoke of times when the family had to flee as they were almost exposed as Jewish, and how easy it would have been to slip up and lose their lives. The family lived on a knife edge, fearing every strange knock at the door. After the war the family escaped from Soviet occupation and fled to U.S. occupied Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, and relative safety. From there they were sponsored to the United States.

Dr Erik Carlson, History Program Leader at FGCU, thanked Professor Melson, whose address was met with prolonged applause and many one-on-one questions from interested audience members after the formal part of the event.
Anticipation, awe, and wonder filled the air as Pulitzer Prize winning poet Mary Oliver prepared to deliver the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education’s Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture February 8, 2013. Nearly 400 people were in attendance, in the pews at St. Michael and All Angels Church, in the overflow seating in the parish hall, and at the jumbo screen outdoors under the stars. Center Director Peter Blaze Corcoran observed that no matter where people were, they were engrossed in the reading. “It was wonderful to see that poetry lives!” he said.

Along with the public, Florida Gulf Coast University students, Center supporters, members of the Board of Advisors, and Center staff absorbed Oliver’s descriptive connections to the natural world, which were sometimes personal and at other times universal, inquisitive, and inspiring. The annual event seeks to engage the public in discussions on sustainability, ethics, democracy and literature with scholars and public intellectuals. Oliver was invited to speak because her lyrical poetry has inspired a deep appreciation for the wildness and beauty of nature. Her poems included those from her recent publication, A Thousand Mornings, and others from forthcoming publications.

At the Lecture, FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw presented Mary Oliver with the Rachel Carson Award. The Center gives its highest award, in the form of a conch shell, to a recipient who embodies Rachel Carson’s contributions most relevant to the Center- 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.

The following evening was full of food, fun, and fundraising to support the Center’s mission. Harpists and a violinist created a magical scene for guests to mingle and share ideas with one another at the beachfront home of the Peter and Mallory Haffenreffer. Gifts to the Center are being matched by the Haffenreffers up to a total of $12,000.

Renowned poet Alison Hawthorne Deming and Center Co-chairs Mary Evelyn Tucker and David Orr made brief remarks just after sunset and announced the “Haffenreffer Challenge.” Proceeds of the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture Weekend fund scholarly publications, student employment, and ongoing educational events. Fundraising efforts for the Center continue after the successful Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture Weekend.

For more information on matching contributions to the Center, please call Director Peter Blaze Corcoran at (239) 590-7166, email cese@fgcu.edu or visit the Center at www.fgcu.edu/cese.
CAS’s European University Relations

During the last three years FGCU has signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) with two universities in Europe – Bangor University in Wales, U.K., and University of Brest–France to engage in student, faculty and staff exchange. These exchanges will further the development of basic scientific and applied research, with the goal of advancing research in marine and environmental science. The College of Natural Sciences at Bangor University has brought students to FGCU for the past three years to work with faculty from the Departments of Biological Sciences and Marine and Ecological Sciences. Bangor University colleagues have also extended an offer to host and facilitate FGCU students and faculty as part of study-abroad trips to Bangor, Wales.

As part of on-going projects, University of Brest, France (UBO) researchers Drs. Philippe Soudant and Christophe Lambert were at FGCU recently to work with FGCU students on investigating cellular and sub-cellular measurements of marine organisms in relation to natural and anthropogenic stressors. In another collaborative effort with UBO, FGCU faculty now have the opportunity (depending on funding and mutual interest) to co-mentor Ph. D students. Dr. Fred Jean, also from UBO, visited FGCU recently to meet with FGCU students in the UBO Ph. D. Program (Patricia Goodman, Katherine McFarland, Julien Vignier and Anne Rolton) as well as with Drs. Michael Savarese, Greg Tolley and Provost Ron Toll to explore future collaborative opportunities, including the feasibility of FGCU faculty mentoring Ph. D. students in the University of Brest program, as well as visiting professorships between both the institutions.

The College of Arts and Sciences is also looking to expand its scholarly relationships with two universities in Italy.

10th Annual FGCU Mathematics Competition

On December 5th, 2012, over 1200 students from 57 schools around the state converged on the FGCU main campus to participate in the largest mathematics contest in Florida. The event is open to all middle and senior high school students and is divided into six divisions: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Statistics, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. This year the winners in the six content areas reside from Miami to Gainesville and all points in between. Although the competition is enough to motivate these academically focused young men and women, they were awarded full-tuition scholarships to FGCU as a bonus! The contest is organized and administered by the CAS Math & Chemistry faculty. The organizers would like to find a major sponsor for 2013 to help take the contest to even another level.

The top six schools took home sweepstakes awards to proudly display in their trophy case and serve as an incentive for continued academic diligence.

