2014 marks the 10th Anniversary of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. Since its founding in 2004, the Center has worked to elevate FGCU’s mission of environmental sustainability. To celebrate ten years of scholarship, education, and action, the Center invited Actress Kaiulani Lee to perform her one-woman show “A Sense of Wonder,” a play based on the life and works of Rachel Carson.

Lee performed for students and the public at FGCU’s Theatre Lab on Thursday, February 20, 2014. The performance was followed by a question and discussion session with Kaiulani Lee and FGCU faculty members Maria Roca, Neil Wilkinson, and Tyler Layton. The Center is delighted that Ms. Lee came to FGCU and evoked Carson’s spirit as a way of commemorating her legacy.

In the play, Kaiulani portrays Rachel Carson’s love of the natural world and her fight to defend it. She has performed at over one hundred universities and has been the centerpiece of regional and national conferences on conservation, education, journalism, and the environment. Peter Dykstra of CNN describes Lee’s powerful performance, “Rachel Carson shook the world of journalism and changed the shape of environmental politics. There are few if any comparable figures in either field. Kaiulani Lee’s performance gave me the opportunity to feel I had met this remarkable woman and experienced the quiet courage of Rachel Carson.”

Over the past decade the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture has brought many celebrated speakers and fascinating topics to Southwest Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University. The annual Lecture aims to engage the public in discussions on sustainability, ethics, and democracy, with scholars and intellectuals. Previous Lectures have featured acclaimed authors and educators such as Terry Tempest Williams, David W. Orr, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Barbra Kingsolver, Alison Hawthorne Deming and Mary Oliver to name a few.

In addition to the signature Lecture series the Center continues to maintain an active research program and has published extensively on education and sustainability. The Center also works with University staff, faculty, and students to incorporate environmental education into all areas of campus life, including teaching and curriculum. For more information on the Center visit us at www.fgcu.edu/cese/.

Kaiulani Lee
Dear College of Arts and Sciences Colleagues:

The past few months have been busy and productive within the CAS. I hope your Spring semester has ended well and that some of you are getting a short break in the summer. As you read the newsletter you will recognize some of the amazing things that our faculty, staff and students have engaged in over the last number of months, be it excellence in teaching, scholarship service, community engagement or providing hands-on learning experiences to our students through various community projects or study-abroad trips.

The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education celebrated its 10th anniversary; Sanibel Island Writers Conference brought Presidential Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco to SW Florida; FGCU faculty and staff continued to develop and expanded community partnerships serving the region’s needs as an intellectual and cultural hub. The Moonlight on the Marsh and Whitaker Center lecture series, Promising Pathways Autism conference, ASPiRE Math conference, and various creative and artistic performances by students, staff and faculty from the Bower School of Music &the Arts collectively brought several thousands of visitors and participants to FGCU main campus and off-campus centers and highlighted FGCU’s excellence in teaching, scholarship and public service and highlighted FGCU’s role as an institution of higher education.

Our undergraduate and graduate students presented papers at various National and International conferences. Ms. Katie McFarland, a Ph.D. student in the FGCU-University of Brest program won the Gordon Gunter Award for Outstanding Student Poster Presentation at the 106th National Shellfisheries Association Conference held in Jacksonville, FL. Joseph Bradfield, a student from the Chemistry and Physics Department presented his research at Florida Undergraduate Research Conference along with several other students. Mr. Andres Machado, a Political Science student was recognized as the 2013-14 CAS Student of the Year. Of course, these are just few examples of the wonderful accomplishments of our students.

CAS Faculty and Staff had a very good year at the 2014 FGCU Celebration of Excellence Awards: Drs. Takahashi Ueda, Melodie Eichbauer, Lori Cornelius, Deeb Kitchen won the Senior Faculty, Junior Faculty, Senior Instructor and Junior Instructor teaching awards, respectively; Ms. Sarah Davis won the Individual faculty Service Excellence Award; Drs. Eric Otto, Anne-Marie Bouche, Greg McManus, Kris DeWelde won the Team Faculty Service Excellence Award; Ms. Jennifer Little won the Advising Excellence Award and Ms. Vanessa Cournoyer won the USPS Employee of the Year award. It is indeed a great accomplishment for the College for winning these awards, but 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.

CAS was also successful in attracting a new dean. Dr. Robert Gregerson from Armstrong Atlantic University, (who will be joining us in July), and I am looking forward to working with Dr. Gregerson during the transition. Faculty searches have also been progressing well. 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
The Department of Marine & Ecological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences received permission from Dr. Bradshaw to plant a tree in memory of Sophia Barbosa Fugate. She was the daughter of faculty members, Drs. David Fugate and Alayde Barbosa.

Sophia passed away suddenly last year on November 8th, 2012. Our Department and many people in our College were deeply affected by this incredibly sad loss. One of our collective thoughts was to have a memorial for Sophia on the FGCU campus, since both her parents work for Arts and Sciences, and Sophia had been a “Little Eagle” at the Family Resource Center for about 3 years.

As a 5 year old little girl, Sophia loved many things, but flowers and the color pink were among her most favorite things on this earth. She almost always had flowers in the patterns of her clothes, on her shoes, or in her hair; if not flowers then almost always something pink.

With that in mind we have planted a *Tabebuia impetiginosa*, Purple Tabebuia, on the northwest end of the lake beside Whitaker Hall. This tree blooms in the fall season, which I have been told was among Sophia’s favorite times of the year (the purple flowers actually look pink). It is at the observatory end, where there is a very nice open area with a lovely view of the lake and boardwalk. The site is also nestled between the 2 buildings that her parents work in, Whitaker and AB7, and within view of the Family Resource Center. Many CAS faculty and staff walk by this area every day as we go about our work. Many “Little Eagles” walk/roll past this location on their daily trip around campus as well. We will also place an engraved stone at the bottom of the tree. It will simply read, “For Sophia”.

Although this is not a native Florida tree, it is listed as a non-invasive exotic on the IFAS Assessment web page with the status of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas (Fox et al. 2005), [Edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st617](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st617). It is a native of Brazil, which is Alayde’s home country, making our choosing this particular tree a perfect fit. There is already a similar tree found on campus at the northeast end of the same lake, which is the *Tabebuia serratifolia*, Yellow Trumpet Tree.

The tree was picked with love and care by Brian Bovard, Caroline Campbell, Joanne Muller, Cristal Niemeyer and donated by the Naples Botanical Gardens; the engraving will be made with assistance from Joseph Kakareka.

*In Loving Memory of Sophia Barbosa Fugate from the College of Arts and Sciences*
The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday, January 26, 2014. The actual day, January 27, was a Monday so FGCU, in line with many other institutions around the world, maximized the opportunity for wider community participation by holding the event the day before.

Guest speaker Dr. Hannibal Travis, Professor of Law from Florida International University, presented “Prior Warning of the Holocaust: Did the Armenian Genocide Inspire Hitler?” This presentation addressed the large number of signs the Nazi regime provided regarding its ultimate ambition for the Jews of Europe. These signs could be traced to earlier understandings of “unwanted populations” stemming from the Armenian Genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Turks a generation before.

FGCU’s commitment to marking International Holocaust Memorial Day has seen it become the location for Southwest Florida’s communal activities on this day. Plans are already underway for this event in 2015 and 2016.

A great deal of Center activity since November 2013 has been focused on organizing the international conference, “The Holocaust in Hungary, 70 Years On: New Perspectives.” The conference, the largest of its kind outside of Hungary, was held at FGCU between March 16-18. Full coverage of the conference will be in the next issue of CAS Quarterly.

