Dear Friends,

Welcome to the pages of Pinnacle Magazine, Florida Gulf Coast University’s inaugural magazine designed to share with you news of our exciting development as a premiere institution of higher education in Southwest Florida. Our students, faculty and staff remain energized as pioneers in this remarkable enterprise of education, enlightenment, research, service and pride for our region – and they recognize the key role you play as community partners dedicated to creating from a blank slate a university for today and also for generations of students to come.

The rapid growth of FGCU is unparalleled in higher education across the nation. From a modest 2,580 students on opening day in 1997 to today’s 8,300 students, FGCU’s growth will continue at this swift pace – with master planners projecting our main campus will be built out in approximately 10 years to serve a capacity of 20,000 to 25,000 students.

New academic degree programs have kept pace with our growing student population, and we now offer 44 bachelor’s degree and 20 master’s degree programs. Next year we also will move forward with the introduction of doctoral programs in response to critical needs.

You will read about the exciting developments on our campus with new buildings and facilities for academics, student life, research, athletics, and student residences. Our 760-acre gem of a campus is an integral part of Southwest Florida’s beautiful ecology, and we encourage you to explore it not only through Pinnacle Magazine, but also in person.

FGCU is one of the best examples ever of successful public-private partnerships. The State of Florida’s support has been augmented by private donors’ gifts totaling $218 million during our recently concluded capital campaign, and every week we talk with new friends interested in adding to this legacy of private support for FGCU.

Numbers of students and academic degree programs and buildings and dollars are important, and they signal the strength and vitality of our institution. But, behind the numbers are compelling stories of vision, ingenuity and achievement that will captivate and inspire – and we look forward to bringing these to you in Pinnacle Magazine.

William C. Merwin
President
Florida Gulf Coast University
We’ve got a winner!

coming up with a name for the University’s new magazine was a tough, and somewhat daunting, mission.

We wanted something regal, preferably something to do with the eagle, a moniker that would capture the dignity, excellence and pride of Florida Gulf Coast University in a single word.

So we turned to the collective brainpower of the University’s faculty and staff for help in finding the moniker.

In all, 166 people offered up 511 possibilities, although some entries came in more than once. There were 22 Eagle Eyes, 20 Eagle Views, 50 that involved soaring, 10 that possessed wings and nine equipped with talons.

Other imaginative entries included: Troubadour, True Blue, The Eagletarian, U-Turns, Eager Eagle, The Inside Swoop, and one that particularly tickled the naming committee, Swoop “There It Is.”

There were suggestions in a number of languages, including: Haliaeetus Leucocephalus (the scientific name for “bald eagle,” which was submitted by two people); Aquila (Latin for “eagle”); Ah-ta-thi-ki (Seminole for “a place to learn”); Garuda (Hindu for “divine bird”); aerie and variations thereof (Latin for “eagle’s perch,” Nolan tells me. “It’s like everything we’re striving for. It’s crisp, sharp. To me, it conveys the high points.”

Precise our thoughts, too.

This premier issue contains ample examples of that effort. Assistant Professor Duane Dobbert has launched a program aimed at teaching school bus drivers how to spot potential child predators. Assistant Professor Sharon Isern is delving into the microscopic world of viruses. Graduate student Brenda Brooks-Solveson works to increase environmental awareness. Some of South Florida’s finest musicians have signed on to teach tomorrow’s performers and teachers. Naples residents Alan and Marilyn Korest have generously donated $2.5 million to support the University’s new music program. And the FGCU Athletic Division will soon join the prestigious Atlantic Sun Conference. Read about these accomplishments and more in the following pages.

Have we reached the pinnacle? The University has certainly garnered an impressive list of successes. But FGCU is an institution at which the possibilities – and the heights we can achieve – seem limitless. And so we continue to set our sights and our goals ever higher.

Karen Feldman
Managing Editor

She submitted a dozen possibilities, all of which began with the word Eagle. Not wishing to encroach on the name of the student-run newspaper, we removed the Haliaeetus Leucocephalus from one of her entries and were left with Pinnacle, a peak on which an eagle might alight and the heights to which the University, its faculty and student body, aspire.

“I envisioned an eagle sitting up high on its perch,” Nolan tells me. “It’s like everything we’re striving for. It’s crisp, sharp. To me, it conveys the high points.”

“Pinnacle” was submitted by two people; Aquila (Latin for “eagle”); Ah-ta-thi-ki (Seminole for “a place to learn”); Garuda (Hindu for “divine bird”); aerie and variations thereof (Latin for “eagle’s high lair” or “elevated perch”).

The six-member committee narrowed the field to about 25 possibilities, and then whittled those down to a precious few. It had to be a name that succinctly encompassed all the disciplines taught at the University. It eventually came down to one entry that appealed to all of the panelists: Pinnacle.

Anne Nolan, associate professor of nursing, submitted the winning entry. Her creative effort wins her a chef’s table dinner for two at CinCin Mediterranean Bar & Grill in Fort Myers, two tickets to a show at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall and a $250 Visa card credit. The Eagletarian, U-Turns, Eager Eagle, The Inside Swoop, and one that particularly tickled the naming committee, Swoop “There It Is.”

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Content

Features

Natural attraction Brenda Brooks-Solveson has traded in her stylist’s scissors and salon for sturdy boots and romps in the swamps.

 Stranger danger Forensic psychologist Duane Dobbert teaches bus drivers how to spot child predators and what to do about it.

 Under the microscope Biotechnology researcher Sharon Isern delves into the mysteries of virulent viruses.

 Guiding lights Behind the scenes a panel of regional movers and shakers works at the local level to oversee FGCU’s growth.

 Taking the lead President William C. Merwin and his leadership team look into the future to mold the university’s mission.

 Harmonic convergence A new music program boasts a talented faculty and gifted local musicians who share their knowledge with students.

Bully pulpit New outreach program helps offenders get the upper hand.

“There were five registered sex offenders standing on that sideline.” – DUANE DOBBERT
Sophomore wins piano competition

FGCU student Faith Lanctot won first prize in the Florida division of the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist Piano Performance Competition Oct. 28 in St. Petersburg.

Lanctot, 19, is a sophomore in FGCU’s new Bower School of Music. The competition included master’s and doctoral students, ages 19 to 26, from Florida universities.

She will go on to regional competition set for Jan. 12 through 15 in Tallahassee.

“The Florida Gulf Coast University Music program is thrilled,” says Nancy Cobb-Lipps, FGCU founding director of music. “This is a major competition, and Faith was competing in the midst of students who have had many more years of study. We also congratulate Dr. Michael Baron, our new faculty member in piano, as Faith’s teacher.”

Baron, who has taught Lanctot for 10 years, says, “I am very proud of Faith. I have had the pleasure of watching a promising little girl develop into a fine young artist.”

Lanctot says, “I was excited and surprised to win the competition. I love performing for others.”

In Brief

Charlotte campus plan on hold

Plans for a Charlotte County satellite campus of Florida Gulf Coast University have been put on hold at the urging of the Florida Board of Governors.

In November, the board, which oversees the state university system, discouraged FGCU from moving ahead with the FGCU Charlotte County Site Advisory Committee’s recommended Hudson Sun-River site and funding proposal.

President William C. Merwin agreed to end the negotiation process with Hudson Sun-River over property in eastern Charlotte County.

The Board of Governors wants to hold off on such projects pending the conclusion of a study by Pappas Consulting Group of the university system and its long-term growth. The consultants are expected to report on the study at the Board of Governors’ Jan. 25 meeting at Florida Atlantic University.

In addition, Charlotte County officials opposed the Hudson Sun-River site on grounds that it was too far removed from the county’s population center. The governors said county officials need to come up with a site and proposal that would be satisfactory to all parties before plans for a satellite campus could proceed.

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Highs and lows

The final day of academic life can be remembered by the highs and lows.

Faith Lanctot

When Faith Lanctot is not performing, she is a serious student.

“Persuasion, trust and Values,” at FGCU’s Pinnacle Magazine.

Thursday through Tuesday, Jan. 11-Feb. 13

Fruits & Flowers: Prints from the Salvador Dalí Museum Opening Reception: Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m.

Arts Complex gallery

Contact Scott Snyder at (239) 590-7354

Thursday, Jan. 18

Guest Lecture: Daniel Correll, the De Young Museum

3 p.m.

Arts Complex

Contact Scott Snyder at (239) 590-7354

Thursday, Jan. 25

Faculty Recital – Michael Baron, Piano

7:30 p.m.

Location to be announced

Contact Nancy Cobb-Lipps at (239) 590-7374

Thursday, Feb. 1

Guest Lecture: Michael Rush, Rose Art Museum, Baldwin University

*Media Art in the New Millennium

3 p.m.

Arts Complex

Contact Scott Snyder at (239) 590-7354

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Faculty Recital – Michael Baron, piano; Jeannie Darrell, soprano; Darren Hees, organ

7:30 p.m., Bower Chapel at Moorings Park, Naples

Contact Nancy Cobb-Lipps at (239) 590-7374

Thursday through Sunday, Feb. 15-18

Wednesday through Sunday Feb. 21-25

“Picasso at the Lapin Agile,”

theatrical production

Thematic Lab

Curtain at 8 p.m.

Wednesdays

Saturday, Feb. 2–March 1

Eberhard Hakelest: 1996-2006 Paintings from the Rubell Family Collection Opening Reception: March 22, 5-8 p.m.

Art Complex gallery

Contact Scott Snyder at (239) 590-7354

Saturday, Feb. 24

President’s Celebration

The Ritz-Carlton, Naples

Contact Jodi Edens at (239) 590-1074

Thursday, March 1

Guest Lecture: Thelma Golden, The Studio Museum, NYC

“African-American Contemporary Art”

6 p.m.

Art Complex gallery

Contact Scott Snyder at (239) 590-7354

Thursday March 1

String Orchestra Concert

Rod Chesnutt, Conductor

7:30 p.m., South Fort Myers High School Auditorium

Contact Rod Chesnutt at (239) 590-7188

Friday, March 2

Wind Orchestra Concert – Rod Chesnutt, Conductor

7:30 p.m., South Fort Myers High School Auditorium

Contact Rod Chesnutt at (239) 590-7188

Friday, March 16

President’s Concert

Outstanding music students and music faculty

7:30 p.m.

Location to be announced

Contact Nancy Cobb-Lipps at (239) 590-7374

Gen. Colin Powell to speak at FGCU lecture series

Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) will speak about diplomacy at Florida Gulf Coast University on Friday, March 23.

The retired four-star general, former Secretary of State and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will appear as part of FGCU’s University Lecture Series. He will speak on “Diplomacy: Persuasion, Trust and Values,” at 6 p.m. at the Alico Arena on the FGCU campus.

“General Powell’s experienced leadership has helped shape our country’s foreign policy and has helped all of us better understand the complex dynamics of national security,” says FGCU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Bonnie Yegidis, who spearheaded the three-year-old lecture series.

Powell served as Secretary of State under President George W. Bush, as National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under the first President George Bush. His Army career spanned 35 years, which included two tours in Vietnam.

Speakers for the lecture series are chosen on the basis of their national prominence, broad community appeal, their message and how it fits the University’s missions and goals. Yegidis says the aim is to stimulate intellectual engagement and inspire critical and creative thinking on a broad range of topics.

Previous speakers included former Senator Ted Kennedy and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mikael Gaboriau and renowned poet and author Maya Angelou.

The lecture is sponsored by Key Private Bank.

Free tickets for Powell’s appearance will be available to the public at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Alico Arena box office. Those seeking tickets must appear in person. No orders will be taken by phone or via the Internet. There’s a limit of two tickets per person and they will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

For details about the lecture series and Powell’s visit to FGCU, contact Jim Woolpitt at woolpitt@fgcu.edu or 590-7181 or visit www.fgcu.edu/
Duane Dobbert's career has been filled with darkness.

After more than 30 years as a professional forensic examiner — studying sexual predators and helping police solve gruesome crimes against children — Dobbert thought he had seen and heard it all.

Then, five years ago, came a horrifying case in Connecticut. At a children's soccer match, with kids running on and off the field and sidelines filled with cheering, excited families, one player, a little girl, vanished. Her frantic parents called 911. Police rushed to the scene.

“They found some grandparents who were videotaping the match and ... inadvertently videotaped the opposite sideline,” Dobbert recalls.

