

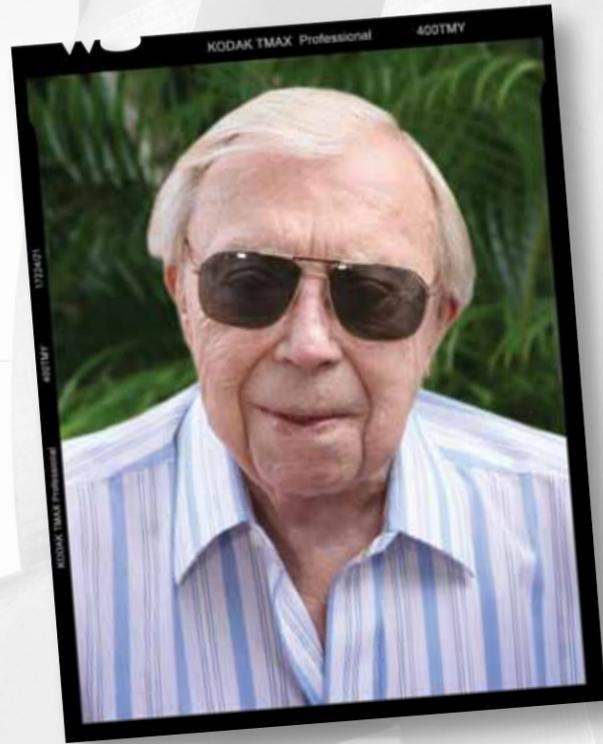
FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

# Pinnacle

SUMMER 2010

Professor helps protect Ghana's  
**endangered  
sea turtles**

**FGCU's star pitcher** scores pro contract  
**Campus serves as canvas** for artistic expression  
**Study abroad** provides passport to self discovery



In Memoriam  
**Raymond L. Lutgert**  
 1919-2010

Florida Gulf Coast University honors the memory of Raymond L. Lutgert for his philanthropy and vision. Through his leadership and generosity in support of Lutgert College of Business and Lutgert Hall, he leaves an enduring legacy that will benefit students in perpetuity. ♦

## Fielding the question of football

There's no disputing that Florida Gulf Coast University's athletics program has had a short, but impressive, history.

We were a powerhouse in NCAA Division II, and we've maintained our competitiveness as we've transitioned into Division I, as evidenced by the strong record of our women's volleyball team, men's baseball leading the A-Sun three years in a row, Coach Dave Tollett winning top A-Sun coach for three years running, women's basketball going to the postseason Women's National Invitation Tournament each year and the women's swimming and diving team dominating its sport.

With pitcher Chris Sale selected 13th in the Major League Baseball draft this year, it's given the University great national visibility, boosting our ability to recruit promising student-athletes for all of our teams.

In the three years since I became president of Florida Gulf Coast University, almost every time I've given a speech I've been asked about football. Since this is our last year of transition to Division I, I have decided that this would be an appropriate time to conduct a study on the feasibility of adding football to our athletic program at some point in the future. This study will be done using private donor funds, not state money. We must approach the question of adding a football program carefully, examining the many factors that enter into such a momentous decision.

That is why we have asked Carr Sports Associates to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study that will focus on two major components: First, to assess the financial status of the current athletics program and what it will take for FGCU's existing teams to enhance their competitiveness in Division I and the Atlantic Sun Conference. And, second, to determine what adding football to that would mean.

Where our existing athletics programs are concerned, we must find out what it will take to stand on a level playing field with the other Atlantic Sun Conference teams. We don't yet have the full complement of scholarships or the recruiting budgets that other A-Sun teams have.

Once we assess those needs, then we can determine what creating a football program would entail. We're not looking simply at one-time expenses, such as building a stadium, but also how to use that facility. Consider that football might bring six or seven home games each year to a stadium costing more than \$50 million. We would need to formulate a plan to secure the revenues that will support the continued operation and upkeep of that stadium.

There are other factors that must be considered. Among them is compliance with Title IX requirements. When



you have upwards of 65 male football players coming into a program, that will require expanding women's sports in order to ensure gender equity.

Additionally, there are all the costs associated with football itself. Besides the operation of the stadium, there would be salaries for coaches, additional support staff, increased marketing costs, increased travel budgets and increased resources for scholarships.

Beyond the financial impacts, there are also important considerations regarding campus culture. Intercollegiate football has the potential to overshadow other athletic teams that have worked hard, excelled and garnered followings.

We must weigh all of the aforementioned factors and more as we ponder the prospect of bringing NCAA Division I football to FGCU.