The 2013 Presidential Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco visited Southwest Florida's Barrier Islands November 9-10, 2013 to attend a fundraiser on Captiva for the Center for Environmental Sustainability Education (CESE), and to speak at the Sanibel Island Writers Conference.

The Center hosted a successful fund-raising event on Sunday, November 10, 2013 aboard the Lady Chadwick of Captiva Cruises. The fundraiser helped bring Blanco to Southwest Florida and supported his appearance at the Writers Conference. The event themed, “Looking for The Gulf Motel: A Luncheon Cruise with Richard Blanco,” was filled with meaningful remarks, poetry, and a book signing as it cruised the inshore waters near Captiva. The cruise offered an intimate and relaxed atmosphere where guests could mingle with the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Poet.

Center Director Peter Blaze Corcoran began with remarks about the Center and its history of inviting celebrated writers to share their work with Southwest Florida. Dr. Kris De Welde, Director of General Education at FGCU and Center Senior Faculty Associate, introduced Richard Blanco and shared her story of identity and place as a Cuban-American. De Welde said, “His poetry connects strongly to the work we do at the Center, work that explores our connections to place – our physical place, our place in the communities we inhabit, and our place in a complex and rapidly changing world.”

Blanco’s readings touched everyone aboard the Lady Chadwick. He delved into each poem with extreme passion. Sweeping panoramas of mangroves and the tranquil waters off of Captiva helped bring Blanco’s words to life. His volume, Looking for The Gulf Motel (2012), evokes a vanishing Florida that we love, a place of ecological memories that are being erased. “I want to turn the golf courses back into mangroves,” he writes.

The Center seeks to elevate the environmental mission of Florida Gulf Coast University and serve the university community, the local community, and the wider community of scholars. For more information about the CESE and its efforts to realize the dream of a sustainable future thorough scholarship, education, and action please contact us by e-mail at cese@fgcu.edu or visit our website at www.fgcu.edu/cese.
Earth Charter Mini-Grants Awarded

Each year the CESE awards Earth Charter mini-grants to support faculty and staff activity that might not traditionally be supported through the university, college, or unit. The focus of the grants is to support a project that fulfills one or more of the four Center goals and is tied to the Earth Charter. The following are the mini-grant recipients for academic year 2013-2014.

Kim Charmatz, Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences
Travel support to give a presentation, in collaboration with Sarah Davis and Greg Lankenau (Colloquium), and attend the North American Association of Environmental Education (NAAEE) Conference. The presentation was on Engaging Student Learning through the Earth Charter at FGCU. Charmatz presented research about service learning in a general education course at FGCU, where students develop educational signs for nature trails at a local nature center. She reflected on how the development of the signs is connected to specific principles of the Earth Charter.

Ju Chou, Department of Chemistry and Physics
The main goal of the project is to advance innovative education research methodologies and pedagogies in environmental and sustainability education. A way environmental sustainability is practiced is through the development of nanomaterials through renewable resource (or through green chemistry). Gold (Au) nanoparticles have very unique electronic optical and catalytic property that place Au nanoparticles in many applications, including sensing, cancer research and industry. The specific goal of this project is to produce Au nanoparticles from renewable resources: plants and fruits instead of traditional chemicals. Students from the Advanced Environmental Chemistry course will work on the project.

Venkataramana Gadhamshetty, Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering
A project is to evaluate the feasibility of a novel bioelectrochemical module that can replace aerobic processes in a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), potentially resulting in a reduction in energy consumption of up to 50% in a typical water treatment plant and a reduction in sludge production of at least 50%. The biomodule is based on anaerobic fermentation and microbial fuel cell processes. Residual (macromolecular) chemical oxygen demand (COD) and sloughed particulates (including microbes) in the effluent of the biomodule will be treated through membrane ultrafiltration (UF), yielding a high-quality effluent for subsequent reuse. The biomodules will be connected in a combined series and parallel configuration to obtain electricity that can satisfy process pumping requirements.

Mary Swanson, U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering
Development of an electronic method for the U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering (WCE) student advising process to promote the continuation of the WCE Advising Office efforts to become paperless. This electronic process will include scheduling appointments, an automated appointment reminder, and an automated student sign-in that will prompt an anonymous Student Assessment of Advising. WCE currently has 887 students enrolled this fall 2013 and many of these students utilize the services provided by the WCE advising office on a regular basis. This new app will provide a needed service to these students and allow WCE advising to maintain accurate statistical data.

Hulya Julie Yazici, Department of Information System and Operation Management
This sustainability scholarly project involves assessing local businesses in terms of triple bottom (economic, social, environmental) sustainability efforts using criteria developed based on Earth Charter Principles. Data will be collected on the sustainability efforts of selected local businesses via internet as well as by interviewing business managers. As this is a pilot project, it will involve between 5-10 local organizations. The assessment criteria adopted for the project was created by University of Tampa sustainability course students. Every year, graduate students enrolled in the sustainability class design and review the assessment criteria for triple bottom sustainability and assess the businesses who apply for the sustainable business award.

Adam Zaleski, Department of Psychology
There are two types of norms to predict behavior: descriptive norms (what people do); and injunctive norms (what people approve of). In the classic 1970s Iron Eyes Cody PSA of the American Indian canoeing down a polluted river, the descriptive norm is that most people litter and the injunctive norm is that most people do not approve of littering. Like many PSAs, the descriptive norm is in the incorrect direction (most people litter) which could actually result in an increase in littering. While researchers agree that this is very possible, the effect has yet to be reported in a peer reviewed journal. The faculty member and students are currently conducting a lab study in which participants read one of six different types of messages regarding recycling. Participants then report their future recycling intentions. It is hypothesized that an Iron Eyes Cody type message could actually decrease recycling if the norm is in the incorrect direction (most people do not recycle). At the end of the laboratory study in December 2013 we would like to conduct a similar field study. This follow-up would measure real behavior instead of behavioral intentions with data collection during March 2014 and October 2014.

For more information on the CESE Earth Charter mini-grant program, please contact Sharon Bevins (239-590-7533, sbevins@fgcu.edu) or Patricia Fay (239-590-7229, pfay@fgcu.edu).

Florida Gulf Coast University
What’s New at the Whitaker Center

Thank you to all who attended the STEM Undergraduate Research Symposium this past December. We had over 50 posters represented at the undergraduate research symposium from multiple STEM disciplines. See larger article in this newsletter for details.

Another Thank You to the faculty who assisted with the Regional Science Fair safety review and judging. We couldn’t do either without your expertise!

FGCU STEM Faculty Professional Development Programming highlights from Spring:

- The Whitaker Center hosts Thursday STEMinars at 4:00PM. Faculty from FGCU and outside the university community discuss their fields of expertise. The last one is April 24. Bring your students!
- Faculty Learning Community on Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL) met this semester, we will be continuing this in Fall 2014. Contact the Whitaker Center to sign up.
- Book Club on “How the Brain Learns” by Sousa co-sponsored by TLAI will also continue this in Fall 2014. Contact the Whitaker Center to sign up.
- 2014 SPARCT Academy (see article in the newsletter)
- Whitaker Center Mini-Grants

Congratulations to the CAS Spring 2014 Whitaker Center Mini-Grant Awardees:

Faculty

- Brian Bovard, Marine and Ecological Sciences, Development of STEM Education Modules for the Seminole Reservation’s PK-12 Ahfachkee School
- Ju Chou, Chemistry and Physics, Sharing Undergraduate Research of FGCU at a National Conference
- Robert Erdman, Biological Sciences, Pearson - Biology Leadership Conference
- Angela Meyer, Chemistry and Physics, Workshop on Improving Student Learning through Mental Model Building to be Presented at the Teaching Professor Conference