“There were five registered sex offenders standing on that sideline,” Dobbert said.

For Dobbert, that was the proverbial last straw.

“I want people to get their aggregate heads out of the sand and recognize that this happens in everyone's neighborhood — in every social and economic class,” says Dobbert, anger rising in his voice. “We have to stop waiting for the abduction to take place.”

Today, Dobbert is an assistant professor teaching criminal forensic studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. He teaches students valuable lessons about the “who, what, why and how” of crime. However, just as important are the lessons he offers throughout the country.

Haunted by the case of the missing Connecticut girl and others like it, Dobbert has produced an information-packed presentation and 90-minute DVD designed to educate school bus drivers. The programs offer practical steps on how to stop sexual predators and protect children.

“The training was absolutely unbelievable to me,” says Jeff Stauring, the Collier County school district’s transportation director. “It was eye-opening to all of us that predators are not opportunists, but actually seek out victims.”

Dobbert explains the chilling ways sexual predators work and the “precursor behaviors” that may help identify and stop them.

Sexual paraphilics, as experts call them, usually start with child pornography, but soon grow bored. That’s when they start searching for what is called a “fantasy love group.”

If that is little boys, for example, a predator may go to elementary schools, soccer matches, candy stores and bus stops. Then he will focus on one child and begin stalking him.

The predator “sees him get on the bus. He covertly follows that bus and he watches as (children) are getting off the bus,” Dobbert says. “There are no parents there to pick him up, so he covertly follows him home. Now he knows where he lives and now he begins to pattern (the child’s) behavior. He knows (the child) goes to Cub Scouts on Tuesday nights. He knows he has soccer assistant professor Duane Dobbert has taken his lessons about sexual predators nationwide.

Criminal forensics professor’s program aims at identifying sexual predators before they strike

BY CHRIS WADSWORTH
practice on Thursday nights. He starts watching and he starts photographing.”

Dobbert’s frightening presentation is based on a popular social sciences book he authored, “Halting the Sexual Predators Among Us,” released by Greenwood Publishing in 2004. Relying on his decades of experience and research, Dobbert explains precursor behaviors that can reveal who may be heading down the path to child sexual predation.

“I couldn’t understand for the life of me how anyone could do that behavior,” Dobbert says. “It just became a passion to figure out how to identify these people, how to identify them at an early point in time to prevent these behaviors.”

He initially aimed his program at law enforcement agencies in Lee and Collier counties. Soon it spread to the school districts and, ultimately, to bus drivers. “They absolutely love it,” Dobbert says. “They feel empowered to be heroes. They are saving children.”

Dobbert recommends that drivers enter their routes into the state’s online sexual offender registry. Then they should print out photos of all the offenders who live near their routes, study the faces closely and keep the pictures on their buses.

He also believes districts should have “suspicious stranger” forms on each bus so drivers can record details when they see unusual behavior.

“The little red truck that has been sitting there in front of the elementary school for three or four days that doesn’t pick up a child and there’s a man sitting in it. Why is he sitting there?” says Dobbert. “The guy that’s hanging on the fence. The guy sitting in the shadows. Why are they there?”

This process paid off quickly in Collier County.

“Fourteen suspicious stranger reports have been turned in by drivers since the training program. All have been turned in to the sheriff’s office for investigation,” Staurig says. “In every case, a driver identified something that appeared out of place.”

Collier County sheriff’s Lt. Thomas Smith says he is not aware of any arrests directly due to the bus driver reports.

Dobbert explains precursor behaviors that can reveal who may be heading down the path to child sexual predation. He shows up at other places in which children are hanging out. Police get his description and auto tag number. When he shows up at other places in which children are found, law enforcement officers have a better chance of arresting him.

Nonetheless, he says, “It absolutely has a deterrent effect. It opened the eyes of everyone in and around a bus stop. Because we have not necessarily caught someone doesn’t mean it hasn’t been effective.”

Since first offering his talk in Collier, Dobbert has taken the presentation statewide and shared it with thousands of drivers. He wound up creating a DVD version to meet the demand and now the program is going national.

In early November, Dobbert presented his methods for identifying precursor behaviors to transportation executives from school districts, as well as state and federal authorities, at meetings in Kansas City.

Dobbert’s next project is a presentation that will help teachers identify students who may be victims of sexual abuse.

“This is cutting-edge stuff not being done anywhere else in the country. It’s not something just being done in a lab. This has real-world applicability that heightens and enhances the safety of children,” says Ken Miller, Dean of the College of Professional Studies. “Everywhere he goes, he goes as a representative of this University … a representative of the really fine scholarship here.”

For Dobbert, the accolades are nice, but what really counts is knowing a child may have been saved due to his efforts.

“… a representative of the really fine scholarship here.”

— Chris Wadsworth is a freelance writer based in Fort Myers.

What parents and caregivers should know

• A sexual predator doesn’t have to look like a creep. He isn’t the old “Stranger Danger” guy. He could be the neighbor next door or the choir director or a Cub Scout master.

• A sexual predator is not opportunistic. He will focus on a specific age and gender, find his fantasy lover, then stalk him or her. A pedophile always selects prepubescent children of a specific gender. A hebephile always chooses a child — boy or girl — at sexual maturity.

• Sexual predators usually do not intend to harm their victims, although victims often end up injured or dead. The predator’s delusion is that the child will love him forever.

• A sexual predator seeks locations where his fantasy love group is likely to be, such as school sporting events, zoos and parks.

• A sexual predator’s spots never change. For example, he will always have a preference for a specific age and gender. Once detected, he just changes his hunting territory. If he is spotted and questioned at one school, police get his description and auto tag number. When he shows up at other places in which children are found, law enforcement officers have a better chance of catching him.

• Don’t just watch your children: Watch who is watching your children. Parents should assign an adult to videotape the audience at every practice and every game. Afterward, parents should get together, view the videotape and identify known people. If there is someone on the tape no one knows, compare the photo to the sex offender registry.

SOURCE: Diane Dobbert

By the numbers

• In Florida, some 1,261 children were listed as missing and endangered (possibly abducted by a predator) in 2005.
• One in five girls and one in 10 boys will be sexually victimized before adulthood.
• In 2002, some 50,200 children were victims of non-family abductions, with 115 believed to have been kidnapped.

SOURCES: Florida Department of Law Enforcement, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Where to check out offenders

• The state’s sexual predator registry: http://offender.fidle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do
• FGCU alumnus Matthew Dubiel, ’02, operates a Web site that tracks offenders from Florida and some other states. It’s at www.alertdude.com

According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, some 1,261 children were listed as missing and endangered (possibly abducted by a predator) in 2005.
Brenda Brooks-Solveson

- Favorite place on planet: "Anywhere near a babbling brook, which is also the sound of my favorite music — it's the sound of nature."
- Favorite place at FGCU: "there's an oak hammock way back and sort of remote, northeast of the campus center, a place I love."
- Current bedside reading: "I'm in the throes of a thesis, so it's only scientific papers about melaleucas. that can definitely get me to sleep sometimes."
- Single wish for a daughter coming of age in 21st-century America: "I want her to find true happiness. And there is true happiness, absolutely."

Florida's green spaces serve as one student's living laboratory

By Roger Williams

Her silver hair is startling at first, a mountainous system of follicular energy swelling majestically above her pecan-hued skin like a summer cumulus. She rises from sitting to a full stride in a single movement, like a dancer. She slips into a forest of cypress and ferns as if discovering her real wardrobe.

Wrapped in a comfortable shawl of ferns, Brenda Brooks-Solveson appears most herself. Now her hair becomes a paradigm of her mind and heart, unrestrained and outward bound.

Brooks-Solveson is 44 years old, and you'd have to look far — all the way to the Tibetan Buddhists, perhaps — to find someone who cares less about age.

Nowadays, she's navigating the final stretch of her master's degree in environmental science at the University. She also works as a naturalist and educator at the 60,000-acre Corkscrew watershed on the traditional border of the western Everglades. Last year she was the FGCU campus naturalist, helping establish the trail system and educating all comers curious about the wetlands that dominate 400 of the University's 760 acres.

Her job at the nonprofit CREW Trust (an acronym for Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed) is only the latest in a series of noteworthy achievements she's accomplished in the past decade.

She refers to this attenuated phase as "my second life," a characterization likely more common at FGCU than in universities where older students are rarities.

"Most nontraditional students challenge a teacher — they ask you to go far beyond," says Mary Kay Cassani, an instructor in the Marine and Ecological Sciences Division of the College of Arts and Sciences. "They're older, they're often women over 24, and they want to get their money's worth. So as a teacher you go farther than you planned."

In Brooks-Solveson's case, much farther. "She was always asking, 'Why, why, why, how does this work, how does this work?'' Cassani says.

Brooks-Solveson's "second life" began unceremoniously in her mid-30s. A wife and mother, she had earlier escaped high school in York, Pa. with little more than her existence and a black belt in karate, courtesy of her father, a karate expert who ran a dojo, or martial arts school.

She became a hairstylist after her high school counselor told her she was "too stupid" to go to college.

"My family was maxed out, it was dysfunctional and abusive," says Brooks-Solveson, whose mother gave birth to seven other children with various partners. When her father died of alcohol abuse in his mid-40s, she inherited despair along with his business.

But she also met her husband at the dojo, architectural designer Ed Clement. "He was always asking, 'Why, why, why, how does this work, how does this work?'" Cassani says.

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Rick Solveson. Together with their daughter, Elan, now 19 and a student at Edison College, they moved to Florida, her husband’s birthplace. She even managed to crack the hard urban patterns of her youth by landing a job as a guide at the 90,000-acre Babcock Ranch, headquartered in Charlotte County.

At Babcock, she was cream rising on good milk, says Steve Turtko, a biologist and then the head of Babcock’s eco-tour division.

“After 47 years of teaching I’ve realized that you only meet the Brendas of the world a few times in a career.”

— BILL HAMMOND

“I like to use the words ‘compassionate and caring’ to describe her,” Turtko says. “She cares about everything she does, and she’s one of the most enthusiastic people I’ve ever met, without being overbearing or overburdening. She raised the level of our tours and our guides several notches.”

But it wasn’t enough for Brooks-Solveson. “I’d finally decided — I had to go to college,” she explains. “It was a lifelong dream of mine. And FGCU had just opened, so I applied.”

But there was a catch: The University required her SAT scores, which dated back 17 years to her troubled youth. Two years later, having been named one of the top 20 community college scholars in the United States by USA Today. She graduated from Edison College, not FGCU. The paper’s story explained why...

“They wouldn’t take me based on my SAT scores’... she says. ‘I heard through the grapevine they were taking everybody. I was crushed. I cried the whole way home.”

At Edison, however, she earned straight As. But one night she collapsed in frustration, unable to complete an honors biology assignment. So she called her teacher, Cassani, who taught at both Edison and FGCU.

“She kicked my butt,” Brooks-Solveson says. “I said, ‘I can’t do it. I just can’t do this.’ And she said, ‘Where do you live?’ And when I told her, she said, ‘Meet me at the McDonald’s near your home.’ And I knew she was there, and she got me through it. And she did that many times.”

Brooks-Solveson’s connection with the University remained significant, in large part because its teachers and administrators refuse to behave as professional pedestrians. When she graduated from Edison, FGCU President William C. Merwin phoned her. Few students have ever even spoken to a university president, let alone received a call from one.

“He told me, ‘You have a full ride here now.’ By then I had choices, though. So I thanked him and said I’d decided to go to Stetson University. But I was deeply flattered.”

It was a huge move for her, literally. She spent weekdays 230 miles away from the family home in Olga, laboring to complete her undergraduate degree. Her family was totally supportive. Although the couple has since separated amicably, her husband had one word for Brooks-Solveson. “He just said ‘Go!’”

Her daughter was just as enthusiastic.

“I was so happy for her that she was following this lifelong dream,” Elan says. “She was so brave and courageous, so gutsy. If she puts her mind to something, that’s it. It’s going to happen.”

Although Brooks-Solveson excelled at Stetson, she focused her senior thesis on the FGCU campus, working with Win Everham, associate professor in the Division of Ecological Studies. Brooks-Solveson asked questions few others had conceived, Everham says.

