The FGCU Invitational Mathematics Competition is offered annually by the Department of Chemistry and Mathematics to promote student interest in mathematics. The competition is administered on the main campus of Florida Gulf Coast University at the conclusion of the Fall semester. Participation is open to all middle and high school students in the state of Florida and is divided into six divisions: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Statistics, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Students can participate in individual and team rounds for each division, depending on the direction of their math coach.

Individual awards are presented to the first eight places in each content area, and overall school awards are presented to the top five schools. The first place individual winners are presented with a trophy and a full tuition scholarship to attend FGCU. More than 50 additional door prizes are distributed to make it a day full of academics and cheer.

This year, the 8th annual event played host to 36 schools with nearly 900 of the state’s finest students in attendance. The vastly popular event plays host to not only the schools in the immediate area, but to schools from Gainesville to Miami and all points in between. The top five schools this year were Gainesville Eastside High School, Community School of Naples, Miami Springs Senior High School, Canterbury School, and Fort Myers Senior High. These participating groups were truly a fine cross section of the top schools in the state.
Dear Colleagues,

I hope your spring semester is off to a good start. The college is busy conducting 32 searches for new faculty to join us next fall. We have already made several hires in the Chemistry and Mathematics, Communication and Philosophy, and Social and Behavioral Science departments. We have also hired two new advisors, Jennie Littell and Allison Bacigalupi, who have begun working with our advising team. Our Teaching Innovation Series continues this semester with the first presentation on Wings of Hope hosted by Eric Otto and Ricky Pires. The next presentation is scheduled for March 25, with faculty presenters and topics to be announced. Please visit the Series website at [www.fgcu.edu/CAS/tis.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/CAS/tis.html) for updates on future presentations and information on past presentations.

A State of the College meeting is scheduled to take place March 18 from 2-5 p.m. in Academic Building 5 room 112. This meeting will include a Dean’s State of the College Report, along with any new news regarding the Positioning and Alignment Process and how that will affect our college restructuring. Please plan to attend!

The fall semester came to a close with some exciting events, including the annual Empty Bowls Project (page 4), the study abroad trip to Ghana (page 6), the GEMS event with Southwest Regional Council Girls Scouts (page 10), and the Annual Math Competition. Looking forward, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education will host the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture Series to be held on Sanibel Island on April 1 (page 13).

I hope the new year and the semester are off to a smooth start. If you have any special events that you would like to share, please consider submitting an article to a future issue of CAS Quarterly.

Best regards,

Donna Henry
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Professor of Biology

---
Teaching Innovation Series

Continuing in its support of FGCU’s commitment to civic engagement, the College of Arts and Sciences held the first Teaching Innovation presentation of the semester on Friday, February 4th at 3:00 pm in the Arts Complex 111. Eric Otto and Ricky Pires teamed up to feature the Wings of Hope program in its new space.

The next teaching presentation will be held on March 25 in AB7 115. Details on the presentations are forthcoming. Please check the Teaching Innovation Series website for updates www.fgcu.edu/CAS/tis.html.

What Does It Mean for FGCU to be an Earth Charter Affiliate? A Conversation

In November, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education organized a conversation regarding our status as an Earth Charter affiliate, hosted by President Wilson G. Bradshaw and co-chaired by Dean Marcia Greene, College Of Education, and Dean Donna Price Henry, College of Arts & Sciences.

President Bradshaw talked about moving forward with our green initiatives. However, he mentioned that he does not like to use the word “initiatives”—because these activities are “just what we do.” He credited faculty, staff, and students for their commitment. He pointed out that our commitment is not just about recycling. Our green commitment is unfolding in many ways including the solar field, LEED Platinum Certification of AB7, and how we are handling our trash. He mentioned that Emily Porter from the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education is working with Aramark on having more sustainable food choices available for students. He referred to the Earth Charter as “not just a document, but as a way we should live—not just at FGCU, but in the USA, in the entire world.” He sees us assisting others in doing the right thing.

Dean Marci Greene and Dean Donna Henry presented President Bradshaw and Provost Toll each with framed copies of the Earth Charter Affiliation Agreement.

Center Director Peter Blaze Corcoran then began a discussion about what the Earth Charter Affiliation Agreement means. A thoughtful dialogue between participants ensued as the following questions were posed: “What can we do to as a University to commit to the Earth Charter?” “How would you like to see the Earth Charter used at FGCU?” “How might the Earth Charter guide Academic leaders?” Attending faculty, administrators, staff, and students all contributed their thoughts and suggestions to this ongoing discussion.
Fourth Annual Empty Bowls Sets a New Record

Blue skies and crisp temperatures on Friday December 3rd brought the FGCU community to the Arts Complex for a hearty bowl of soup and much needed assistance to help the hungry in our neighborhood. The Fourth Annual Empty Bowls Soup Lunch raised a total of $4,025 for the food pantry at Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee, Inc. Current and former students and staff of the FGCU Art Program put in hundreds of hours producing and staffing the event as well as making 275 beautiful, functional pottery bowls.

For a $15.00 donation, visitors to the event picked out the bowl they liked best and enjoyed a "soup kitchen" style meal of soup and bread. The eight delicious soups and heaping baskets of ciabatta bread were donated by community partners Hemingway Island Grill, Hyatt Place Coconut Point, Olympia Grill and Sports Lounge, Naples Flatbread, Waterside Seafood and Grill, La Bamba, Ted's Montana Grill, and The Artisan Bread Company. ‘Creamy Carrot Coconut Soup’ was the fantastic vegan offering developed and donated by Professor Joe Kakareka’s Fall 2010 “Science of Cooking” class.

