Dear Colleagues,

As with each new year, 2009 brings exciting events as well as challenges to the college and university. This spring will see the fruition of more than twenty faculty searches. Faculty and administrators are also working to develop a summer schedule in light of enrollment and budgetary challenges, while continuing to strive for program development and quality teaching and learning.

This semester has kicked off with the construction of AB7 well underway and the naming of a new Language and Literature Department Chair, among other important events. In the months to come, the groundbreaking of the Naples Botanical Gardens-FGCU joint use Center for Discovery will take place as well as a college-wide “Meet and Greet” bringing faculty and students together, Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society’s on-campus Literary Conference (page 9) and the Whitaker Center’s Faculty Development Series (page 6).

Our Spotlight section highlights Drs. Sharon Isern and Scott Michael and others in the Biological Sciences Department, several of whom traveled to Singapore and Thailand in October to visit the Tan Tock Seng Hospital Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) and attend the Second International Conference on Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever. Also covered in this issue is the Empty Bowls event held at the Arts Complex (written by Art major Rebecca Ferguson), Wings of Hope CREW and Panther Posse Program’s Water Awareness and Conservation Challenge (page 7), and the annual county-wide Math Competition also held on campus (page 10).

I hope you enjoy this issue of CAS Quarterly and that the new semester is off to a good start. Faculty and students are encouraged to consider contributing to a future issue.

Best regards,

Donna Price Henry, Ph.D.
Myra Mendible has been appointed the new Chair of the Department of Language and Literature; she succeeds interim Chair Dr. Jack Crocker. Professor Mendible teaches a range of courses in literature, cultural politics, media, ethnicity and gender. She earned her PhD in English from the University of Miami in 1993 and then joined Florida Gulf Coast University as a founding faculty member in 1994. In this capacity she contributed to the development of the University’s Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies and English programs while teaching for the University of South Florida’s Ft. Myers branch campus until FGCU’s inception in 1997. Myra also served a stint as Program Leader in English. She has designed and taught courses for the English, General Education, and Interdisciplinary Studies programs, and looks forward to serving as Chair of a department that boasts a talented and diverse group of faculty.

The Alpha Iota Epsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society will be hosting an on-campus literary conference on Friday, February 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Sugden Resort & Hospitality Management building, Room 240. Panel topics include but are not limited to

• The Nature of Things in American Literature from Stowe to McCarthy
• Wondrous Bodies from Shakespeare to Lispector

The Sigma Tau Delta council will arrange papers by topic into 2 panels of 4 papers each. Each panel will last 1 hour and 15 minutes: each presenter will be allotted 15 minutes for his/her delivery, and the remaining time will be used for discussion. There will be two morning panels, followed by a lunch break. This academic exchange will be a fantastic opportunity to share papers and ideas with others.

For more information on Sigma Tau Delta or the literary conference, contact Conan Griffin at sigma@eagle.fgcu.edu.

Together with Student Government, the CAS Dean’s Office is planning a college-wide “Meet and Greet” on March 19, following last year’s successful event. Bringing students and CAS faculty together allows interested students—freshmen and sophomores in particular—to learn about programs offered in the College, to become familiar with faculty members, and to get direction on choosing the best academic path. CAS clubs and organizations are invited to share information at the event.

The “Meet and Greet” is scheduled to take place in the Library Courtyard from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Bower School of Music Spring Concert Schedule

All events are at 7:30 p.m. on the FGCU Main Campus at the Student Union Ballroom unless otherwise noted

February 12  Wind Orchestra featuring President Wilson Bradshaw
February 19  String Orchestra featuring James Tapia, Guest Conductor
February 24  Guest Artist Recital—Borealis Wind Quintet
February 26  Guest/ Faculty Artist Recital—James Houlik, Tenor Saxophone; Michael Baron, Piano
March 12   Guest Lecture—Professor Robert Bailey, Romantic Symbolism in the Early 19th Century German Song Literature
March 13   The President’s Concert—featuring outstanding student and faculty performers
March 19   Junior Recital—Faron Vassen, Piano; Jamie Spagnola, Soprano
March 28** University Choir and Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers Johannes Brahms’ A German Requiem (sung in English) featuring Jeannie Darnell, Soprano and Alan Henderson, Baritone—7:30 p.m.
           Tickets: $20—call 590-7851
           First Presbyterian Church, 9751 Bonita Beach Rd., Bonita Springs
March 29** University Choir and Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers Johannes Brahms’ A German Requiem (sung in English) featuring Jeannie Darnell, Soprano and Alan Henderson, Baritone—4:00 p.m.
           Tickets: $20—call 590-7851
           Burnt Store Presbyterian Church, 11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda

