Dear Colleagues,

As the cooler weather approaches, we reflect on many important events marking continued growth and achievement for the College. Among these events is the establishment of an MOU with Bangor University in Wales for the advancement of research collaboration in marine, environmental, and biological sciences. In addition, we have begun recruiting new faculty positions to support the increasing student enrollment and expansion of programs.

The semester had an inspirational start with Freshman Convocation's guest speaker and bestselling author Ishmael Beah. You will find an article on this memorable event on page 3. Also in this issue is the recent Oyster Reef Restoration Project, International Film Series hosted by the Department of Communication & Philosophy, the new CAS page on Facebook, the Library Gallery's exhibit benefitting Ingrid Martinez Rico, and Cliff Renk's Scholar in Residence work for American Society for Microbiology.

Looking ahead, the Sanibel Island Writers Conference will make its third-year debut November 6-9 (page 4). In addition, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education is teaming up with the Language & Literature and Communication & Philosophy departments to host the first international Humanities and Sustainability Conference on campus this spring. Details on the invitation for paper and panel proposals are on page 7.

As the college continues to grow, so does our newsletter! The “Student Highlights” section now includes student submitted articles and you can find the new “Alumni Updates” section on page 14. Additionally, the “Teaching Corner,” created by Sociology Professor Kris De Welde, provides noteworthy tips and know-how for the classroom.

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

Best regards,

Donna Henry, Ph.D
Academic Building 7 Update

100% of construction documents are complete and AB7 is still on track for LEED certification. Furniture selection is underway.

Compact with Bangor University

President Wilson Bradshaw, Dean Donna Henry, and Dr. Aswani Volety traveled to London and Wales in July as part of Governor Charlie Crist’s Florida - U. K. Climate Change mission. Dr. Bradshaw spoke about FGCU’s role and research as it relates to climate change, particularly the university’s duty in ensuring environmental sustainability. During their trip they engaged in discussions with the Climate Group and Carbon Trust Group about climate change landscape, interactions between academia, industry, and the investment sector, how to finance the low carbon economy of the future, and how collaborations can be developed between Florida and the U. K. Dr. Kim Howells, Deputy Foreign Minister, hosted a reception at Lancaster House for Gov. Crist and his delegation. At Lancaster House, Dr. Bradshaw signed a Memorandum of Understanding between FGCU and Bangor University to develop collaborative opportunities for student, faculty, and staff exchanges with a broader goal of offering joint M. S. / Ph. D. programs in Natural / Ocean Science between both the institutions. Gov. Crist and Dr. Howells witnessed the signing of the MOU.

Drs. Henry and Volety visited Bangor University and met with the Dean of Natural Sciences, Dr. Stephen Hawkins and his colleagues in Bangor and visited the campus. Bangor University has a science building that has the equivalent of a “Plantinum LEED Certification” and that houses the fisheries and molecular sciences programs. Discussions ensued about the logistics of offering joint programs, potential collaborative projects, and study abroad programs. Given the location of both universities, the varied climate (sub-tropical vs. temperate) and coastal zones (e.g. sandy beach / mangrove coast vs. rocky coasts), the collaboration will enhance educational and research opportunities for students and faculty. Colleagues from Bangor University will visit FGCU November 24 and 25.

Bangor University has particularly strong programs in Natural and Ocean Sciences. Given FGCU’s strengths in environmental and Marine Science programs, this collaboration with Bangor University offers great potential for scientific and student exchange. The timing of this joint venture allows us to explore new ways of providing unique programs and opportunities to FGCU and Bangor University scientists and students.

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Convocation 2008 with Ishmael Beah: Hope Has a Voice

On August 24th, Alico Arena was filled to capacity with students, parents, distinguished guests, faculty and staff who gathered to hear this year’s Convocation speaker, bestselling author and former child soldier, Ishmael Beah. The turnout was the largest of past Convocations, with nearly 2,500 in attendance. Dr. Peg Gray Vickery, Provost Ronald Toll and President Bradshaw greeted the audience before introducing Beah, who was given a standing ovation as he approached the podium. Beah, now twenty-eight years old, was a riveting speaker. He spoke on the topic “Hope Has a Voice,” as he shared of the redemption he was able to find after his life was derailed at age eleven by the outbreak of a brutal civil war in Sierra Leone. Captivating the audience, he emphasized believing in the strength of the human spirit and the importance of keeping hope even when it seems impossible. He also discussed listening to your own inner wisdom, being honest with yourself and approaching things with an open mind—all to challenge yourself constantly to learn.

In an interview with WGCU, Beah was asked how he was able to accomplish so much at such a young age and what inspiration FGCU students could draw from his example. This was his reply:

"Just because you’re young, and just because you’re starting at a university, doesn’t mean you can’t have original ideas that no one has ever thought of. It’s possible. So, for people to not belittle their own capacity and their own humanity, but to know that they have greatness. All of us have our own talents in various areas. And to find that [talent] and do it, they don’t have to wait until they are adults.”

Following Convocation, Beah also proved to be a wonderful conversationalist as he answered many diverse questions for over one hundred visitors in a Meet and Greet reception. Many of the questions centered around his book and this year’s First Year Reading Project, A Long Way Gone.

CAS on Facebook

Want to poke someone? Give them a Starbucks latte? You don’t even have to leave your chair to do it via the power of Facebook. Since its founding in February 2004, the site has served as an ultimate communication means and a way to create your own virtual niche on the web. In case you’re a Facebook virgin, here’s how it works: All you need is an e-mail address and a name to sign up. Once you’re registered, upload your photo, fill out some information about yourself and you’re off! Joining a company, city, school or friends network has never been easier. The site even recommends other site users who you may know through professional or personal affiliations. Says Harvard graduate and Facebook founding member Mark Zuckerberg, “Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected.” What a coincidence! CAS wants to be more open and connected—to its students.