OVERALL RANKINGS
1. Community School of Naples
2. Gainesville Eastside High
3. Fort Myers Senior High
4. Miami Springs Senior High
5. Gulf Coast High - Naples
6. Miami Ferguson Senior High

Christophe Lambert demonstrates the use of the flow cytometer to students. Dr. Lambert helped develop the techniques for accessing the immune and health responses of shellfish in relation to environmental stressors.
Science & Inventor’s Fair 2nd Year at FGCU

On February 1st and 2nd, Florida Gulf Coast University hosted the 56th Annual Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair and the 25th Annual Thomas A. Edison Inventors Fair in the Alico Arena. Four hundred thirty Science Fair student finalists from Charlotte and Lee counties began project load-in and set-up on Friday afternoon. An additional three hundred fifty Inventors Fair students from Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties set-up their projects and prepared for judging scheduled for Saturday morning. Students were registered in two divisions; junior for middle school students and senior for high school students. Projects spanned 17 different categories.

Science Fair Judges began arriving at 6:30 AM to receive their judging assignments and instructions. Over 180 category judges volunteered their time to interview students to determine who had designed and conducted sound scientific research. Upon completion of the first round of judging, an additional group of Special Awards judges took to the floor to select the projects that best reflect the special award donor requirements. The last round of judging was the interview period with the Grand Awards judging team. The Grand Awards judges are a select group of FGCU professors who interview the students who have been recommended by the category judges to be considered for Best of Fair. The Grand Awards team conducts student interviews and caucus as a team to select the best projects to move forward to the Florida State Science and Engineering Fair being held in March in Lakeland, FL and the top 4 senior division to move forward to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair being held in May in Phoenix, AZ.

During the judging period, FGCU offered campus tours lead by the Admissions Office, and concurrent events offered visitors science labs tours, Geo-caching the campus, a wetlands field trip, and "A Hands-on Workshop: Forensic Anthropology in the 21st Century". Campus shuttle buses transported visitors throughout the day and visitors could explore the campus on their own. In addition, "Science Live", an outdoor hands-on science and engineering activity event was hosted by the Edison Ford Winter Estates. Participants were engaged in interactive science challenges, astronomy displays, environmental exhibits and entertainment by the Wild Wizard – Glen Beitman.

At 2:00, the public was invited to view the projects and speak with students. The Arena was packed with visitors until the final project break-down at 5:00. The excitement continued to build when students were notified that they were “Winners” and invited back to the Grand Awards Program to be held the following Wednesday night at Alico Arena to receive their awards.

On Wednesday, February 6, the Alico Arena filled with students, family and friends and sponsors to cheer on their student finalists. During the 2 ½ hour event, 228 students were presented category awards. Fifty five special awards were presented, including recognition from the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the Earthshine Institute, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and numerous cash awards. Twenty-eight middle school students received a scholarship to attend the FGCU Summer Research Opportunity Program. Twenty-nine middle school students received the Broadcom Masters recognition and the opportunity to apply for the Broadcom Masters science competition. Four students received a two-year scholarship to Edison State College. The middle school best of fair student received a $4,000 James and Ellie Newton Scholarship. Finally, the twenty-nine Grand Awards winners received FGCU four year full tuition scholarship valued at more than $800,000.

The support of FGCU including scholarships offered to the Fair Grand Awards winners, scores of professors volunteering to judge the Fair, staffing and logistical support of the Fair and dozens of student volunteers has transformed the regional fair into a world class science and inventions event. The future has never looked brighter for our community of young scientists, engineers and inventors.
Foundations of Civic Engagement Showcase

By Brandon Hollingshead

The College of Arts and Sciences manifests our dedication to community engagement in a variety of classes and activities, especially in the IDS 3300: Foundations of Civic Engagement course, required of most of our majors. Our College Mission states, “faculty and administration share the belief that interdisciplinary collaboration and scholarship enhance our individual disciplines and benefit our students. We further acknowledge that service to the southwest Florida community is a public trust and a social responsibility.” This month we are highlighting a successful student civic engagement project from Fall 2012 that was featured at the Civic Engagement Showcase on Friday, November 30, 2012.

Grace Place Music Education

Ana Abella (Music Performance), Gabby Aguirre (Communication), Reidel Martinez (Psychology), Meghan Morey (Anthropology), and Cesar Tores (Biology) partnered with Grace Place for Children and Families in Golden Gate to address the lack of musical exposure in the lives of students of low socioeconomic status in Collier County. The group prepared Grace Place students for a holiday concert, led basic music education lessons, and taught 36 second and third grade students to play songs on recorder. As a result of their efforts, the Foundations students secured a $2,500 donation to the Grace Place music program. In addition, they have been offered paid internships with Grace Place in summer 2013. They are working with the Bower School of Music to establish a relationship with Grace Place and our music students.