FGCU Music Major Wins National Competition

Hyae-jin Hwang, junior music major at the Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University, has been selected as winner of the “Ars Flores Young Artists Concerto Competition” for university and music conservatory students up to the age of 25. The competition attracted a strong field of contestants throughout the United States and Canada. As winner of the competition, Hwang performed “Hungarian Fantasy” by Franz Liszt with the “Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra” in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 25.

Hwang, student of FGCU professor Michael Baron, has also recently won the Byrd Memorial Award sponsored by the Florida Music Teachers Association in Orlando as well as a $2,500 prize awarded by the Artist Series of Sarasota Music Performance Competition.

“Hyae-jin’s great talent and hard work continues to bring honor to FGCU. I am very proud of her,” said Baron.

Nancy Cobb-Lippens, director of the Bower School of Music said, “Hyae-jin has brought honor not only to the Bower School of Music, but also to Florida Gulf Coast University. I congratulate her for this outstanding achievement.”

Hyae-jin Hwang
Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education Announces Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures and Fifth Annual Fundraising Celebration

Steven C. Rockefeller to Speak on Campus

As part of its Fifth Anniversary Celebration, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education will host two Rachel Carson Distinguished Panel Lectures entitled, “Working on Behalf of the Beauty and Bounty of Earth: An Earth Charter Scholars’ Panel,” on Friday, February 20, 2009, on the campus of FGCU and on Sanibel Island.

The campus lecture will be held in Academic Building 5, in room 112, at 10:00 am. Featured panelists include the world’s top educators engaged in scholarship related to the Earth Charter from India, Australia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Germany, as well as some of North America’s top scholars in environmental education, religion, and ethics. Yale religion and ecology scholar Mary Evelyn Tucker will moderate the campus panel; renowned ecological and literacy educator and writer David W. Orr will moderate the Sanibel Lecture. Familiar to FGCU, Orr and Tucker are past Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecturers and Co-chairs of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Special guests include Steven C. Rockefeller, who chaired the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, as well as the international Earth Charter drafting Committee and who serves as member of the Earth Charter Commission, and Mirian Vilela, Executive Director of the Earth Charter International.

The Center is also hosting the visiting scholars in a week-long residency on Sanibel Island. Their work uses the Earth Charter to explore ethical dimensions of topics ranging from human rights to climate change to religion.

Panelists at the FGCU lecture will present on how the Earth Charter contributes to their work. Themed workshops at 1:00 pm will follow the lecture. Topics include religion and sustainability, climate change and the Earth Charter, and framing the Earth Charter in view of the 60th anniversary of the U.N. Decade of Human Rights.

The Earth Charter Initiative is a blueprint of values and principles for creating a more sustainable future. It is often referred to as a declaration of interdependence. It is now included as part of the curriculum for the University Colloquium and is incorporated in several courses across the colleges.

Moderated by David Orr and featuring Mary Evelyn Tucker and Steven C. Rockefeller, the Sanibel Island Lecture takes place on February 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm at St. Michael and All Angels Church. The substance of this lecture will differ from the campus event. Both events are free and open to the public. A brief reception with the scholars at the Church will follow the evening panel.

These events coincide with the launch of a new book, A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter, edited by Center Director, Dr. Peter Blaze Corcoran and Associate Dean, A. James Wohlpart. The book includes essays by several of the scholars, including Rockefeller and Tucker, as well as Terry Tempest Williams and Alison Hawthorne Deming, also past Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures.

The Center works toward realizing the dream of a sustainable and peaceful future for Earth through scholarship, education, and action. For more information about the Center and its activities, please visit www.fgcu.edu/cese. The Center is located in Whitaker Hall 216.