Students

- Joseph Bradfield, research student of Ju Chou, Dept. of Chemistry, Abstract accepted and poster presentation at FIU - FUBC 2014
- Brandon Cardon, Michael Coats, and Jonathan Voss, research students of John Reilly, Dept. of Chemistry, Funding for Undergraduate and Professional Research Conferences for Molecular Modeling of Histidine Ammonia-Lyase as a Function of pH and Temperature
- Cynthia Clairt, research student of Marguerite Forest, Dept. of Marine and Ecological Sciences, Environmental Literacy Knowledge: Content Analysis of Non-formal Environmental Education in SW FL
- Matt Gamel, research student of Mike Parsons, Dept. of Marine and Ecological Sciences, Graduate Materials
- Vikki Nelson, research student of Terry Leary, Dept. of Psychology, Loyalty, Barbed Wire, and Identity: Perceptions of Jewish Refugees in Internment in Britain during World War II
- Austin Polonitz, research student of Heather Walsh-Haney, Dept. of Justice Studies, Forensic Anthropology and the Disposition of Native American Skeletal Remains: Examples for Florida
- Hilda Vega, research student of Ju Chou, Dept. of Chemistry, Rapid Analytical Method for Analysis of Arsenic Leached to Environment from Wood Treatment Materials
Whitaker Center Outreach Activities

We have had many! These include things like Science Fair, STEM Competition, STEM@Work with the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, GEMS, Solar Go-Kart Challenge, the STEM Tour, and flying with the Blue Angels!

And, we are planning more activities for this summer including the STEM Institute Workshop for K-12 Teachers at the Conservancy of SW FL, and Summer Research Opportunity.

For details on what we are doing with K-12, check out our website at [www.fgcu.edu/WhitakerCenter/K-12.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/WhitakerCenter/K-12.html). See information on all programming at: [www.fgcu.edu/WhitakerCenter](http://www.fgcu.edu/WhitakerCenter)

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.

Whitaker Center Awarded NSF Grantees

In September 2013 the Whitaker Center was awarded a Widening Implementation & Demonstration of Evidence-Based Reforms (WIDER) award from the National Science Foundation that provides summer salary to STEM faculty teaching introductory STEM courses at Florida Gulf Coast University to train in evidence-based practices and course design. By participating in the STEM Professional Academy for Re-invigorating the Culture of Teaching (SPARCT), faculty will learn guiding principles for change in STEM instruction. SPARCT is designed to combine content experts with educational experts to strengthen pedagogical understanding and serve as a model program for other universities.

Congratulations and thank you to the faculty and staff across the university who were involved in the proposal process:

- Laura Frost, Whitaker Center Director, PI
- Linda Serro, TLAI Director, co-PI
- Brian Johnson, Dept. of Mathematics, co-PI
- Tanya Kunberger, Whitaker College of Engineering, co-PI
- Angela Meyer, Dept. of Chemistry and Physics, co-PI
- Jackie Greene, College of Education, Sr. Personnel
- Tanya Huffman, Dept. of Mathematics, Sr. Personnel
- Elspeth McCulloch, Dept. of Web, E-Learning, and Publication Services, Sr. Personnel
- Diane Schmidt, College of Education, Sr. Personnel
- Jaffar Ali Shahul-Hameed, Dept. of Mathematics, Sr. Personnel
- Janusz Zalewski, Whitaker College of Engineering, Sr. Personnel

In addition to the faculty indicated above, the following STEM faculty have been selected to participate in the first SPARCT cohort that starts with a summer academy this May. Congratulations!

- Nicholas Bianco, Dept. of Mathematics
- Cara Brooks, Dept. of Mathematics
- Derrick Boucher, Dept. of Chemistry and Physics
- Gregory Boyce, Dept. of Chemistry and Physics
- Mary Kay Cassani, Dept. of Marine and Ecological Sciences
- Nora Demers, Dept. of Biological Sciences
- Fernando Gonzalez, Whitaker College of Engineering
- Erik Insko, Dept. of Mathematics
- Derek Lura, Whitaker College of Engineering
- Galen Papkov, Dept. of Mathematics
- Andrew Wilkinson, Dept. of Marine and Ecological Sciences
On March 6, 2014 Dr. Heather Walsh-Haney and some of her graduate students hosted over 30 visiting high school students from Lee county aged 16 to 18 for a STEM@work event. Matthew Rolland, Austin Polonitza, Shawn Dahl, Serrin Boys, Samantha Wade and Jocelyn Ryan are students in the Human Identity and Trauma Analysis concentration of the Forensic Studies Master's.

STEM@work is a program operated by the Whitaker center that aims to demonstrate to young students how STEM disciplines are applied in various professions, in hopes of kindling students' interest in these fields and encouraging them to pursue careers related to core STEM education. Dr. Laura Frost and the Whitaker Center honored forensic anthropologist Dr. Walsh-Haney and her graduate students, asking them to demonstrate for the visiting students how the science of biological anthropology is applied to forensic settings in order to assist law enforcement in solving crimes.

The event began with a brief question based discussion led by Dr. Walsh-Haney of the activities and responsibilities of forensic anthropologists. Forensic anthropologists liaise and work closely with medical examiner's offices; the students were fortunate to then have Mr. Brian Womble, the Florida District 20 morgue supervisor, kindly offer to discuss with them how STEM applies to his profession and the path he took to working in a forensic discipline. With the students' interest piqued, they were immediately immersed in the world of forensic anthropology through a simulated field recovery of human skeletal remains in the woods behind Whitaker hall (Fig 1).

Forensic anthropologists are frequently asked to assist law enforcement in identifying, excavating and recovering human remains from clandestine burials all while maintaining careful documentation to preserve the chain of custody (Fig 2). Presenting the students with an opportunity to assist in this process allowed the graduate students to demonstrate how forensic anthropologists apply principles of archaeology, in addition to stimulating students thinking about why STEM education is important in such an endeavor. The field recovery portion of the event had a number of learning outcomes for the students. Primarily, the students engaged critical thinking skills to recognize environmental variables that assist forensic anthropologists in identifying clandestine burials in addition to learning the importance of applicable standards in field recoveries such as the use of the metric system for measurements and mapping.

Once the students “recovered” the simulated human remains (plastic skeletal casts) they went back to the forensic anthropology laboratory (MH 209) where the graduate students created 5 lab activity stations (Fig 3). These stations provided the students with the rare opportunity to interact with real human skeletal material. Under the guidance of Dr. Walsh-Haney and her graduate assistants, the visiting students learned how forensic anthropologists estimate various aspects of a biological profile from human skeletal remains. The students learned how to estimate age, sex and stature, in addition to learning the intricacies of trauma analysis. Two lab stations highlighted the importance of metric assessment and taught the students how to take osteometric measurements and use statistical analysis to estimate aspects of the biological profile such as stature, sex and ancestry (Fig 4).

The event was a great success and was both a fun and educational day for the visiting students. Dr. Walsh-Haney and her graduate assistants were truly honored to be asked by Dr. Laura Frost and the Whitaker center to participate in such a worthwhile event. After the workshop, Sue Roshon the administrator for Lee county schools invited Dr. Walsh-Haney and her graduate students to present at the next STEM@work event and they plan to attend!
Caloosahatchee River Science Workshop

FGCU’s Coastal Watershed Institute, in association with the Consensus Building Institute and the South Florida Water Management District, sponsored a very successful technical science workshop on the Caloosahatchee River system, which took place November 19-20th, 2013 in the Cohen Center Ballroom and attracted over 100 participants. Contributors and participants included scientists and stakeholders from public, private, government and academic sectors, as well as a cadre of concerned citizens.