“Don’t want to put her in that box and say (her drive) comes only from her experience as a nontraditional student,” he cautions. “I’m not sure that’s the whole story. It’s a mystery why you have (such) students. You like to think you make a difference, but I think you just get lucky with the best students. And they make it all worth it.”

The science in her senior project started with this question: “What would happen if you cut down all the melaleuca trees at once and then just planted native species on top? Would the soil have been altered by 50 years of melaleuca?” So far, the question lacks a well-defined answer, Brooks-Solveson says.

“Mary Kay and I had really good measurements about how many melaleuca there were, and how they affected (on-campus environments),” explains Everham. “But their inquisitive student’s question took them all in new directions. Then it ceases to be a case of student and teacher and it becomes collaborative,” Everham adds. “There hasn’t been enough work done to understand nutrient cycling around invasive species. You have this plant here, and the system has changed as a result, and too often we look above—ground only for answers.”

Brooks-Solveson, in other words, helped pioneer subterranean thinking in her senior thesis, just as she’s doing under Everham in her master’s thesis, which looks at the devastating campus fire of 2004. That blaze burned much hotter than the standard flora—cleansing burns ignited either by nature or land managers, and Brooks-Solveson’s thesis seeks to answer how the environment changed as a result.

Bill Hammond, assistant professor in the Division of Ecological Studies, also knows Brooks-Solveson well.

“After 47 years of teaching I’ve realized that you only meet the Brendas of the world a few times in a career,” he says. “One of the key marks of high performers is that they know their own metacognitive styles and strengths and thereby take charge of their own learning. Brenda has learned hers well.”

Her friend, Corrie Pieterson, spent eight months with Brooks-Solveson training for a 26.2-mile marathon both as student and teacher and it becomes collaborative,” Everham adds. “There hasn’t been enough work done to understand nutrient cycling around invasive species. You have this plant here, and the system has changed as a result, and too often we look above—ground only for answers.”

Brooks-Solveson, in other words, helped pioneer subterranean thinking in her

“...I don’t think she has any.”

Which means she fits FGCU she way a fern fits the cypress swamp.

— ROGER WILLIAMS is a freelance writer based in Fort Myers.
For Sharon Isern, it’s a small, small world indeed. In fact, the Florida Gulf Coast University assistant professor of biotechnology research spends her busy days conducting experiments on organisms too small for the naked eye to see.

But from Isern’s microscopic research, big things may one day come. What Isern is learning today about how viruses enter the body at the cellular level may help fight cancer, regenerate organs, and combat a host of modern threats from bioterrorism to bird flu.

The common thread that runs through Isern’s multifaceted research is the use of viruses as a vector (or vehicle) to introduce genetic material into cells. Not surprisingly, the same research also is useful in preventing viruses from invading cells.

This year, Isern’s groundbreaking work in molecular virology led to FGCU’s first-ever patent application. In the course of her research, she developed a technique that uses sound waves to perforate cellular membranes, enabling scientists to deliver genetic material directly into targeted cells. Such a technique has tremendous potential in a number of health disciplines, including the treatment of certain types of cancer.

Isern says she stumbled upon the non-viral delivery technique when she borrowed a sophisticated machine, similar to those used to treat gallstones, from colleagues who were using it to break apart bone to extract DNA.

“It very gently disrupts cells, basically punching holes into the cells, but not too many holes so that the cell can still heal itself after the treatment,” she explains. “If you can punch enough little holes into the cell and push through whatever materials you’re trying to get into the cells and let them heal, then this can be a way to introduce materials.”

Since coming to FGCU in 2004, Isern has helped land substantial viral research grants from:

• HerbalScience, a Singapore botanical company, which is seeking ways in which nutraceuticals (fortified foods and herbal
supplements) might help prevent maladies such as bird flu and Ebola virus.
• The National Institutes of Health, where officials hope she’ll unlock genetic clues to prevent Dengue fever.
• The Department of Defense underwrites her research into the detection, prevention, and decontamination of bioterrorism threats, particularly techniques that might serve dual purposes in the field and in a home or hospital setting.

The National Science Foundation underwrites one of Isern’s most challenging studies, which explores stem cell research using single-cell organisms called hydra in place of the more controversial embryonic tissue. Hydra, you may recall from high school biology class, are small tubular freshwater organisms with the enviable ability to regenerate various body parts. By understanding how hydra cells differentiate themselves at the molecular level, we might one day be able to replace our own parts as well.

Isern has no moral qualms about “playing God” with hydra cells. “As with any scientific tool, you can use it for good or evil,” she says. “We already do a lot of genetic engineering and manipulation of crops and pesticide controls, things that people pretty much take for granted. Now when you start talking about designer babies, that gets into a lot of other issues. But if there’s a way to help someone who has a genetic defect or a degenerative disease, I think anything that can be done to push that forward, especially if you do not have to go back to human embryonic cells, would advance the field.”

Although movies like “Outbreak” may lead us to believe otherwise, Isern says being a virologist is far less dangerous than it seems. “We don’t work with Ebola, we don’t have the facilities to handle that, but we’ll perhaps work with other viruses of the same virus family that can be grown safely in cell culture in laboratories by students and personnel and they’re not at risk,” she says. Isern, who holds an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular genetics from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, came to FGCU recruited at the same time. They have a seven-year-old son. Thomas Roberts, associate vice president for Research and Sponsored Programs, hails Isern’s accomplishments to date. “Dr. Isern has the distinction of submitting the first invention disclosure at FGCU that will result in a U.S. patent application,” he says. “We are anxious to work with her in developing and commercializing this invention. This is a clear indication that FGCU research programs are rapidly maturing and an illustration of how research at FGCU has potential to make the world a better place. It is an early sign of big things to come.” – THOMAS ROBERTS
University’s guiding lights

Local movers and shakers help steer course

BY KAREN FELDMAN

Florida Gulf Coast University has expanded so rapidly, it may seem as if the growth is spontaneous. But, largely behind the scenes, 13 community leaders keep careful watch over what’s happening today while training an eye on the future as well.

Those leaders comprise the FGCU Board of Trustees, the body that oversees and approves new curricula, employs the University president and reviews his performance, approves new bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, sets the annual budget, and scrutinizes periodic audits and annual legislative budget requests.

“Our Board of Trustees has played an important role in the degree of success we have enjoyed,” says Special Assistant to the President and University Spokeswoman Susan Evans. University President William C. Merwin considers the board an unmitigated blessing.

“It’s been a five-year love affair between the Board of Trustees and us,” he says. “It has only been in the past five years (out of his 21 spent as the head of universities) that I’ve felt like I was a real president. We make our own decisions. Because we demonstrate we can be responsible, there’s very little policing.”

That said, he doesn’t mean board members pay little attention to University business. “They take their fiduciary responsibility seriously,” Merwin says. “They hire and fire the president and support him. We pay a lot of attention to make sure we are fulfilling their expectations.

The board consists of 13 trustees from throughout the region. Six are appointed by the state governor, while five are appointed by the statewide Board of Governors. Each serves a five-year term. The other two members include the FGCU Faculty Senate president and the Student Government president, each of whom serves a one-year term. The chair of the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation, which provides financial support to the institution, serves as a non-voting ex officio member.

The Board of Trustees is a relatively new creation. Every state university has one, the result of a decision made in 2001 to disband the statewide Board of Regents, which previously handled such duties for all of the state’s universities. Today, the Board of Governors coordinates and rules on issues that affect all of the state’s 11 universities, determines what doctoral programs each may offer and coordinates lobbying efforts.

While the governors attend to statewide matters, the Board of Trustees hones in on local ones. “Because FGCU serves as a knowledge center for Southwest Florida, it accepts the responsibility to contribute to the economic growth, environmental health and cultural richness of Southwest Florida while providing a center in the region for the intellectual study of the arts,” says Scott Lutgert, who chairs the board and the Naples-based Lutgert Companies. It is that wide-ranging mission that the trustees strive to fulfill.

Larry Hart, the former Fort Myers police chief, considers it an honor to serve as a trustee and believes a local board is essential. “Local people understand the community and what (courses are) needed here to help bring this part of Florida forward,” he says. He thinks the board’s greatest challenge in the next few years will be “finding places to put our students. We have grown so fast, we must prepare for future growth without jeopardizing the quality of education.”

Punta Gorda resident and real estate agent Lindsey Harrington sees his service on the board as an extension of the years he served as a state legislator and his commitment to education.

“We’ve got some major challenges coming up,” he says. “We have a constant demand for teachers. In my opinion, FGCU is a leading university in the state of Florida” in producing new teachers to meet that demand.

Other issues of concern include environmental conditions and students’ awareness of their importance, preparing for the region’s growing population of senior citizens and continuing to build relationships with universities in other countries.

Bernie Lester is the retired president and CEO of Alico Inc., a LaBelle-based agribusiness and major supporter of FGCU.

He is heartened by the fact that the Board of Trustees and the local community maintain a close working relationship, something that doesn’t happen everywhere. Besides planning for the growth of the region and the University, among the board’s most vital functions, he says, is selecting and evaluating the performance of the University’s president.

“That is such a key to everything in the operation,” he says. Lester believes building a satellite campus in Naples is the right thing to do right now. Eventually, he thinks another campus will be needed in Hendry County as the inland population expands.

Those are just some of the issues with which the Board of Trustees will grapple in coming years.

“The Board of Trustees is looking long-term, beyond 10 or 15 years,” says Evans. “They are looking toward the time when the University will have 25,000-plus students, when we’ll need satellites in Charlotte, Cape Coral, Naples and Hendry County.”
Taking the lead

Guiding a young university requires a multitude of diverse talents

BY KAREN FELDMAN

Dreamer. Communicator. Cheerleader. Juggler. The individuals who lead a university must be all these things and more.

Florida Gulf Coast University President William C. Merwin likens his job to that of a conductor.

“Each group is a different constituency,” he says. “There’s the string section – the violins, cellos, violas – the timpani and xylophones and wind instruments. Each one contributes to the whole of the composition. If one instrument gets out of tune, it’s up to the conductor to fix it.”

Merwin and his leadership team of four vice presidents work hard at keeping everyone – faculty, staff, students, community residents – in key and in step as they guide the growing University toward its 10th birthday and beyond.

Now in his eighth year as FGCU president, and his 21st in the top post at an institution of higher learning, Merwin seems something of a musician himself, waxing lyrical about his staff, the Board of Trustees, the University and the community as a whole.

“I view my role as that of a servant,” he says. “I serve the people here, the students, the community. My agenda is that of the University, to provide something for the present and something for the future as well.”

It takes dreams and much more.

“You start with a vision,” he says. “The next phase is putting a team together. You can’t do it alone.”

Together, they bring in vital private funds needed to grow the University, track expenses, hire talented faculty and staff, attract high-quality, diverse students, expand academic offerings and nurture community support.

The goal, says Merwin, is to “create a university for the people of Southwest Florida, a transformational engine” that will change the community for the better. Because the University trains medical professionals and offers an extensive public health education program, for example, the community is likely to grow healthier. The criminal justice program could help create a safer place to live.

Being a leader at a new University comes with some challenges – and opportunities – Merwin never encountered at the three longer-established universities at which he presided before he came to FGCU.

When he gets an idea, “there’s nobody here to put the brakes on by saying ‘we tried that before and it didn’t work,’” Merwin says. “Here there’s a lot more permission to try new things.”

For example, he needed to raise private funds to speed the University’s growth and supply resources not covered by state money. Most universities look to their alumni associations, but FGCU was too young at the time to have one.

“That’s how the Renaissance Academy was born,” he says. “I view my role as that of a conductor. Merwin likens his job to that of a university president. He works hard at keeping everyone in key and in step as they guide the whole of the composition. If one instrument gets out of tune, it’s up to the conductor to fix it.”

The program offers hundreds of non-credit courses geared to retirees who then form an allegiance to the University and often become donors.

Merwin asked community leaders what sorts of degree programs they thought were needed here.

“We have a $2-billion-a-year tourism industry just in Lee County, but they had to go to Cornell University to hire people” for management posts at local resorts, he says. That pointed out a need for a resort and hospitality management program.

Others told him that creating highly skilled, high-paying jobs locally was vital to keeping the region’s younger generation here. That resulted in the creation of an engineering program.

Merwin is fairly certain many people thought he was somewhat misguided when he insisted that the University needed a music program. It took him a while, but he saw that dream become reality this year.