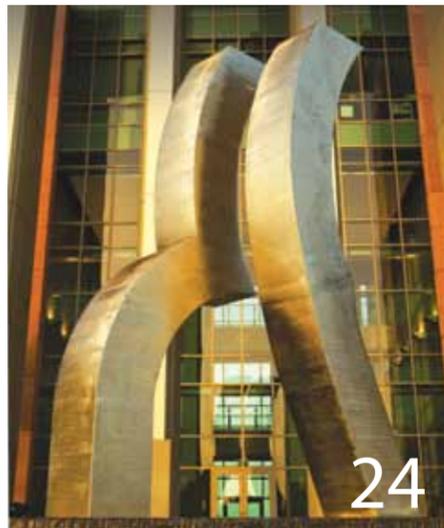
*Wilson G. Bradshaw, Ph.D.*  
 President  
 Florida Gulf Coast University

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMER 2010 / VOLUME 4 / ISSUE 4



14



24



32

## 6 TURTLE TOURISM

FGCU's Phil Allman treks to Ghana every winter in an effort to save nation's endangered sea creatures

## 14 FAR-REACHING LESSONS

A growing number of college students travel abroad to live and learn

## 22 CONFESSIONS OF A POET

Award-winning writer Jesse Millner finds inspiration deep within

## 24 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Original art works enhance campus and spark philosophical debate

## 32 STRIKING IT BIG

Picked 13th overall in this year's baseball draft, FGCU pitcher Chris Sale now plays ball with the pros

## 40 ALUMNA OF DISTINCTION

Ricky Pires spreads the gospel of a better world through her Wings of Hope program

## DEPARTMENTS

President's Message .....	1
Editor's Corner .....	3
Sports Roundup .....	34
Philanthropy .....	36
Alumni News .....	40
Class Notes .....	44
Professional Briefs .....	46
Parting Shot .....	48

**ON THE COVER:** A leatherback turtle returns to the sea after laying her eggs on the beaches of Ghana, Africa.  
PHOTO BY PHIL ALLMAN

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

# Starfish, turtles, potcakes and panthers

As I watch the gut-wrenching poisoning of the Gulf and the endless pain of the Haitian people struggling to recover from January's devastating earthquake, I think about the lesson of the single starfish.

It's hard to do when the Gulf is awash in horror: 11 workers dead or missing. An oil slick stretches 130 miles by 70 miles. Close to 46,000 square miles – 19 percent of the Gulf – is closed to fishing. More than 12,000 Louisiana residents out of work. Hundreds of sea turtles, birds injured or killed.

And then there are the quarter-million people who died in Haiti's earthquake. Another 2 million were displaced, with many still living in tents and struggling to survive.

In the face of such enormous crises, it's difficult to see how any one of us can make a difference.

That's where the fable of the starfish comes in:

A man walking the beach comes upon hundreds of starfish that have washed ashore overnight and are now stranded on the sand where they will surely die.

A young boy stands among them, tossing them into the surf one by one.

"Why are you bothering to throw a few back when so many have washed up?" the man asks him. "What difference will it make?"

The young boy picks up another starfish, gently tosses it into the water and says, "It makes a difference to that one."

I think about that starfish as I anguish over the day's headlines and as I read the stories that appear in this issue of Pinnacle.

There's biology professor Phil Allman who sacrifices a comfortable Christmas at home with his wife and family each year. Instead, he makes the long journey to Ghana where he's singlehandedly launched a campaign to save endangered



sea turtles, encouraging local scientists to join him and residents to embrace an eco-tourism turtle-watching program rather than eating them into extinction.

Ricky Pires refused to stand by and watch the critically endangered Florida panther disappear. So she went back to school in midlife, then developed a program to teach schoolchildren to love panthers and the Southwest Florida environment. In a decade, she's spread her urgent message to some 100,000 people. And she's not done yet.

Alyssa Del Campo and Maria Barbero fell in love with potcakes, the homeless dogs of the Caribbean, during a study-abroad trip. Rather than resign themselves to feeling bad but doing nothing, they and other FGCU students banded together to form Project Potcake, an organization aimed at finding homes for as many of the stray pups as possible while also funding sterilization and veterinary care for those that remain at large.

None of these efforts will change what's happening in the Gulf or in Haiti. But, like the lesson of the starfish, they remind us that doing something matters and, no matter how small the effort, it's better than doing nothing at all.

*Karen Feldman*  
Karen Feldman,  
Pinnacle Editor

## FGCU explores feasibility of football

The possibility of football at FGCU has been talked about for years. In an effort to determine just what it would take to make it a reality, FGCU has commissioned a feasibility study to be conducted by Gainesville-based consultant Carr Sports Authority, which completed similar studies for Florida Atlantic, Florida International and South Florida universities, all of which now have teams.

The study will analyze startup costs, the University's ability to come up with that money, how to ensure Title IX gender equity in athletics, and what the impact would be on the University's 14 existing athletic teams.

"I don't think we have to study the desirability of football; that's been made clear," says FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw. "But I don't think we've done enough to know just what the costs and

other implications are."

The study will be paid for by private donors.

Bradshaw cautions this doesn't mean football is on its way to FGCU.

"This is not a plan to do football," he says. "This is a study to determine what it would take to create a fully competitive Division I athletics program as well as what it would take to add football." ♦

## "UnspOILed" debuts at critical moment

The timing couldn't have been more ironic. "UnspOILed: Florida Writers Speak for Florida's Coast," was supposed to be a cautionary tome, an anthology by 38 writers weighing in against oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

None of the authors could have known their worst nightmare would become reality in the form of the BP oil disaster just before the book's release.