The workshop’s goals were to frame the major environmental challenges facing the Caloosahatchee system, and to review pertinent scientific information relevant to management challenges. These challenges include:

- To discuss the primary indicators for assessing environmental condition, and for tracking progress
- To identify gaps related to the primary indicators where more information would improve the ability to manage and restore the system

The agenda was structured to include both technical presentations and facilitated stakeholder dialogues in full group discussions. Smaller breakout sessions followed each group of presentations to foster more in-depth conversation on each speaker’s area of concern and expertise.

Celebrating Undergraduate STEM Research and Internship – A Student Symposium with a little chili on the side

By Billy Gunnels

On Friday December 6th, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematical) students from across the campus came together to share results of their scholarship and experiences from their internships at the 3rd Annual STEM Undergraduate Students and Internship Symposium. It was an awesome afternoon … but I am completely biased: I love science, I love discovery, I love student success, and yes, I love a good intellectually focused party.

For three short hours, students shared their new discoveries and skills. The afternoon was so remarkable because of the conversations and diversity of ideas that were exchanged. For example, two students in chemistry developed a molecular model of histidase, an enzyme that breaks down the amino acid histidine; another student from environmental studies presented data on the perceived utility of alternative non-invasive models for animal dissections; and a biology student described the genetic evolution of isolated populations of boreal toads. In one small area, 85 students from engineering, mathematical, and science shared a single platform to present results from 61 projects. They each presented a professional poster that was used to stimulate varied conversations.

So on to the chili – we sampled 8 wonderful entries to the student/faculty chili cook-off. There was a “Peanut Butter & Jelly Chili” as well as the “Randy’s Excellent Chili”, among the more creative entries. But in the end, there could be only one winner. Anna Goebel took the celebrated “golden bedazzled” ladle for her “Anna’s Turkey Chili”. While the name only may not stimulate the taste buds, the winning tactic was a marvel: first, wait until all of the other chilis have been eaten. Second, introduce your own chili to the competition at a time when most people become peckish for dinner. Third, round up every hungry person that you know to vote, Chicago style. Finally, wait for the votes to be counted before bringing home the reward. Well done Dr. Goebel!

By Billy Gunnels

Armando Grez describes his model to optimize signaling points in a transmission array

Clayton Hensen discusses the efficacy of “Citizen-Science” data in resource management decisions

Ngan Nguyen and Raymond Ho presented remote programming in the VxWorks Kernel

Dr. Laura Frost learns about Haisley Blankenship’s sea turtle conservation internship

Shawn Felton, FGCU Faculty Senate President and Dean Aswani Volety

By Billy Gunnels

Anna Goebel celebrates her victory to the adoring masses
Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference returns to FGCU

On January 31, water resources professionals from south Florida and around the state gathered in the Cohen Center to discuss, confer, and exchange cutting edge technical information on one of our region’s crucial problems: the condition and availability of our region’s fresh water. Prof. Don Duke, from the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences (MES), led the campus organization for the 23rd Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference. Professors Win Everham (MES) and Kristoph-Dietrich Kinzli (Civil and Environmental Engineering) also served on the organizing committee.

The annual Conference’s unique structure organizes a consortium of professional societies and public interest groups to convene in one place, for one day, rather than each society sponsoring its own specialty conference in engineering, aquatic biology, water supply planning, water quality policy, etc. Attendance this year broke the all-time record, with more than 220 attendees. It was a great opportunity for students (a record of 108 attended this year), who spent the day exploring water resources as a possible career path, rubbing shoulders with professionals, and learning civic engagement in a first-hand atmosphere where the experts are discussing real problems and crucial needs of our region.

Carol Collier, Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission and current President of the American Water Resources Association, was the morning’s keynote speaker. She described the Delaware River’s award-winning Integrated Water Resources Management approach, and the advancing problems, and limited responses available, from sea level rise in the Delaware River estuary. Other technical talks were delivered by Dr. Gary Mitchum, Professor and Associate Dean at the USF College of Marine Science; and Dr. Harold Wanless of University of Miami. Both researchers described their years of data and analysis on sea level changes, and their observations on climate change and its impending effects on Florida’s environment and living spaces.

Pressing local issues in water resources for south Florida form the centerpiece of the annual conference. This year it featured an update on the South Florida Water Management District by Blake Guillory, Executive Director; an overview of the impacts on the Caloosahatchee Estuary of unusually high and low flows, centered on the high rainfalls of Summer 2013, by Rae Ann Wessel of Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation; and research findings of CAS Associate Professor Dr. Serge Thomas describing “thousands of ticking time bombs” of the stormwater treatment ponds we see every day in south Florida commercial and residential developments. FGCU leadership in water resources research, and input in pressing public policy decisions for our region, is exemplified year after year in the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference.

IIth Annual FGCU Mathematics Competition and Tech Regional Contest

On December 16th, 1500 +/- students from over 40 middle and high schools around the state came to FGCU to participate in the 11th annual math contest. The event is designed as a pre-season competition for Mu Alpha Theta math teams. Much like athletic teams, these math teams travel around the state competing in various events. The FGCU contest is the largest known event in the state. Students participate in both individual and team test rounds with the day ending in an awards ceremony. FGCU offers full tuition scholarship to the content area winners. The contest is organized by the CAS Mathematics department with faculty from multiple disciplines helping out with test writing and scoring.

Please visit the contest website for more information. [http://www.fgcu.edu/events/mathcompetition](http://www.fgcu.edu/events/mathcompetition)

The 35th Virginia Tech Regional Mathematics Contest took place on Saturday, October 26, at 9:00am. Four FGCU students took part in the competition. The two and a half hour exam consisted of seven challenging questions ranging among all levels of undergraduate mathematics. We commend Romel Durandisse, Christie J. Mauretour, Jean Merone, and Matthew Mule for their participation in this event.
Second Annual ASPiRE Conference: A Huge Success!

“How on earth can someone do research in math today?” If I had a dollar for every time a student asked me this question, FGCU would already have an Academic Building 9 with my name on the front. Sadly, this is not yet the case; but luckily, many local students have found out first-hand what exactly math research is and how exciting it can be, at FGCU’s second annual Advancing Student Participation in Research Experiences (ASPiRE) Conference. The goals of the conference, on January 24th, were to encourage mathematics students from Southwest Florida to engage in undergraduate research projects as well as to showcase the high-quality mathematics research that is already being conducted by local undergraduate and graduate students.

Over 100 students attended the conference from 4 institutions around the state, and outside student travel was provided by a Mathematical Association of America – Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (NSF-MAA-RUMC) grant.

The ASPiRE Conference’s morning session featured keynote addresses from Dr. Rolland Trapp, leader of a Mathematics Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at California State University, San Bernardino, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF); and Dr. Manoug Manougian, Director of the STEM Education Center at the University of South Florida and faculty advisor for the USF Society of Aeronautics and Rocketry (SOAR) Student Organization.

The speakers described what their team of undergraduate researchers did on a daily basis, shared some of their students’ shining achievements in undergraduate research, and offered advice on the application process for these highly selective summer REU programs. FGCU faculty members Dr. Galen Papkov and Dr. Daniel Kern gave talks on their experience with student research here at FGCU. A Q&A panel session featuring all four faculty speakers wrapped up the morning activities, allowing FGCU students to find out more about math research and REU programs. ASPiRE participants were then given the opportunity to chat informally with the invited speakers over a complimentary pizza buffet.

The ASPiRE Conference’s afternoon session focused on the excellent research being conducted by area students. It featured ten student research presentations, including three outside speakers from Embry-Riddle and Edison State College. After watching the student presentations, Dr. Manoug Manougian of USF said that he was immensely impressed by the quantity and caliber of mathematics students and the excellent quality of the student research being conducted here at FGCU.