The entire event was produced and managed by art students Shannon Adwell and Regan Hutchinson, who dedicated countless hours to their semester-long internship with Empty Bowls and made this year’s event a record-breaking success. Deep appreciation goes to all the students who worked so hard, to all our generous community contributors, and, and to all of you who came out to help those in need in our community.

Fourth Annual Empty Bowls Soup Lunch raised a total of $4,025 for the food pantry at Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee, Inc. Current and former students and staff of the FGCU Art Program put in hundreds of hours producing and staffing the event as well as making 275 beautiful, functional pottery bowls.

For a $15.00 donation, visitors to the event picked out the bowl they liked best and enjoyed a “soup kitchen” style meal of soup and bread. The eight delicious soups and heaping baskets of ciabatta bread were donated by community partners Hemingway Island Grill, Hyatt Place Coconut Point, Olympia Grill and Sports Lounge, Naples Flatbread, Waterside Seafood and Grill, La Bamba, Ted’s Montana Grill, and The Artisan Bread Company. ‘Creamy Carrot Coconut Soup’ was the fantastic vegan offering developed and donated by Professor Joe Kakareka’s Fall 2010 “Science of Cooking” class.

The entire event was produced and managed by art students Shannon Adwell and Regan Hutchinson, who dedicated countless hours to their semester-long internship with Empty Bowls and made this year’s event a record-breaking success. Deep appreciation goes to all the students who worked so hard, to all our generous community contributors, and, and to all of you who came out to help those in need in our community.

CAS Welcomes Two New Advisors

Allison Bacigalupi joins the Advising Department from the Office of New Student Programs/First Year Advising at FGCU, where she worked as an Academic Counselor for freshmen. Prior to joining the FGCU community, she was the Graduate Academic Coordinator for the men’s baseball and football teams at the University of South Florida. She also has experience working in campus recreation and athletics administration.

Allison obtained her undergraduate degree in Environmental and Business Economics from Rutgers University and her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in College Student Affairs from the University of South Florida. She is currently enrolled in the M.B.A. program at FGCU and is slated to graduate summer 2012.

In her free time, Allison enjoys boating and fishing in the Gulf, going to the beach, reading, and watching sports. She also enjoys spending time with her boyfriend (John), her border collie (Cynder), and her cat (new addition, yet to be named...suggestions welcomed!).

Jennifer Littell joins the Advising Department from East Tennessee State University (ETSU), where she worked as an Advisor for Undeclared and Developmental Studies students. Additionally, she completed internships as a Career Counselor with ETSU’s Peer Career Center and an Upward Bound Counselor with ETSU’s TRIO program.

Jennifer obtained her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Milligan College and her M.A. in Higher Education Counseling from East Tennessee State University.

In her free time, Jennifer enjoys outdoor activities such as biking, running, hiking, and taking trips to the beach. She loves animals and recently began working as a volunteer at the Gulf Coast Humane Society.
Teaching Corner: Creating Social Places in Angel Spaces With the Anything Else Café

By Sheila Bolduc-Simpson

Creating a social space in an online class can be challenging to say the least. How can online classes replicate the casual conversations that go on in face-to-face classes? The Water Cooler, Student Lounge, and Discussion Forum serve to provide opportunities for students to pose their questions and get them answered either by their fellow peers or the instructor, but that venue leaves out the social “stuff” not related to the course.

For the past three years, I have created what I call the Anything Else Café. Here, the student is invited to stop by for a chat over a cup of virtual java. This cyber café is for more than just posting any questions or responses to those questions. It is used for talking about anything going on in one’s life. This could include announcements of campus events, a recent trip to Orlando, last night’s basketball game, the weather, one’s stressed out existence, a debate about the iPhone vs. the Droid, the Mac vs. the PC, Starbucks coffee vs. Dunkin Donuts coffee….whatever. The café is about sharing photos of one’s new baby or new puppy. This café is for sharing a favorite video from YouTube or a favorite song, or critiquing a movie or TV show one watched the previous night. In short, the Anything Else Café is a social community building tool that can bond even large enrollment classes together.

So how does it work? It is assigned as one component of the student’s participation grade. The instructor requires that students check in at least twice a week explaining to them that building a social community in an online environment will connect the students to one another in their learning community.

After the first week of my Spring 2011 ENC 3250 professional writing class of 50 students, here is what students are saying:

I think this class is going to be quite interesting. Usually online writing classes are very hard to keep track of but the anything café makes you continuously check back at least twice a week, making it pretty hard not to do well. Pumped!

I agree. It is a great idea. And it will help me stay involved.

Agreed! Seems like this class may have a lot of work with the discussions and what-not but that’s probably what most of us will need to keep up with due dates. I’m pretty interested to see how it will turn out as well.

Statistics from any Fall 2010 professional writing course in which 50 students were enrolled demonstrate the popularity of and involvement in the Anything Else Café.

As one can see, the instructor is taking the backseat in this discussion, representing 12% of the posts compared to the 88% participation on the part of the students, or 1900 combined posts and replies. In other words, over the course of a fifteen-week course with 50 students enrolled, the average number of posts and/or replies is 2.5 per week per student (more than the required number for the participation component).

With Angel’s feature to rate a post using a star rating system, one can see at a glance what the students are interested in talking about. This feature is similar to Facebook’s ‘Like’ feature.

I invite you to create your social space for your students in your online courses, and let me know how it works for you and how your students like it.
Research Experience in Ghana: Sociological and Biological Studies in Wildlife Management

Eleven students and three professors from FGCU spent their winter break travelling to Ghana in western Africa as part of an intensive 10-month research experience that allowed the students to explore the effects of social and cultural behaviors on complex interactions between economics and the natural world. Specifically, students completed three research projects while being immersed in the art, music, history, beliefs, languages, ecosystems, and wildlife of Africa.