“After my first day working with these children and seeing the potential and the love they had for music, in my heart this project was no longer about the civic engagement class or a grade, but about the children and their future,” said Ana Abella. “As a future music educator and choral conductor I want to use my skills to help people around U.S. and the world. I saw with my own eyes what music can do in the lives of children.”

Anyone interested in joining the Foundations of Civic Engagement team should contact Maria Roca (mroca@fgcu.edu, 239-590-7185). All are welcome!
MOM Lecture Draws Record Crowd

Prof. Bill Mitsch, Director of the Everglades Wetland Research Park, presented his inaugural address January 24th. It was his first major presentation since arriving in SW Florida in October 2012 to head up the EWRP and serves as the Juliet C. Sproul Chair for Southwest Florida Habitat Restoration and Management at Florida Gulf Coast University.

His talk, entitled “Ecological Engineering of the Best Kind: Restoring Rivers, Wetlands, and the Florida Everglades”, was heard by a standing-room-only crowd of 170 at the Kapnick Center Auditorium on the Naples Botanical Garden campus. The 4th in a series of 8 Moonlight on the Marsh lectures sponsored by the Everglades Wetland Research Park, his talk covered research on the “ecosystem services” that wetlands provide in preventing water pollution in Midwestern USA, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Florida Everglades. He also discussed the newfound recognition of wetlands for sequestering carbon from the atmosphere on a global scale, partially neutralizing the climate changing effects of carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels by automobiles and the electric power industry. He suggested that wetlands in the world might be responsible for serving as a sink for over 10% of the fossil fuel emissions in the world.

Finally he presented his vision of the new Everglades Wetland Research Park and many of its planned research and teaching directions that will be based at the Kapnick Center in Naples.

Faculty Highlights

This past January, the 2nd edition of Laura Frost’s chemistry textbook for non-majors hit the shelves. Dr. Frost is the director of the Whita-ker Center for STEM Education and Professor of Chemistry, General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry published by Pearson, is written for one-semester introductory chemistry. The book gives students a focused introduction to the fundamental and relevant connections between chemistry and life. Emphasizing the development of problem-solving skills with distinct inquiry activities, this text empowers students to solve problems in applied contexts relating to health and biochemistry. Integrated coverage of biochemical applications throughout keep students interested in the material and allow for a more efficient progression through the topics.

In addition, Dr. Frost has also published a set of 52 guided inquiry activities for introductory chemistry available through Pearson Custom Publishing.

English Professor James Brock has won an Individual Artist Fellowship in Playwriting from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. The fellowship was awarded based on Brock’s first play, “The Pumpkin Grower,” which was produced by Ghostbird Theatre Company at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers in September, 2012. The panelists lauded his play for its “deeply poetic language” and its “risk-taking and collaborative structure.” The run of “The Pumpkin Grower,” under the direction of FGCU graduate Brittney Brady, proved to be the most successful in ticket sales for a play at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center. The play also featured students and graduates from the FGCU College of Arts and Sciences, including Rachel Bennett, Jake Scott-Hodes, Dana Lynn Frantz, Dayanira Lopez, Michael Lee Bridges, Kate-lyn Gravel, and Philip Heubeck.

Brock will use the fellowship to finish a new full-length play, “Because Beauty Must Be Broken Daily,” a work that will make use of light sculptures, soundscapes, dance, and music. This play will also be produced by Ghostbird Theatre Company, this fall at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center.
Advising Updates

Eagle Priority Registration is just around the corner starting March 18th! This is an online process that allows students who are closer to degree completion and with certain course needs the ability to register before students who are further from graduation. Priority levels are determined by a student’s most recently posted, total earned hours.

CAS Advising has an appointment-only policy year round. Students have 30 minute meetings with Academic Advisors to work on developing a plan to graduation, discuss requirements such as internship/research, complete official graduation checks, study abroad paperwork, etc.; and, most importantly, make informed decisions about their academic career.

Throughout the five-week priority registration period, CAS Advising anticipates having approximately 2100 appointments available to students. When students call to schedule advising appointments, their advising appointments will be based upon the student’s priority registration dates. For example, if a student who can register starting April 8 calls CAS Advising on March 15 to schedule an appointment, Advising will try to book the appointment during the week of April 1 – 5. That will leave appointments in late March available for students who can register on March 18 or March 19. Advising is encouraging students to plan ahead! By scheduling advising appointments, there should be a significant reduction in last-minute registration issues students may encounter. However, for any emergency issues, such as needing a permit, students can: (a) stop by the office (AB7, Room 109) to speak with our Advising Assistant, Kendra, (b) send an e-mail to our main address casadv@fgcu.edu, (c) call our main line 239-590-7196.