Hosting events such as last winter’s Meet and Greet, which gave students the chance to talk one-on-one with faculty about the programs offered in the college, spurred the need to reach students on a broader level using a different means of communication. As Facebook is an especially popular “clicking” ground for college students, CAS has created its own group page in an effort to reach its students and make information more accessible. With its own place among the 100 million Facebook users, the College can now also use the site to post photos, share links and videos, send event invitations or the occasional latte to connect with the student body and community at large. The CAS group now has close to 500 members, has created five events, eleven recent news points and is linked to over ten CAS-related groups including the Sanibel Island Writers Conference, Wings of Hope, Holocaust Center, Theatre Lab and Art Gallery, Bower School of Music, and Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education (CESE).

So we invite you to look up the group and join! Chances are good that you’ll see a familiar (virtual) face. If not, it’s no matter—strangers or not, we’re all part of the FGCU family. And that’s the point.
Sanibel Island Writers Conference

It’s every writer and literature enthusiast’s dream—three days of workshops in fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and creative nonfiction; afternoon panels on publishing, collaborative writing, and humor writing; and nightly readings—all presented by celebrated and experienced writers and teachers. The Sanibel Island Writers Conference is an annual event to which participants of all stages of writing development—from notebook scribblers to published novelists—are invited to attend.

The conference began three years ago under the directorship of FGCU English Instructor Tom DeMarchi. Since its debut in 2006, with Julianna Baggott, John Dufresne, Steve Almond, and Jonathan Ames among the first presenters, the number of those registered has nearly doubled. This year the conference will be held November 6-9 at BIG ARTS on Sanibel Island. Located just thirty minutes from Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, the island has been affectionately dubbed by DeMarchi as “serendipitously shrimp-shaped,” with twenty-six miles of bike paths, world famous sunsets, and an average temperature of 74 degrees F. During conference downtime, attendees are encouraged to bike, hike, and/or kayak through the J.N. “Ding” Darling Wildlife Refuge—6,400-acres of mangrove forest, seagrass beds, and cordgrass marshes, and home to over 220 species of birds—or to collect the over 400 varieties of seashells that can be found along Sanibel’s 15 miles of public beaches.

The conference thrives on university funding along with the hard work and dedication of its volunteers, most of whom are FGCU faculty, staff and students. Among the faculty are Win Everham, an Environmental Biology professor, who leads a canoe tour of Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge. His wife Karyn wears many hats, including taxi driver, sommelier, and trash collector. English professor Joe Wisdom has been a tremendous advocate along with Dean Donna Henry. Instructor Lori Cornelius, Adjunct Joe Higgins and teaching assistants Ceronan Griffin and Julianna Gerow basically camp out at Big Arts and do whatever needs to be done. Student attendance is increasingly apparent at the conference as well. “What’s interesting to me is the way a lot of people decry this generation of students as ‘screenagers’ with absolutely no interest in the written word. But my classes are full of students who have stories to tell, who want to express themselves through poems and stories and essays and, yes, increasingly, screenplays,” says DeMarchi.

This year’s conference keynote speaker, critically acclaimed and nationally bestselling author Sena Jeter Naslund, is unparalleled in her ability to write fiction that gives life to real slices of history and fills gaps in the landscape of literature. Her most recent novel, Abundance, marks the pinnacle of Naslund’s talents, as she paints an unforgettable portrait of a historical character more misunderstood and more fascinating than we ever could have imagined. Though we may know her fateful ending, Marie Antoinette’s life story is stunning and surprising. As she faces marriage, monarchy, and womanhood, she blossoms into one of the most powerful characters in modern literature—a historical figure vindicated and honored for her courage and charm through this moving piece of fiction. Sena Jeter Naslund is Writer in Residence at the University of Louisville, Program Director of the Spalding University brief-residency MFA in Writing, and current Kentucky Poet Laureate. Recipient of the Harper Lee Award and the Southeastern Library Association Fiction Award, she is cofounder of The Louisville Review and the Fleur-de-Lis Press. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

This year’s presenters include Lynne Barnett (fiction), John Dufresne (memoir), William Giraldi (memoir), Michael Steinberg (memoir), John K. Samson (songwriting) and FGCU’s own English professor and poet Jim Brock. The conference dates are November 6-9 at BIG ARTS.

For more information about the conference or registration, visit www.fgcu.edu/siwc or contact:
Tom DeMarchi
Phone: (239) 590-7421
Fax: (239) 590-7445
e-mail: tdemarch@fgcu.edu

From the 2006 Sanibel Island Writers Conference

L to R: Sammy Mack, Tracy Jones, Susan and Martin Tolchin, David Sendler, Karen Tolchin, and Tom DeMarchi.
Oyster Reef Restoration 2008

As part of the Coastal Clean-up, faculty and students from the Coastal Watershed Institute organized their annual community-based oyster reef restoration, funded by the South Florida Water Management District, on Sep 22, 2008. In its fifth year, this event attracted the biggest crowd—150 participants including Provost Ron Toll and Commissioner Ray Judah. Volunteers from FGCU, various local, state, federal and NGO agencies as well as middle schools and community members participated in the event. Several intrepid volunteers helped bag the shell, transport the shell, and create two reefs (200 square meters each) in the Intrepid Waters at the mouth of Imperial River in Estero Bay. The objective of this year’s project is to stabilize mangrove islands eroding due to boat wakes, offer substrate of larval oysters to attach and grow into oyster reefs, thereby not only cleaning the water, but also offering habitat to numerous marine organisms. This project will be followed up by sea grass restoration.