The students took an interdisciplinary course during fall semester to prepare for the research projects they would conduct abroad. Students got to know each other well as they spent the fall semester collecting items to be donated while abroad and organizing multiple fundraising activities. These activities were so successful that we made a large donation to a local Goodwill because we could not fit all of the items in our bags!

The time abroad was balanced between conducting research projects, experiencing Ghana’s culture and history, and exploring the variety of ecosystems found in this small country (similar in size to Oregon). The first research project was a sociology-based exploration of the impacts local fishermen are having on sea turtle populations. Students interviewed up to 15 fishermen in each of four fishing villages that encompassed the full coast line of Ghana (western, central, and eastern regions). Participating fishermen were given a flag to display on their boats (local tradition). The flags were made by mothers and grandmothers of several students and included sea turtle illustrations designed by one of the students. The second project utilized the help of local turtle hunters and the Ghana Wildlife Division to catch rare hingeback tortoises in the rainforest. Students measured and marked tortoises to be used in a short-term mark-recapture study that will enable the students to model abundance and movement patterns for this species. For the third project, students assessed the quality of the diet of a group of leaf-eating monkeys who are afforded protection by a local hunting ban. Students followed monkeys through a dry forest of enormous trees, observed what they were eating and collected a sample of it. This was sometimes quite challenging when the monkeys were foraging over 100 meters high in the canopy. The physical property toughness, which assesses of the quality of food, was measured by cutting the leaf samples using a custom-designed portable tester.

Of course the trip was not all about work. Students were given time to surf the waves in western Ghana, negotiate the swinging bridges of the canopy walk in a rainforest, take a walking safari and a jeep safari in the savanna, and search for nesting sea turtles in eastern Ghana. Our students met the challenge of a local football (soccer) team by playing them to a 1-1 tie. The students enjoyed an excellent Indian dinner on Christmas night before dancing the evening away to the music of a live band. We counted down the seconds to the New Year while dancing to hip-life music with many of our friends and colleagues in Ghana.

The students became fully immersed into the culture of Ghana. Students visited several markets and had dresses and shirts made from locally made fabric. We visited villages that weave the traditional kente and adinkra cloth, and another village that makes glass beads using the traditional kilns. We met with multiple traditional chiefs and visited the King’s Palace of the Asante region. The students visited two forts used during the British and Dutch colonization for the slave trade and a Sudanic styled mosque along a historical trade route in northern Ghana. We donated school supplies, soccer balls, and clothes to multiple schools and communities.

As part of this program, students are currently working on data analysis and will present a poster on each project during the spring 2011 FGCU Research Day. The students are also currently developing a movie that we hope to present to FGCU and the public sometime during spring semester.
Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference

A public meeting on water resources in our southwest Florida region is an opportunity for CAS faculty to bring their expertise to the community and help contribute to solutions for our region’s crucial water resources problems. Professor Don Duke, of the Environmental Studies program in the Marine and Ecological Sciences Department, was the technical organizing committee chair for the 20th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference.

The Conference is a highly collaborative effort to an unusual degree because it is co-hosted by no fewer than nine different entities (technical societies with the alphabet soup AWWA, AWRA, ASCE, FES, SWFAEP, plus the public interest groups Audubon, Riverwatch, and Watershed Council, with FGCU in the mix to boot). The meeting took place on November 19, at the Royal Palm Yacht Club with a fine water view of the Caloosahatchee River near downtown Fort Myers.

The format of the conference gives the group an opportunity for a uniquely wide-ranging meeting, an all day affair encompassing technical talks on freshwater flows, biological conditions of our local waters, environmental impacts and problems facing the region, and topics of government and policy decision-making by agencies working to solve the problems. FGCU faculty take a lead role in these discussions. This year’s organizing committee includes Professor Win Everham of Environmental Studies and Professor Kristoph-Deitrich Kinzli of the School of Engineering’s Environmental Engineering program.

This past conference was even more ambitious in reaching out to the community and the decision-makers. It included the usual technical sessions that present cutting edge scientific findings, including talks by Professor Kinsli and Professors Darren Rumbold and Greg Tolley, both of the Marine Science program in CAS, among others. But, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this gathering, the theme was “Looking Back, Looking Forward,” addressing “How did we get here anyway?” and working to prioritize needs for the future.

There was a greater than usual focus on issues of governance—how can we work together to solve these problems?—and detailed discussion of ways in which institutions, policies, and regulations, with their need to address many different stakeholders and preferences among our multifaceted society, can be adapted to better protect and utilize our precious water resources.

One of the conference goals was to involve students, giving them a perspective on the challenges and career opportunities in this complex field. Participants included the newly-formed FGCU student chapter of AWRA with President Jeannine Windsor; students from Prof. Duke’s graduate Environmental Policy class, EVR 6937, three of whom are doing their semester group research project as a summary of the findings presented at the meeting; and many students from Prof. Duke’s Introduction to Environmental Policy class, EVR 2861. The 2009 (19th annual) conference had nearly 100 people in attendance, of whom 33 were students from a range of Florida colleges and universities.

The Dean’s Challenge

The FGCU Athletics Department is hosting a Faculty/Staff Appreciation night on February 21st. All faculty/staff will receive FREE admission to the game and a discounted price of $5 for a guest. This event is called The Dean’s Challenge because the colleges will be competing against each other to see which college can get the highest attendance. Everyone from the winning college will receive a complimentary ticket to our Men’s Senior Day on February 26th (guests will be included in this total). This game is a double header, with the women playing at 5:15 and the men playing at 7:30. The ticket will be good for both games.