“He thinks some of the objectors within the University community thought a new music school might take resources away from their programs. He called upon his leadership skills to change their minds.

“I’ve spent eight years trying to convince people that the pie can get bigger,” Merwin says. “We’ve shown we can produce more filling for the pie.”

Reflections on art of leadership

“You must act in a manner that allows those to be led to have trust in you. All we have as leaders is that trust.”

– PRESIDENT WILLIAM C. MERWIN

“Leadership of the academic programs … requires the capacity to discern the economic, educational and workforce development needs of Southwest Florida and then tailor … degree programs that will be responsive to these needs. It also requires recruiting an outstanding faculty committed to the mission of the University and dedicated … to teaching our students.”

– BONNIE YEGRIDIS, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

“A leader must ensure that all the resources for success are available. The advancement office has been very successful because we have all the right ingredients in place: a great product, a dynamic president, supportive boards and, most of all, a generous community that recognizes the value of a great education.”

– STEVE MAGIERA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

“A critical aspect … of leadership requires the ability to identify good people, support them and let them go to work. You have to be willing to let them learn from their experiences, make mistakes, get frustrated, receive credit for a job well done and, at times, move on to new opportunities as they follow their own paths to become leaders.”

– JOE SHERPA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

“Within Administrative Services and Finance, the leadership model employed is simply maximizing productivity through a tremendous sense of ownership, belonging and empowerment for staff members … The spirit embodied by the men and women who serve tirelessly at FGCU is centered around a belief that the whole is greater than its parts and that teamwork supplants individual interests to foster an environment of excellence and service.”

– JOE SHERPA, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND FINANCE
Once considered simply an unpleasant passage of childhood, bullying has become an issue that parents and educators now know can devastate its victims and end in tragedy.

“Young children are killing themselves because taking their own lives is preferable to the pain of continuing,” Cape Coral resident Debbie Johnston told a Florida Senate committee in April. She was lobbying for an anti-bullying law named after her son, Jeff, who hanged himself in his closet on June 29, 2005. He was 15 and, his mother says, was driven to suicide by years of bullying by school classmates.

More than 3 million children suffer the fear, hurt and humiliation of bullying every year, according to the non-profit watchdog group, Bully Police USA. Once simply limited to brief encounters on the playground or phone, bullies now employ all manner of communication to torment their victims, including text messaging on cell phones, instant messaging and Web pages with which they can incite others to join them.

In an effort to help children help themselves in vanquishing the bullies among them, Florida Gulf Coast University’s Kleist Health Education Center has launched an outreach program for kindergartners through fifth graders called “What If Bullies Grow Here?”

Led by Renee McFarland, the center’s assistant director and health educator, with assistance by a personable child-sized robot named Carlos, the program introduces youngsters to the concept of bullying in school.

The interactive program defines what a bully...
is and gives children coping strategies for dealing with one.

“We know that many kids are afraid to go to school, and sometimes have a difficult time concentrating on their school work” because of bullies, McFarland says. “We don’t just talk about the physical and emotional dangers of bullying, we talk about the ‘why’ and the ‘how’ – why kids start bullying in the first place and how to handle bullies in an intimidating situation.”

At a recent program at Orangewood Elementary School in Fort Myers, McFarland kicked things off by showing second graders video clips of bullies they would know from movies and television. They watched as Shrek bullied Donkey, The Grinch picked on the Whos and children threw rocks at a young Forrest Gump.

People become bullies for many reasons, she says, including jealousy, a desire to be popular, as revenge for having been bullied themselves or because they are unhappy and picking on others makes them feel better.

Bullies look for people who are different from the crowd, she says. Potential victims might have freckles or wear glasses or have a different skin color or aren’t good students.

“Anyone could be a bully and anyone could be a target,” she says. “At any point in your life you could be a target.”

McFarland enlists the help of pupil Kaly Ortes in bullying a green apple.

The pair both insult on the hapless apple, calling it ugly, saying they like red apples, not green ones. When they are finished, McFarland splits the apple in half to reveal an unappetizing brown interior.

“When you hurt someone’s feelings, you hurt the inside,” she says. “It’s not always evident to bullying, when they don’t stand up they feel bad, they feel hopeless and powerless.”

Taking action and becoming part of the solution helps them feel good about themselves, she says.

While the FGCU outreach program focuses mainly on face-to-face bullying, Johnston continues working to get an anti-bullying law passed in the Florida Legislature during the upcoming session that will include penalties for bullying via the Internet and cell phone text messaging.

It was cyber-bullying that caused Jeffrey Johnston to take his life, says his mother. A classmate from previous school years allegedly taunted him for two years, mainly by overtaking a Web site Jeff had created, locking him out of it and then using it to spread rumors about him.

The proposed legislation, known as the Jeffrey Johnston Bill, would establish strict criteria for schools, requiring that they spell out what constitutes bullying and what the consequences of such actions would be.

According to Bully Police USA, Florida currently gets a failing grade for its anti-bullying efforts. However, the Web site stipulates that if Johnston’s bill passes with anti-cyber-bullying language in it, it would quickly rate an A++, making it the best law in the nation.

“In talking to students, it’s the most prevalent type of bullying around now and probably the most vicious because you don’t have to look the person in the face,” Johnston says. “You don’t even have to know them.”

McFarland says cyber-bullying is one of the next topics the Kleist Health Education Center will tackle.

“Now that kids have discovered they can use the superhighway of technology, just like anything else, they are using it in the wrong way for the wrong reasons,” she says.

By the numbers

• More than 3.2 million children in grades six through 10 are victims of bullying each year and 3.7 million children bully others.

• 49 percent of students believe schools responded poorly to reports of bullying and victimization.

• Three out of four students report they have been bullied.

• Children who are bullied are four times more likely to become depressed.

• Boys who are bullied are four times more likely to become suicidal.

• Girls who are bullied are eight times more likely to become suicidal.

• One of every 13 children younger than 19 attempts suicide, triple the number that did so 20 years ago.

• The National Education Association estimates that more than 160,000 students stay home from school each day because of bullying.

• A Secret Service study of school shootings determined that almost all of the school shooters were bullied, threatened or persisted, then became bullies themselves.

Source: Bully Police USA

“Winter 2007”

From the outside.”

Once she’s made the concept clear, she introduces

“When you hurt someone’s feelings, you hurt the inside.”

— RENEE MCFARLAND

McFarland’s second grader Kaly Ortes, left, and Renee McFarland bully a green apple.

From the inside.”

— RENEE MCFARLAND

Carlos, who enters from stage right on his red tricycle.

Carlos agrees to play the bully and McFarland calls several children onto the stage to help demonstrate coping strategies.

“Hey, shorty!” Carlos says to a young girl, who promptly turns her back and ignores his taunts.

“Hey, did you get dressed in the dark?” Carlos asks a boy who walks off without a word.

“Give me your lunch!” he commands. His intended victim immediately calls to one of her friends, who stands with her as they confront him, two against one.

“I want your homework!” he tells another girl, who summons her teacher to the stage, effectively silencing her tormentor.

Johnston, who attended local schools and later taught in several of them, liked what she saw at the Orangewood program.

“I thought it was very good,” she says. “It really incorporates everything that the research I’ve done says you should do.

“By giving kids the tools to stand up to bullies, to empower each other, we give them a way to come to a peaceful resolution, something other than fighting, something they can feel good about. Even the kids who are witnesses

“Learn more

• The Kleist Health Education Center offers “What If Bullies Grow Home?” for kindergartners through fifth grade, “Caught in the Middle,” for grades five through seven, “Homeschool Hints” for grades eight and nine, and “ Toxic Relationships” for high school students. For details on these and other programs offered by the center, call (239) 590-7502 or 590-7469 or online at www.fgsu.edu/kshec.

• For additional information on bullying and how to prevent it, check out Debbie Johnston’s site, jeffjohnston.org, or the Bully Police USA site at bullypolice.org.

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The proposed legislation, known as the Jeffrey Johnston Bill, would establish strict
Local musicians add depth to new University program
BY KAREN FELDMAN

While iPods and car stereos are the instruments to which most people turn for tunes, a growing number of Florida Gulf Coast University students are making music of their own.

In its first year, the Bower School of Music boasts 25 majors, almost twice the number University officials anticipated would enroll. In addition, music-loving students with other majors are signing up to perform in University groups.

Five full-time faculty members, all of whom hold doctoral degrees, form the foundation of the fledgling program. They are:
• Nancy Cobb-Lippens, founding director of music and professor of music theory and composition, conducts the University Choir and Chamber Singers, composes music and serves as the artistic director and conductor of the Fort Myers Symphonic Master Singers.
• Michael Baron, associate professor of music, leads the piano portion of the program and is an award-winning concert pianist who performs more than 40 concerts a year throughout the United States and Europe.
• Rod Chesnutt, associate professor of instrumental music, teaches courses in music education, wind literature and conducting and conducts the Wind Orchestra and the String Orchestra.
• Jeanie Darnell, assistant professor of music, leads the vocal music program, teaching courses in applied voice, diction and music literature. A soprano, her performances have won accolades from critics throughout the United States and Europe.
• Debra Hess, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, teaches music history, performs as an organist and has done extensive research into music and musical institutions in the United States during the 1800s.

While all have impressive credentials, the school required still more talent. “It’s required for musical growth to have a lot of one-on-one time with students,” Chesnutt says. “It’s a music program tradition to have very small student-to-teacher ratios.”

To that end, Cobb-Lippens hired eight area professional musicians to serve as adjuncts.

“When I put together the full-time faculty, I relied on the fact that in this area there were outstanding professional musicians,” says Cobb-Lippens. “It’s not unusual to do this. If we didn’t have those people in the area, we would not be able to offer a comprehensive program.”

The adjuncts are:
• Kirsten Bendixen-Mahoney of Naples: She plays the French horn with the Naples Philharmonic and has performed with the Southwest Florida Symphony in Fort Myers and Florida Gulf Coast Symphony in Sarasota. She believes that “music is a path to merging creative thinking with technical thinking. Creative thinking is needed … in the arts community, but even more it is needed in the medical and technological fields.”
• Mario Bernardo of Port Charlotte: A classical concert saxophonist, he teaches saxophone and works as the coordinator of computer applications at FGCU’s Library Services. He taught applied music in New England for about 20 years prior to moving south. He signed on as an adjunct because it “gave me the opportunity to be involved and contribute in both my career areas – music and technology.”
• Troy Jones of Fort Myers: A percussionist, he hopes the music program “will afford students a more well-rounded education, music majors and non-majors alike. It is also my hope that the music program at FGCU will create more opportunities for lifelong musical enrichment to the area’s musical community.”
• Cindy Klispie of Port Charlotte: She teaches trumpet, plays keyboard and sings. She was principal trumpet with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra for 10 years, has played with the Suncoast Brass and at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers. Klispie signed on to teach because “the idea of starting a music program from scratch and being there from day one appealed to me.”
• William Larsen of Fort Myers: He plays and teaches flute, is a member of the Southwest Florida Symphony and a harp and flute duo. Larsen says he’s teaching at FGCU because “I have always wanted to be a part of a developing music department at the university level.”
• Tom May of Naples: A classical cellist, he has been a member of the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra for 16 years. He believes “having a music program at the local university adds greatly to the culture of the entire region.”

“I relied on the fact that in this area there were outstanding professional musicians.”

– NANCY COBB-LIPPENS

• Rafael Padron of Miami: The Cuban-born musician plays and teaches classical guitar. He also teaches at the University of Miami and the Miami Conservatory of Music.

He was attracted to the FGCU program because “I was looking for a place where I can develop my own guitar program,” he says. “The music program at FGCU has an excellent team and a wonderful working environment.”

• Julie Shaffer of Naples: A pianist, organist and vocalist, she is the assistant music director and pianist for Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church and plays both piano and celesta with the Naples Philharmonic. She directs shows for the Naples Players at Sugden Community Theatre and is a member of the Mountain Laurel Trio, which consists of piano, clarinet and flute. “I enjoy the challenge of building the students’ confidence,” she says.
FGCU heads to Atlantic Sun Conference

BY KAREN FELDMAN AND MATT FAIRCHILD

Don’t confuse young with weak.