Environmental Biology at Six Mile Cypress Preserve

On Wednesday September 10, Neil Wilkinson’s Environmental Biology classes explored the Six Mile Cypress Preserve. The classes hiked the swamp on a wet trail rather than take the more conventional boardwalk. It is the only way to really experience what a typical cypress swamp ecosystem is like. The boardwalk in essence separates the visitor from the swamp itself, the wetwalk immerses the class. Students leave with a greater understanding that includes not just facts and ecological concepts but an understanding of what a swamp smells like, what it feels like. Students were surprised to learn that mosquitoes were not that numerous and that snakes and alligators were not behind every log. “It was a great way to begin the semester,” said Instructor Wilkinson.
Teaching Corner
Backstage to Front stage: Answering On-the-Spot Questions While Teaching Internet Savviness

By: Dr. Kris De Welde
Social and Behavioral Sciences

No matter how many years you’ve been teaching, and no matter how well you have prepared for a particular class session, students often have questions you have not anticipated. Rather than muddle your way through an answer, discount the question, or say “I’ll get back to you” only to moments later forget, an impromptu in-class activity can be a valuable teaching-and-learning tool. Indulge me a moment while I lay out the theoretical foundation for this activity.

Erving Goffman, a deceased Sociologist, built a core set of theories about the human self by borrowing from Shakespeare’s notion that “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players” (As You Like It). Goffman’s theory of dramaturgy posits that social interactions are a type of performance: we present ourselves intentionally or unintentionally to others as if acting out a part, a.k.a. our social roles. We are successful in our “performances” if our “audiences” accept the impression we have put forth. Performances are subject to disruptions or misinterpretations, however, and thus we are constantly engaged in “impres- sion management.” Ultimately, the goal of his theory is to demonstrate the self as “socially constructed,” contingent on one’s surroundings and circumstances.

Goffman would argue that when we assume an authoritative position in the front of a classroom, we are assuming the role of “professor/instructor,” and we utilize a variety of “props” to ensure that our performance goes smoothly and that our audience affords us credibility as professors/instructors (e.g., dressing appropriately, having dry erase markers, power point slides, reference books and notes). The classroom is our “front stage,” where our performance of the ‘profes- sor’ role takes place. The “backstage” for this performance would be the various places where we prepare for our class/ performance, usually in absence of our audience/students: our offices, the library, searching the internet for current data or relevant examples, and in communication with colleagues.

Activity: A student poses a question, and you do not have the most recent information or accurate data. Rather than answer vaguely, put off the question for another time, or ask the student to look up for him/herself, you can use classroom technology to both answer the student’s question right then and there, and offer instruction on how to look up reliable information.

For example, in discussing the various kinds of families in the US, a student might ask “What percentage of families are single-parent homes?” Assuming you didn’t have the foresight (or time) to prepare such numbers, you could respond by saying, “Let’s see what the latest data suggests…” Utilize whatever means you would use in your “backstage” preparation right there, in your front stage performance. I would, for instance, google “single-parent households,” using the projector so that students could see what I was doing. The first hit for this search (and many others) brings up Wikipedia. This offers you a chance to explain the benefits and drawbacks of Wikipedia, whether you see it as a legitimate source for student research and why or why not. For this particular question, the US Census Bureau website is the second hit; here you could discuss census data as a source of reliable information, explaining what other kinds of data are available, and so on, eventually making your way to the information that answers the question. Furthermore, with so many students bringing their laptops to class, this presents a good opportunity for students to participate in the investigation process with the professor rather than merely watch it being done.

This in-class response to a question allows you to demonstrate how to search responsibly for information on the internet. It encourages students, by example, to examine websites before going to them (by looking closely at the URL), noting whether they are reputable or question- able, a blog or a source of scientific information, an international source or one from the US, etc. This practice illustrates for students the rewards of fact-finding rather than relying on “common sense” or assumption, empowering them to seek out their own answers. Lastly, it shows you take students’ questions seriously.

If you’d like to prompt such an activity, you may want to ask students “If you had an expert in the room, what would you ask her/him?” Being able to answer these questions has obvious merit (you manifest as “the expert”), but not being able to produce an answer immediately should not be seen as threatening to the credibility of your ‘performance’ of the professor role.

Traditional pedagogy presents professors/instructors as purveyors of knowledge rather than guides for critical inquiry. With the introduction of teaching innovations that are constructivist and student-centered, there is more opportunity for spontaneous class discussions and lines of inquiry that were not anticipated by the instructor. I suggest that we see these as “teaching moments” rather than as personal failures to prepare for everything, or (worse) as challenges to our authority. In my opinion, bringing backstage “prepping” behavior to the front stage of our classrooms could actually bolster our presentation of self as a knowledgeable professor/instructor.
On May 8th and 9th, 2009, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education and the Departments of Language & Literature and Communication & Philosophy will host the first international Humanities and Sustainability Conference. The conference will take place in the Student Union. A special invitation is extended to CAS faculty and graduate students interested in relevant issues and topics to send paper and panel proposals.

Our goal is to encourage interdisciplinary conversations about the role of the humanities in both “the ecological era” and “the information age.” As such, we welcome submissions that explore (1) the ways humanities disciplines can address ecological issues, and (2) the sustainability of humanities disciplines themselves in the information age.

Please submit a 300-500 word paper and panel proposals, with A/V requests, by email to HandSCon@fgcu.edu. The deadline for proposals is December 14th, 2008 at midnight EST. Include all text of the proposal in the body of the email (attachments will not be opened), and be sure to include full contact information for all panel members.