"Just as our project comes to fruition, we are heartbroken, terrified and furious," says co-editor Susan Cerulean, a Tallahassee writer. "But we are not powerless. Prior to the catastrophe there was no unified voice to match the lobbying power of big oil. We hope that our book will help generate support in favor of protecting our most precious

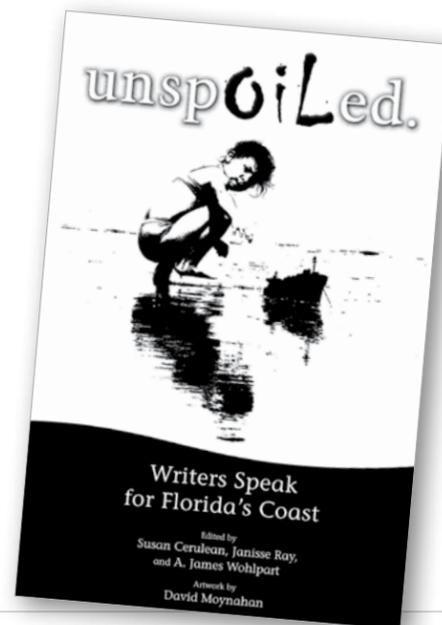
coastline."

That's been the authors' intent from the start, says A. James Wohlpart, an FGCU environmental literature professor and one of the book's editors.

"UnspOILed" is a love story, a collection of 38 essays, poems and even a short story about Florida's Gulf of Mexico, and a plea for its protection," he says.

Published in June by the Tallahassee-based Red Hills Writers Project, the book contains contributions by several FGCU faculty members, including Bill Hammond (an emeritus professor), Myra Mendible, Michael Savarese and Sasha Wohlpart.

Copies of the book are available for \$9.99 plus \$3 postage. Order at [www.unspoiledbook.com](http://www.unspoiledbook.com). ♦



## Founder's Cup tees off Oct. 15



The 19th annual Florida Gulf Coast University Founder's Cup will take place Friday, Oct. 15, at Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples. Proceeds benefit the FGCU Foundation, which provides funds to enhance scientific, educational and athletic programs related to the University's mission.

The popular event has raised more than \$900,000 since its inception.

Activities begin at 11:30 a.m. with a buffet lunch at the clubhouse. Golf play begins at 1:15

p.m. with a shotgun start on two of Grey Oaks' championship courses, followed by a dinner buffet and awards reception.

Registration is \$2,000 per foursome or \$500 for individuals. Sponsorship is available for \$2,500 and includes a four-player team and logo on a sponsors golf tower. Golf towel sponsorships are \$750.

Grey Oaks is off Airport Pulling Road. For details, contact Michele Kroffke at (239) 590-1074 or [mkroffke@fgcu.edu](mailto:mkroffke@fgcu.edu). ♦

## Raymond Lutgert leaves multi-faceted legacy

Just as his sculpture "Human Race" soars toward the heavens, so did Raymond L. Lutgert's vision.

The Naples developer, artist and philanthropist died May 28. He was 90.

"The University has lost a good friend," says Florida Gulf Coast University President Wilson G. Bradshaw. "Raymond and Beverly Lutgert generously gave \$5 million for the College of Business. That was matched by the state and served as encouragement for other donor gifts, resulting in our ability to construct the \$19.4-million Lutgert Hall. The Lutgerts' gift enhances the University's resources, enabling it to provide a world-class education for the business leaders of tomorrow."

The hall, completed in 2008, is home to the Lutgert College of Business.

Lutgert began his professional life working at his father's building materials yard. Later, he got involved in real estate in the Chicago area before moving south to Naples. In 1964, he purchased 800 acres between U.S. 41 and the Gulf of Mexico, establishing Naples' first planned unit development, known today as Park Shore.

His firm went on to develop numerous residential and commercial projects including The Village on Venetian Bay, Neapolitan Way, Estuary at Grey Oaks, Crossroads Market, Promenade Shops at Bonita Bay and the Northern Trust office building. He also created Linville Ridge, a 1,600-acre golf course community in the mountains of western North Carolina. Lutgert Companies eventually branched out into insurance and real estate, among other ventures. His son, Scott, now runs the company and serves as chair of the FGCU Board of Trustees.

Lutgert felt the need to give back



Raymond Lutgert in 1991 with his artwork.

to the community and did so in grand style, supporting a wide range of charitable causes, FGCU among them.

The Raymond L. Lutgert Cancer Center at NCH Healthcare bears his name because of his generous support, something he felt compelled to do after losing both parents to the disease and surviving it himself. He also supported causes such as United Way, Naplescape, the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County, YMCA and the Collier County Education Foundation.

He was honored by Junior Achievement as a business Leadership Hall of Fame Laureate in 1993. FGCU bestowed upon him the

Doctor of Laws honorary degree in December 2005.

Although he was 65 when he discovered his talent as an artist while taking a course at Appalachian State University, he was no dilettante. He studied hard and created large, angular metal sculptures that garnered acclaim from art critics and museum curators. Besides "Human Race," which graces both Lutgert Hall and Venetian Village, his works also stand at the Naples campus of Edison State College and Northern Trust.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly; son, Scott, and his wife, Simone; son, Larry; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. ♦



Researcher patiently  
builds Ghana's  
turtle population  
through eco-tourism

# SLOW & STEADY

By Ken Maguire  
Photos by Phil Allman



**A** DA FOAH, Ghana – Phil Allman's beloved sea turtles are under attack. Poachers sell them for a few dollars in the local market. Hungry dogs and pigs roam the beaches of this West African village searching for buried turtle eggs. Convenience store plastic bags kill off leatherbacks, which mistake them for jellyfish, while female turtles swimming toward the beach die when they become tangled in fishing nets. How does Allman, an assistant professor in Florida Gulf Coast University's Department of Biological Sciences, feel about it? Optimistic, of course.