A Voice for Earth book talks are scheduled as follows:
• Saturday, February 7, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Sanibel Island Book Shop
• Thursday, February 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m., Barnes & Noble Book Sellers, Coconut Point, Estero
• Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 3:30 p.m., Captiva Memorial Library
Whitaker Center STEM Education Academy

Spring 2009 Faculty Professional Development Workshop Series

Six Whitaker Center STEM Education Academy faculty professional development workshops are scheduled for spring 2009. The two-hour workshops will be held on Fridays and start at 1:30 p.m. and will be held in WH 243 (except for the January 30 workshop which will start at 11:30 a.m.). In addition, faculty and students supported by the Whitaker Center will share their experiences in the “End of Year Symposium,” which will be held on April 10.

Three of these workshops will be led by nationally recognized STEM education experts in the areas of digital libraries, grant writing, and team teaching.

• “Sharing teaching activities online,” which will be held on February 13, will be led by Dr. Cathy Manduca, Director of the Science Education Resource Center at Carleton College in Northfield, MN and member of the Whitaker Center Advisory Board. Dr. Manduca has been a recipient of the American Geophysical Union’s prize for excellence in geophysical education and is an expert in developing web-resources that link teaching resources, pedagogy and discussion.

• “Team teaching,” which will be held on February 27, will be jointly led by Drs. Ellen Goldey and Byron McCane from Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. Dr. Goldey is Professor of Biology, a SENCER Leadership Fellow, principal investigator for a National Science Foundation award “Seeing the big picture: linking the sciences and the humanities,” and has interests in curricular reform efforts that foster disciplinary integration. Dr. McCane, an Albert C. Outler Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department of Religion, is an archeologist specializing in the academic study of religion and has appeared in documentaries on the History Channel, National Geographic, and the Discovery Channel.

• “Grant writing,” which will be held on March 27, will be led by Jeanne Narum, Director of Project Kaleidoscope in Washington, DC and former member of the Whitaker Center Advisory Board. Through Project Kaleidoscope—a national alliance of faculty, administrators, and associations committed to transforming the nation’s undergraduate STEM learning environment—and the support of federal and foundation grants, Ms. Narum has served as a national catalyst for curricular and pedagogical reform in STEM fields.

The Whitaker Center is grateful for the support and participation of the workshop leaders and for the impact they will have on our faculty’s professional development.

Three workshop sessions will be led by FGCU faculty in STEM education issues of concern to FGCU including: the synergy between teaching and scholarship, student mentorship, and teaching honor students.

• “Synergy Between Teaching and Scholarship” will be held on January 16 and will be facilitated by Mike Savarese. Three different models will be discussed, including: (1) collaborative, course-based research experiences, (2) immersive, field course-based research experiences, and (3) overlapping coursework and research laboratory training. He will be joined by Randy Cross, Rob Erdman, Sharon Isern, and Scott Michael.

• “Student Mentorship” will be held on January 30 (starting at 11:30 a.m.) and will be facilitated by Scott Michael. Faculty mentor and student mentee pairs will share their experiences and best practices.

• “Teaching Honors Students” will be held on March 13 and will be facilitated by Sean Kelly. Faculty working with Honor students and Honor students will discuss challenges and share their experiences and best practices.

Vester Field Station Fundraiser

President Wilson Bradshaw hosted a reception, boat tour and dinner for the Friends of FGCU at the Norm and Nancy Vester Marine and Environmental Sciences Research Field Station on Friday, January 9th from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Underwritten by Norm and Nancy Vester, the event “Brazilian Bash” was designed to showcase outstanding FGCU Biological, Environmental and Marine Science faculty, and to learn about the important research they are conducting for the betterment of all of Southwest Florida. In addition to Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Bradshaw, Provost Ron Toll and Dean Donna Henry, representatives from the Departments of Marine and Ecological Sciences, Biological Sciences and School of Engineering served as table hosts. The near perfect weather, picturesque setting of Estero Bay and the mangroves served as the background for the event attended by over 130 people. FGCU Marine Science students gave a tour of the research field station highlighting ongoing work. Nine chefs from the Brazilian Grill, the Churrascaria restaurant of Hyannis, MA, collaborated with local caterers to treat the attendees to a wonderful meal. President Bradshaw and Mr. Norm Vester spoke at the dinner highlighting the centrality of the field station to the university’s mission.
Wings of Hope at CREW – The Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed

A 60,000 acre watershed in Collier and Lee counties and the largest undisturbed watershed in Southwest Florida, CREW is home to many species, including: Florida panther, black bear, bobcat, river otters, alligators, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, white-tailed deer, turkey, and many more native mammals, birds, snakes, fish, plants, and invertebrates.