The winning college will be announced during the final timeout of the game. There will also be $1 pizza sold at the game as well as the chance to win other prizes!

We ask that any faculty/staff member wanting to attend purchase tickets no later than February 18th. Tickets can be purchased by coming to the box office between the hours of 8-5, Monday-Friday, or by calling 590-7145. They will still be able to purchase tickets after that date but they will not be included in your college’s attendance total.

We look forward to seeing you at the NEST! GO EAGLES!
Visual and Performing Arts

The artGallery is located within the Arts Complex on FGCU’s main campus. The university is located off Ben Hill Griffin Parkway, east of I-75 between exits 123 and 128.

The artLab is located within the FGCU Library on our main campus.

Parking is available in Lot 7 for gallery visitors, parking passes are available at the parking kiosk located at the university’s entrance.

Hours
10a - 4p
Monday - Friday
11a-2p
Saturday
or
by appointment

Free and Open to the Public
Please call 590.7199 for information or email: asturdiv@fgcu.edu

Agamemnon by Aeschylus
Directed and Designed by Barry Cavin
February 16-February 27
Monday through Saturday performances 8pm • Sunday matinees 2pm
War, infidelity, murder, paternal filicide, lust, and insanity, are all packed into this Classical Greek tragedy that is considered to be the grandest and most theatrical of all ancient Greek plays. As a part of the only extant Greek trilogy, Aeschylus seems to be recording the tortured beginnings of justice. But what we see in Agamemnon is still the ancient resonances of original violence and primal revenge with a trail of blood that extends from long before the story begins all the way to today.

TL002: A Performance Constellation
An Original Ensemble-Created Performance
Directed by Michele Hayford
April 6-17
Monday through Saturday performances 8pm • Sunday matinees 2pm

TL002: A Performance Constellation is the second installment of the FGCU Theatre Lab’s original ensemble-created work. Just as a constellation is composed of numerous stars made greater by their connection to each other, TL002 was devised by the synergy of all the talents involved. Come witness a Performance Constellation created in a rehearsal laboratory for civically engaged theatre.

Shidai Jingshen: The Spirit of the Epoch of the Chinese Avant-Garde
Thursday February 17 - Thursday March 17, 2011
Opening reception: Thursday, February 17 • 5:00 - 7:00pm
Gallery Talk by Guest Art Faculty Curator Megan McShane: Thursday, February 17 • 4:00pm
Artists: Huang Xiaopeng, Gao Shiqiang, Guan Huaibin, and Zheng Guogu

4th Annual Celebration of the Arts
Wednesday April 6, 2011 • 4:00 - 10:00pm
4:00 - 5:00 pm: Open rehearsal, Bower School of Music
5:00 - 7:00 pm: Opening reception for Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, Main Gallery
7:00 - 8:00 pm: Musical performance, Bower School of Music
8:00 pm curtain: TL002: A Performance Constellation An Original, TheatreLab
From the Language Corner

By Carol Fulton

Nineteen of our German students participated in the Oktoberfest held by the German-American Society of Cape Coral in hopes of raising money for their up-coming World Heritage trip to Europe. The students worked very hard serving food and waiting on tables for some of the 33,000 guests at the event. The GASC contributed $500 for the work done by our students who will pursue additional fundraising on January 21st when they will teach the new exercise dance, Zumba, at the Student Union.

November saw us host a visit from some international dignitaries. Together with the International Studies office, we gave a reception for the Consular General of Austria and the Honorary Consuls of Austria and Luxemburg at Sugden Hall. The Consular General also spent a session addressing our beginning German class. Honorary Consul Gerda Hansen then invited Carol Fulton and several of our students to her home in Estero for a brunch with the European community in the Consular General’s honor. This was a tremendous cultural opportunity for the students invited and they represented FGCU admirably.

Our exciting World Heritage trip (Course ISS-4955) will take place from May 5th to May 19th, taking us from Munich to Vienna along some of the most scenic places in the lake district of Austria and the Danube Valley. At the conclusion of the trip, approximately half of the students will stay on for a German III intensive course in Vienna.

On February 9th we will be receiving our next dignitaries. This time, we will be graced by the presence of two ambassadors at once. The honorable Ambassador Jean-Paul Senninger from Luxemburg and the honorable Dr. Christian Prosl, Ambassador from Austria will be coming to strengthen “diplomatic relations” between their countries and FGCU. Details are forthcoming. We are also planning a “Sound of Music” evening with the help of the local European-American community and the Bower School of Music. Details for this event are also in development.

Our big fundraiser will be April 2nd, when we produce our first annual Karni-Gras festival at Gulf Coast Town Center (GCTC). This event will be combining the traditions common in the French, German, and Latin-American nations of celebrating Mardi-Gras and Karneval. In conjunction with Renta Broadcasting radio stations and a Salsa band, we will be holding costume parades for children and adults with face-painting, etc. GCTC restaurants will participate by donating a portion of their revenue and prizes for costumes and raffles will be donated by retail merchants. Please do save this date, too.

Also on the language front, the Language Club has continued to grow and thrive. Warren Fulton will be starting a new round of teacher training for interested students next week. Dr. Brad Busbee and Dr. Anne-Marie Bouche gave excellent guest lectures on the history of Indo-European languages and historic manuscripts in November.