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<td>UG Students with earned credit hours at 110 and above, Honors Program Students, and Student-Athletes</td>
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Reflecting Upon our 1st Amendment Freedoms

An Opinion Piece by Dr. Robert N. Diotalevi, Esq., LL.M, Associate Professor of Legal Studies

“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”
(commonly attributed to Voltaire)

In fall of 2012 as an Associate Professor of Justice Studies at FGCU, I created and offered a new course called First Amendment Freedoms. As a requirement of the course I have students present on selected, relevant topics to be more informed of today’s issues related to this wonderful amendment. Recently I had the pleasure of serving as the featured speaker at the Paralegal Association of Florida’s (PAF) monthly meeting in Fort Myers. It was held the night before Vice President Joe Biden arrived to stay at the same hotel in which PAF met. As I drove home from the meeting I thought to myself of the many government security vehicles and staff members that would flood Fort Myers the day after I was there. As a lawyer, and more importantly a United States citizen, I also reflected upon the safeguards and security we enjoy from The First Amendment to the United States Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

As decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, states must also follow the First Amendment as incorporated into the Fourteenth Amendment. It often amazes me how little Americans know about these liberties which are so dear to us as well as how frequently we as a people talk about them. Truly the most important of the amendments is the first. Why? Well, Madison (the author of the Bill of Rights) thought it so crucial that he lead off the Bill of Rights with it. But more importantly this amendment affords us our basic rights and freedoms regarding religion, speech, assembly, petition and the press. United States citizens enjoy the opportunities of expressing their viewpoints and freely worshipping without fear of retribution or retaliation by their government.

Without the First Amendment’s protections we would never have been able to create this great nation. The hopes and dreams of such great minds as Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln and Susan B. Anthony would have been silenced. The freedom to choose to worship or not to worship would not exist. The press, the fourth arm of government as it is called, would not have the right to cover stories and keep us informed. And, how could we ever hope to challenge our elected officials without the right to assemble and petition?

There have been many hot topics in the news concerning the First Amendment of late. They include:

- The filmmaker who was alleged to have caused worldwide rioting based upon his Anti-Muslim film
- The Obama Administration’s health care contraception mandate vs. religious freedom
- Florida Marlins Manager Ozzie Guillen’s comments on Fidel Castro in the press
- The press’ speech rights in reporting vs. sports players’ rights

- Atheists threatening lawsuits over memorial crosses at Camp Pendleton
- Arizona’s harassment law and its effects on online free speech
- Maybe the First Amendment should be amended to limit political speech or refer to the Citizens United case which addresses free speech rights by political campaign contributions
- First Amendment speech rights of the military
- Chick-Fil-A stance on marriage and free speech
- Charges of the press turning politically biased in light of the recent U.S. presidential campaign

As we head down the road to work, school, hobbies, etc., let us not forget those freedoms which came at such a great price. Even we lawyers and paralegals who studied these rights often dismiss them in exchange for other areas of law which afford us a living. But let us take a moment as Americans to pause on what we have – ideas and beliefs for which so many brave fellow citizens fought and died, pledging their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honors.

Reflect upon and enjoy our First Amendment freedoms today!

Bob Diotalevi

Bob Diotalevi
FPAN conducts CRPT Workshops

On January 25th, 26th, and 30th, the Florida Public Archaeology Network conducted Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) workshops in conjunction with the Charlotte County Historical Center and Lee County Libraries. Local residents as well as board members who care for cemeteries took advantage of the workshops to learn about:

- cemeteries as cultural resources;
- managing historic cemeteries;
- laws concerning burials;
- recording historic cemeteries; and
- defining the boundaries of a cemetery.

These mini-lectures were followed by an afternoon of hands-on engagement where participants evaluated a cemetery, practiced transcribing cemetery headstones and cleaned headstones using conservation-grade anti-microbial solution.

FGCU Math Department holds 1st Annual ASPiRE Conference

On Friday, January 25th, the first annual Advancing Student Participation in Research Experiences (ASPiRE) Conference was held by the FGCU Mathematics Department. The goals of the conference were to encourage mathematics students from Southwest Florida to engage in undergraduate research projects as well as showcase the high-quality mathematics research that is already being conducted by undergraduate and graduate students at FGCU.

During the morning sessions, three plenary speakers from Clemson University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, each with extensive experience running NSF-sponsored Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) summer programs, described what participating in an REU is all about. They shared information about prior REU projects completed by students, recounted the many successes of past participants, described ideas for future REU projects, and offered advice about the application process.