CREW’s educational staff partners with FGCU “Wings of Hope” program and busses over a thousand 4th and 5th graders to CREW each spring semester to continue their Florida panther and bird challenge as wildlife biologists. The young students are led and educated by “Wings of Hope” FGCU “cool” college students on a 2 ½ mile hike, where they identify birds, invertebrates, signs of wildlife, plants, and habitats. They learn to use field guides, binoculars, GPS, anemometers, and a compass. All the information is recorded in a special field science journal.

The elementary and college students continue environmental awareness by educating others about all the wildlife and habitats of CREW.

Take a nature hike with a friend or family member at CREW! Learn more at www.crewtrust.org.

FGCU “Wings of Hope” Florida Panther Posse Program: Water Awareness & Conservation Challenge

The elementary students are bussed in their yellow limo (school bus) to FGCU each semester to learn about the Florida panther and why water is an important natural resource. Every living thing needs fresh water: people, animals, bugs, plants, and Florida panthers. No water, No life!

Although more than two-thirds of the Earth’s surface is covered by water, the majority—as much as 97.5%—is salt water. That leaves only 2.5% fresh water, and most of that is frozen in the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland. The result: less than 1% of the water supply on Earth is available for drinking, cooking, hygiene, irrigation, cleaning and other uses.

Thanks to the South Florida Water Management District (Big Cypress Basin Board and the Lower West Coast Service Center) awarding the “Wings of Hope” program with a “Grant of Hope,” the students (elementary to college age) educate over 4,000 people each semester on the importance of conserving water.

“Ways to Save Water”

- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. You will save four gallons of water per minute.
- Don’t take long showers. Every minute you spend in the shower you use about five gallons.
- Turn off the hose when you’re not using the water to wash a car or water the yard. Five minutes of wasting water from a hose uses about 40 gallons.
- A faucet that drips 60 times in one minute wastes over 6 gallons of water a day; that’s 2,400 gallons a year.
- More tips on saving water: www.sfwmd.gov

Short film series by Farshad Aminian-Tankei & Sachiko Tankei-Aminian:

1) Through a Dewdrop: In Memory of Yasujiro Ozu and Leonardo Alishan (10min).
2) July 17 2008, Japan (10min).
3) What Would You Like to Become? Answers from Iranian School Children (26min).

Location & Time:
Sugden Student Welcome Center
Thursday Feb 26 at 6:00 p.m.
Teaching Corner

“Keeping it Positive, Keeping it Fresh”
by David Patrick James Green, M.S.

I am drinking my morning coffee, wondering how an Environmental Biology Instructor like myself who has only been teaching for two years can have anything meaningful or impactful to share with other faculty members who have far more classroom experience than I. Perhaps, your class practically teaches itself these days. I am not quite so fortunate in that my syllabus is a continual work-in-progress. My constant “tweaking” does one important thing for me, though: it keeps my classroom moving in new directions! The coming year will probably be trying for us all with severe financial stresses at home and at work, ongoing world conflicts, and everyday anxieties associated with life’s curveballs. But through it all, we, as faculty, must continue to inspire, lead, and prepare our students for their future professional journeys. We can best accomplish this by keeping our classrooms positive and keeping our lesson plans fresh.

Think back in time to the very first class you developed. Consider the thought, energy, and creativity it required to construct your masterpiece. When you tried your ideas inside the classroom, there was nothing more rewarding than watching the learning process in action, the learning process you developed. It was working; the students were learning. Through all the efforts, challenges, and research on the subject matter, you had delivered. Then, you taught the same class a few times, and things became streamlined. The lectures were memorized, and the classroom activities had already been delivered countless times so you knew what the student responses would be. It had become … routine … frustrating. Certainly, our first teaching experiences are far from routine, and the anxiety that grips our nerves is exactly what makes our teaching careers exciting and stimulating. We should teach and prepare for every class as if it is the first time we are delivering it to keep ourselves stimulated, motivated, and excited.

Whenever I teach, I try to remember that our classrooms are not bordered by the four walls surrounding us. Our campus and climate allow for outdoor excursions and learning opportunities every day. I incorporate outdoor activities as frequently as possible. It makes sense in an ecology-type course to be outside, and I tend to refer to the campus as our “Living Laboratory.”