And, last but not least, the new German “Stammtisch” or regular’s table, will begin meeting on January 20th at Vapiano’s in Gulf Coast Town Center. Everyone interested in German or learning German is welcome. Hope to see you there!
GEMS Hosts Girl Scouts at FGCU

One hundred Girl Scouts from the Southwest Regional Council traveled to FGCU on November 13, 2010 to join Girls in Engineering, Math and Science (GEMS) in a forensic “who-dunnit” activity. The Scouts used biology, chemistry, and physics to solve a murder mystery employing gel electrophoresis, fingerprinting analysis, thin layer chromatography, blood typing, and gun residue identification. The Scouts were led by FGCU faculty Sue Coticone (chemistry) and Jan DeJarnette (biological sciences) and nine FGCU students and research assistants (Lily Diaz, Christina LaGrasta, Anastasia Kostrobula, Shany Kanacheril, Marielyse Figueroa, Megan Herscher, Jessica Strnad, Eileen Mesa, and Mary Lynn Hodges).

GEMS is a program of science workshops for middle school female students. This program was developed by Jo Ann Wilson (biological sciences) and Terry Dubetz (chemistry) in 2006 to address a shortage of professionals in the fields of math, science and engineering. Since females are underrepresented in many areas of science and math, increased numbers of females in these fields could help solve the shortage of workers. The GEMS mission is to encourage and stimulate interest in science and math in girls at an early age so girls will consider these fields as a career. GEMS has been making science and math fun and exciting for girls since 2006. GEMS has served a diverse population of girls including those with little science background and special needs such as ADD or physical disabilities.

The Girl Scouts thoroughly enjoyed the activities and look forward to returning to FGCU next year. This Spring will see GEMS hosting the Fort Myers PACE Center for Girls. Look for event details soon!
Faculty Highlights

Three of our math faculty, Jaffar Ali Shahul Hameed, Galen Papkov, Alberto Condori, and our new department hire for next fall all presented papers at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America in New Orleans. Faculty also manned a table at the Grad Fair at the meeting.

Lyn Millner, Assistant Professor of Journalism, has received a Knight Foundation fellowship to support a week of training at the University of California-Berkeley in February. She'll study multi-platform digital journalism techniques, which will advance the future journalism program. Lyn is excited about participating in the program and developing a connection between FGCU and the Knight Foundation.


This year has been a productive one for Professor of English Rebecca Totaro, with publication of two edited collections on the bubonic plague in English literature and culture.

The Plague in Print: Essential Elizabethan Sources 1558-1603 (Duquesne UP, 2010) takes the reader into the world of plague-ridden Elizabethan England, documenting the development of distinct subgenres of medical, religious, political, historical, and literary writing intended to help manage bubonic plague visitations.

Representing the Plague in Early Modern England (Routledge 2010) offers readers a timely encounter with the historical experience of people adapting to a pandemic emergency and the corresponding narrative representation of that crisis, as early modern writers transformed the plague into literature. The essays in this collection grew out of a seminar entitled "A Plague on Both Your Houses," which Totaro directed for the Shakespeare Association of America in 2008.

January's featured demonstration for Art in the Park, Naples' oldest Art Fair, was FGCU ceramics artist Rinny Ryan, who will be on site creating miniature cups, saucers, teapots and more on the world's smallest potter's wheel. The Art in the Park series is scheduled for the first Saturday of the month November through April.
FGCU Hosted “This Week in Virology,” a Live Netcast about Viruses on “Dengue in Florida”

On December 6, FGCU hosted “This Week in Virology (TWiV),” a live netcast about viruses. The goal of the netcast was to have an informal conversation about viruses, particularly the recent re-emergence of dengue fever in Florida. The causative agent of dengue fever, dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome, dengue virus has emerged in the past several decades as the most important mosquito borne viral disease with an estimated 2.5 billion people living in areas at risk for epidemic transmission and 50-100 million people infected annually. After a 75-year absence, dengue virus has become re-introduced and is being actively transmitted in at least three locations in southern Florida. There is no approved vaccine against dengue and there are no specific treatments. As the two major mosquito species that transmit dengue viruses are well established throughout the south Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, there is the potential for spread.

The netcast originated from the first floor auditorium in Academic Building 7 and was led by Dr. Vincent Racaniello, Professor of Microbiology at Columbia University Medical Center and co-author of Principles of Virology, the textbook used at FGCU, and Dr. Rich Condit, Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at the University of Florida. They were joined via SKYPE by science journalist, Alan Dove. In addition, Florida Keys Mosquito Control District Director, Ed Fussell, Deputy Director and Entomologist, Andrea Leal, and pilot, Amy Sargent flew in from Key West to participate in the conversation. They provided the point of view from the trenches in the battle against dengue fever in Florida. FGCU efforts to monitor infected mosquito populations in the Keys were also highlighted. The event was hosted by the Whitaker Center and the Honors Program.

Sharon Isern, Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, invited TWiV to participate in MCB 4502 Virology, an upper level science elective, after meeting Drs. Racaniello and Condit at a TWiV netcast that originated from the American Society for Virology meeting held in Bozeman, Montana this past July. Despite their busy schedules, Drs. Racaniello and Condit, who both teach Virology at their respective institutions, suggested that TWiV be held on the last day of Virology class as a special topic for our students. The Virology and other students in attendance, in addition to the general public, actively participated in the lively discussion by asking insightful questions to the panel of virus and mosquito experts. The netcast can be viewed online at the TWiV website http://www.twiv.tv/ and can also be downloaded as a podcast through iTunes. The episode is titled “TWiV 111: Live at Florida Gulf Coast University.”

MIT Club Visits Campus

In January, more than 30 MIT Alumni traveled to campus to enjoy lunch and learn about interdisciplinary research in biomedical engineering at Florida Gulf Coast University. The event honored UA Whitaker, a prominent MIT alumnus and the namesake of both the Whitaker Center for STEM Education and the UA Whitaker School of Engineering at FGCU. The event, sponsored by the Whitaker Center, showcased the work of FGCU faculty working in biomedicine and in biomechanical engineering.