ASPiRE participants had the opportunity to chat informally with the invited speakers over a complimentary pizza buffet which was jointly sponsored by the FGCU Math Club and the Mathematics Department.

The afternoon consisted of talks by FGCU faculty, Master’s students, and undergraduates. The speakers included Dr. Thomas Hair, Dr. Felix Jose, Matthew Neubek, Andrew Hedman, David Blessing, Joshua Jorgensen, and Christie Mauretour, who shared reports ranging from a statistical analysis of the likely arrival time of extra-terrestrial life to a mathematical model of the showdown between eastern oysters and invasive green mussels that is currently taking place in the waters of Southwest Florida.

Reflecting on the conference, Math Department Chair Richard Schnackenberg said, “By any measure, it was an astounding success. The students were thoroughly engaged and our invited speakers shared excellent insights with us. The exposure of our faculty and student research collaboration planted seeds for future students to seek this opportunity. I expect we will see student research continue to grow here.” Special thanks go out to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) for helping sponsor the event.
2nd Annual Tournées French Film Festival a success at FGCU

The Department of Language and Literature held their 2nd annual Tournées French Film Festival throughout the month of February, 2013, presented in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences; Department of Communication and Philosophy; Multicultural Student Services; The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies; and the FGCU French Club. Dr. Paul Bartop, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, and Dr. Farshad Aminian, Assistant Professor of Media Studies, provided introductory lectures to Les Hommes Libres and Les Herbes Folles respectively.

The entire FGCU community was invited to watch the free weekly movie screenings on campus starting February 7th. The event was open to all FGCU students, faculty, and staff as well as the larger community. Movies featured during the film festival included:

Feb. 7, 6 p.m. – Potiche by François Ozon. Potiche (which translates as “trophy wife”) stunningly recreates the world of the 1970s in telling the story of potiche Suzanne’s transformation from submissive housewife to intrepid leader. As Suzanne – wonderfully played by the reigning queen of French film Catherine Deneuve – breaks free of her coddled life, she realizes, just like many other women who discovered feminism in the 1970s, that the personal really is political.

Feb. 10, 4 p.m. – Les Hommes Libres (Free Men) by Ismaël Ferroukhi. A fascinating look at a little-known chapter in the French Resistance during World War II, Ismaël Ferroukhi’s second film highlights the courage of a group of Muslim agents who provided North African Jews with false identification papers and assassinated Vichy informants. Free Men focuses specifically on the political awakening of Younes, an illiterate Algerian immigrant who makes his living selling goods on the black market and in order to avoid prison, he agrees to serve as a spy for the police.

Feb. 13, 2:30 p.m. – Les Herbes Folles (Wild Grass) by Alain Resnais. This magnificently surreal romantic comedy from French master Alain Resnais follows the flights of fancy of Georges, a man in his mid-60s who, much to his wife’s displeasure, has become obsessed with a woman whose wallet he found. Resnais’s enigmatic portrait of Georges and his interest in an unknown woman reminds us that we all crave adventure at some point in our lives.

Feb. 21, 6 p.m. – Les Contes de la Nuit (Tales of the Night) by Michel Ocelot. The esteemed animator Michel Ocelot, best known for Kirikou and the Sorceress (1998) and Azur and Asmar (2006), returns with Tales of the Night, his first film shot in 3D. This collection of six marvelous, visually bold fairy tales is rendered in a “shadow puppet style,” with silhouetted characters set against gorgeously colored, Day-Glo backgrounds. These stories span the globe and historical eras, taking place in the Caribbean, medieval Europe, an Aztec kingdom, Africa, Tibet—and the Land of the Dead.


Support for the Tournée Festival is provided by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States/ Centre National de la Cinématographie/ CampusFrance / Florence Gould Foundation / highbrow entertainment www.facecouncil.org

Language Corner

The Department of Language and Literature inaugurated a culturally rich month with its bi-annual international lunch. After French and Latin American food, this semester those in attendance had the pleasure to have a taste of traditional German cuisine. And, as always, this event is about more than food and bringing together people from all around the globe and those desirous to follow their footsteps.

What a good start to the month of February, which will continue to be rich in opportunities to widen our horizons, with the second edition of the Tournées French Film Festival. Featuring a variety of Francophone films, this event was open to all FGCU students, faculty, and staff as well as to the larger community. All movies were original versions with English subtitles. The screenings took place in the Sugden Welcome Center Theater (SWC 108). No tickets were required.
Trails for Tails: “We run so they can, too”

A group of ten - seven FGCU Honors students, two faculty and one staff member - left graduation on Saturday, December 15th to run 600 miles in seven days, from campus to Key West and back. This student-created, civic engagement initiative had two purposes: to raise money for the Conservation Fund and to raise awareness of the effects of development on wildlife in South Florida, and on the Florida panther in particular.