But, there is no reason why we can’t learn about Psychology, History, or English Literature in an outdoor setting. As we transition into the dry season, scout out a pineland on campus or visit an oak hammock, bring some towels to sit on, and lead a class discussion under the sun! If you are unable to use the outdoor setting for your class, let the students perform it on their own time by having them find a nature spot and keep a journal. My instructions for this are simple:

Find a location where you can spend 30 minutes observing the landscape that surrounds you, once per week. This can be a spot you locate on or off campus. It can be a private beach, a cypress dome, next to a pond, etc. Make sure it is a place you feel safe, secure, inspired, comfortable, and relaxed. Each week, visit this spot and make careful observations in your journal according to the task list. Hopefully, this will turn into a location you come back to and visit throughout your college career when you need a place to study, think, or collect your thoughts.

I collect the journal two times during the semester and my task list supplements lessons from the textbook, lectures, and labs. For example, on the first visit, students are required to identify the habitats present and describe them. Later, they must make careful observations of the foodweb and weather patterns. Near the end of the semester, I have the students reflect on the meaning of their nature spot, how it has changed from a strange assignment at first to a much-needed spot to get away. Lastly, I ask the students to consider how human activities might alter their nature spot and how it might be different in the future. Breathe some fresh air into your curriculum by taking it outside!

Our students live in the same world we live in and are faced with similar challenges. Financial hard times affect them and their families as it affects each of us. Yet it is our responsibility to serve as inspirational beacons, to exemplify leadership, and to bridge the transition between our students’ academic lives and their professional careers. If you are searching for inspiration in the classroom because activities have become routine, step back into the shoes of a first-time Instructor and teach the class like you have never taught it before. Add new life to your lesson plans and keep your message positive and your delivery fresh!
Professor Wins National Award for Academic Excellence

In December, the National Education Association (NEA) announced that Douglas Harrison, CAS assistant professor of English, has been selected for the NEA’s 2008 Award for Excellence in the Academy.

The award, recognizing outstanding research and publication by a new scholar, was given largely on the basis of his essay “Scholarly Voice and Professional Identity in the Internet Age,” which appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of the NEA’s scholarly journal, Thought & Action, the highest-circulation refereed journal in higher education, with a readership of nearly 150,000. The article explores the emerging anxiety in the academy about academicians who also blog—people Harrison refers to as “blogademics”—and connects the discussion about this phenomenon within the professoriate to his own experience as a scholar who has also been blogging for several years now about white (aka southern) gospel music and culture at his website, averyfineline.com. “Moving between these two roles,” he writes of his experience as a blogademic, “has been both challenging and rewarding (in terms of my identity and career) in ways that speak to persistent tensions between scholarly and popular culture, as well as abiding concerns about what it means to be an academic in contemporary society.”

The essay treats many of the same issues in American intellectual history and popular culture that are the focus of his current book project, Harmony and Heterodoxy: The Cultural Function of White Gospel Music, the first book-length cultural study of this tradition. Additionally, the essay draws on Harrison’s experience researching blogging as a cultural phenomenon and teaching an advanced creative writing course in blog writing: CRW 4930, Styles and Ways of Blogging.

Harrison joined the faculty of FGCU in 2006. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in early, antebellum, and modern American literature and culture, as well as composition and journalism. His research interests focus on the psychology of American religious thought and experience, particularly Puritanism, Calvinism, and contemporary evangelicalism. In addition to the Thought and Action article, his essays have appeared in Religion and American Culture, Essays in Romanticism, and the Journal of the M/MLA, where he also serves as an anonymous reviewer of articles submitted for publication. An article of his on sexuality and cyberspace is forthcoming in the Journal of Popular Culture.

Harrison serves on Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Leadership Team, and currently chairs the General Education Council. He is also the president of the board directors of Literacy Volunteers of Lee County. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in English from Washington University in St. Louis, and his B.A. in English from the Pierre Laclede Honors College at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Harrison and his partner, Matthew Myers, will travel to Portland, OR, in March to receive the $2500 award at the NEA’s annual Higher Education Conference.

The Orange Grove Digital Repository

Did you know that you have access to an extensive collection of online resources for your classroom at your fingertips? Would you like to have high-quality digital learning modules that you can adapt for your classes? All this and more is provided for you at The Orange Grove. Take a look at: http://www.theorangegrove.org/.