Possible subject areas might include, but are not limited to:
The future of the humanities • Defining environmental humanities • The question of “nature” • The concept of “green” • Issues of development, population growth, and urbanization • Faith traditions and spirituality • Technology and human being • The Internet, digital communities, and digital identities • Scientific bodies • Cloning, stem cells, and human-animal hybrids • Discourses of disease • Capitalism • Globalization and national identity • Imperialism • Multiculturalism • The preservation of marginalized practices • Pedagogy • Interdisciplinarity • The corporation / corporate model of education • Cultural and new media • Language and communication • Humanities and Tradition • Literature and canonicity • Technology in the classroom • Distance learning • Gender and sexuality • Race and ethnicity

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Bower School of Music
2008-09 Major Recital/Concert Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>James Scott, Guest Artist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Holiday Concert: all major ensembles (see October 18 for list)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Patrick Neal and Michael Baron, Faculty Recital</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Songs of Women Composers: Studio Recital by Vocal Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Wind Orchestra Concert, Rod Chesnutt, Conductor, featuring President Bradshaw</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m., Student Union Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>String Orchestra Concert, featuring James Tapia, Guest Conductor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 p.m. (location TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Borealis Woodwind Quintet</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>James Houlik and Michael Baron, Guest and Faculty Artists</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Lecture by Robert Bailey, Professor Emeritus from New York University And Graduate Faculty of The Juilliard School</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>President’s Concert</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>University Choir and FM Symphonic Mastersingers, Brahms Requiem,</td>
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<td>Jeanie Darnell, Soprano, Nancy Cobb-Lippens, Conductor</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Repeat of March 28 concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.</td>
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<td>April 7</td>
<td>Symphony Orchestra Concert, Rod Chesnutt, Conductor</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m. SU Ballroom</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Chamber Singers Concert, Nancy Cobb-Lippens, Conductor</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m. Student Union Ballroom</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td>Chamber Singers, Nancy Cobb-Lippens Conductor</td>
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<td>8:00 p.m. Bower Chapel, Moorings Park in Naples</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>Wind Orchestra and String Orchestra Concert</td>
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<td>Rod Chesnutt, Conductor</td>
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<td>Col. Alan Bonner, Guest Conductor</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m., SU Ballroom</td>
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Professor Jeanie Darnell Collaborates with Baylor University Pianist

Associate Professor of Music and Head of Vocal Studies in the Bower School of Music, Jeanie Darnell, gave a vocal master class and Lieder recital at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The master class was given in Michael Johnson’s opera studio class on Friday Sept. 12. The Lieder Recital was presented with Dr. Andrew Hudson in Roxy Grove Hall on September 14. Darnell also hosted Dr. Hudson, who taught a vocal master class for BSM music majors, to give the same recital at FGCU on September 19.

Darnell teaches courses in Applied Voice, Diction, Music Literature, and Vocal Pedagogy. A regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 1998, she has been in demand as soprano soloist of major concert and oratorio repertoire both nationally and internationally.

Pianist Andrew Hudson has performed with singers around the world. He has served as accompanist for Lyric Opera Waco, the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, and as principal Lieder coach for Lied Austria.
Library Gallery Hosts Exhibit Benefit: Children of Santiago

On August 28th, the newly reclaimed Library Gallery hosted an opening and art sale to benefit Associate Professor Ingrid Martinez-Rico’s recovery from her car accident last fall. Works on exhibition were photographs from Chip Hoffman while he accompanied Ingrid’s service learning group to Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Begun by the combined efforts of Ingrid Martinez-Rico and her husband, Craig W. Heller, the Dominican Republic Service Learning Project will continue with its 9th year in 2008-09. The project will be expanding efforts to work with the children using photography as a teaching tool, as vocational training, and as a means to help them break the cycle of poverty.

Chip Hoffman’s photographs in this exhibition were taken during the 2007 FGCU Service Learning Project to the Dominican Republic. For the past eight years, Ingrid and her husband Craig Heller have led a group of students, faculty, and community members to Santiago, D.R. to work with children who live and work in the streets.

Theatre Lab Proudly Presents 4.48 Psychosis

4.48 Psychosis, written by Sarah Kane and directed by Barry Cavin, will open Wednesday, November 5 and will run through Sunday, November 16. This performance offers the audience an exquisite ceremony that probes what we all fear about love and beauty: with great happiness comes the capacity for great suffering. This intense conceptual work blends poetry, humor, and stunning visuals to reveal the interior of a person who has suffered the joy of uncontrollable love and is contemplating the usefulness of going on in the aftermath of tragic loss. 4.48 Psychosis creates an intimate portrait of the darkest thoughts any of us have considered and most of us do everything to avoid. But what we fear also compels us and there is no better place to confront this human condition of love, beauty, and loss than in the sanctity of theatre.

Wednesday through Saturday performances start at 8:00 pm and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 pm. Tickets are $5.00 for FGCU students, faculty and staff, and they will go on sale Monday, October 27 in the Arts Complex, room 107. For more information, please call the box office at 590-7268 or visit the new Theatre Lab website at http://theatrelab.fgcu.edu.

4.48 Psychosis opens on November 5
Continuing the college and university’s commitment to research and teaching with an international focus, CAS faculty member Brad Busbee recently received the American-Scandinavian Foundation Grant, which funded a month-long research fellowship at the Royal Library of Denmark. Busbee’s work there focused on the Grundtvig Archive, which collects the writings of priest, poet, scholar and historian N.F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872). Grundtvig was the first modern person to understand the contents of old English poem Beowulf, to identify the only historically datable moment in it, to offer an interpretation of its deeper meanings, and to provide a complete translation in a modern language.