Dr. Scott Michael and Dr. Sharon Isern of the Biosciences Research Group at FGCU presented their work on using biomedical technology to work towards a vaccine for Dengue Fever, a widespread tropical disease. Both professors trained at Johns Hopkins University and conducted research at Tulane prior to being recruited by FGCU.

Dr. Kristina Csavina of the UA Whitaker School of Engineering at FGCU presented an interactive demonstration of her work using motion capture software (like those used to develop video games and the movie Avatar) to help physical therapists analyze patients’ gait patterns and develop custom treatment plans to help patients walk again.

The MIT Club of Southwest Florida holds events to expose its members to the cutting edge of science and engineering research and sponsors teachers from the Naples area to attend Science and Engineering Program for Teachers at MIT, a one week teacher training held every summer at MIT.
Update from the Whitaker Center

Innovative Training for Algebra Teachers

Algebra is a course needed to enter any college or to work in most STEM related jobs. Each year over 30% of students in Southwest Florida need to repeat Algebra based on statistics from the Florida Department of Education.

The Whitaker Center successfully facilitated an eight million dollar proposal to the National Science Foundation to create a partnership with Harvard University, local school districts and the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board to improve the teaching and learning of Algebra through an innovative curriculum and a teacher training program. This is especially relevant as math is the language of business, science, and engineering.

The teacher training program is a collaborative partnership among local teachers, FGCU faculty, and researchers at Harvard. If funded, the program will allow teachers from local districts to participate in a hybrid training using online technology, STEM Coaches, and face-to-face classes led by FGCU faculty in Education and Mathematics. The project will directly benefit southwest Florida Algebra I teachers and students living in underserved and economically depressed rural and urban communities traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields.

Project Innovation - STEM and Economic Development

Dr. Douglas Spencer, Director of the Whitaker Center for STEM Education, recently spoke to more than 50 members of the Naples business community on the role of STEM education in promoting regional economic development. The speech was part of the Project Innovation Community of Innovation Program. Started in 2008 by the Economic Development Council of Collier County (EDC) Project Innovation is an initiative to create a culture and environment in Collier County that will attract and support high wage employees and world-class talent.

Dr. Spencer’s speech focused on creativity and innovation and how STEM drives discovery. He reminded business CEOs that their company’s future depends on their ability to harness the creativity and talent of a new generation and that developing talent depends on educating students today — especially in STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and math. His comments stressed using measurable outcomes and scorecards to establish a region’s success and challenges in developing a STEM literate workforce. For example, in 2009 southwest Florida ranked sixth of seven regions statewide in education as measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores, SAT Scores, and high school and college graduation rates. The region ranked seventh of seven in innovation as measured by patents filed and university research and development funding.

Dr. Spencer challenged local business leaders to get involved in promoting STEM education by establishing relationships with and through the Whitaker Center. As a result of the speech, the Naples Community Hospital has established a new partnership with researchers in the School of Engineering and College of Health Professions at FGCU. A technology company expressed interest in working with FGCU on innovative use of mobile communication for education. A partnership is in the works between Junior Achievement, Bioflorida and the Whitaker Center to recruit promising local students to FGCU.

Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures

The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University will be hosting its annual Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures on Friday, April 1, 2011. The event will be in its traditional two-lecture format. One will take place on the campus of FGCU early in the day, and the other will take place in the evening on Sanibel Island. The topic of both lectures is “The Africa You Don’t Know: A Woman’s Perspective.”

Both events will feature Akpezi Ogbuigwe of Nigeria, global head of Environmental Education and Training for the United Nations Environment Programme. Heila Lotz-Sisitka of South Africa, Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainability at Rhodes University, has also been confirmed as a speaker.

The lecture on FGCU’s campus will be held in the WGCU studios. The time is to be announced. The Sanibel lecture will be held at Saint Michael and All Angels Church, 2304 Periwinkle Way on Friday, April 1, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

All lectures are free and open to the public. For further information, please contact the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at (239) 590-7492 or visit www.fgcu.edu/cese
No Age Limit To Join the FGCU Wings Of Hope Florida Panther Posse

What happens when the Arbor Trace of Naples Senior citizen community partners with Naples Park Elementary 4th grade Panther Posse at a FGCU Wings of Hope Florida Panther Posse program? A lot of learning, fun, and excitement! The partnership enabled everyone to learn about the endangered Florida panther, water conservation, and South Florida wildlife. We ended the program with a Florida panther/Water hip-hop dance.

The young seniors of Arbor Trace of Naples, a beautiful senior citizen community surrounded by one of Naples unspoiled natural area and preserves, visited the new Wings of Hope Florida panther classroom last December, along with 25 Naples Park Elementary 4th graders, and participated in the Florida Panther posse program.

The 4th grade students assisted the seniors in rotating around the five challenges and filling out the program science journal. All of the participants were divided into five wildlife teams that connected the young students with the senior students. The FGCU Wings of Hope college students presented the program.

After the program, everyone traveled over to the FGCU Fresh Food Company and had a fun time talking, laughing, eating ice cream and pizza, in that order. After lunch, the Arbor Trace senior students and the Naples Park posse experienced a FGCU campus tour by the Wings of Hope student staff. Overall, the event fostered an environment to build bridges of hope for wildlife and the environment, with education and awareness on the beautiful Florida Gulf Coast University campus.
Bower School of Music Faculty

Adjunct teacher of string music education methods Judy Evans has been selected for the Florida chapter of the American String Teachers Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Additionally, the Pine Crest School has been selected for the Outstanding Educational Support Award, recognizing in part the creation of the Mariachi Program Judy started there that utilizes our students!