The FGCU athletic program may be a mere 6 1/2 years old, but it’s muscling in its way to play with the bigger boys – and girls – with its move next year from Division II to the Division I Atlantic Sun Conference.

It’s a change that has elated University leaders, coaches, players and fans. “Going Division I is bringing a great deal of excitement to campus and to Southwest Florida,” says Carl McAloose, FGCU’s athletic director. “We will play some of the top teams in the country and with a conference affiliation, we will create rivalries that will help us fill our venues. Athletics has already helped promote FGCU and I believe the move to Division I will even enhance our visibility.”

FGCU and the University of South Carolina- Upstate will become the 11th and 12th members of the conference, which also includes schools such as Stetson, Belmont and East Tennessee State.

“The Atlantic Sun Conference member institutions are widely recognized for their commitment to quality and for challenging their student-athletes to perform at the highest levels in the classroom and in the playing arena,” says FGCU President William C. Merwin. “We at FGCU share this mission of excellence for our athletics program and our student-athletes, and we are honored to join the Atlantic Sun Conference.”

With the new affiliation, athletics officials expect that scheduling games will be simpler than it has been with the University’s current independent status.

Student-athletes will spend less time traveling to distant locales, such as Puerto Rico and Hawaii, to play other unaffiliated teams, while attendance at games is expected to grow.

A University study that explored the feasibility of joining a conference points out that as an unaffiliated school, FGCU student-athletes travel anywhere from 140 miles (to Palm Beach) to 4,800 miles (Hawaii) to compete, with trips averaging 1,837 miles.

As members of the Atlantic Sun Conference, FGCU teams would travel between 256 and 845 miles to play away games at conference members’ schools, producing a substantial reduction in travel time and costs.

Beyond the fact that traveling to away games will be simpler, FGCU Head Basketball Coach David Balza believes that repeatedly playing specific schools will build a healthy rivalry and improve the level of competition.

Opponents have changed every year that FGCU played in Division II. With the move, “in my opinion, the nicest change for the fans will be the development of natural rivalries,” Balza says. “In Division I, we will play Stetson, Jacksonville and North Florida every year. Fans will be able to follow the conference standings and will have a better knowledge of who the opponent is that we are playing.”

Another difference should be the consistency of competition.

“Fans will immediately notice that there will be no ‘cupcakes’ on our schedule,” he says. “Every team in the conference is solid.”

Balza hastens to add that FGCU teams have faced some good Division II competitors as well, but “there is a wide disparity from one team to another based on available resources,” he says. “In the Atlantic Sun, every school must meet minimum requirements with regards to scholarships, budgets, etc., so there will be good competition every night.”

FGCU athletes will compete in Division I in men’s and women’s golf, tennis, basketball and cross country; men’s baseball; women’s softball; and volleyball. In order to qualify for Division I, the University must have teams in at least 14 sports. To that end, men’s and women’s soccer as well as women’s swimming and diving will debut in the 2007-08 academic year.

The Eagles will play full regular season conference schedules with the start of the 2007-08 academic year, beginning a four-year reclassification period. That means they will not be eligible for post-season play. The baseball and volleyball teams are being “fast-tracked” so that they will be eligible for post-season play as of 2009. All other teams must wait until the 2011 seasons.

Although it might not be immediately apparent, Balza believes the change will likely mean that a greater number of accomplished athletes will choose to enroll at FGCU.

“It is likely that we will get a higher caliber of high school player to show an interest in us,” Balza says. “However, there will be a lot of players who will not be immediately eligible for Division I who were eligible for Division II.”

“Going Division I is bringing a great deal of excitement to campus and to Southwest Florida.”

– CARL MCALOOSE

Among those might be student-athletes who transfer from other schools.

“You may not see a significant difference in talent level, but you will likely see them around for four years instead of one or
two years,” Balza says. His prediction already appears to be coming true. Naples resident Courtney Figueroa played golf for Gulf Coast High and St. John Neumann High and was named the Naples Daily News Girls Golfer of the Year for the past three years. When she started her college search, she first looked at Division I schools outside the area. But she changed her mind and signed a letter of intent to play for FGCU, becoming the first Division I signee for women’s golf. “Courtney is one of the top junior (golfers) in the state of Florida,” Holly Vaughn, FGCU’s head coach of intent to play for FGCU, her mind and signed a letter to her family and is happy with her choice. “I love this facility and the small class sizes,” she told the paper. “The coach is really nice… I just like everything about it.”

Freshman basketball player Steffi Sorensen says she’s thrilled at the prospect of Division I play next year. “We have the opportunity to play against the very best competition around the country,” she says, “and that has to be exciting to me.”

Senior Associate Commissioner Ted Gumbart will succeed him after 15 years. Senior Associate Commissioner Bill Bibb, retiring Dec. 31 after 24-27

Men’s & Women’s Basketball National Independent Tournament TBA, Alico Arena

Sunday, Feb. 25
Men’s & Women’s Tennis vs. Barry
11 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Wednesday, Feb. 28
Softball vs. Mercy Hara (DH)
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Friday, March 2
Softball (FGCU Spring Break Tournament)
3 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Saturday, March 3
Women’s Basketball vs. Flagler
7 p.m., Alico Arena

Sunday, March 4
Softball (FGCU Spring Break Tournament)
Noon, Alico Arena

Monday, March 5
Softball vs. Winona State
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Tuesday, March 6
Men’s Tennis vs. Boston College
Noon, FGCU Tennis Complex

Women’s Tennis vs. Temple
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Wednesday, March 7
Softball vs. IPFW
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Thursday, March 8
Men’s & Women’s Tennis vs. Toledo
11 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Saturday, March 10
Men’s & Women’s Tennis vs. Bentley
1 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Sunday, March 11
Women’s Tennis vs. Rutgers
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Tuesday, March 13
Women’s Tennis vs. Indiana
3 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Softball vs. Upper Iowa
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Wednesday, March 14
Women’s Tennis vs. Farleigh Dickinson
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Men’s Tennis vs. Dayton
3:30 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Softball vs. North Georgia College & State
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Friday, March 16
Men’s Tennis vs. Yavapai
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Softball vs. Edinburg
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Saturday, March 17
Softball vs. Southern Connecticut State
2 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Sunday, March 18
Women’s Tennis vs. Chicago and Palm Beach Atlantic
1 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Monday, March 19
Men’s Tennis vs. Dordt College
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women’s Tennis vs. Ohio State
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Tuesday, March 20
Men’s Tennis vs. Chicago and Palm Beach Atlantic
1 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Men’s & Women’s Tennis vs. Armstrong Atlantic
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Thursday, March 22
Softball vs. Franklin Pierce
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Friday, March 23
Men’s & Women’s Tennis vs. Armstrong Atlantic
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Saturday, March 24
Women’s Tennis vs. Nova Southeastern
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Sunday, March 25
Women’s Tennis vs. Barry
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Tuesday, March 27
Softball vs. Barry
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Sunday, March 25
Women’s Tennis vs. Barry
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Tuesday, March 27
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5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

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“As we look to the future, FGCU,” said Merwin. "External support plays a critical role in determining the degree to which students learn how to live healthier lives and have fun in the process. The state matched the Kleist’s gift, increasing it to $2 million. Today, the Kleist Health Education Center hosts thousands of area students, ranging from kindergarten and high school seniors, who learn through multi-media and interactive presentations about such topics as sound nutrition, the dangers of drug abuse and how to handle stress. The Center sponsors community outreach training programs in local schools as well. (Story on page 22.)

Alico Inc. donated $5 million to expand and complete the University’s arena, support its athletic programs and provide scholarships. The state matched the gift with $3.25 million. In recognition of that gift, the facility was named Alico Arena. Besides hosting intercollegiate basketball and volleyball competitions, the 4,500-seat arena is the site of FGCU commencement programs, the University Lecture Series, and many community events.

In addition, the University’s baseball facility carries the name Swanson Stadium in recognition of major benefactors Duane and Cookie Swanson.

Recognizing the need for well-trained professionals in the region’s hospitality industry, Herbert and Margaret Sugden donated $5 million for a resort and hospitality management program along with a building to house it. The gift qualified for a state match of $4.2 million. The $45,000-square-foot-foot Herbert J. Sugden Hall is in the preliminary stages of construction.

Herbert Sugden also donated $1 million in honor of his wife, Margaret. The state matched it with another $1 million to build the 7,500-square-foot Margaret S. Sugden Welcome Center, where prospective students, their families and other visitors get their first tastes of University hospitality. Before his death, Sugden said that he and Margaret wanted “to put the Sugden name on facilities that our children and grandchildren can visit and be proud.”

The public phase of the campaign commenced Dec. 2, 2003, with a $2-million gift from FGCU trustee and Bonita Bay Group chairman David Lucas and his wife, Linda. Their gift established the Lucas Institute for Master Planned Community Development and Finance. The state’s match generated a $4 million gift for the endowed program.

As the successful capital campaign neared its initial $125-million goal just one year after the public phase began, Merwin raised the goal to $200 million by June 2006. “To help alleviate the region’s engineer shortage, the Whitaker Foundation, a longstanding FGCU supporter, donated $5 million that was matched by the state to construct the 70,000-square-foot building for a state-of-the-art engineering program. G. Burtt Holmes, chairman of the Whitaker Foundation Governing Committee and a member of the FGCU Foundation Board, said at the time: “We look forward to working with you to develop an engineering degree program and facilities that will have wide-reaching benefits not only for Southwest Florida, but also for the entire state.”

The engineering program enrolled 120 students in its first class, four times the number anticipated. Raymond and Beverly Lutgert donated $5 million and the state’s match doubled the gift to $10 million to enhance and enlarge Academic VI, the 73,000-square-foot structure named Lutgert Hall that will house the Lutgert College of Business. The couple view their gift as an investment in the region’s future.

“Southwest Florida’s business community is greatly

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<th>Goal</th>
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<td>Foundation</td>
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<td>Sponsored Research</td>
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Fundraising Events: $4,108,000

Restricted

2007

©istockphoto.com/mecaleha

To enhance construction of the engineering building further, another FGCU friend and philanthropist, Bobby Ginn, CEO of Ginn Clubs and Resorts, donated $2.5 million, which was matched by the state. The Whitaker and Ginn gifts plus state matches total $15 million.

Support from local engineering companies demonstrates their strong commitment to building a first-rate program. Hole Montes Inc., Johnson Engineering, Owen–Ames–Kimball Company and Wilson-Miller donated scholarship funds to attract and support talented engineering students. The engineering program enrolled 120 students in its first class, four times the number anticipated.

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“Southwest Florida’s business community is greatly
enhanced by the presence of Florida Gulf Coast University and its dynamic College of Business," Raymond Lutgert said. "My wife, Beverly, and I recognize the great value of this higher education asset and we are pleased to provide a gift that will support and enhance FGCU’s critical leadership in our region’s business and economic growth."

Many people also donated to further the University’s missions of research and environmental sustainability. Forming a cooperative partnership with FGCU, the Naples Botanical Garden donated an adjacent property, valued at $1.29 million, on which to construct an FGCU research center, which will allow visitors to observe research and demonstrations and participate in educational programs. Donors to the Naples Botanical Garden contributed $2.5 million matched by the state for a total of $5 million for construction of the research center. Among the lead donors were Scott and Kathleen Kapnick, who gave $1.1 million, which was matched by the state.

WCI became the lead donor for what will be the WCI Green Building Demonstration and Learning Center. Other donations, along with the state match, totaled $1 million to construct a learning facility that “illustrates the appropriate balance between responsible development and environmental conservation,” said Merwin.

The Dedicated to Greatness campaign generated $56 million to construct educational facilities, while individuals and companies donated another $11.2 million in scholarships.

Colonial Bank supports several FGCU initiatives, including athletics, endowed programs and an endowed scholarship. West Coast Florida Region president and CEO Harlan Parish said, “Colonial Bank’s investment in FGCU has served the bank as well. We have hired many FGCU graduates in several different positions in our company. We are extremely pleased with the caliber of these individuals and feel that they will serve not only Colonial Bank but will contribute to the growth and health of the entire Southwest Florida business economy.”