The Orange Grove Digital Repository is an online library of free, high-quality learning resources. David Green, Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences, and Jennifer Sparrow, E-Learning Department, are your liaisons for learning about this resource. They are here to provide you with information on searching, using, repurposing and contributing to the Orange Grove. They’ll be meeting with your college during the spring term to provide you with more information on how you can access these resources and how they are applicable in your classroom. They’ll also be providing additional workshops in February, check your email or the Elearning Newsletter at http://www.fgcu.edu/amts/elearning/. Feel free to start exploring these resources now and don’t hesitate to contact them directly if you have any questions in the meantime.
Chemistry Professor Hosts Ft. Myers High School Field Trip

Ms. Jacqueline Curl, Science Chair at North Fort Myers High, attended the Forensic Science Educational conference organized by the American Academy of Forensic Science held at FGCU in May 2008. There, Dr. Sue Coticone demonstrated various forensic techniques including gel electrophoresis for human identification at crime labs. So when it came time for Ms. Curl’s AP Biology class to learn gel electrophoresis, she approached Dr. Coticone for a field trip to FGCU. On December 10th, seventeen students from North Fort Myers High school travelled to FGCU and attended a demonstration of gel electrophoresis. Students were given simulated DNA samples from crime scenes and, based on their results, identified the suspect. Students also met with Dawn Gant, Elisabeth Diamond and Christina Bauchert, FGCU undergraduate students working with Dr. Coticone on their senior research projects.

Math Competition

FGCU hosted the 6th Annual Invitational Mathematics Competition on Thursday, December 18th.

More than 500 student competitors participated on more than 20 teams from high schools throughout FGCU’s five county service area. The President’s Club was among the event sponsors.

Top left: Participants are tested at six different levels including algebra 1, algebra 2, geometry, statistics, pre-calculus, and calculus.

Top right: Chemistry and Math department Chair Dr. Rick Schnackenberg poses with two trophy recipients.

Bottom left: Lab Coordinator Dave Saha plays chess with students.

Bottom right: The top five teams receive team trophies, and sweepstakes trophies are awarded with door prizes to the top five schools.
Empty Bowls a Great Success at Florida Gulf Coast University

By FGCU Art major Rebecca Ferguson

The events of Friday, December 5th will go down in Florida Gulf Coast University history as engaging and involving community members in supporting local food assistance. Over the course of the fall semester, FGCU students and local potters produced 250 beautiful, handmade, ceramic bowls. Visitors to the event selected one of these bowls in return for a $15 donation and enjoyed a simple, soup kitchen-style lunch. Their bowls were then washed so they could take them home as a reminder of those who go hungry.

We had an excellent turnout, and nearly all the bowls were snapped up in record time. Our total raised was $3,806, all of which goes to Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee (ICSL), a non-profit United Way organization that provides a range of much-needed services to people in our area having trouble making ends meet. The director of ICSL, Nancy Martin, says that the funds raised will provide approximately 1,150 individuals hot meals, or feed 80 families for five days. Together, we have provided a real service to our community.

This event would not have been possible without the wonderful donations of soup, bread, and bottled water from our community partners: Costco, The Artisan Bread Company, Sweet Tomatoes, Brio, The Hyatt at Coconut Point, R. J. Gator’s, P.F. Chang’s, and Webster’s Restaurant and Catering Co. In addition, student assistance in producing and staffing the event was invaluable. FGCU Empty Bowls served as a service learning project for students from ART 2750: Ceramics 1; ART 3762: Wheel Throwing, and IDS 3300: Foundations of Civic Engagement. Art Program Associate Professor Patricia Fay spearheaded the event, and student intern and art major Rebecca Ferguson served as the 2008 Empty Bowls event manager. Our thanks go out to all who attended and made our contribution to Interfaith Caregivers possible, and we look forward to Empty Bowls 2009!

Assistant Art Professor Receives Award for Exhibition in Naples

Assistant Professor of Art Andy Owen received an award of “Excellence in Drawing/Printmaking.” Both works he submitted were accepted into the 47th Founders Juried Exhibition at the Von Leibig Art Center in Naples. The pieces were small dry points drawn on copper combined with a process called chine-colle’, which uses a delicate Japanese rice paper for color.