The motto of Trails for Tails was “we run so they can, too.” They raised over $13,000 and ran over 600 miles. Each runner covered between 10 and 15 miles per day. The following members deserve special recognition for their hard work on this initiative:

- Zach Hamm (student, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Santiago Yori (student, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Gretchen MacMillan (student, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Gina Hendrick (graduate, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Abigail Henneberry (student, College of Health Professions and Social Work)
- Alyssa Reidy (student, College of Health Professions and Social Work)
- Mike Ruksenas (student, Whitaker College of Engineering)
- Sonya Padfield (student, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Jackie Chastain (student, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Jason Davis (Fitness Programming Coordinator)
- Dr. Kim Jackson (faculty, College of Arts and Sciences)
- Dr. Sean Kelly (Honors Director)

Many thanks to all of the FGCU students, faculty, staff, and administrators who generously donated to their cause and supported them through their long journey. They couldn’t have done it without you!

For more information on their adventures, including photos and video blogs, please visit the Trails for Tails Facebook page.

Popcorn and Pennies for Panthers

Gateway Elementary Florida Panther Posse created a fundraiser to help purchase infrared-motion cameras one cent, or should we say, one bag of popcorn, at a time. These images provide researchers with crucial data about panthers, their offspring and other wildlife. The posse will place one of the cameras behind their school to collect this important data. The teachers encouraged the idea because it focuses on science, math, panther research, business skills, and outreach with community-building efforts. They’ve created a guideline booklet for other panther posses to try “Panther Popcorn Fridays” at their schools. They’ve collected over $1,000 dollars with this incredible fundraiser!

The FGCU “Wings of Hope” Program is proud of their mission and energy to help save the endangered Florida panther and its habitat.

Director/Ricky Pires rpires@fgcu.edu
Teachers: Marcia Gahagan / Katherine Taylor
Student Highlights

Drs. Sharon Isern and Scott Michael, Professors in the Department of Biological Sciences, and their collaborators recently published two papers on dengue. The co-authors included five FGCU undergraduate researchers. Dengue is a mosquito-transmitted, tropical disease that infects approximately 100 million people annually. The geographic range, transmission intensity, and disease severity of this viral disease are increasing, yet there is currently no available vaccine or specific drug for treatment. Their first paper was published in the open access journal PLOS ONE in December 2012, and describes a new drug with a peculiar way of attacking dengue. It prevents the virus from infecting a host cell by expelling the virus genome from the virus particle so that the virus is no longer contagious. The second paper was published in the American Society of Microbiology’s Journal of Virology in January 2013. Antibodies were isolated from individuals from Myanmar, Singapore and Jamaica who had recovered from dengue. Similar antibodies were found in all three individuals, providing insights into the human immune response against dengue. This study will assist in designing new dengue vaccines.

Both papers are available free online:
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0050995
http://jvi.asm.org/content/87/1/52.full.pdf+html?sid=058aa972-2f5a-4a60-af25-2c5a6bebaad1

The student authors are currently working in or pursuing advanced degrees in STEM fields. They include: Marielys Figueroa Sierra, a B.S. Biology graduate currently attending Florida State University College of Medicine, Krystal Fontaine, a B.S. Biotechnology graduate currently in the Microbiology Ph.D. program at the University of Washington, Amanda Graham, a B.S. Biotechnology graduate currently employed by FGCU and working with Drs. Isern and Michael as a Biological Scientist, Greg Hogancamp, a B.S. Biotechnology graduate currently employed as an Emergency Medical Technician for Lee County Emergency Medical Services, Cindo Nicholson, a B.S. Biotechnology graduate currently in the Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Ph.D. program at Duke University, and Dawne Rowe, a B.S. Biology graduate attending the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Teacher, Students Honored by Supreme Court and Florida Bar Association

David Steckler and FGCU Interns were honored by the Florida Bar Association and Florida Supreme Court on January 31, when David received the Florida Bar’s 2013 Twentieth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Award in recognition of his representation of indigent family law/domestic violence clients during the past year.