(See scholar-

ships donors list in Annual Report)

The capital campaign also generated funds to support new and enhanced degree programs and lifelong learning. The Uncommon Friends Endowed Chair attracted $1.02 million. Long-time supporters Linda and Bob Taylor were the lead donors to this fund that supports Lutgert College of Business programs. In all, supporters gave $15.73 million for academic programs and scholarships through deferred gifts in the form of annuities, wills and estates.

Finally, the campaign included popular fundraising events. The FGCU Founder’s Cup Golf Tournament, held every fall, generated $650,000 with the continuing support of loyal corporate sponsors and friends of FGCU. The President’s Celebration, FGCU’s signature charity gala, raised $3.5 million.

During the capital campaign, WGCU Public Media raised $15 million to continue its mission to enlighten the public with informative, solid content. Research and Sponsored Programs generated $66 million to fund research in such areas as environmental sustainability and health care.

According to Merwin, “The increased private investments and goodwill that accompany a successful effort will move many FGCU programs to positions of regional and national respect, and provide a solid foundation for building a fine tradition of teaching.”

― Andrea Anderson is the FGCU associate vice president for Community Relations and Marketing.

FGCU launches fundraising campaign for Naples Center

BY KAREN FELDMAN

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ike the sturdy mangroves that anchor Southwest Florida’s coastline and nurture young marine life, Florida Gulf Coast University’s roots are spreading throughout the region, providing a solid foundation, a professional education and community.

With close to 8,300 students and a projected enrollment approaching 25,000 a decade from now, University leaders know that demand will exceed the resources of the main campus and are working to establish satellite campuses around the region.

Thousands of Collier County residents have participated in lifelong learning programs at the University’s leased site on Fifth Avenue, but FGCU plans to offer an expanding array of degree and enrichment programs with the construction of a 80-million permanent satellite center.

Donor Judy Collier Sproul, who is the managing partner of Barron Collier Companies and the developer of the Grey Oaks Country Club Community in Naples, believes the satellite center is vital to the community’s growth.

“To me, what a place needs is culture,” she says. “It needs a lifestyle and it needs education. People are constantly wanting to learn. We have some of it here, but we need it on a more sophisticated level. That’s what FGCU is bringing to Naples.”

Situated at the corner of U.S. 41 and Goodlette-Frank Road, the FGCU Naples Center will be part of the redevelopment of Grand Central Station. The 50,000-square-foot center will serve as an anchor for Renaissance Village, a project of the Antarium Development Group and Eras Grace Corp., which will include 300 residences and 200,000 square feet of dining, shopping, offices, cultural and recreational venues, parking and landscaping.

The new FGCU complex will consist of a grand courtyard and atrium, which will provide space for receptions and other events; a multi-purpose hall for exhibits and symposia; a 350-seat performance hall for chamber concerts and seminars; as well as classrooms.

The University plans to expand its Naples offerings to include graduate courses, such as an Executive MBA program, courses leading to a traditional MBA, and degrees in curriculum instruction and education leadership. FGCU’s Renaissance Academy will continue and expand its lifelong-learning programs. The new center will make higher education more accessible to Collier County residents.

Sproul believes the new satellite center will help keep young people in the area because they will be able to get an education here. Businesses will benefit because the university is developing an educated workforce in the region and existing employees will be able to continue their educations without leaving their jobs.

The state will match donations given in support of this facility on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Endowed program donations of $100,000 or more are eligible for matching funds on a sliding scale. There are many commemorative opportunities available in honor of major donors. This recognition will serve as a lasting symbol of Collier County residents’ generosity and commitment to education.
Leaving a lasting musical legacy

Edwin Bower’s love of music, learning lives on with children’s gift

BY KAREN FELDMAN

Philanthropist Edwin Bower spent 40 years sharing his considerable knowledge and fortune with a host of local charitable organizations. Following in his footsteps, his daughter and son-in-law have bestowed a gift upon Florida Gulf Coast University that will ultimately resonate around the region and beyond.

In November, Marilyn and Alan Korest decided to give their gift now because “we feel it’s terribly important to Southwest Florida to have Florida Gulf Coast University be able to offer a comprehensive program.” And they have a secondary motive: “Marilyn and I are very selfish,” he says. “We don’t want to wait until we’re dead to see the fruits of the program. We’d like to be around to see it develop, help with some input and take some personal enjoyment for having played a part in creating it.”

Marilyn Korest says it’s a marvelous thing for all children, “It’s a marvelous institution. We would certainly encourage others to help, too.”

John Little, ’03, wants to make sure that his support of Florida Gulf Coast University continues when he’s gone. To ensure that, he made a deferred gift to the University, making him the first alumnus to do so. That means that after his death, the University will receive a portion of his assets.

Little learned an Executive MBA at the University. His son, Collin, got his bachelor’s degree at FGCU the same year. Little and his wife, Veora, have been supporters for several years. They sponsor a scholar at FGCU the same year.

The gift can be designated for a specific purpose, such as tuition, a particular sport or a pet project or field of study. Generally, such gifts can be revised or revoked if the donor’s financial situation changes. “It’s terrific nowadays for people who are afraid they will outlive their means,” Lefferts says. “Should they live longer than they anticipated and need some or all of the money they designated as a posthumous gift, they have the opportunity to change the terms.

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Estate gifts provide strong support for the academic future of the University,” Lefferts says. Such gifts can be given in honor of someone, in the name of the donor or anonymously, a method some large donors prefer.

For more information, contact your financial adviser, estate attorney or Lefferts at (239) 590-1077.
ABCs of business

Alumna learns what it takes to go from teacher to entrepreneur

BY ALLISON ALLIE

E ven as she studied to become a teacher, Amanda Nelson, ‘98, dreamed of opening her own school supply store.

With a degree from Florida Gulf Coast University, and some help from the University’s Small Business Development Center, LaBelle woman Amanda Nelson combined her teaching experience with newfound retail know-how and opened Teach Me School Supply in her hometown last July.

She traveled a long and winding road to make that dream a reality.

Nelson was close to completing her bachelor’s degree in childhood development at Florida State University in Tallahassee when her husband, Danny, landed a job in LaBelle.

After they moved, she transferred her credits and enrolled in the University of South Florida’s education program in Fort Myers, then transitioned into the newly established FGCU.

In 1998, Nelson was part of the University’s first graduating class, earning a bachelor’s degree in elementary education.

She credits FGCU College of Education professor Sally Mayberry with having the greatest influence on her during her time at FGCU. Mayberry taught about “the real-life situations and experiences that teachers face in the classroom,” Nelson says. “Overall, I remember that Dr. Mayberry was a natural-born teacher—her philosophy in the classroom was real.”

Her teachings imparted lessons that couldn’t be found in textbooks, Nelson says. Those lessons proved invaluable for Nelson during her eight years as a kindergarten teacher in LaBelle.

In 2005, Nelson found she needed to draw on those lessons and then some as she struggled with a troubled student who showed signs of neglect. He often came to school with feces on his clothing. He’d act out, too, cutting himself and other pupils with scissors.

“People assume that a teacher’s day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.,” Nelson says. “I would take the day’s events home with me and wonder if that child was receiving a meal tonight or if he would come to school with clean clothes on.”

The experience rekindled Nelson’s desire to reach out directly to parents.

“By opening a school supply store, parents can come in to find resources for their children,” she says. She wanted to be able to send them home with fun, yet educational, games they could use to help their children learn.

Nelson started researching school supply businesses, contacting a Tallahassee store she used to patronize when she lived there. To her surprise, the owner was interested in selling.

In September 2005, Nelson purchased Teach Me School Supply, taking possession of the entire inventory at a meeting with the former owner at an Interstate 75 exit.

Although she now had the supplies, she continued teaching kindergarten by day and honing her business plan at night.

When the school year ended in May, Nelson leased a 1,000-square-foot store along State Road 80 in LaBelle.

Nelson’s husband renovated and removed walls, installed carpet, painted, and hung shelving.

The store was ready for business, but Nelson knew she wasn’t.

“Having never owned my own business and lacking business background, I quickly learned that I would still need help,” she says. She contacted FGCU’s Small Business Development Center. Counsellors Julio Estremera and Tor Ostensen answered her questions about finances, marketing, inventory control and taxes, helping the fledgling entrepreneur form a clearer vision of what she wanted to accomplish.

She also got an assist from SBDC Director Dan Regelski, who helped familiarize her with the computer software she would need to track inventory, sales and customer data.

“There was a time when I was ready to give the software back and return to the archaic cash register, but both Julio and Tor traveled to the store and stepped in and found me local support that I desperately needed,” Nelson says. “I had a problem and they found a solution.”

Nelson opened Teach Me School Supply in July. Her part-time staff includes her mother, Glenda Willis; her grandmother, Rosa Lee Hull; and her aunt, Lucy Heffin. Not only does having her family work with her provide reliable and affordable help, but their ties to the community attract business.

For customers, Nelson’s new endeavor fills a long-time void. Before she opened, the closest school supply store was in Fort Myers, about an hour’s drive each way.

Maureen Jordan patronizes Nelson’s store because it gives her “ideas to play and educate … my first grandchild.”

Because of her background in education, Nelson can answer a wide array of customer questions. But she doesn’t hesitate to pick up the phone and call other teachers if she needs more information.

“I find intrinsic reward in connecting parents with teachers,” she says. “I have the professional background to answer parents’ questions regarding a child’s academic progress. I am able to keep that connection with a small store.”

Nelson looks toward a time when she can move to a larger location that will afford her much-needed storage space, an office and a children’s play area. Within a year, she plans to offer tutoring and establish an idea corner in which teachers and parents can post questions and exchange information, an important service in a town that still likes doing things the old-fashioned way.

Nelson encourages customers to visit even when they don’t need anything.

“I want to keep that small-town feeling where everyone knows me as Amanda, to provide a store environment where customers come and talk to me about education or personal issues not related to education,” she says. And that’s what seems to be happening.

“It is nice to know that the community trusts you,” she says. “By opening a school supply store, parents can come in to find resources for their children,” she says. She wanted to be able to send them home with fun, yet educational, games they could use to help their children learn.

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“It is nice to know that the community trusts you,” she says.

Amanda Nelson, left, shows custom house features on a shifted facade.
Joshua Thomas is working toward a master’s degree in public administration, but he already has mastered the art of juggling.

The 24-year-old graduate student handles a full load of courses, maintaining a 3.4 GPA. The Board was impressed with Joshua’s abilities and desire to serve the people of our community.”

Thomas says the scholarship was a surprise.

“I’m truly grateful since this gift helps me continue my master’s program,” he says. “I didn’t realize how important the community. He is capable and wants to learn,”

Thomas says the gift helps students continue their education.

“I believe I’m the definition of a sports fanatic and coaching this team is something I’m completely passionate about,” Thomas says. “To see the team build and grow, and have that team chemistry would make any coach happy.”

– Peter Lechler, ’07, is a communications major at FGCU.

Scholarship selection process

From a pool of 2,130 scholarship applications, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships forwarded the names of six students to the Board of Directors. The award for the 2006-07 year is $250. The scholarship will grow as the endowment increases. Applicants must be full-time students with a 3.0 GPA or higher. For details on donating to, or applying for, the alumni scholarship, go to www.fgcu.edu/alumni, or call (239) 590-1016.

Message from the alumni director

Dear alumni and friends:

It is great to be back at Florida Gulf Coast University as your Director of Alumni Relations.

The network of FGCU alumni is now 6,000 strong! If you are looking to rekindle your connection to FGCU, I invite you to join or renew your membership in the FGCU Alumni Association.

This year’s membership offers many incentives including:

• 10 percent discount at FGCU’s bookstore
• 10 percent off retail rates at Enterprise Rent-A-Car
• Two issues of Pinnacle, the University magazine
• Four issues of Vision, the University newspaper
• Reduced ticket prices and packages to FGCU athletic events
• Discounted membership at the FGCU Wellness Center
• Discounted rates at Avis Rent a Car

Visit the alumni Web site at www.fgcu.edu/alumni to join online and view the complete list of annual and lifetime membership benefits. In order to stay connected as we continue to grow, we are asking FGCU alumni to e-mail or mail their news to the Office of Alumni Relations. It is vital that we maintain up-to-date records so we can be sure you remain informed with complimentary issues of Pinnacle, Vision and e-mail announcements about our many special events.

Please feel free to contact the Alumni Office at (239) 590-1016 or alumnirelations@fgcu.edu with any class notes, programming suggestions, or questions. I look forward to seeing you at our next event or on your next visit to the campus.