The excitement of presenting at ASPiRE has motivated several participants to take their show on the road to present their work at other state and national conferences. Since the ASPiRE conference, Joshua Jorgenson presented at the Florida – Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, and won first prize for best mathematics presentation and second best science presentation. Armando Grez, Michael Farina, and Christie Mauretour presented at the Embry-Riddle Undergraduate Conference, and David Blessing presented at the Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing at FAU. Another five of our students are slated to present at the Underrepresented Students in Topology and Algebra Research Symposium (USTARS) 2014 at UC-Berkeley this April.

The conference also seems to have succeeded in piquing student interest in undergraduate research, as we have more students participating in undergraduate research than ever before. For the first time ever, two FGCU undergraduate students have been accepted to NSF funded math REU summer programs this year. Armando Grez will attend a Summer REU Program at the University of Texas at Tyler and Christie Mauretour will attend the MAXIMA REU at the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota.

The conference also seems to have succeeded in piquing student interest in undergraduate research, as we have more students participating in undergraduate research than ever before. For the first time ever, two FGCU undergraduate students have been accepted to NSF funded math REU summer programs this year. Armando Grez will attend a Summer REU Program at the University of Texas at Tyler and Christie Mauretour will attend the MAXIMA REU at the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota.

Special thanks go to the College of Arts and Sciences, Cengage, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, NSF-MAA, and the Whitaker Center for help sponsoring this event.
Moving from Classrooms to Courtrooms

By: Austin Polonitza & Serrin Boys

On February 27, 2014 Laurie Metz, a teacher from Dunbar High School, invited Florida Gulf Coast University graduate students Austin Polonitza and Serrin Boys to give a lecture on Forensic Anthropology, as to well as facilitate a hands-on lab for her students.

Laurie Metz met Serrin and Austin in November of 2013, during a Lee County Schools event called Super Science Saturday. She introduced herself immediately after seeing “Forensic Anthropology” on the back of their shirts. Due to her biomedical background, Laurie had previously worked with her students to estimate the age, sex, and stature of skeletonized remains. She engaged the FGCU graduates in a discussion about their graduate work. In addition, she emphasized how it would benefit her students to do some hands-on lab work in conjunction with a lecture from the University’s graduate students.

In the Human Identity and Trauma Analysis (HITAM) graduate program, graduate students engage in outreach to the community and teach. This not only reinforces good public speaking skills, but also facilitates knowledge of how to speak and teach juries in the court of law. Without any background knowledge in the subject matter, students often get confused; the graduate students practice breaking the terminology down so it is easier to understand.

Serrin & Austin discussed the use of Forensic Anthropology to solve crime with Laurie Metz’s high school students. They used teaching material (human and nonhuman skeletal remains and casts) to establish how forensic anthropologists make age, sex, ancestry, stature, human vs. nonhuman estimations and delineate the intricacies of trauma analysis, in addition to the process of discovering a clandestine burial site. During the hour and a half time period, Serrin and Austin fielded questions which highlighted the students’ interest in the subject material. Austin recommended further reading on the subject in Dead Men Do Tell Tales by William R. Maples, Ph.D. Even more impressive was the fact that a majority of the high school students stayed after their class was over and took time out of their own lunch period to complete the hands on lab and talk more with the FGCU students.

Laurie Metz was thrilled with the presentation and the students thanked Serrin and Austin for coming and speaking to them. Before the graduate students left Dunbar High School, Laurie Metz invited them back for another time and both happily accepted.

History Students Forge Ahead in the Fall Term

The History Program hit the ground running this academic year. Michael Rodríguez, who graduated in May 2013 with his B.A. in History from FGCU and is now a student in the M.A. program, won The J. Calvitt Clarke III Award for Best Undergraduate Research Paper at the 2013 Florida Conference of Historians. Christopher Harrison, who also graduated in May 2013 with a B.A. in History from FGCU and is a student in the M.A. program, has embarked on an ambitious community histories project. Finally, The Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies opened the new academic year by sponsoring a series of commemorative events.

Rodríguez’s paper, entitled “The Ideologization of U.S.-Guatemalan Relations, 1944-1952,” argued that Juan José Árévalo—a democratically elected “spiritual socialist” and university professor who embarked on a rash of socioeconomic reforms—threatened U.S. economic interests, despite Árévalo’s conciliatory rhetoric. As the Cold War superpower rivalry intensified, the initially forbearing Harry S. Truman administration came to see Árévalo’s reforms not as the actions of nationalists struggling to modernize their country, but rather as symptoms of international communism’s control of Guatemala’s reformist government; a supposition State Department dispatches acknowledged to be unsupported by evidence. By 1952, the anticommunist Truman administration thus had largely ideologized U.S.-Guatemalan relations; a process that culminated in the CIA-sponsored coup of 1954. Rodríguez’s paper emphasizes the importance of revolutionary upheavals in Guatemala in the 1940s and the rising anticommunism in the United States as playing fundamental roles in U.S.-Guatemalan relations. The J. Calvitt Clarke III Award included a $100 honorarium and publication in the 2014 FCH Annals.

In his last semester as an undergraduate, Christopher Harrison designed and implemented the community histories service learning project that he planned to make the focal point of his graduate research. The goal of this oral history project is to document the stories of people and organizations in southwest Florida that have made an impact on the area. Thus far Christopher has overseen undergraduate students who have collected oral histories from individuals working with the Mother of God House of Prayer in Alva and the Happehatchee Center in Estero. Faculty coordinator Frances Davey will be embedding this project into her Spring 2014 course HIS 3938: Issues in Interdisciplinary History.

The History program is proud of its student involvement and accomplishments and continues to forge ahead in the Spring semester.
New Center on Human Trafficking Receives Grant

Dr. Johnny McGaha recently received a $150,000 grant from the Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida to create a Center that will “develop and implement a regional protocol that includes the enhancement of victim support provided by law, order and victim service agencies. The proposed Center will also develop and implement a data collection method that facilitates the coordination of services and forensic investigations on human trafficking cases. Victims of trafficking will be identified and assisted as survivors, not criminals. Current training and education on best practices and emerging trends will be coordinated by the Center,” according to Alex Olivares, the Center’s recently appointed coordinator.

The proposed Center will be hosted on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and designed to support the multi-agency Human Trafficking Task Force, led by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Middle District of Florida. The proposed Center will cover Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, Glades and DeSoto counties.

The Women’s Fund of Southwest Florida continues to seek financial contributions to support the Southwest Florida Regional Center on Human Trafficking at www.womensfundflorida.org or via email at contact@womensfundflorida.org. To connect with a service provider or report suspected human trafficking activity, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

Talkin’ Monkeys

On November 23, Ofir Drori, a world-renowned animal activist, presented and previewed his new wildlife documentary, Ofir: A Wildlife Crime Documentary, as part of the Talkin’ Monkeys Project of Hendry County. Many students, faculty and the outside community attended the presentation in Edwards Hall.

Ofir presented pieces of his documentary to the audience, and spoke for some time regarding the perils involved in creating the movie, his efforts for wildlife conservation, building activism, his anger and frustration at the authorities, and his love for the apes he rescues. Audience members were then given the opportunity to ask questions, which he fielded with ease and grace. After the presentation ended, Ofir signed books, posed for photos and spoke more intimately with the audience members, providing a rare opportunity for many of our FGCU students, faculty and community members to express their thoughts and share a special moment with this inspiring activist.