Since David began volunteering in July 11, 2011, more than 10 student interns-- from Legal Studies, Justice Studies and Communication-- have worked with him and other Collier County Legal Aid attorneys, and with domestic violence survivors at the Naples Shelter for Abused Women and Children and Children’s Advocacy Center.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Ricky Polston, former interns Karenin Hache and Brittany Bowen, David Steckler, present intern Sachi Castaneda and Florida Bar President Gwynne A. Young, at the Supreme Court award ceremony.
On January 10 the Bower School of Music Chamber Choir performed at the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) annual conference in Tampa. FMEA invited the 30-voice ensemble to perform after a panel of peers reviewed an audition recording submitted by the choir’s director, Dr. Trent Brown. The FGCU choir was the only university choir invited to perform at this year’s conference. The concert repertoire consisted of an hour of music and included compositions by Duruflé, Mendelssohn, Pinkham, FGCU composer Dr. Jason Bahr, and others.

Over 3500 music educators heard the choir perform in one of two concerts the ensemble presented. For many convention attendees, this was the first time they had ever heard of FGCU and the Bower School of Music. The positive feedback the choir received let us know the university was recognized and represented well at this event. Congratulations to this group of students on their accomplishment!

In the spring of 2012 Anne Carncross and Jason Bahr met to discuss collaboration between their students. Jason teaches music composition and Anne teaches theatrical stage lighting. Each semester in the Bower School of Music there is a recital of student compositions, and Anne’s Fall class created original lighting designs in U. Tobe Recital Hall to enhance the experience of the student music compositions.

There were several goals with this project. The first was to give students the opportunity to work together in a creative fashion. It is always helpful for our students to learn together, and collaboration in music ensembles or plays is a daily occurrence at the Bower School of Music and in the Theatre Department. These events gave both sets of student the chance to get out of their usual spheres and to look at their art forms from another perspective.

Anne & Jason also had the artistic goal of giving the audience members something different from the ordinary concert. With so many options for experiencing music (CDs, Radio, iTunes, Pandora, etc.) what can be done at a live performance that cannot be done with a recording or broadcast? The original lighting designs were specific to the U. Tobe performance hall and this concert—something that cannot be replicated elsewhere.

Finally, Anne & Jason wanted to take advantage of the lighting technology in U. Tobe Recital Hall. This collaboration used the resources to the fullest and gave theatre students the chance to work on professional equipment.

Great feedback was received for the concert from both students and faculty, including many who encouraged the faculty to work together more often in the future. For an example of the collaboration, please see Tide by Austin Corn on FGCU’s YouTube channel.

If you would more information or have questions, please feel free to contact Jason Bahr at: jbahr@fgcu.edu.
Lorena Vargas, mezzo soprano and senior music major in vocal performance, received an honorable mention at the Music Teachers National Association’s Southern Division Regional Young Artist Competition last Sunday, Jan. 20, on the campus of the University of North Carolina—Greensboro. This is a 9-state region in which one winner and one alternate are selected. Lorena was the state representative for Florida.

Priscila Navarro, an 18-year old piano performance major, continues to achieve international awards in music competitions. Most recently, Priscila was awarded at the Jefferson Symphony International Competition in Denver, Colorado. In March she is the youngest finalist in the world-renown Virginia Waring International Piano Competition in Palm Springs, California, in which the best dozen students from around the world will be competing. In April she will also be the youngest finalist in the Hellam Competition in Springfield, Missouri, in which her fellow finalists come from the Juilliard School, Curtis Institute of Music, Peabody Institute, Cleveland Institute of Music, the Colburn School, Eastman School of Music, and Indiana University. Priscila will be making her Carnegie Hall Debut Recital on March 7th in New York City.

As stated by Steinway & Sons, “In recognition of your distinguished career in music, Steinway and Sons is pleased to welcome Michael Baron to the distinguished roster of Steinway Artists. The high standard that you have set with your artistic and professional achievements make it most appropriate that you are now formally included on the Steinway Artist Roster, a list of the most accomplished and discriminating artists in the world. Steinway & Sons congratulates you on receiving this distinction”.

Included on the Steinway Artist roster have been such immortals as George Gershwin, Vladimir Horowitz, Ignace Paderewski, Van Cliburn, Cole Porter and Sergei Rachmaninoff. Today’s Steinway Artists include the leading stars from all musical genres and styles, among them Vladimir Ashkenazy, Daniel Barenboim, Harry Connick, Jr., Ahmad Jamal, Billy Joel, Evgeny Kissin, Diana Krall, Lang Lang, Peter Nero, Maurizio Pollini, and Billy Taylor.
Sixth Annual Empty Bowls 2012 Sets Record