ABOVE: An olive ridley sea turtle uses all four flippers to cover the eggs in her nest with sand.

RIGHT: An olive ridley sea turtle deposits eggs the size of ping pong balls into the nest she has dug.

TOP RIGHT: A leatherback sea turtle hatchling emerges from the nest cavity that's about 3 feet below the surface.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A leatherback sea turtle, fitted with a satellite transmitter, returns to sea after depositing her eggs.





ABOVE: Phil Allman and children from the village stand by a sign advertising sea-turtle tours in Ada Foah.

RIGHT: Andrews Agyekumhene of the Ghana Wildlife Division counts the number of eggs being deposited by a leatherback sea turtle. Note the smaller yolkless eggs on top that are commonly laid at the end of the nesting process.

“They’re very resilient. They’ve been on earth for a very, very long time,” said Allman, 35, during an interview this past nesting season. “So I’m always optimistic that every little thing we do will make a big impact. If they’ve been able to hang on for this long, then just a little bit of effort will hopefully turn their population trends around.”

His “little bit” is a first-of-its-kind eco-tourism and turtle conservation program in Ghana, whose coastline is better known for slave forts and now, oil exploration. Today, Europeans, Americans and Ghanaians alike are adding turtle walks to their itineraries.

Allman helps persuade villagers that protecting turtles – rather than eating or selling them – is in their economic interest because more tourists mean

more business for hotels and restaurants and, consequently, more jobs.

Most people don’t get an opportunity to watch some of Earth’s oldest creatures pull themselves out of the ocean under a star-filled sky – nesting occurs at night – to lay eggs in the sand.

The female turtle digs a circular chamber using her rear flippers. Then she deposits 70 to 150 eggs. Next, the turtle covers the chamber and spends 15 minutes tossing about more sand to disguise it from predators. Satisfied, she returns to the ocean. Hatchlings emerge in about two months and make an immediate run to the water.

“The opportunity to witness a nesting sea turtle is essentially an opportunity to spend an evening walking a tropical beach, possibly in the moonlight with a

sea breeze, to look for something that’s very rare and very special,” Allman said.

It’s not something you can watch at places like Sea World.

“To see a sea turtle you just have to work a little harder and there’s this sort of mystery involved with them because it’s not like a dolphin that you see frequently on TV,” he said. “I think that really draws people to the beach.”

Judging by the numbers, he may be on to something.

More than 150 tourists signed up for the \$5 turtle walk this past season, which ran November to March, according to Dickson Agyeman, Ghana Wildlife’s regional manager. That’s up from just three in 2006. Agyeman started the turtle walks 10 years ago but had no advertising budget.

Matilda Yoosen and husband, Jos Gubbels, of Holland watched an olive ridley prepare a nesting area in the sand.

“We had eggs in our hands,” Matilda said. “It was very nice.”

Allman and his team work quietly behind the turtle to avoid disturbing her. The field crew measures the turtle and tries to record the number of eggs laid, allowing tourists to carefully hold an egg before the turtle buries the chamber.

A generation ago, five sea turtle species nested on Ghana’s beaches. Today there are just three: leatherbacks, olive ridleys and green turtles. Allman and his fellow researchers want to protect those that remain.

The project began four years ago when Allman arrived in this fishing village 50

miles east of Accra, the capital city.

A Fulbright scholar with a doctorate from Ohio University, he launched the first long-term research project tracking population and nesting trends in Ghana. He would walk the beaches each night tagging as many turtles as he could find, collecting data on species, size and location. His wife, Karyn, who is also a biologist, helped him tag turtles the first year. She also organized a beach cleanup, as solid waste poses a serious threat to turtles.

But Allman’s marine biology degrees couldn’t prepare him for all the other skills required to make a success of the project, which is a joint effort with the University of Ghana.

Allman wears unofficial hats as lobbyist, public relations specialist,

PHOTOS BY KEN MAGUIRE



## OIL JUST ONE OF MANY THREATS TO ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES

Beaches along the Gulf of Mexico and Ghana have more in common than just being nesting areas for endangered sea turtles.

They're also near offshore oil pumping operations. And they pose risks, as the April BP oil spill highlights. Ghana discovered oil in 2007, and is scheduled to begin pumping by the end of the year.

But oil is just one of many threats, and not the most dangerous to sea turtles, according to FGCU Assistant Professor Phil Allman and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Interactions with fisheries, illegal poaching, coastal development and solid waste all have a greater impact on sea turtle populations than oil spills do," said Allman, a marine biologist who manages a turtle conservation project in Ghana.

The small plastic bags that are ubiquitous across Africa often end up in the ocean. Leatherback turtles mistake them for jellyfish, their main source of food.