In late 2012, Ofir received the World Wildlife Fund’s highest award, The Duke of Edinburgh Conservationist Award. Drori’s Book, The Last Great Ape was a New York Times best seller and has been translated into multiple languages around the world. His new documentary is scheduled to be shown at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2014. Drori currently leads the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA), a Non-Governmental Organization devoted to conservation and wildlife law enforcement in Cameroon and other African countries.
FGCU Philosophy Hosts THE HEIDEGGER CIRCLE in May

The Philosophy Program at FGCU and the USF’s Philosophy Department will be co-hosting the Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of The Heidegger Circle at the Bayfront Hilton in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida, May 8th-11th. The Heidegger Circle is one of the oldest and most distinguished research groups in North America and is dedicated to furthering cutting edge scholarship on arguably the most influential and controversial philosophical figure of the twentieth-century, the German philosopher Martin Heidegger (1889-1976).

Most known for his groundbreaking study of ontology and human existence in the masterwork *Being and Time* (1927), Heidegger’s thought has shaped the current intellectual landscape not only in recent Continental and Anglophone philosophy, but also in the areas of literary theory, theology, psychiatry and psychotherapy, architecture, ecology, and technology studies. But Heidegger is also notorious for his anti-Semitism and his unapologetic commitment to Nazism in the 1930s and early 40s. Heidegger’s Nazism continues to challenge and frustrate scholars today, opening up the question of whether or not his revolutionary thought can be separated from his dubious politics.

With papers from a prominent group of emerging and internationally distinguished scholars, the meeting of The Heidegger Circle promises to be one of the premier philosophical events in the Southeast this year, and it could not have been organized and funded without generous support from the Dean’s Office of FGCU’s College of Arts and Sciences, FGCU’s Office of Sponsored Research and Programs, and the FGCU Office of Undergraduate Studies. For more information about the event, contact Dr. Kevin Aho kaho@fgcu.edu. If you’re interested in a copy of the conference *Proceedings*, go to [http://www.lulu.com/shop/heidegger-circle/2014-heidegger-circle-proceedings/paperback/product-21553608.html](http://www.lulu.com/shop/heidegger-circle/2014-heidegger-circle-proceedings/paperback/product-21553608.html). For more information on the conference program, go to [http://www.heideggercircle.org/2014program.pdf](http://www.heideggercircle.org/2014program.pdf).

Seven CAS Professors Get Shaved in Third Annual St. Baldrick’s Day!

On Wednesday November 4, eight CAS professors—Dr. Sean Kelly, Dr. Billy Gunnels, Dr. Timothy Sutton, Dr. Masami Sugimori, Dr. Thomas Stefanuk, Dr. Michael Cole, and Dr. Jaffar Ali Shahul Hameed—participated in FGCU’s third annual St. Baldrick’s Day!

Along with over 200 other shavees, these courageous professors “braved the shave” in order to raise funds and awareness for childhood cancer.

St. Baldrick’s Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research is an international organization devoted to finding a cure for childhood cancer. The foundation is the second largest contributor to childhood cancer research in the United States — second only to the U.S. government. St. Baldrick’s Day raises awareness in a fun way by having participants receive sponsorship in order to have their heads (and in Dr. Kelly’s case beards) shaved.

Last Wednesday over 200 shavees, including our seven faculty members, helped to raise over $10,012 to help find a cure for childhood cancer!

FGCU’s St. Baldrick’s Day started in Fall 2011 as an assignment for Jessica Rhea’s Honors Foundations of Civic Engagement course. Five classmates teamed-up to organize the Inaugural St. Baldrick’s Day and chose to create the event as part of a service learning requirement associated with the course.

This year, the event’s main organizers, Claire Gorman, Catherine Gorman, and Karen Muhl, along with many generous volunteers, grew the annual service event to include multiple campus organizations that partnered as shavee teams. The Honors Program and the fraternity Pi Kappa Phi each raised over $2,000 for the major service day.

Founded in Civic Engagement, FGCU’s St. Baldrick’s Day has proven to be a high-impact service experience that is helping to find a cure for childhood cancer by creating lots of Bald (Eagle) heads on our campus.
New to the Nest (Well, some are…)

**Carolina Contreras** joins the Dean’s Office from the Human Resources department here at FGCU, where she first interned as an HRIS Intern and later worked as an HR Recruiting Assistant. She recently obtained her undergraduate degree in Business Management from FGCU with a concentration in Human Resources and a minor in Computer Information Systems. The Dean’s Suite is happy to have her on board!

**Margaret (Molly) Creeger** joins the Language and Literature Department from the healthcare industry. She served as an administrative assistant for over 5 years in the clinical education and Human resources fields, and prior to that she had a background in elementary education. Molly graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a BA in History. Molly is thrilled to be a part of this growing university and excited to be part of such a wonderfully talented group of people.

**Susan Fohs** – Sheeeee’s Baaaaack!!!! Well…..How lucky can one girl be? After being retired for 18 months, she made the decision to return to work for a bit. The brand new Department of Chemistry and Physics was looking for an Executive Secretary – Susan interviewed and here she is, back working just outside her old office in Whitaker Hall. She’s still up to her old tricks – there are lots of LadyBugs on her office walls, WH 234! If you haven’t seen her yet, stop by and say Hello!

**Joanna K. Hoch** joins the Bower School of Music & the Arts as the Events Coordinator, responsible for overseeing the 160+ events throughout the Bower School of Music and the Arts over the course of the year. She comes most recently from Theatre L’Homme Dieu in Alexandria, Minnesota, where she was the Executive Director. As the daughter of two professors, Joanna grew up on university campuses, so the move to FGCU felt like a natural one. Joanna has a MEd in Drama and the Creative Arts in Education from the University of Exeter in the UK, and a BA in Theatre from the University of New Hampshire. A native New Englander, Joanna is happy to be back by the ocean, where she enjoys watching her little girl run into the waves and the dog run away from them.

**John Loscuito** joins the Bower School of Music and the Arts as the new Art Gallery Director. His previous position was at the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, where he served for seven years as the Collections Manager. John has also been active as an independent curator and producer of arts events in the state of Wisconsin. John received his MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a focus in painting and drawing, and taught art studio classes for a number of years. He went back to school while working at Marquette University and received his MBA. He is looking forward to applying his interests in art and business here at FGCU.

Recently relocating to the Fort Myers area from Ohio, **Kaye Straley** spent a short period of time as an Administrative Assistant for upper management in the hospitality field before joining the FGCU community as the Executive Secretary for the Department of Psychology. She gained her higher education experience at Denison University, a small private liberal arts college in Ohio, as an Administrative Assistant for Institutional Advancement for 8 years.

CAS Advising is pleased to welcome five new Academic Advisors who will be joining our team.

(from left to right) **Michelle Jones, M.A., Patti Kirk, M.A, Locksley Knibbs, MHEA., Jacqueline Salmond, Ph.D., and Cheryl Walther, M.Ed.**

Michelle brings over 9 years of experience in higher education with the last 3 years as Registrar at Kentucky Wesleyan College. Patti has over 15 years of experience in higher education and for the past 2 years worked in First Year Advising here at FGCU. Locksley brings academic advising experience from Edison State College and most recently, 7 years of experience as office manager for QEP at FGCU. Jacqueline earned a Ph.D in Human Geography and has been an adjunct instructor for FGCU for the past 2 years. Cheryl brings over 2 years of experience as an academic advising graduate assistant and student-athlete academic support intern.

Please introduce yourselves as you see them in the halls - we are expanding to include several offices in Merwin Hall in addition to our current locations in Holmes Engineering and AB7.
Dr. Jeanie Darnell and Dr. Michael Baron performed recitals and presented master classes in two off-campus venues: Patronato Peruano de la Música Ciclo Centenarios (Centenary Season); Master classes with students from the National Conservatory and Catholic University on September 8th, and a recital of Wagner, Verdi and Britten on September 9th and in Lima, Peru; and the University of North Florida’s Generation Series, Master class with vocal music majors on September 10th and a recital of Wagner, Liszt, Britten, Verdi, and Rakhamaninov on October 14th in Jacksonville, FL. Additionally, Drs. Baron & Darnell performed in the FGCU Faculty Artist Series a recital of Wagner, Verdi, Britten, and Rakhamaninov (Oct. 10), and performed a song cycle called November Songs for the visiting composer Dr. Don Freund’s Guest Artist Series concert at the BSM (Nov. 5).