Bower School of Music Students

The MTNA State Competitions in Bradenton saw FGCU’s pianistic “clean sweep” of wins. Hyae-jin Hwang won First Place in the Young Artist category (ages 19-26), Priscila Navarro won First Place in the Senior category (ages 15-19) and Paul Wright and Priscila Navarro won First Place in the Piano Duet category. They also had a distinguished jury headed by Alexander Korbin (winner of the Van Cliburn Competition) as well as a former faculty member at Juilliard. They went on to compete in the Regional Competition against the winners of nine states in Columbus, Georgia on January 15th. Carolyn Greiner represented the state of Florida at the Music Teachers National Association regional Young Artist competition in the Voice division at this competition. Priscila Navarro won the Senior Competition and joined Paul Wright to win the Duet Competition. They will both now compete in the finals in Milwaukee at the end of March. The competition was notably tough this year with many superbly qualified contestants (including many graduate students) from all over the state. All three students deserve enormous credit for the months of diligent work they put into reaching this goal.

Our voice and piano students performed an Opera Gala concert for the Naples Opera Society January 11 at the Norris Center in Naples. The Naples Opera Society donated $300 to sponsor a vocal master class.

Spring 2011 Schedule

February 20  Choral Concert at 3:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall
February 22  String Orchestra Concert
             7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom
February 25  Guest Chamber Ensemble enhake at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall
March 15    Guest Lecture “Musical Borrowing, or Curious Coincidence?: Testing the Evidence”
             J. Peter Burkholder, Distinguished Prof. and Chair of Musicology at Indiana University
             7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall
March 18    President’s Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall
March 29 & 31 Opera Workshop Scenes and One-Acts
             7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall
April 3     Faculty & Guest Artist Recital “Jazz Improvisation”
             David Thurmaier, guitar; Doug Russo, bassist
             7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall
April 5     Instrumental Chamber Recital
             7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom
April 7     Two Piano Concert Michael Baron & Students
             7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall
April 10    Choral Concert at 3:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall
April 20    Symphony/String Orchestra Concert
             7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom
April 21    Wind Orchestra Concert
             7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom
April 25    Symphonic Band Concert
             7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom
**Student Highlights**

Alumna **Tara Arroyo** will begin a new position as the Fort Myers marketing/fundraising specialist rep for Platinum Fundraising, a marketing firm that specializes in fundraising for schools, nonprofit organizations, and athletic sports teams. As the marketing/fundraising specialist for Platinum Fundraising, she will be responsible for generating new contacts while maintaining already established relationships with current customers. She will be promoting and organizing the “slice the price” fundraiser, designed to enhance public relations between Domino’s Pizza and Schools, nonprofit organizations and youth leagues while at the same time, helping them with their financial needs for schools and nonprofit organizations that are in need of money.

Twelve of our math students went to the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society (JMM) and the Mathematical Association of America, the largest convention of mathematicians in the country, in New Orleans in January. The students drove 791 miles straight through to New Orleans, and attended three days packed full of talks given by mathematicians from across the globe. After having been a part of such an experience, a few Math Club members have made efforts towards presenting their own research at future conferences and especially hope to do so at the 2012 JMM. Says **Tyler Thomas**, President of the Math Club, “I was surprised when 18 students were climbing up the walls for a chance to attend this year's Joint Mathematics Meeting. After our first day of talks, we were all stunned—at how many people share out interests, the variety of presentations, and how much these mathematicians had accomplished. For the rest of our stay, every day was an opportunity to fall in love with math all over again.”

A communications major and English & creative writing minor student, **Caitlin Roper**, has had two poems accepted for publication in The Battered Suitcase and The Ramshackle Review in Spring of 2011. Caitlin says “My advice to anyone who is a beginner or casually writing poetry (i.e. not in an MFA program) and wants to publish is, simply, to start small. Don’t try to go after the big names like Poetry Magazine, Tinhouse, or The New Yorker (I’ve tried!). You’ll be competing with a much larger writer pool and, more likely than not, the professionals will win out. There are thousands of journals that range from large university reviews to small one-man online shows. A start is a start, and you can’t beat the excitement of reading ‘Dear ____, we’d be happy to publish your poem!’ I recommend the website [www.duotrope.com](http://www.duotrope.com) for those looking to research possible places to publish their work (fiction or poetry).”

**Casey Zakroff: A CAS “Renaissance” Student Completes a Summer Research Program with NASA**

Many CAS faculty know **Casey Zakroff**, a CAS student majoring in Biology, from a variety of classes. Casey is a true “Renaissance” person and has a broad range of interests and excels at a variety of subjects within the arts and sciences, including archaeology, software engineering, and zoology. Most recently, he obtained a competitive summer research position at NASA. Casey and another FGCU student, **Erin Maguire** attended the program last summer. Erin recently graduated from FGCU in spring 2010 with a BS in Marine Science.

Casey applied and was accepted to the NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) through NSERC (National Suborbital Education and Research Center, under NASA Earth Sciences) and the University of North Dakota. The participating students were split into three research groups representing the main systems explored in NASA Earth Sciences: the Land (doing a project on using remote sensing to measure evapotranspiration in almond orchards), the Air (doing air composition studies over the San Joaquin Valley), and the Ocean. Casey worked in the Ocean group. The Ocean group’s overall project was using remote sensing to take spectroscopic measurements over the Kelp Beds of the Santa Barbara Channel.