The juror for the exhibit was Ned Rifkin, Under Secretary for Art of the Smithsonian and Director of the Hirshhorn. Out of 387 works submitted, 104 were accepted into the exhibition, which ran through January 4th. Associate Art Professor Morgan Paine, along with the spouses of three other faculty, Carl Schwartz, Andy Owen and Joe Kakarka, also had work in the show.
Spotlight on Professors Isern and Michael and Biotechnology Research Group

Before joining FGCU in 2004, Chicago native Scott Michael worked as Assistant Professor in the Department of Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA working on dengue virus. As Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at FGCU, he has taught General Biology I, Cell Biology, and Virology. He received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. His post-doctoral training in Virology at UNC at Chapel Hill and University of Alabama focused on HIV origin and drug resistance. A faculty sponsor of FGCU Gaming Club, Scott’s research Interests include molecular virology of HIV/SIV, dengue and West Nile virus; amphibian ecology, evolution and extinction.

Currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences Sharon Isern has taught Cell Biology, General Biology I, Virology, and General Chemistry I Lab. With research interests including viral entry pathways, drug delivery systems, virus inhibitors, and vaccine development, she has held titles of Senior Research Scientist and Research Assistant Professor at Department of Tropical Medicine, Tulane University. Sharon hails from San Juan, Puerto Rico and worked as a Design Engineer at Exxon Research and Engineering, Florham Park, NJ as well as Team Manager, Procter & Gamble Baltimore Plant, Baltimore, MD prior to joining FGCU in 2004. With a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, her post-doctoral training in Virology included working as Chemistry instructor at New Orleans’s Louise S.

Continued on page 12
**Student Highlights**

Graduate student Brooke Denkert has been awarded an Aylesworth Scholarship from Florida Sea Grant for $6,000. The Aylesworth Foundation was created for the Advancement of Marine Sciences in 1984. The Aylesworths believed that scientific knowledge in marine related areas coupled with decisions based on environmental and conservation factors will prove to be the only way to develop, utilize and manage our renewable marine resources on a long-term basis (flseagrant.org).

Only one other FGCU student has received this scholarship in the past. Ms. Denkert will be formally recognized as an Aylesworth Scholarship recipient during the annual meeting of the Southeastern Fisheries Association in Key West, FL.

How Oysters Helped to Change My Major

by Sarah Larsen, Junior

On a warm, sunny day this past Fall, my mom was walking our dog at Riverpark in West Bay Club. She saw two women expertly launching a boat into the Estero River and stopped for a friendly chat. The two women, Leslie Haynes and Lacey Smith, explained to my mom their work at FGCU’s Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI). This chance meeting started in motion my decision to change majors and acquire a new job.

Leslie and Lacey invited my mom to participate in an oyster reef restoration in Estero Bay two weeks later. I joined in at the restoration and found myself jumping into action, loading bags of fossilized shells onto the first boat. I’m not sure whether it was the smell in the air or being out on the water, but I knew then that I had found where I belonged.

On the boat ride to the reef location, I met Stephanie Goodwin. She is an Environmental Studies major and an intern at CWI. With unrelenting enthusiasm, Stephanie told me about the marine science classes she had taken as well as her work as an intern at CWI. I was sold!

Three days later, I met with my advisor and changed my major to Marine Science. That afternoon I interviewed with Leslie for an internship position at CWI. My first day in the lab was spent staining oyster tissue and making stringers under the expert guidance of Leslie and Lacey.

I have now been an intern at CWI for three months. During that time, I have collected oyster stringers in the Everglades, pulled up growth trays in the Caloosahatchee River, and gathered seagrass in the Ten Thousand Islands. Recently, Dr. Everham was in the CWI lab and commented on how gross some algae looked. I said, “I think it’s cool,” and he replied, “Then you are in the right place!”

Thanks to Stephanie and the CWI lab I’m in the right place and incredibly grateful for being able to study and work in a field that I am so passionate about.

After the Thailand conference, Joshua visited the National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Pathumthani (near Bangkok) and was invited to give a talk.

Recent works of Sharon and Scott were co-published with Joshua, Krystal, and Craig Rees. Craig Rees, also a recent College of Arts and Sciences Biotechnology graduate, is presently a first year student in the School of Public Health at the University of Florida.
Alumni Highlights:

'04 Alicia Kruse (Environmental Studies) was re-elected as membership director for Passarella & Associates, a southwest chapter of the Florida Association of Environmental Professionals.