"They'll accumulate in the stomach," he said. "Over time, the stomach will fill with plastic and other material and the animal will have the sensation that it's full and so it will not eat. It essentially slowly starves to death because it's not getting nutrients."

Shrimpers – not oil – were blamed for 21 sea turtle deaths near Galveston, Texas, not long after the BP oil explosion April 20.

But the oil has also taken its toll, with between 125 million and 214 million gallons flowing into the Gulf from the untapped well as of July 13.

Between April 30 and July 10, 450 dead stranded sea turtles were found in the spill site, according to NOAA.

The agency reports that 147 stranded or captured turtles found during that period had visible evidence of oil.

Oil poses a continuing threat, as was the case after the Gulf's largest previous spill. The Ixtoc I spill in 1979 off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula sent 140 million gallons of oil into the water near the nesting area of Kemp's ridley sea turtles, according to a 2003 NOAA report titled "Oil and Sea Turtles."

In response, U.S. and Mexican wildlife officials airlifted 9,000 turtle hatchlings to clean water about 15 miles offshore.

For turtles that survive, long-term damage may include respiratory problems, kidney and brain damage and decreased reproductive capability. Sea turtles – like whales, dolphins and manatees – are air breathers and must rise to the surface, exposing them to inhalation of oil or dispersants.

Sea turtles are highly migratory and so may be able to avoid some of the threats posed by an oil spill. They may nest in one part of the world but can swim thousands of miles to mating or feeding areas.

"The impact that it has on sea turtles is going to be dependent on the location of the spill and the timing of the spill with regard to sea turtle nesting activity," Allman said.

With 335 miles of coastline, Ghana has established an Environmental Advisory Council, headed by its vice president. The group's goal is to make sure no corners are cut.

"My hope is that oil companies working in Ghana are utilizing the most updated technologies to minimize the risks and to ensure safety procedures are in place to address accidents that may occur in the future," Allman said. ♦

fundraiser, even plumber. He successfully lobbied the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to donate two ATVs that allow his team to cover many more miles of beach each night to find turtles. He launched HATCH (Hlami Association for Turtle Conservation and Hope), a nonprofit to raise money for the project, and maintains its website. He contacted Ghana travel guidebooks, which publish turtle walk information. And he's Mr. Fix-It when pipes break at the Ada Foah "turtle house" rented by the University of Ghana and used by Allman and fellow researchers during nesting seasons.

Despite juggling so many functions, enduring sporadic electricity and internet service and spending the December holidays far from his wife, it's clear Allman loves what he does.

The North Carolina native knew early on that he would become a marine biologist.

While growing up in China Grove, N.C. – population 4,220 – he saw the movie "Jaws." And that was it.

"I wanted to be on the boat catching Jaws," he said. "So through middle and high school I knew I wanted to go into marine biology."

While studying at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, he landed an internship tagging loggerhead sea turtles on Bald Head Island.

"It was a great summer," he said. "I learned a lot about the conservation needs of the animals and the importance of sea turtles in our oceans. I lost interest in sharks and put my efforts into sea turtles." Now he strives to infuse others with that same zeal.

Andrews Agyekumhene, who worked on his thesis in Ada Foah, credits Allman with teaching him nearly everything he knows about sea turtles. He's also impressed by Allman's moral leadership.

"His humility, transparency, frankness, hard work, time-consciousness and kindness are but a few of the good qualities he has shown over the years," said Agyekumhene, now a Ghana Wildlife officer. "I have seen him clean the research house, sweep, cook and run around to get stuff done for the students



TOP: Phil Allman, right, gently places a satellite transmitter on an olive ridley sea turtle.



LEFT: Working only with a dim red light so as not to disturb the turtles, Phil and Karyn Allman record nesting data.





KEN MAGUIRE

and the volunteers. Phil has spent his own money on several occasions to furnish the house – providing beds, mattresses, cooking utensils.”

Besides spending each December in Ada Foah, Allman devotes time to selecting researchers and volunteers many months before each nesting season.

He hopes to launch similar projects elsewhere in Ghana and West Africa.

A week before Christmas, a team from the University of Cape Coast spent two nights at the turtle house and accompanied Allman on the tagging runs. They’re now looking for students to train under Allman and then emulate

## FIND OUT MORE

Learn more about HATCH (Hlami Association for Turtle Conservation and Hope), the non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing sea turtle conservation in Ghana, at [www.hlami.org](http://www.hlami.org).

his project along Ghana’s central and western coasts.

“We’ve learned quite a lot,” said K.A. Monney, a professor in Cape Coast’s entomology and wildlife department, the morning after witnessing Allman tag a 1,700-pound leatherback. “I didn’t know much about his background, but then I realized he’s very serious, he’s very committed to the job that he is doing.”

Record keeping and public relations are critically important, Monney said.

“In our part of the world establishing a very good community relationship with the scientific community is paramount,” he said. “The greatest contribution he is making to us is the record keeping. We have the evidence. Come 10 years and the situation has changed, I hope for the better, we have this baseline. This line is always very important in ecology.”