Busbee lived and worked in Copenhagen for the duration of his visit. His research there is part of a book-length account of Grundtvig’s study and interpretation of Beowulf. The American-Scandinavian Foundation Grant allowed him to expand and enrich his dissertation, the basis for the book, which will focus on Grundtvig’s published and unpublished papers, many of which are located only in the Grundtvig Collection at the Royal Library.

This was not Busbee’s first visit to Denmark. In 2003-2004, he received a Fulbright fellowship to study in Denmark, where he and his wife, Kathleen, welcomed the arrival of their first daughter, Kamilla. Busbee and his family (which now includes two more daughters, Suzanne and Sadie) extended their time abroad the next year, when Busbee participated in a German exchange program that placed him as an instructor in the American Studies department of Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz.

These international experiences have not only been beneficial to Busbee’s research. His association with the University in Mainz has allowed him to establish a similar exchange program, now in its second year, between Johannes Gutenberg and FGCU.

Busbee has been at FGCU since 2006. An assistant professor of English, he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Old and Middle English, Anglo-Saxon literature, and world literature, as well as Honors composition. He has published articles on Beowulf, Medieval translation, and the idea of India in Anglo-Saxon Literature, among other topics. He has supervised several independent research projects, including a master’s thesis on Fritz Lang and the tradition of Niebulunglied; a study of old Icelandic sagas; an exploration of love in Old English Literature; and an investigation of literary encounters between Vikings and Persians on the Silk Road. He has served on Faculty Senate and currently sits on the CAS College Governance Team. Busbee earned his Ph.D. in English from University California-Davis; his Master’s degree in English from Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College; and his B.A. in History and English Literature from Presbyterian College, South Carolina.

Christian Schaefer arrived this fall as part of a scholar exchange between the Department of Language and Literature here at FGCU and the American Studies Department at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. He came extraordinarily credentialed, with degrees in Creative Writing, Electrical Engineering, German, and American and English literature. Having recently scored at the top of his class on his Staatsexam (the German equivalent of a master’s degree in German and English literature), he was beginning work on a dissertation about American one act plays written between 1960 and 2000. Here at FGCU, he was teaching courses in English composition and German literature, and was working as a teaching assistant for Dr. Busbee’s large enrollment World Literature and Culture survey course. Beyond the university, Christian was a gifted musician and a determined athlete, and to those of us who knew him only a short time, he was also a brilliant conversationalist and a friend. We were fortunate to know him.
**Destination Bahamas: Tropical Island Biology; San Salvador Island, Bahamas**

Ahhh…the Bahamas: resort hotels and casinos, cruise ships, reggae music, empty beaches, and spectacular coral reefs. As FGCU students participating in Tropical Island Biology found out….not every island in the Bahamas has all of these amenities. Someone forgot to mention the mosquitoes and “no-see-ums,” no AC or cell phone service, hiking on “moon-rock” through “haul-back” trees, and working on field projects up to your knees in mud.

That’s what fourteen FGCU students experienced during Summer-A 2008 when they spent 14 days at the Gerace Research Center on San Salvador Island. They did get to snorkel on the coral reefs directly across the road from the GRC and experience a different life style than that of the more popular Bahamian tourist spots.

The course was offered by Department of Biological Sciences faculty members Drs. Rob Erdman and Randy Cross as a way to provide an immersion experience for FGCU students interested in learning about tropical island ecosystems, and the history and culture of a Bahamian Family Island. FGCU student participants included Andy Applegate, Chris Aronoff, Lauren Black, Ben Black, Leah Carrier, Jim Easton, Jessica Elliott, Miriel Hak, Derek Hudgens, Brent Jackson, Joe Ledesma, Hana Nardi, Tyler Ortengren and Ken Roop.

San Salvador Island is one of the easternmost islands of the Bahamas. Only 12 miles long and 5 miles wide, the island is home to about 1,100 Bahamians who live in scattered settlements along the coastal loop road. Basic necessities such as gasoline, food and building materials arrive via the mail boat which sails weekly from the coastal loop road. Basic necessities such as gasoline, food and building materials arrive via the mail boat which sails weekly from Nassau. The arrival of the mail boat is a big event and the islanders congregate at the dock to visit while picking up supplies.

Based on archeological evidence, San Salvador is considered by many to be the site of the Columbus landfall in 1492. Long Bay on the western side of the island is the site of various monuments that commemorate the landing site where the Old World met the New World up front and in person. The interior of the island has numerous saltwater lakes and the ruins of colonial era plantations, which were developed by Royalists who fled the United States after the Revolutionary War and settled in the Bahamas. Most of the inhabitants of San Sal are direct descendents of slaves who once worked these plantations and their friendly demeanor made the students feel like they were right at home.

The Gerace Research Center was initially a U.S. Navy installation built during the late 1950s as an underwater listening post during the Cold War era. Abandoned by the Navy in the early 1970s, the facility was acquired by a consortium of colleges from the Northeast US and renovated into a field station for use by colleges and universities that offer a variety of courses throughout the year. The GRC provides basic housing for students and faculty, a full service cafeteria, lab and classroom facilities and a fleet of vehicles to get around the island. Currently, the GRC is affiliated with the College of the Bahamas. Besides the FGCU group, there were also students at the GRC from Miami University of Ohio, Savannah State University, Mississippi State University and Exeter University.