Dr. Darnell also sang as soloist with the BSM Wind Orchestra (Oct. 6), was one of five international judges selected for the jury of the Concurso Nacional Canto de Lírico de Radio Filarmónica (national classical vocal competition) in Lima, Peru (Oct. 20-23) and was invited to return next year. She will be featured as a soloist with the Southwest Florida Symphony (Jan. 22 and 23) Mostly Mozart Concerts and as soprano soloist in the Mozart Mass in C Minor with the BSM Orchestra and Choir (Nov. 24).

Student Highlights

- Alex Feliciano performed the role of Pippin in the Bower School of Music and the Arts production of Pippin (Oct.)
- Lauren Davis is now a singing intern with Opera Naples. She is also an intern with the Naples Bach Ensemble, where she will be a featured soloist in the Giles’ Messe des Morts (Nov. 17 and 21). She will be a guest artist at Unity Church’s Holiday Concert, Naples, directed by Jodie DeSalvo (Dec. 18)
- Students Alex Feliciano, Bradley Berry, and Christopher Chandler will be featured soloists with the Naples Bach Ensemble in the Giles’ Messe des Morts and Charpentier Magnificat (Nov. 17 and 21)
- John McCann is now a singing intern with Artist Naples (Naples Philharmonic Chorale)
- Priscila Navarro continues her winning streak in international piano competitions by winning the Biannual Liszt-Garrison International Piano Competition in Baltimore, Maryland. This prestigious competition is for pianists up to the age of 40. Not only did she win the overall Franz Liszt award, she won the prize for best interpretation of an American work and best interpretation of a Liszt work. One of the judges said “She played so incredibly. All of the judges were constantly voting unanimously for her … Her Spanish Rhapsody was one of the best I have ever heard. Schubert-Liszt was so mesmerizing. Bach was incredible and imaginative. I loved the Beethoven and that difficult opening of double thirds was so perfect and clear; and the Gershwin songs were just wonderful. Mephisto and Lopez were equally impressive.” Priscila had just recently returned from a highly successful concert in Warsaw Poland and then won the MTNA Young Artist Competition for the State of Florida. She will compete against the winner of nine other states in January in Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Navarro studies with Dr. Michael Baron, Head of Keyboard Studies at the Bower School of Music.
Empty Bowls Feeds Many Through Extraordinary Efforts

Students, staff, alumni, bowl makers and bowl washers, soup makers and soup servers, and many members from the outside community were willing to stand in line on Friday, December 6th for the Annual Empty Bowls event. Due to everyone’s participation, they were able to raise $4,950.00 for the food pantry at Interfaith Charities of South Lee in San Carlos Park. Very special thanks goes out to the core group of art students led by Visiting Ceramics Instructor Sara Truman who together made it all happen. This was a wonderful way to launch the holiday season!

After many years (and MANY dollars), the casting area behind the Arts Complex now has a roof and circulation fans for assistance with cooling the area. This is the first group to be able to cast under the new roof. Thank you, Provost Toll!

Upcoming Events:

May 17-June 12 ~ FLOR500 will be in the Art Gallery. The opening of this exhibit coincides with the Florida Native Plant Conference that will be happening on campus that weekend. The exhibit will feature works of art inspired by 70 of Florida’s native plants. This exhibit will be curated by Mary Voytek, the Southwest Florida Curator. More information about the art and the state-wide project can be found at http://www.xaviercortada.com/?page=FLOR500_Regions.

The Chamber Choir will embark on its first international performance tour in May and sing in Prague, Vienna, Mondsee, Salzburg and Innsbruck.
Faculty Highlights

In 2014 Dr. Bob Diotalevi, Esq., LL.M., of Legal Studies, was appointed to The University Selection Committee, Associate Professor of Law position, The University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan; became a peer reviewer for The Grants Program of The Faculty Professional Development Council (FPDC) for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education; became an advisory board member for The European Scientific Institute (ESI); was selected as a reviewer for The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law; The Association of Digital Forensics, Security and Law (ADFSL), Virginia; became a reviewer for The Asian Journal of Legal Education, Indian Law Institute, Sage Publications, India; was selected for a position as an advisory editor on The International Journal of Social Science Research, Council for Innovative Research, Mustang Publications; became a reviewer for The Jurnal Pengajian Media Malaysia (JPMM)/Malaysian Journal of Media Studies (MJMS), The Universiti Malaya, Malaysia; and was recently published with his student regarding the allergic reactions to latex: Robert Diotalevi, Judy Hoffman, Justice Studies, JD, “The Battle with Latex: One Law Student’s Brave Journey”, The Paralegal Educator, The American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE), Quarterly, pp. 34-35.

Professor Duane Dobbert, and Adjunct Faculty Tom Mackey of Forensic Studies are pleased to announce that they have entered into a contract with Praeger Publishing to serve as editors of Deviance: Theories of Behavior That Defy Social Norms. Most significantly, 15 Graduate Students are the Chapter Authors. The book goes “in press” on March 30 and will be released on September 30, 2014.

Chair Joan Manley is delighted to announce that Melodie Eichbauer was awarded first honorable mention for the Snyder Prize for the most outstanding paper presented by a junior scholar at the 19th Biennial New College Conference on Medieval & Renaissance Studies (Sarasota, FL), 6-8 March 2014 for her paper “Challenging Our Understanding of Causae 23-26 of Gratian’s Decretum as the Causae hereticorum.”

Congratulations to David Green and Brandon Kliewer, who were recently recognized for their exceptional work in the field of Civic Engagement at the Florida Campus Compact’s Annual Awards Gala on November 7th. David was awarded the “Engaged Scholarship Faculty Award” for his notable contributions in the integration of service/community-based learning into his course curriculum; and Brandon was awarded the “Graham-Frey Civic Award” for his outstanding contributions to the development of civic learning and engagement in sustaining our participatory democracy. Well done!

Conan and Julie Griffin have been in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for the last seven months volunteering as English-language teachers and working on personal and professional development. Conan has had a few travel articles published in issues of What’s Up Phnom Penh and Southeast Asia Backpacker under C.M. Griffin. He has also finished or is in the middle of other writing projects, both personal and professional.

Thomas Hair published Provocative Radio Transients and Base Rate Bias: a Bayesian Argument for Conservatism in Acta Astronautica, Journal of the International Astronautics Association, Elsevier Press. He also presented Benford’s Law of First Digits and the Mass of Exoplanets at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Association and the Mathematical Association of America in Baltimore, Maryland this past January. He presented both of these works again locally at the Joint Meetings of the MAA-Florida Section and the FTYCMA at Edison State College in February. The presentation on Benford’s Law and exoplanets was featured in the New Scientist magazine article, Mathematical Crime-Fighter Helps Hunt for Alien Worlds, in their November 30th issue, while the journal article on provocative radio transients found its way into the October 6th edition of USA Today under the headline Alien Internet Out There Already?

Kim Jackson, Associate Professor of English, recently published her first book, titled Technology, Monstrosity, and Reproduction in Twenty-First Century Horror, with Palgrave Macmillan Press. In the book, Dr. Jackson examines how the technologically produced and reproduced image functions as a site of monstrous birth. Covering several horror sub-genres, she explores the current state of horror as it relates to cultural anxieties about the dehumanizing effects of technology, ultimately arguing that the monstrous figures of twenty-first century horror offer figures for a new understanding of humanity and its place in the world.