Sustaining the project is vital, Allman said, because turtles only nest every two to three years. Gathering just a few years of data won’t be helpful. This past nesting season was very busy – on average seven turtles per night – but the

two previous seasons were quiet. Turtles can nest as many as eight times a season, producing as many as 800 eggs. Those surviving into adulthood can live as long as 100 years.

Last season, Allman’s team attached satellite tags to four olive ridleys to track migration patterns. Sea turtles can swim thousands of miles between feeding and nesting areas. They nest in tropical and sub-tropical areas, including beaches in Southwest Florida, elsewhere in the state and in other states bordering the Gulf of Mexico.

Despite having grown up in Ghana, Monney had never seen a sea turtle before witnessing the leatherback drop 74 eggs into the sand. That night, he also saw an olive ridley.

“I didn’t consider that it’s such a huge monster, especially the leatherback,” he said. Monney’s reaction is typical: Very few Ghanaians are aware of the sea turtle activity on their own beaches. E-mails to Allman’s website include many messages from Ghanaians as well as European and American travelers. “I never expected to get so many e-mails from Ghanaians,” he said. “Many of the e-mails I receive are from Ghanaians indicating they never knew sea turtles were in Ghana, and that a sea turtle kind of tourism was available in West Africa.”

In addition to expansion along the Ghanaian coast, Allman has been talking to Nigerian researchers who want to learn about his project. He’s discovered a strong willingness to help

the turtles, but few opportunities for local researchers to learn how to do so. One possibility is to host the Nigerians at the Ada Foah house and train them how to tag turtles and collect data.

The more scientists who learn how to conduct the research, the more likely the program is to grow and prosper. “I hope this project can serve as a model conservation program,” he said, “one that incorporates biological research, community education and ecotourism in a way that benefits sea turtle populations while simultaneously benefiting the local communities that depend on marine resources for their livelihoods.” ♦

— Ken Maguire is a former staff writer for *The Associated Press* currently working in Ghana. He lives in Togo.

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## SEA TURTLES 101



### OLIVE RIDLEY

**Size:** Can grow to more than 3 feet in length and about 100 pounds

**Appearance:** Olive green color, shell has seven vertebral scales running down the middle of the carapace (shell)

**Food:** Primarily shellfish, snails and slugs

**Status:** Threatened



### LEATHERBACK

**Size:** The largest living turtle, it can grow to 8 feet in length and 2,000 pounds

**Appearance:** Leathery shell with prominent keel running down the center flanked by three more keels on each side; skin typically black with white spots

**Food:** Jellyfish is their favorite food

**Status:** Endangered in Atlantic Ocean; critically endangered in the Pacific Ocean



### GREEN SEA TURTLE

**Size:** About 4 feet in length and as much as 440 pounds

**Appearance:** Shell can range from rusty red-brown to light brown with darker molting; two large oblong preocular scales between their eyes

**Food:** Primarily herbivorous, feeding on sea grasses and marine algae

**Status:** Endangered in some parts of the world, threatened in others



# GLOBAL classroom

Students learn about world and themselves through study-abroad programs

Tyler Silverman planned to spend one semester of his sophomore year studying in Costa Rica, immersing himself in another culture, learning Spanish and earning elective credits outside his hospitality major at Florida Gulf Coast University.

But within weeks of arriving for the fall 2008 semester at Universidad Interamericana in the central Costa Rican town of Heredia, Silverman changed his plans. Instead of a semester, Silverman, 21, decided to stay for a full school year.

He formed new friends from around the world, lived with a local family and racked up several peak life experiences, including bungee-jumping into a gorge.

"Every day was a new experience," says the rising senior from Plantation. "If I could go back right now, I would. If anyone can study abroad, they should."

Silverman is one of more than 100 FGCU students who participate each year in study-abroad programs, which include overseas exchange, short-term faculty-led trips, independent study and internships.

Myriad opportunities are available through FGCU's faculty, its relationships with foreign schools, the state university

system and independent agencies.

Students can study business in France, medical science or art in China, engineering and economics in Sweden. Marine science students can document species diversity in New Zealand. Nursing majors can get hands-on experience working with poor children in the Dominican Republic.

These programs broaden cultural understanding, diversify the educational experience, enhance personal growth and career opportunities, among other benefits. A recent study by the U.S. Department of Education reports that the number of U.S. students who study abroad has quadrupled during the past 20 years, increasing from 62,300 students in 1987-88 to 262,400 students in 2007-08.

"It's both a real-life education and an academic education that can fit into any course of study," says FGCU's international studies director, Elaine Hozdik.

As a result of his experience, Silverman altered his course of study. When he returned to FGCU, he added a minor in Spanish, something likely to enhance his future in the hospitality industry.

BY JOHN FRANCIS

Stephanie Lermer, a business management and marketing major who graduated in May, recognizes long-term benefits from spending a semester last year at Unitec in Auckland, New Zealand.

"I've become much more open-minded to different cultures," she says. "When I start a family, I will push my kids to do it, too."

Lermer, 22, was no stranger to foreign travel when she headed Down Under. Born in New Jersey, she lived with her parents in France and Germany before returning to the States and moving to Fort Myers.

She considered programs in China and Mexico before deciding on New Zealand, which is a 28-hour airplane trip away.

"I wanted something far away from home to experience a whole different culture and educational system," she says.