With its numerous sandy beaches and rocky headlands plus easy access to marine and terrestrial ecosystems, San Sal is an ideal experiential classroom. A typical day included short lectures followed by a ride in a GRC truck to a field site where students immediately had an up close and personal experience with the topic of the day. Besides a lot of snorkeling on coral reefs, and in mangroves and seagrasses, students also visited an iguana and bird sanctuary on nearby islands, explored plantation ruins and caves, hiked into the interior marine lakes and conducted small group research projects and presentations. Drs. Erdman and Cross hope to make this a regular summer course offering so that other FGCU students can experience all that San Salvador Island has to offer.
Student Highlights

Ashley Ohman, Senior
I am currently doing my internship with the Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida. I am the public relations director since they did not have one established before my arrival. I have been directed here to help them get their public awareness at the status it should be. The center has been operating over thirty years without the recognition or awareness that they need.

I have been given the task of creating a survey to better understand what eye care specialists in the area may or may not know about the center. My mentor, Connie Rivchun, who is a part of the advisory council for the VIP Center, has also assigned me to create a contact list of local newspapers, television stations and radio stations so that I may present them with press releases, public service announcements of upcoming events and activities or classes that are provided at the VIP center. I have also created a web page for the organization on the News-Press website for nonprofit organizations so as to expand the public awareness of the organization that it craves.

On October 4th, Florida Gulf Coast held its annual Adaptive Sports Expo on campus where many local organizations came together to support each other and participate in sports and other activities such as arts and crafts. Seeing kids and adults with disabilities come together and go water skiing and play basketball was so amazing to witness. This was another opportunity for me to work on the public relations for the center, one of many that I will be doing.

Brianna Grimsley, Senior
After my amazing first few weeks interning for Clear Channel, I didn’t think it could get any better, but I was always being amazed. Fourth of July weekend is one of their biggest events and I had the pleasure of helping out. We were out at the Saint Petersburg Pier all day promoting. We lined a good portion of the pier with Mix 100.7 banners. We had a couple tents set up with arts and crafts for the kids who got to make patriotic airplanes and picture frames. Our tables were very busy throughout most of the day. It was such a blast. I definitely preferred working events rather than being in the office, but they were both beneficial to me.

One day I learned how to put new windshield wiper fluid in the Mother Trucker, a HUGE 98 Rock vehicle. I never knew how to replace wiper fluid before and now I know. Most of the time in the office, however, was spent running errands, making copies, cleaning out vehicles, washing coolers, and cleaning out/organizing closets. Being in the office did pay off considering all of the connections I gained from being there—not to mention the benefits of working at concerts! The Veronicas concert is the best one I got to work at/attend, but was not that great, I was more than stoked to get to see Katy Perry at the Warped Tour. We put up our 98 Rock banners around the perimeter. Inside the fence we had a tent set up next to the Mother Trucker with Guitar Hero available for people to play. We also gave out various promotional items. It turns out that Katy had to cancel her Warped Tour appearance in order to perform on a few television shows. I was so upset! But I still had a blast working the event and seeing what it was like to work at Warped Tour. It was a great experience and I enjoyed every second of it.
Girls in Engineering, Math and Science

Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS) is a program of science workshops for middle school female students from Lee and Collier counties. The program was developed by Drs. Jo Ann Wilson (biology) and Terry Dubetz (chemistry) in 2006 to address a shortage of professionals in the fields of math, science and engineering. Females are under-represented in many areas of science and math and increased numbers of females in these fields could help solve the shortage of workers.

GEMS mission is to encourage and stimulate interest in science and math in girls at an early age so girls will consider these fields as a career. The program is currently funded by grant from the American Honda Foundation and the Foundation of Collier County.

Each GEMS workshop consists of two sets of activities led by FGCU faculty in science, math or engineering. FGCU undergraduate and graduate students assist the faculty and lead the activities with the middle school students. All participating faculty and FGCU students are female to provide role models for the middle school students.

Events are held on Saturday mornings each fall and spring semesters and the first week-long event was held in the summer 2008. Activities have ranged across the spectrum engaging students in a forensics “who dun it” to sunspot observations to rat dissection to engineering design and so many more. The middle school students have been wildly enthusiastic, proven by the volume of noise from the students!

GEMS will offer another workshop on November 8th, so be prepared for noise if you are in Whitaker Hall that Saturday!

Spotlight on Associate Math Professor Peng Feng

Dr. Peng Feng of the Mathematics Department has recently been featured in an article in the local newspaper, The NewsPress. Dr. Feng joined FGCU faculty in Fall 2005. The article titled “Age is just a number for Math Professor,” that ran on September 13th, focused mainly on Feng’s young age and how it affects his teaching.

‘From an early age, Feng had an affinity for math and for teaching because of his grandfather, who was a math professor. The NewsPress quoted him, “I imagined I could have a life like him.”

He earned his bachelor’s degree in computational and applied mathematics from Peking University in Beijing and completed his Ph.D. in applied mathematics from Michigan State University by the age of 28. His next stop was FGCU.

Feng has taught Elementary Calculus, Calculus II, and Ordinary Differential Equations among other courses. His research interests include the applications of differential equations, especially those of elliptic and parabolic types. Having worked on pattern formation arising in parabolic systems, he is current project involves the blowup phenomena in elliptic and parabolic equations and mathematical modeling of gene expression.

Feng is the recipient for the Junior Scholarship Award for this academic year. His publications include “Global and Blow up Solution in a Mutualistic Model” in Nonlinear Analysis: Theory, Method and Applications printed this year. An Associate Graduate Faculty member, he participates on the Biotechnology Seminar Search Committee and acts as Advisor to Mathematics Club. In June of last year he received a travel grant to attend the fourth International Conference on Mathematical Biology in China. This November he will attend the Mississippi State-UAB Conference on Differential Equations & Computational Simulations in Birmingham, Alabama.