Blue skies and mild temperatures on Friday November 30 brought the FGCU community to the Arts Complex for a hearty bowl of soup and much needed assistance to help the hungry in our neighborhood. Thanks to all of you, the 2012 Empty Bowls Soup Lunch was a record-breaking success: 330 bowls, and $5072.00 raised for the food pantry at Interfaith Charities of South Lee, Inc., located on Rockefeller Circle in the San Carlos Park area. Current and former students and staff of the FGCU Art Program put in hundreds of hours making, glazing, and firing the bowls as well as staffing the event. For a $15.00 donation, visitors picked out the bowl they liked best and enjoyed a "soup kitchen" style meal of soup and bread. The eleven delicious soups and heaping baskets of ciabatta bread were donated by community partners Hemingway’s Island Grill, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Ted’s Montana Grill, Naples Flatbread, Miller’s Ale house, Carrabbas, Outback Steakhouse, PF Chang’s, and The Artisan Bread Company. “Spicy Black Bean Soup” was the fantastic vegan offering developed and donated by Professor Joe Kakareka’s Fall 2012 Science of Cooking class. The entire event was produced and managed by art students Victoria Pimentel and Knoel Blake, who dedicated countless hours to a semester-long internship and service experience with Empty Bowls and made this year’s event a record-breaking success. Deep appreciation goes to all the students who worked so hard, to all our generous community contributors, and, and to all of you who came out to help our neighbors in need.

Silver Bullet continued...

continued from page 1

substantially increase that risk. In addition to the genetic risk factors, which account for a small percentage and over which we have no control, mounting evidence suggest that changes in the environment are linked to the increased incidences of cancer. While the industrial revolution clearly made our life easier in many aspects and created significant wealth, a hefty price was paid for the industrialization of our environment. Thousands of reports testify to harmful consequences of industrialization. Some studies drawn from population data demonstrated increased cancer risk through unintended exposure to chemicals. Thousands of new chemicals are released into our environment and very little is known about the long-term effects of exposure. Studies are therefore attempting to analyze the effects of those chemicals on normal and cancer cells, in an effort to understand better the environmental factors of cancer risk. Several chemicals are not labeled as cancer-promoting agents; yet in experimental studies they clearly induce cancer or pre-cancerous lesions. What are the molecular events and cell signaling that are influenced by chemical exposure, and how do we translate this information into a more global understanding of what causes cancer? Novel paradigms are desperately needed to explain the increased risk for cancer and the role of our environment.

In the future, scientists find out what causes cancer and develop the complete profiling of cancer behavior and genetics. Perhaps that day, we will be a step closer to our desperately awaited "silver bullet".
Senior Art Students

The FGCU Art Gallery ended the Fall semester with the Senior Project Exhibition, including a diverse body of art works by 15 graduating FGCU artists. The show opened the evening of Thursday, November 29th, with over 200 members of the community celebrating the accomplishments of this talented group.

Senior Project is the capstone experience for the BA Art Major. Each student presents a body of work which has come to fruition after three months of intense research and disciplined studio practice. The exhibition reflected personal insights and visions through a compelling variety of drawings, paintings, printmaking, sculpture and photography.

The following students participated in the Fall 2012 Senior Project Exhibition: Jennifer Castano, Matt Denison, Andre Denis, Crystal Breden, Matt Bicknese, Cydney Chasky, Andrew Corke, Megan Davis, Sarah Gerrero, Toni Guidice, Leslie Harris, Rebecca Kjeer, Chelsea Pence, Shannon Strickland, and Tracy Waterlander.

FGCU Theatre Faculty Hit the Stage

Tyler Layton is in her fourth year as an Assistant Professor of Theatre at FGCU and this year she makes her Florida regional theatre debut in Time Stands Still at The Florida Repertory Theatre in the historic downtown Fort Myers. The play was directed by Chris Clavelli, the Associate Artistic Director at The Rep. Time Stands Still was nominated for multiple Tony Awards in 2012 including best play.

Tyler is thrilled to be a part of the thriving professional theatre scene of Southwest Florida which builds and enriched her skills as a theatre educator.

Gerritt VanderMeer, the newest member of the Theatre faculty at FGCU, made his SW Florida regional theatre debut in TheatreZone’s sold-out run of Grand Hotel this January.

TheatreZone is Naples professional (Equity) theatre company. Grand Hotel was directed by Mark Danni, who was a part of the original 1989 Broadway production (which won 5 Tony Awards that year.) The TheatreZone cast included 4 actors who have appeared on Broadway in various other productions. A seven-piece live band provided the score.

Gerritt’s next appearance with the company is coming up this March. He will be playing the role of Dr. Madden in the Tony and Pulitzer Prize Next to Normal. The musical, which takes a hard look at a family coping with substance abuse, mental illness and loss, was nominated for eleven Tony Award and received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.
Photo Op

Images were photographed by Darren Rumbold, Professor in the Department of Marine & Ecological Studies, during his recent sea kayaking trip in Antarctica.