From one Eagle to another,
Allison N. Allie, M.B.A., ’06
Director of Alumni Relations

Message from the alumni president

Greetings alumni and friends.

I am sitting at my desk thinking about our successful first Eagle Alumni Networking Night, which took place in October at the Student Union. More than 50 people attended the event, which featured great music, food, drinks and prizes.

This was the first of four such evenings planned for this year. Please save Feb. 22, when the next one takes place. Future gatherings will include discussions hosted by FGCU graduates. Topics include first-time investing, tax write-offs, real estate trends and career opportunities in Southwest Florida. Anyone interested in participating or attending the networking nights should register online at www.fgcu.edu/alumni or call the Office of Alumni Relations.

I am also pleased to announce that the Alumni Association Board of Directors voted in five new board members. These energetic individuals are dedicated to the association’s mission of building enduring bonds between alumni and the University. They also are committed to encouraging alumni to get involved by contributing time, talent and financial support to the University. You can read about these talented graduates in the article that appears in this issue of Pinnacle magazine. If you are interested in serving on the board, please fill out an application on the alumni Web site and submit it with a resume to alumnirelations@fgcu.edu. The board will review applications to add new members this spring.

This is a very exciting time for the FGCU Alumni Association and the University as a whole. There are many changes happening on campus, which makes it a great time for alumni to get involved. For December graduates, your first year in the alumni association is complimentary. I encourage you to become active and enjoy the many benefits of being an association member. We have a dynamic year planned. There are lots of new ideas, new members and big plans that we want you to be a part of!

Sincerely,
Dr. Jennifer L. Sparrow ’98
Chair of the Alumni Association Board of Directors
Tell us where you are and what you’re doing.

Alumni are encouraged to share their news about new jobs, promotions, relocations, weddings, births and other noteworthy events. Send items to Alumni Relations Director Allison Allie, alumnirelations@fgcu.edu or mail to her at University Advancement, Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565.

Board elects committee chairs, board members

The Alumni Association Board of Directors consists of 14 elected volunteers who represent 6,000 FGCU alumni worldwide. The board recently elected five alumni to serve two-year terms on the board and selected committee chairs for the 2006-2007 year: Jennifer Sparrow, ’98, and Cynthia Bennett, ’99, will remain as chair and chair-elect until June 30.

Actions taken at the September board meeting marked the culmination of a process that began in July when association members approved a bylaws amendment allowing the board to change the committee structure. Modeling itself after the FGCU Foundation Board of Directors, the board went from six committees to three. They are: Development, Membership and Fundraising, Sparrow and Bennett appointed the chair of each committee. The chairs are as follows: Kevin Price, ’04, Development; Jim Robinson, ’99, Membership; and Daniel Wise, ’03, Fundraising.

New board members

• Steen Daria, ’03, is the owner and broker of Maxim Realtors, LLC. He is associated with the National Association of Realtors, Florida Association of Realtors and MIFO Real Estate Coaching. He earned his bachelor’s degree from FGCU in business management and serves on the board’s membership committee.

• Tracy Fisher, ’99, ’01, is a teacher at Veterans Park Elementary School. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s in educational leadership at FGCU. She serves on the board’s membership committee.

• Kevin Price, ’04, is an account executive at Gartner Group. He has volunteered for six years as a team coordinator for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. He earned his bachelor’s degree in liberal studies/communications at FGCU and serves as the chair of the board’s development committee.

• John Waligora, ’03, is a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch. He is actively involved with the Naples Chamber of Commerce. He graduated from FGCU with a bachelor’s degree in business management and serves on the board’s fundraising committee.

• Daniel Wise, ’03, is a sales executive at WCI Communities, Inc. He graduated from FGCU with a bachelor’s degree in business management and serves as the chair of the board’s fundraising committee.

Qualifications to become a board member include:
• Must be a graduate of FGCU.
• Selection is based on the applicant’s commitment to FGCU and the goals of the alumni association, distinguished personal and/or vocational achievement and a history of volunteerism within the University.

The FGCU Alumni Relations Office welcomes your interest in board membership. Although the board is currently full, new members will be needed this spring. To apply, go to www.fgcu.edu/Alumni/form.html, download the Board of Directors Nomination Form and submit it by e-mail, mail or fax, along with a current resume to Florida Gulf Coast University Alumni Relations Office RE: Board Nomination Form 10501 FGCU Blvd. S. Fort Myers, FL 33965-6655 Fax: (239) 590-7094 Email: alumnirelations@fgcu.edu

Class Notes

Weddings & engagements

Jennifer Oystler, ’05 (Master’s, Business Administration), and Shawn McGoff, ’05 (Master’s, Business Administration), were married June 13, 2009, in Lake Tahoe, NV.

Megan MacDonald, ’06 (Resort and Hospitality), and Andrew Miller, ’04 (Marketing), are engaged. They plan to marry May 1, 2009, at the Marco Island Marriott.

In memoriam

Florida Gulf Coast University expresses sympathy to the families and friends of the following alumni:

Kimberly Rannings, ’00 (Biology), died June 17 in Tampa. Kimberly was 29 years old. She worked at Tampa General Hospital as a level 4 Critical Care Registered Nurse and was a member of the American Nurses Association. She is survived by her parents, Stephen and Mari Rannings, Edgewater; twin sisters Rachel Rannings, Naples; sister Doris Hanna, Eustis; paternal grandparents, James and Mary Rannings, Edgewater; and her two corgis, Lucy and Katy.

’06 Maria Berrette, (Legal Studies) joined East Lee County High School as a world history teacher.

Stephanie Hoffman, (Marketing) joins The Uncommon Friends Foundation in Fort Myers as marketing/membership coordinator. She is responsible for all aspects of membership recruitment and retention, including member/guest events, communications and Web site maintenance.

’03 Derek Leinewelt, (Management) won the seventh annual M’kebo Ultra Charlotte County Open, shooting 64 with 14-under 130. He previously won the Dixie Amateur, Iowa Open and Cedar Rapids Open.

’04 Helen Sadler, (English) was a finalist in the Floridian Council of Teachers of English Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. Helen is in her third year of teaching middle school language arts at Gateway Charter School. She will graduate from FGCU with her master’s in English Education in December.

Johnny Jones, (Mathematics) is a new teacher at Riverdale High School in Fort Myers.

Darrin Wallace, (B.S. Liberal Studies) joined Gateway Charter High School as head coach of the girls’ varsity basketball team. He previously was the assistant coach for the boy’s varsity basketball team and head coach of the boy’s junior varsity basketball team at Cape Coral High School. He played basketball for FGCU and Pepperdine University.

Meldin Graziani, (Legal Studies) is attending law school at the University of Nebraska. She is in her first year and plans to specialize in either family law or mediation.

’99 Gary Page, (Business Management) joins Florida Home Realty as a Realtor and a member of the Gerard Team. He specializes in Golden Gate, Cape Coral and Fort Myers.

’02 Pete Cade, (Master’s, Educational Leadership) was named principal of Immokalee Community School, a K-6 charter school. Cade is a Golden Apple Award recipient and has been on the ICS faculty for six years. He previously served as program specialist and recruiting coach.

Tell us where you are and what you’re doing.

Alumni are encouraged to share their news about new jobs, promotions, relocations, weddings, births and other noteworthy events. Send items to Alumni Relations Director Allison Allie, alumnirelations@fgcu.edu or mail to her at University Advancement, Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565.
Alumni Association Happenings

Jan. 8: Alumni Board of Directors Meeting
5:30 p.m., Student Union - Room 214

Jan 10: Lessons for a Lifetime
6:30-8 p.m., Wine Styles, Naples (U.S. 41 & Immokalee Road)
Alumni Association members are invited to a private wine tasting and spread of international delights. Free for association members and one guest. Limited seating is available. Sponsored by FGCU Alumni Association and Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc.

5-8 p.m., The Art Gallery, FGCU
View prints from the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg at this free reception.

Jan. 28: Zola Keller presents “How To Find The Dress Of Your Dreams...Or Die Trying”
1 p.m., Alico Arena - Hospitality Suite, FGCU
Gather with fellow alumni for an afternoon of fun. Take in a fashion show and learn how to prepare for your wedding.
Cost: Free
Sponsored by Zola Keller and the FGCU Alumni Association

Feb. 7: Outback dinner
5:30-7 p.m., Alico Arena - Auxiliary Gym
Enjoy a pre-game meal from Outback Steakhouse
Tickets are $10 for FGCU Alumni and their guests. Alumni may obtain up to four free tickets to the 7:30 p.m. men’s basketball game vs. Johnson & Wales
Sponsored by Outback Steakhouse

Feb. 7: Alumni Association Life Member Reception and men’s basketball game vs. Johnson & Wales
6:30 p.m. Reception Alico Arena – President’s Suite, FGCU
Enjoy hors d’oeuvres and beverages before and during the game, compliments of the FGCU Alumni Association for Lifetime members and one guest.
7:30 p.m. Game
For details contact: Allison Allie, Director of Alumni Relations
e-mail: aallie@fgcu.edu
(239) 590-1016


The Alumni Association hosted its first Eagle Alumni Networking Night on Oct. 25 at Baldy’s in the Student Union. The event attracted more than 50 friends and members of the Alumni Association. Graduates reconnected with classmates and professors and learned about upcoming alumni events.

Do you know an outstanding Eagle graduate?
The FGCU Alumni Association presents the Alumni of Distinction Award each year to honor a distinguished graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University. The 2007 award will be presented at the Annual Celebration of Excellence on April 20, 2007 at Alico Arena.

Nominate a graduate today!
Visit our Web site for more award and nomination information.

www.fgcu.edu/alumni

Stay tuned, stay in touch

The FGCU Quarterly Report airs on WGCU Public Television the following dates:
• 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29
• 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30
• 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7
The half-hour magazine-style television program showcases Florida Gulf Coast University and highlights its growth and development by featuring people, programs, and events of interest to the community. The program includes the following segments:
• Gen. Colin Powell’s visit in March
• Kleist Health Education Center outreach to the community
• Pet therapy for Alzheimer’s patients and the Delta Pet Society
• Campus happenings: adaptive sports, writers conference, music recitals and concerts, theater performances, Eagle Expo
• President William C. Merwin on gift to University
### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS
- Cash and cash equivalents: $11,517,285
- Interest receivable: 643,323
- Accounts receivable: 6,095
- Pledges receivable, current: 1,025,550
- Due from the State of Florida - Matching Gifts Program: 100,000
- **Total current assets**: $13,292,253

#### NONCURRENT ASSETS
- Investments: 409,736
- Restricted investments: 38,894,407
- Pledges receivable: 294,500
- Royalties receivable: 3,300,000
- Loan to related entity: 5,000,000
- Due from the State of Florida - Matching Gifts Program: 100,303
- Land holdings: 1,954,000
- Capital assets, net: 31,333
- Other: 583,738
- **Total noncurrent assets**: $50,568,017
- **Total assets**: $63,860,270

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES
- Accounts payable: 110,872
- Deferred revenue: 25,977
- Gift annuities payable, current portion: 28,240
- **Total current liabilities**: 165,099

#### NONCURRENT LIABILITIES
- Notes payable: 5,000,000
- Due to others: 232,640
- Gift annuities payable: 217,817
- **Total noncurrent liabilities**: 5,450,457
- **Total liabilities**: 5,615,546

#### NET ASSETS
- Invested in capital assets, net of related debt: 31,333
- Restricted
  - Restricted by donors - expendable: 23,273,829
  - Permanent endowments - nonexpendable: 28,851,469
- Unrestricted: 6,088,093
- **Total net assets**: $58,244,724
- **Total liabilities and net assets**: $63,860,270

### OPERATING REVENUES
- Contributions: $18,149,252
- Rental income and other: 867,501
- **Total operating revenue**: $19,016,753

### OPERATING EXPENSES
- Program services
  - Program fees: 4,028,648
  - Scholarships: 577,133
  - University support: 1,922,486
  - General and administrative expenses: 3,080,901
  - **Total**: 7,690,168
- Other expenses
  - Interest: 163,379
  - Depreciation: 7,289
  - Courtello match funds: 9,200,884
  - **Total**: 9,371,552
- **Total operating expenses**: 16,980,900
- **Operating income**: $2,035,853

### NONOPERATING REVENUES
- Interest and dividends: 1,933,053
- Net appreciation in investments: 473,259
- **Total nonoperating revenues**: 2,625,523
- **Income before capital additions**: 4,661,376

### CAPITAL ADDITIONS
- Contributions to endowments: 2,061,893
- State match funds: 100,303
- **Total capital additions**: 2,162,196
- **Increase in net assets**: 6,823,772

### NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR
- $51,421,152

### NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR
- $58,244,724
Endowed funds generate annual income in support of chairs, professorships, scholarships and programs in perpetuity.