The News-Press quoted Feng stating that he hopes his students “walk away from his class knowing their math and saying one not-so-old assessment of his personality: ‘He’s cool.’”
The FGCU Alumni Association (FGCUAA) is pleased to partner with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) to provide informative updates regarding our CAS Alumni. With only four years since its conception, the FGCUAA is thriving, boasting many opportunities for alumni and friends, including monthly networking nights, Eagle Entourage (our online social network for alumni only), expanded alumni communication channels, five- and 10-year reunions, as well as the addition of our group travel program, which will launch this year.

Our nearly 8,500 alumni, including those from CAS, are making a positive impact worldwide. Among them are community leaders working to provide public relations services for non-profits. There are alumni making the Gulfshore Life “40 under 40” lists, others committing to the Peace Corps where they are making an impact abroad. Some have committed to reducing our carbon footprint, and still others who are making names for themselves in the art community, to name a few.

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

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

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

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<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>Eagle Seats &amp; Eats (Women Eagles vs UF)</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>EaglePalooza</td>
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<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>All Alumni Reunion Night (1999 and 2004)</td>
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<td>June 22-27</td>
<td>Alumni Trip to Costa Rica</td>
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‘00 Michael McCabe (Liberal Studies) has joined the law firm of Miller, Kagan, Rodriguez & Silver, a state-wide worker’s compensation defense firm specializing in representing insurance carriers and employers.

‘04 Jeffrey Scott Lewis (Art) was named “Visual Artist of the Year” at the 5th Annual Angel of the Arts Awards hosted by the Lee County Alliance for the Arts.

‘06 Marti Daltry (Communications) was promoted to regional conservation organizer for Sierra Club in Fort Myers. Her main focus is on the Florida Coastal Protection Campaign. Marti has been with the company since May 2007.

‘07 Mallory Young (Marine Science) works for GeoCet as a marine mammal observer on board the Western Neptune, a seismic research vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.

‘07 Jillian Windham (Communication/Philosophy) delivers the traffic report each weekday afternoon for NBC2. As a contestant in the NBC2 Great Talent Search Jillian found herself in the midst of an exciting viewer-based voting process that landed her the position.

‘08 Cord McConnell (Communications) and Carlos Calante are in the planning stage of their newest project “Fortunate Son” a short film shot on 16mm film. Cord has written the script and plans to direct the film. Once complete, it will be entered into numerous film festivals. Cord was the film critic for Fox 4’s “Morning Blend.” He has also completed several short films, some narrative pieces and promotional videos.
Holocaust-era Boxcar at FGCU

The Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida recently acquired an authentic World War II boxcar. The boxcar—which features 12 panels illustrating the devastation of the Holocaust and other genocides, past and present—is being used as a traveling educational tool, visiting schools in Southwest Florida. “My hope is that the boxcar will honor the millions of innocent men, women, and children who suffered and/or died in the Holocaust,” said Jack Nortman, co-president of the Holocaust Museum and a Holocaust survivor, “and serve as a learning center that will teach visitors about the dangers of intolerance, shedding light on the genocides that are currently taking place in various regions around the world.”

About 100-120 prisoners were crammed into each of the thousands of 30-by-8-foot boxcars that were used to transport millions of victims to death camps during World War II. Many victims died before the boxcars arrived at their destinations. With no toilet facilities, no air, and little if any food, these cars became rolling torture chambers. Many dead bodies were recovered from these railcars after their arrival. “My parents were prisoners in a boxcar for six weeks,” explained Nortman.

The boxcar will be displayed in the parking lot in front of FGCU’s Student Union the week of November 3-7, 2008. There will be student guides to assist visitors, and literature from the Holocaust Museum, FGCU’s Holocaust-studies center, Hillel, and other groups that have made this possible.

The week of activities has been made possible by The Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida, the Dean of Students Office and the Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Human Rights Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Also, special thanks go to the following contributors from FGCU: Academic Affairs • Campus Involvement • FGCU Foundation, Inc. • Hillel Club • Honors Program • Library • Multicultural Student Development Services • R.U.L.E.S. Club • Student Affairs

International Film Series

The Department of Communication & Philosophy is proud to announce the start of the International Film Series being held in the Sugden Welcome Center. The first film from New Wave Iranian Cinema, “Marooned in Iraq” by Bahman Gnobadi (2003, Iran), was shown on October 15th. The plot: In the wake of the Persian Gulf War, an elderly Kurdish singer becomes concerned about the safety of his former wife and sets out with his two sons to find her, regardless of the fact that she left him two decades prior for another man. This smart combination of humor and social criticism from Iranian director Bahman Gnobadi examines both the beauty and humor in kinship and the devastating effects of war. Screened at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. In Kurdish with English subtitles. ([Iranianmovies.com])

The second film in the series is Deserted Station (2002, Iran), a film by Alireza Raisian and based on a story by Abbas Kiarostami. In this lyrical and intimately nuanced story conceived by Abbas Kiarostami and starring Leila Hatami (from Dariush Mehrjui’s Leila), a photographer and his young wife are stranded in a remote Iranian village after their car breaks down. The only adult inhabitant leaves with the photographer to find help, while the woman takes over the duties of teaching the village children - whose parents are nowhere to be found. ([Iranianmovies.com]) It will be shown on Nov. 13th from 6:30 to 9:00 pm in BHG 109. For more information, contact Farshad Aminian at faminian@fgcu.edu or 239-590-7963.
PR Campaigns Class Plans Initiative for Local Paddling Festival

PR Campaigns class PUR 4800 is working on a PR campaign initiative for the Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival, October 25 through November 2, 2008. This is through the Lee County Parks and Recreation (nonprofit). The goal of the event is to promote Lee County as a year-round destination for eco-tourism through kayaking as well as promote the Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. The students’ goal is gaining practical experience through planning an actual PR campaign intended to serve the local community. The university’s commitment to civic engagement is integrated by supporting our local community and our commitment to the environment.

The Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival includes nine days of festivities: kayak races, waterway clean ups, community festivals, demonstrations, seminars, archeological activities, clinics, a speakers series, guided tours and more.

The class was broken down into four groups. Senior Tiffany Logan reports that in her group the students are trying to focus on a couple of different aspects to create awareness about the event.

“First, we are developing strategies to encourage FGCU students to volunteer for the event. We are working to introduce a competition that will appeal to FGCU students so that they might be even more interested in attending the festival. We are also working to appeal to families. The message we want to convey to parents is that the festival is an inexpensive way to spend good quality time with their families in this tough economy,” says Logan.

Other members of Tiffany’s group include: Tanya Schmidt, Cassandra Diaz and Jessica Bower.

For more information on the Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival, visit www.CalusaBlueway-PaddlingFestival.com.

Performing Culture Class

As one of the honors humanities seminars in Fall 2008, the Department of Communication & Philosophy offers a class “Performing Culture.” This course focuses on cultural/social issues—race, gender, social class, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, physical ability/disability, and language. We examine those issues from theoretical perspectives as well as from our mundane lived experiences. While students engage in critical examination on such social issues and potential implication of their everyday performance, they turn their interpretation into an individual stage-performance. We are finalizing the dates for an open-to-public “Honors Performance Spotlight” in December at Sugden Welcome Center. Please join our first Honors Performance Spotlight as the information becomes available. The admission is free but reservations will be needed.

Please contact Sachiko Tankei-Aminian for more information: (239) 590-7895 or stankeia@fgcu.edu

Professor Kevin Aho Co-Authors Book, Body Matters

FGCU Assistant Professor of Philosophy Kevin Aho wrote and published Body Matters together with James Aho, Professor of Sociology at Idaho State University. Following the core principle of phenomenology as a return “to the things themselves,” Body Matters: A Phenomenology of Sickness, Disease, and Illness attends to the phenomena of bodily afflictions and examines them from three different standpoints: from society in general that interprets them as “sicknesses,” from the medical professions that interpret them as “diseases,” and from the patients themselves who interpret them as “illnesses.” By drawing on a crucial distinction in German phenomenology between two senses of the body—the quantifiable, material body (Körper) and the lived-body (Leib)—the authors explore the ways in which sickness, disease, and illness are socially and historically experienced and constructed.

To make their case, they draw on examples from a multiplicity of disciplines and cultures as well as a number of cases from Euro-American history. The intent is to unsettle taken-for-granted assumptions that readers may have about body troubles. These are assumptions widely held as well by medical and allied health professionals, in addition to many sociologists and philosophers of health and illness. To this end, Body Matters does not simply deconstruct prejudices of mainstream biomedicine; it also constructively envisions more humane and artful forms of therapy.
Promos and Props

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

Accountant & Grants Specialist Tina Pollock celebrated her 5th anniversary at FGCU in July 2008, qualifying for a service award.

Grants Awarded

Peter Blaze Corcoran
Dutch Learning for Sustainable Development

Ricky Pires
Collier County Audubon Society
Wings of Hope Assistant $12,000.00

Serge Thomas with David Fugate
St. John River Water Management District Nutrient Cycling in Lake Jesup, Florida $25,501.00

Grant Submissions

Darren Rumbold
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Bioenergetic-based Mercury Mass Balance Model for Gray Snappers as a Tool to Identify Sources of MeHg $17,094.00

Gregory Tolley with Ernst B. Peebles and Brooke A. Denkert
Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Response of Coastal and Estuarine Zooplankton to Variation in Freshwater Inflow in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary: A Sample Processing Effort $16,170.00

Professor Cliff Renk Presents Poster as Scholar in Residence

Biology Professor and Program Leader Cliff Renk presented a poster titled “Evaluation of Scale-Up Instruction on Student Learning and Satisfaction in an Introductory Microbiology Course” at the 15th Annual American Society for Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE), which was held at Endicott College, Beverly, MA, on May 30 – June 1, 2008.

ASMCUE is an interactive three-day conference where educators learn and share the latest information about microbiology and biology as well as the most effective teaching strategies. Renk’s poster was one of fifty posters selected for ASMCUE 2008. Poster presentations at ASMCUE must address a research study regarding student learning in the microbiological or biological sciences. In addition to poster presentations, the conference program includes plenary, concurrent, and exhibit sessions. Participants engage in formal and informal small group discussions among colleagues all focused on the same goal—improving teaching and learning in the biological sciences.

“This an excellent venue for faculty to showcase their scholarly work in teaching microbiology and biology,” says Marjorie M. (Kelly) Cowan, professor of microbiology at Miami University in Ohio and chair of the ASM Committee on Undergraduate Education. ASMCUE is sponsored by the Committee on Undergraduate Education, a committee of the ASM Education Board. For more information on this year’s conference or the 2009 ASMCUE (May 28 to 31), please visit www.asmcue.org.
Mark Your Calendar

International Humanities and Sustainability Conference
deadline for proposals
December 14 at midnight EST

Last Day of Classes
Tuesday, December 9

Last Day of the Semester
Wednesday, December 17

Commencement
Saturday, December 20

Grades due from faculty
Sunday, December 21 at noon EST

Spring Classes Begin
Monday, January 5

We're on the Web! Please visit us at:
http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/events.html