Kiwi culture impressed Lermer. She found the people open minded, eager to help and concerned about preserving their environment. The country has two main land masses – mountainous South Island and the flatter, warmer North Island, where Lermer lived.

Although she wound up hospitalized for a month with meningitis, Lermer found something positive about everything she experienced in New Zealand. From the native Maori culture to the national pastime of rugby, she embraced the whole experience.

"I did so many outdoor activities that I would never have pictured myself doing," she said, listing skydiving, white-water



JAN ERICKSON

rafting and spelunking. "The people you meet, the relationships you make – obviously it's a memory I'll never forget."

Studying abroad doesn't necessarily mean heading to a school in a foreign country alone or for extended periods.

FGCU faculty members are developing new opportunities for students to learn abroad. Rob Erdman, an associate professor of biology, initiated a two-week summer program at Gerace Research Center on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas. Students there gain field experience working with coral reefs, mangroves and sea grasses, among other things. In just four years, demand for the trip has exceeded available space, Erdman says.

Besides the prescribed lessons, the program has had bonus benefits. Students who went to San Salvador last year were inspired to help address overpopulation of the island's feral dogs, called potcakes (because

Tyler Silverman with friend in Costa Rica

FGCU students unload a kiln they helped build in St. Lucia.

they eat grits or rice left in the bottom of cooking pots). Project Potcake has more than 100 members on Facebook. (See accompanying story.)

"It's a real good experience for undergrads," Erdman says. "We don't have a graduate program in biology yet, so we're trying to provide opportunities for them to get their feet wet."

Patricia Fay, associate professor of art, sees these trips as potentially life changing, an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in a radically different culture and return home with vastly different ideas about the world and their place in it.

She's been traveling to, and working in, St. Lucia for 17 years. This summer, she teamed up with Win Everham, associate professor of environmental studies, to create an interdisciplinary trip to the eastern Caribbean country. It involved 10 students – some environmental studies majors, some visual art majors – who spent the spring semester on campus involved in language training, fundraising to offset the cost of

the trip and community building.

Then they were ready to make their journey abroad. While there, they taught art in a classroom, built a kiln for local potters and created interpretive nature trails, living without air conditioning, cell phones or televisions.

Fay believes this type of trip has multiple advantages.

"We're opening up people's minds about developing countries," she says. "With faculty-led study abroad, students benefit from the expertise of that faculty member in the discipline and the culture."

Through the service component, "they're not just taking but giving back," she says. "The idea is to try to offer something in return for all that you're gaining."

There are various ways to get involved in international study.

The University's International Services staff helps students find programs that complement their education, register for classes abroad that earn them credits and navigate the often complex legalities of living in another country.

Several times each year, the office holds informational fairs with representatives of exchange programs based all over the world. Separate sessions are held for students just beginning to explore the options and for those in the application process. Studying overseas can cost as much as \$15,000 a semester, depending on the program and location. Office personnel help students obtain scholarships, as well as navigate foreign currency, insurance needs and visa requirements.

The International Services office isn't the only link to opportunities for studying, working or volunteering abroad. The Lutgert College of Business guides students through its own accredited exchange programs with other schools. In any semester, a dozen or more business students may be overseas while just as many foreign students study at FGCU, according to Rosemary Meza, the college's coordinator of academic programs.

"From the start, Dean (Richard) Peggnetter felt it was important for students to have exposure to international issues," she says. "Students learn to be more mature and disciplined."

Such traits are beneficial no matter what careers students aspire to and will serve them well throughout their lives. ♦

— John Francis is a Pine Island-based freelance writer.

## WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY

### BARCELONA AND BEYOND

By Ashley Rubin

Spending the fall 2009 semester at Toulouse Business School in Barcelona, Spain proved to be the experience of a lifetime.

I went to study international marketing and management, traveling with my friend FGCU senior Holly Gerber. Our flat was close to the best places to visit, including the Picasso Museum, and was only 15 minutes by Metro to school.

We completed most school work in groups. Friendships began in the classroom, but extended well beyond. Almost every day after school, my classmates and I would gather at a local bar for sangria or at a restaurant for tapas and paella. Time flew by as we exchanged stories and laughed.

Other nights, we would get together at someone's flat for dinner and go to a discoteca (dance club). The nightlife was amazing, starting at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. and not ending until about 7 a.m.

When we were not in class or touring the city, we traveled. That is one of the great things about Europe – it is incredibly easy to travel from one country to another.

The most memorable excursion was spending Thanksgiving in Interlaken, Switzerland. We stayed at a hostel known for its extreme sports. The first night, the hostel had a large Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone ate together, then went downstairs to the hostel's nightclub. People were friendly so it was easy to arrange groups for day trips, which could be sightseeing around the city or something more daring like bungee jumping. Holly



Holly Gerber and Ashley Rubin in Venice, Italy.

and I chose to zip-line one day and skydive the next with students we had met the night before. It was incredible! Being able to jump out of a plane and look over the Swiss Alps was exhilarating.

By the end of our stay in Barcelona, we had visited cities in Spain, Greece, Croatia, Italy and Switzerland.

I enjoyed working and socializing with people from all over the world, learned a lot about how business in the United States differs from that of Europe and began to understand life from different cultural perspectives.