'Hughey White (History) is the on-site coordinator for Fort Myers’s Middle Academy (FMMA) for the College Reach Out Program (CROP) at FGCU. He familiarizes first generation middle school students to the requirements, rigors and rewards of post-secondary educational pursuits in earning a college/university degree. Hughey also facilitates a title 1 tutoring program for students. He is additionally pursing his master’s degree in educational leadership at FGCU. Hughey has been nominated twice for the Lee County School’s Foundation’s Golden Apple Teacher Award.

Submissions due by April 1, 2009

The Alumni Association Board of Directors annually honors a distinguished graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University. This is the most prestigious award the association bestows upon a graduate in recognition of the recipient’s contributions to society. The 2009 recipient will be announced at the 13th annual Celebration of Excellence Awards ceremony at Alico Arena.

Alumni Update

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. The FGCUAA offers many opportunities for alumni and friends to stay connected, including monthly networking nights, Eagle Entourage (our online social network for alumni only), expanded alumni communication channels, class reunions, group travel, and the addition of our alumni insurance program in early 2009.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 23:</td>
<td>All Alumni Reunion Event (1999 and 2004)</td>
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<td>Jan 23:</td>
<td>Washington D.C. Watch Party (FGCU vs UNF – men's basketball)</td>
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<td>Feb 10:</td>
<td>Alumni Webinar: Marketing Yourself in a Competitive Job Market</td>
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<td>Feb 11:</td>
<td>Career Fair</td>
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<td>Feb 19:</td>
<td>Eagle Networking Night - FGCU Theatre Show Exit the King</td>
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<td>Mar 28:</td>
<td>Eagle Networking Night - Everblades Game</td>
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Props and Promos

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


Kris De Welde and Sandra Laursen published “The 'Ideal Type' Advisor: Helping STEM Graduate Students Find Their Scientific Feet.”


Yinghong Sheng with Chao Deng, Xiao-Peng Wu, Xiao-Ming Sun, and Yi Ren published “Neutral Hydrolyses of Carbon Disulfide: An Ab Initio Study of Water Catalysis.”

Irvin D.S. Winsboro was appointed by Florida Secretary of State, Kurt Browning, to the Florida Historical Marker Council in Tallahassee for a 3-year term, beginning in 2008; and published the following: “Florida’s Civil War: Explorations into Conflict, Interpretations, and Memory,” “Give Them Their Due: A Reassessment of African-American and Union Military Service in Florida During the Civil War,” “Paradigms from the Past: Radical Feminism and the Contemporary Movement in North America,” and (with Dr. Donald K. Routh) “Utopia’s Healing Messiah: Dr. Cyrus R. Teed of Chicago and the National Mind-Cure Movement.”

New in the Nest

The Department of Language and Literature would like to welcome back Sara Dustin. Sara was part of the CAS family as an Instructor of English but left to pursue her Graduate Studies at The University of Florida. She has returned and is now teaching for us as an Adjunct Faculty member, while finishing her PhD. Welcome Back Sara!

Groundbreaking for the Naples Botanical Gardens-FGCU joint use Center for Discovery will begin on February 25, with a ceremony event scheduled at 1:00 p.m. The 15,000-square foot structure is scheduled to open in Fall 2009.
Mark Your Calendar

Sigma Tau Delta English Literary Conference
Friday, February 13
Sugden Resort & Hospitality Management building, Room 240, 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

CESE's Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures
Friday, February 20
On campus, 10:00 a.m. and at Saint Michael and All Angels Church on Sanibel Island, 7:00 p.m.

CESE's Fifth Annual Fundraising Celebration
Saturday, February 21
Home of Peter and Mallory Haffenreffer on Sanibel Island, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet
Thursday, March 19
Library Courtyard, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Paul Loeb Lecture
Associated scholar at Seattle’s Center for Ethical Leadership Paul Loeb will be on FGCU campus for a two-day residency. The residency will include a major lecture and workshop on how citizens, teachers, and students in particular, can learn to take responsibility for our common future. Loeb's talk will focus on his award-winning books on civic engagement, *Soul of a Citizen*, *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*, and *Generation at the Crossroads*. The lecture and faculty workshop will take place March 17 and 18.

Paul Loeb is an associated scholar at Seattle’s Center for Ethical Leadership. His most recent books are *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear* and *Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time*. See [www.paulloeb.org](http://www.paulloeb.org) for more information.

SACs visit
March 24 to 26