All the projects involved collecting data via science flights aboard the NSERC DC-8, part of the NASA airborne science fleet. Each student had to create an individual project using the data that was obtained. A couple of weeks were spent analyzing the data using GIS techniques and programs like ENVI to utilize the various wavelengths of energy captured by the remote sensor. Casey’s project involved creating a habitat map of some of the kelp beds using ecological parameters from NOAA (depth) and from the spectroscopic data (sea surface temperature) and combining that data with kelp density to then apply shape and cluster metrics to map the kelp beds and determine the distribution of sub-habitat zones within them.

All the research students presented their projects at the end of the internship in professional conference PowerPoint presentations. One student from each of the three groups was chosen as the best project/presentation in the category and Casey was selected to represent the Ocean group. He was flown to San Francisco for the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting, and presented his project at NASAs booth at the conference.

If you would like to view the student presentations, including Casey’s, visit: [http://www.nserc.und.edu/learning/SARPmm.html?2010](http://www.nserc.und.edu/learning/SARPmm.html?2010)
Nominees Sought for Alumni Awards

Each year, the Alumni Association Board of Directors honors a distinguished graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University with the prestigious Alumna/Alumnus Award of Distinction.

Qualified nominees for the Alumna/Alumnus Award of Distinction will have noteworthy professional careers and will have distinguished themselves through ongoing service to the community and the University.

The 2011 award recipient will join the seven previously honored alumni, who include: Ricky Pires, ’00 (2010 recipient), Laura Holquist, ’00 (2009 recipient); Nola Theiss, ’02 (2009 recipient); Guenther Gosch, ’03 (2007 recipient); Robert Mulhere, ’01 (2006 recipient); Dr. Allen Weiss, ’01 (2005 recipient), and Dr. John Little, ’03 (2004 recipient).

The association is seeking nominations for this year’s award and for the Soaring Eagles Society Award.

The Soaring Eagles Society award will honor up to five alumni, one from each of the University’s five colleges.

Alumni Highlights:

Tammy Benton, ’03 (Psychology), and Brian Benton welcomed their daughter, Willa Emmalynn, on May 21. She weighed 8 pounds and 6 ounces. The couple has two other children.

Megan Brewbaker, ’09 (Resort and Hospitality Management), and Michael Southwick, ’08 (Communication) were married on May 15 at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Bradenton with a Disney themed wedding. They work at Walt Disney World and Universal Studios in Orlando.

Briana (Diercks) Hockett, ’06 (Psychology) and Neal Hockett welcomed the birth of their daughter, Reagan Leigh, on Sept. 23.

Blake Scates, ’07(Communication), is employed with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a program analyst in the Office of the Commissioner in Silver Spring, MD.

In memoriam

Tim McCarthy, ’09 (Liberal Studies), died Oct. 9. He served as coordinator of computer classroom and student computing labs at FGCU. He was also a talented musician. He played the guitar, provided vocals and wrote several worship songs as a member of the Church Praise and Worship Team at First Assembly Ministries in Naples. McCarthy is survived by his brothers, Dan and Tom McCarthy; and sister, Nancy McCarthy and was predeceased by his wife, Kelly, who died on Aug. 1.
Alumni Association Happenings:

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

**March 2: Baseball Tailgate**
5:30 p.m., Swanson Stadium, FGCU campus
Team up with fellow alumni for a tailgate party then help cheer on the Eagles baseball team as they take on the University of Michigan. (Game time is 6:30 p.m.)

**March 8: Webinar Series: “Career Advice” Noon, Virtual**
Join fellow Eagles online for a free presentation on the top 10 questions most frequently asked of job seekers.

**April 6: Battle of the Birds 7 p.m., Hammond Stadium, 4100 6 Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers**
Cheer on Eagle baseball as they take on the University of Miami. Exclusive alumni ticket package available.

**April 6: Alumni/Student Etiquette Dinner 6 p.m., Embassy Suites (Estero)**
Learn proper etiquette for business meals with employers. Season speaker, Nonnie Owens, will educate you on the right way to leave a lasting impression. Enjoy a five course meal while networking with current students and fellow alumni. Space is limited.

**April 21: Spring Senior Projects 5 p.m., FGCU Art Gallery**
Join graduating art majors as they unveil their projects during the opening reception.

**June 23: Summer Soirée 6 p.m., Location TBD**
Celebrate the start of summer with an array of appetizers while networking with fellow alumni, colleagues and friends. Bring a business card for a chance to win an Eagle alumni souvenir.

Learn the latest FGCU Alumni news.
Receive @FGCU Updates when you update your e-mail online at www.fgcu.edu/alumni.

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

**Teaching Innovation Series**
March 25 at 3:00 pm in AB7 115

**Dean's Challenge on Faculty & Staff Appreciation night**
February 21

**Spring break**
March 7-11

**State of the College Meeting**
March 18, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in AB5 112

**Last Day to Drop/Withdraw without Academic Penalty**
March 25 at 5:00 pm

**Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture**
April 1
On campus and on Sanibel Island

The CAS Quarterly
Managing Editor, Nicolette Costantino
Academic Building 7 Rm. 417
Phone: (239) 590-7205
E-mail: ncostantino@fgcu.edu

Graphic Designer, bob klein
E-mail: bklein@fgcu.edu

Contributing editors
Lindsey Touchette
Jerry Ellis
Patricia Rice
Sheila Bolduc-Simpson
Phil Allman
Don Duke
Carol Fulton
Jo Ann Wilson
Terry Dubetz
Rebecca Totaro
Lyn Millner
Irvin Winsboro
Sharon Isern
Ricky Pires
Tricia Fay
Jeanie Darnell
Michael Baron
Susan Moniz
Michael Verdi
Tyler Thomas

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