**Named Endowed Funds**

**ENDOWED EMINENT SCHOLAR CHAIRS**

- Alico, Inc. Scholarship Fund
- American Association of University Women Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Anonymous Scholarship Fund
- Gray and Mercedes Ballman Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Bank of America Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Bank of America Florida’s Community Scholars Program Fund
- Corporate Alfredo Batos Scholarship Fund
- William and Kathryn Beeken Scholarship Fund
- William and Kathryn Beeken Scholarship Fund
- Fred P. Beguin Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Jean S. Benson Scholarship Fund
- August and Elizabeth Beran Family Scholarship Fund
- Bickel Family Scholarship Fund – In Memory of Jean M. Bickel
- Richard and Sandy Bishop Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Susan and Donald Blanchard Engineering Endowed Fund
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund
- The Brooks Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Mrs. Bunny Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Jackson Burgess Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Zelda Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Pat and Laura Cacho Family Scholarship Endowed Fund
- The Caloosahatchee Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Ruth M. and Cleveland L. Campbell Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Cape Coral Rotary Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund
- E. Odell Carlton and Golda Carlton Scholarship Fund
- Center Rooney Construction Company, Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Charlotte Community Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Charlotte Regional Medical Center Scholarship Fund
- Coastal Village Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Brian and Denise Cohb Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Harvey D. and Janet G. Cohen Scholarship Fund
- College Club Apartments Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Baron and Dana Collier Scholarship Fund
- Gregory and Angela Valvo Collins Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Colonial Bank Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Community Health Association Scholarship Fund
- The Elizabeth A. and Jack A. Conner Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Jack and Betty Conner Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Jack and Betty Conner Fellowship Fund
- Alan and Selma Cooper Endowed Scholarship Fund – In Memory of James Francis Cooper
- Coopers & Lybrand Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Udaya N. and Ira R. Dash Scholarship Fund
- Betty Ann Dohrman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Daffius Family Fund
- Dianna Durbin Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Elizabeth Durbin Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Edison Garden Club – Peggy Karkults Scholarship Fund
- Ruth L. Faith Endowed Scholarship Fund for Women in Mathematics

**ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS**

- The Dr. Edith Potter Deats Professorship in Nursing
- The W. Thomas Howard Endowed Professorship in Business
- The Elizabeth A. and Jack A. Conner Professorship of World Affairs
- James Francis Cooper Scholarship Fund – In Memory of Ben Hill Griffin, Jr.
- Jean S. Benson Scholarship Fund
- Richard and Sandy Bishop Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Susan and Donald Blanchard Engineering Endowed Fund
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Fund
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- Elizabeth Durbin Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Edison Garden Club – Peggy Karkults Scholarship Fund
- Ruth L. Faith Endowed Scholarship Fund for Women in Mathematics

**ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Achievement Trust Fund
- Alico, Inc. Scholarship Fund

Despite market issues in 2001 and 2002, the Foundation has been able to grow the endowments with current earnings and additional contributions.

**Breakdown of the Endowment Fund on June 30, 2005**

- Professorships: 10,589,331
- Scholarships: 14,042,416
- Programs: 4,545,278

The Foundation’s cost to raise a dollar during the 2005-2006 fiscal year was 5.7 cents.

**Endowed Funds**

- Alico, Inc. Scholarship Fund
- American Association of University Women Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Anonymous Scholarship Fund
- Gray and Mercedes Ballman Engineering Scholarship Fund
- Bank of America Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Bank of America Florida’s Community Scholars Program Fund
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- Elizabeth Durbin Endowed Scholarship Fund
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- Ruth L. Faith Endowed Scholarship Fund for Women in Mathematics

**Growth of the Endowment Over the Past Five Years**

- Fiscal Year 2001-2002: 15,998,630
- Fiscal Year 2002-2003: 17,444,474
- Fiscal Year 2003-2004: 23,762,722
- Fiscal Year 2004-2005: 25,651,906
- Fiscal Year 2005-2006: 29,177,545

**Scholarships Issued by the Foundation Over the Past Five Years**

- Fiscal Year 2001-2002: 218,632
- Fiscal Year 2002-2003: 278,665
- Fiscal Year 2003-2004: 373,690
- Fiscal Year 2004-2005: 441,779
- Fiscal Year 2005-2006: 577,313
Named Endowed Funds

The Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Southwest Florida Chapter, Accounting Endowment Fund

Paul and Aline Flynn Scholarship Fund

Rebecca Fogg Endowed Scholarship Fund

Fort Myers Women’s Network Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mary Kathleen Gallagher Endowed Scholarship Fund

Bruce R. Geyer Memorial Book Scholarship Endowed Fund

Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program Scholarship Fund

Graduate Business Association Endowed Scholarship Fund

Marvin and Helene Gralnick Scholarship Fund

Marvin and Helene Gralnick Scholarship Fund

Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce Endowment Fund

Catoe Green Endowed Nursing Scholarship Fund

John and Dorothy Guigon Academic Scholarship Fund

John and Dorothy Guigon Endowed Scholarship Fund

Harvard Jolly Architects Endowed Scholarship Fund

Florence Hecht Endowed Scholarship Fund

Heidt & Associates, Inc. Engineering Scholarship Endowed Fund

Dr. Denise Heinemann Nursing Scholarship Fund


Barbara and Joe Martin Hilliard Scholarship Fund

Joe A. and “Tippy” Hilliard Scholarship Fund

Hillmyer-Tremont Endowed Scholarship Fund

Hispanic Council of Southwest Florida Endowed Scholarship Fund – In Memory of Mary Giglia Johnson

Roth and Burtt Holmes Endowed Scholarship Fund

Silver Anniversary/Lee County Electric Cooperative Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund

Lee Mental Health System Endowed Scholarship Fund

Leigh Acres Public Library Association, Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund

Dr. Eric Lieder Endowed Scholarship Fund

Veora and John R. Little Alumni Scholarship Endowed Fund

Professor and Mrs. E.L. Lord Endowed Scholarship Fund – Given by Richard W. and Esther A. Staughey

Dorothy Low Endowed Scholarship Fund – In Memory of George E. Low

Scott Howard Mahnuk Memorial Scholarship Fund

Donald and Elizabeth Manchester Scholarship Fund

Mertah Foundation Fund

Mertah Scholarship Foundation Scholarship Fund

Edward R. Melton Scholarship Fund

William C. and Debra L. Merwin Scholarship Fund for Leadership Development

Miomar Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mooring Park Foundation Scholarship Fund at FGCU

Moody Tule Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund

Munsters Corporation Endowed Scholarship Fund

Nan’s Women in Transition Scholarship Fund

Newman Oil Scholarship Fund

The News-Press Publishing Company Scholarship Endowed Fund

Oakes Family Engineering Scholarship Fund

Keith L. Cox Scholarship Endowed Fund

Robert A. and Patricia Lattier Scholarship Fund

Sanford Lawton, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund

Dianna Lee Endowed Scholarship Fund

Michael B. Peceri Endowed International Cooperative Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund

Periwinkle Garden Club Scholarship Fund

The Chesley Perry Endowed Scholarship Fund/Fort Myers Campus

Marlin F. and Alice M. Perry Scholarship Fund

Phi Beta Kappa Association of Southwest Florida Endowed Scholarship Fund

Marion V. Potter Endowed Scholarship Fund

John E. and Alice Price Foundation Scholarship Fund

Elizabeth Rash Endowed Scholarship Fund

Real Estate Investment Society Endowed Scholarship Fund

SW Florida RIMS Chapter Scholarship Fund

Riverwoods Plantation Endowed Scholarship Fund

Kellie Jean Robinson Memorial Scholarship Endowed Fund

Joyce and Emory H. Rogaski Endowed Scholarship Fund

Joyce Rogaski Graduation Fund

Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva Endowed Scholarship Fund – In Memory of William Anglit

Rotary Foundation of Fort Myers South Endowed Scholarship Fund

Douglas R. St. Cereny Endowed Scholarship Fund

George Sanders, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund

Schulta Chaipel & Co. Scholarship Fund

Scholar Ready Mix Endowed Scholarship Fund

Scorpio Foundation Scholarship Fund

Howard Foundation Scholarship Endowed Fund

Ottomax Endowed Scholarship Fund

Occupational Therapy Advisory Council Endowed Scholarship Fund

Charleen Belcher Oliff Endowed Scholarship Fund

Owalo, Trippe & Company, Inc. Endowed Scholarship Fund

The Thelma B. and Edwin M. Oulton Scholarship Fund

Owen-Amer-Kimmel Company Endowed Scholarship Fund

Jane Foster and C. B. Pate Scholarship Fund

Southwest Florida Water Environment Association Endowed Scholarship Fund

Emma and C. Gilbert Spies Scholarship Fund

Robin and Duane Strangehan, Jr. Scholarship Fund

Margaret and Peter Sulick Endowed Scholarship Fund

Zonta Endowed Scholarship Fund

Zonta for Women (Ethics) Scholarship Fund

State of Florida Ethics in Business Scholarship Program

Legacy scholarship fund

Endowed Program Funds

Floridians for Affordable and Quality Health Care Fund

Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation, Inc. 2005-2006 Annual Report

5 Annual Report

Annual Report 6
ORDER OF THE MAJESTIC EAGLE ($5 million or more)

- William and Kathryn Becken
- Mrs. Elizabeth A. Conner
- Mary E. Dooner Foundation
- IBM
- Mr. and Mrs. Scott Kapnick
- Mrs. Elizabeth A. Conner
- Mr.* and Mrs. Herbert J. Sugden

EAGLE COURT ($100,000 - $499,999)

- Peter D. and Eleanore A. Kleist
- Beth and David B. Howard
- Kelly Foundation, Inc.
- IBM Eduquest

EAGLE SOCIETY ($2 million - $4,999,999)

- Drs. G. Burtt and Ruth W. Holmes
- The Hillmyer-Tremont Student Athlete Award
- Barbara and Joe Marlin Hilliard
- Joe A. and "Tippy" Hilliard
- Kay and Robert T. Gow
- The Freeman Family
- John and Mary O. Crowley
- Alan and Selma Cooper
- Comcast

Majestic Eagle

- April 1, 1993 through June 30, 2006. It is with great pleasure and gratitude that we acknowledge those who have so generously supported Florida Gulf Coast University since the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation was established. In addition to those listed in this Honor Roll of Donors, many others have supported Florida Gulf Coast University through direct assistance, college, programs, and activities. We extend our thanks to those donors as well.

Honor Roll of Donors 1993 - 2006

University Cabinet ($100,000 - $499,999)

- Anonymous
- CobbCorp, LLC
- Clyde Butcher
- The Mrs. Bonney Foundation
- Keys Island Clubhouse
- The Mrs. Bonney Foundation
- Chico's FAS Inc.
- Cape Coral Rotary Foundation, Inc.
- Cape Coral Foundation, Inc.
- The Humane Society of the United States
- unائي
- Northeast Florida Foundation
- Lee County Board of County Commissioners
- Anonymous
- Dr. and Mrs. George W. Sypert
- Mrs. Faith
- CSB Architects in Cosmetic Surgery
- The Antigua Group
- Newberry Partners
- Pop* and Marjorie H. Kelly
- The Whitaker Foundation
- The Brookes Foundation
- Comcast
- APIC
- Caloosahatche Chapter
- Daughters of the American Revolution-
- Alan and Selma Cooper
- Comcast
-Подробнее о проекте...
Peggy Raynor
Bruce Ragain
Private Equity Group, L.L.C.
Steven W. and Kathleen R. Powley
Christine J. and Bernard N. Portnoy
Marydelle Polk
Alex Pezeshkan
Judith B. and Vincent D. Pettinelli
Pettinelli Family Foundation
Pelican Bay Foundation
Dr. Richard C. Pegnetter
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