Miranda Marts, an Instructor in Justice Studies, was recently sworn in to serve as a Florida Guardian ad Litem for Lee County. Currently, only 58% of all children in Lee County who are under the court’s supervision have been appointed a Guardian, leaving the other 42% vulnerable to their surroundings and without advocacy on their behalf.
Faculty Highlights

FGCU Art Program Leader and Associate Professor of Art, Morgan T. Paine was invited to a March 9th conference held at the Golden Artists Colors’ headquarters in New Berlin, NY. He was one of a dozen artist community members drawn from across the country to help shape the new mission statement which is intended to lead the transformation of Golden Artists Colors from a privately held company founded by the father and son team of Sam and Mark Golden, into an employee-owned corporation.

Michael Rohrbacher, Professor in the Bower School of Music, has served as a disciplinary mentor to Katie Miller, a senior high school student in the Collier County Public Schools, for the ‘Advanced Placement Laureate Program’ since October, 2013. Katie will present her final scholarly work on March 20th, entitled “From Hearing to Healing: Sustaining Life through Music Therapy.” Michael will also serve as Visiting Professor at Tokushima Bunri University (TBU) this May 24th – June 1st in Tokushima Japan. He has served in this capacity since 1999, providing lectures and public demonstrations twice each year for the TBU Music Therapy Program and surrounding healthcare agencies.

Maria Roca was recently published in urbandictionary.com with - “Wikitellectual.” The word means: A person who gets most of their knowledge from Wikipedia or other Wiki sources. e.g. - Today’s college students have a tendency toward being wikitellectuals rather than true intellectuals. Or I can always tell my good students from my wikitellectuals, their bibliographies actual include a book or two! http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=wikitellectual Way to go Maria! Our new Shakespeare!

Darren Rumbold, along with collaborators from Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, was awarded a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to study trophic transfer of mercury along salinity gradients in Gulf of Mexico estuaries.

Professional Presentations:

Chris Endrinal, Bower School of Music and the Arts, presented a paper at the 31st annual Music Theory Forum at Florida State University (hosted by the Music Theory Society at Florida State University) on January 18, 2014. It was a presentation of new research involving two-part interverse sections in modern pop songs. http://fsumts.wdfiles.com/local--files/mts-forum/2014%20Program

---Served as the conference panel chair, “Music and Musicians” as part of the conference, The Holocaust in Hungary, 70 Years On: New Perspectives. The conference, which attracted scholars from around the world, was sponsored by the Center for Judaic, Holocaust and Genocide Studies and was held at FGCU, March 16-18, 2014.

--- “Mock Trial, Cross and Direct Examination of an Expert Witness”, Stetson College of Law, Scientific Evidence Class, Gulfport, FL, November 12.

Johnny McGaha, Ph.D., Justice Studies, “The Irish Travelers in America: Colorful Gypsies or Dangerous Con Artists?”, National Social Science Association Fall Professional Development Meeting, National Social Science Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 6-8.

Michael Rohrbacher, Ph.D., Bower School of Music and the Arts, “Improvisation Along the Silk Road: Applications for Music Therapists,” Continuing education course at the Southeast Region of the American Music Therapy Association Annual meeting, Thursday, March 27th, Mobile, AL.
---(2) “Music Therapy for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders” for the Promising Pathways 7th Annual Conference on Best Practice in Autism, Concurrent session for Saturday, April 12, 2014, at FGCU.

Student Highlights:

Senior English major Alexandria Ayala is busy sharing her expertise at conferences. She presented her paper, "More than Decoration: Lady Macbeth, Cleopatra, and the Management of Power and Sex" at the Northeast Popular/American Culture conference in November. She has also been accepted to present to the national Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in Chicago. Her topic for the April conference is “Reevaluating Folklore: Identity, Culture, and Community in the College Classroom.”

Journalism major Jacob Steiner came in second in the 2014 White House News Photographers Association student contest. Steiner was runner-up in the “News Story” category. The contest featured the work of student journalists from across the country. One of the judges said “I thought all of the bodies of work demonstrated a high level of ability. Some of the pieces demonstrated not only the ability to tell a story, but artistry with the camera.” Full results can be found at www.whnpa.org.

Jennifer Thera, former graduate student of Darren Rumbold, published a paper along with Darren reporting results of her MS thesis research titled “Biomagnification of mercury through a subtropical coastal food web off Southwest Florida” in the Journal for the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. Jennifer is in the 2nd year of her Ph.D research on mercury, at the University of New Brunswick.

The Sociology Club presented their 2nd Annual Social Science Research Symposium on Friday, November 15th. There were eleven presentations by both faculty and students with a wide range of topics, as well as two “Hot Topic” conversations in which all in attendance were asked to participate. We hope this event be even larger next year. If you are interested in presenting your work on social science topics (broadly defined), we will issue a call for papers in early Fall 2014.

On Tuesday, December 10th, six College of Arts and Sciences seniors were recognized by the Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement with the prestigious “Excellence in Civic Engagement” stole. Collectively these students served more than 2000 hours with local non-profit agencies. Each recipient submitted an application for this award that highlighted a sustained service-learning project in which s/he strove to make a difference and meet the confirmed needs of a local community partner. These award winners were selected for their notable contributions that impacted the organization and community and brought about substantial change.

On February 13, 2014 Professor Claude Villiers and 15 FGCU students traveled to Jacksonville to participate in the 2014 FGLSAMP Expo (Florida – Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation). This was the first year that students at FGCU participated in this program, and all of the students that went presented their research work at the Expo. We stole the show during the banquet!

- Joshua Jorgenson (faculty mentor Dr. Shahul-Hameed Jaffar) won first place for the Math Presentation category.
- Arocelis Chamorro (faculty mentor Dr. Jorge Tores) won second place for the Engineering Poster category.
- Jefferey St. Firmin (faculty mentor Dr. Sulekha Coticone) won third place for the Chemistry Poster category.

Everyone was stunned by the performance of our students showing another another acclamation of “performance and product-based measures” at FGCU.

Professor Villiers would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Ralph Turner, FGLSAMP Director, and Mr. Green Byron Greene, FGLSAMP Associate Director, for this opportunity. Special thanks to all the faculty mentors who dedicated time, energy, and resources to work with these students. Also thank you to all the school officials including Provost Toll, Dean Behr, Dean Volety, Associate VP for Research & Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Yih, and the Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Dr. O’Neill, who supported this program.
Mark Your Calendars

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Molly Creeger
Judson Cribbs
Jeanie Darnell
Mari DeWees
Bob Diotallevi
Duane Dobbert
Don Duke
Melodie Eichbauer
Jerry Ellis
Tricia Fay
Susan Fohs
Laura Frost
Claire Gorman
James Greco
Conan Griffin
Charles “billy” Gunnels
Tom Hair
Joanna Hoch
Brandon Hollingshead
Erik Insko
Kim Jackson
Jeff Kleege
John Loscuito
Joan Manley
Miranda Marts
Johnny McGaha
Christal Niemeyer
Morgan Paine
Austin Polonitza
(Jackson)
Jessica Rhea
Marla Roca
Matthew Rolland
(Duane)
Darren Rumbold
Jaffar Ali
Shahul-Hameed
Kaye Straley
Hidetoshi Urakawa
Emily Vallier
Claude Villiers
Mary Walch
Rebecca Wells
(student)

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

Save the Date
Farewell to Dean Aswani Voley
Day: May 9th
Time: 3:00-5:00 pm
Location: Holmes Hall 406
Refreshments will be served...