It was an unforgettable experience, one from which I benefitted not just as a student, but as a person. There was never a dull moment and I think about it every day. ♦

— Ashley Rubin was a psychology major who graduated in May.



## BEHIND THE POSTCARD

By Edward A. Challinor

This summer, I was fortunate to travel to St. Lucia, an island nation in the eastern Caribbean, with nine other students majoring in environmental studies or art, for a program led by FGCU professors Patricia Fay (art) and Win Everham (environmental studies).

Over two weeks, I interacted with local people and began to understand their way of life. I also realized that art and the environment go hand in hand. Pottery uses natural resources to make functional items that can also have aesthetic and cultural appeal, while providing income to the artist. We worked with local potters to build a wood-fired kiln that Professor Fay designed to improve efficiency and simplify production.

Our days were full of activities that included visiting local artisans and hiking through the rainforest. We worked with our hosts at the Balenbouche Plantation Guesthouse to expand their system of nature trails by constructing log benches on which visitors could relax and contemplate the spectacular surroundings.

Evenings were our only downtime. I spent them exploring the 75-acre organic estate. Tiny quartz stones, remnants of



PATRICIA FAY

volcanic eruptions that created these islands, litter the ground and glisten in the moonlight. Gazing up, you see countless stars that light pollution in Southwest Florida would obscure.

This trip allowed me to reflect and reassess my ecological niche on earth. I felt truly at peace. I woke up each day knowing I would find simple happiness,

free from distractions like television, cell phones and computers. The people of St. Lucia value family and friends, hearty cuisine and a sense of community. They get by just fine without many of the modern contrivances we consider necessary, such as air conditioning, fast food and luxury cars.

Culture and society can be studied in a classroom, but immersion in that culture delivers far more vivid lessons. Professor Fay calls it "getting behind the postcard," experiencing life

ABOVE: FGCU students and professors learn traditional pottery methods with St. Lucian potters Catty Osman and Irena Alphonse.

BELOW LEFT: FGCU student Edward Challinor shows off a giant frog during a hike in St. Lucia.

the way residents do. I feel privileged to have walked the streets of Soufriere browsing through the local markets, mingling with St. Lucians and trying local delicacies.

This trip will easily be my most enduring memory of FGCU.

An integral part of learning in college is interacting with your professors, as they help to inspire students in their fields of expertise. Traveling abroad together permits students to benefit from that knowledge in a way that's not possible in a classroom.

Study abroad can affect you in so many ways. I highly recommend it. There is so much to see in the world, and all too soon we will embark on our careers. Who knows? You may even discover yourself. ♦

— Edward A. Challinor is a senior majoring in environmental studies.



PATRICIA FAY

## FROM ROCKS TO POTCAKES

By Alyssa Del Campo and Maria Barbero

As part of FGCU's Honors Program, we spent two weeks last summer at the Gerace Research Center on San Salvador, Bahamas. We went to study changes in the island's geology and analyzed them in respect to climate change. In other words, we learned to love rocks!

But we also gained some unexpected insight by way of the island's homeless dogs.

Called potcakes, they are a distinct mixed breed that roams freely in the Bahamas and other Caribbean islands. They eat whatever people put out for them, which often is grits or rice left in the bottom of cooking pots, hence the name potcakes.

We found out that the potcakes are in big trouble. On San Salvador, for

example, there are too many of them and too few people and resources to care for them. The island has no veterinarian or animal shelter, thus many dogs die of heartworms, fleas and other diseases at young ages.

While we stayed at the Gerace Research Center, we found a litter of homeless puppies and had the wrenching experience of watching one die.

Our group came home with four puppies. One professor and a couple of classmates could not resist the charm and need of these flea-covered pups. Although we couldn't take any home, we felt the need to do something for these dogs. With the help of Sasha Wohlpart, an FGCU instructor of

ecological studies who accompanied us on the trip, we started a student organization called Project Potcake.

Our mission is to partner with the Gerace Research Center to fund sterilization programs in places like San Salvador to help control the growing populations of these struggling animals. We also aim to create awareness of the benefits of neutering and spaying pets in the Bahamas as well as in the Fort Myers area. For more information about our project, contact us at [projectpotcake@eagle.fgcu.edu](mailto:projectpotcake@eagle.fgcu.edu). ♦

— Alyssa Del Campo is a junior majoring in education. Maria Barbero is a junior majoring in communication.



ABOVE: Alyssa Del Campo and Maria Barbero organized Project Potcake after a study-abroad trip to San Salvador, Bahamas.

LEFT: Alyssa Del Campo holds potcake puppies.

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## VIVA LA DIFFERENCE!

By Maria Barbero

During the past school year, I spent five months studying in France thanks to Florida Gulf Coast University's Lutgert College of Business exchange program.

I studied at L' Ecole Supérieure de Commerce (Burgundy School of Business) in the beautiful and historic city of Dijon.

During my time there, I grew more independent, furthered my education and learned a lot about the world. I developed

basic proficiency in French, gained an understanding of French views and customs, visited many small towns such as Auxonne and Aloxe-Corton and, of course, learned to love the food, particularly pan au chocolat!

When I decided to spend a semester in France, I expected to learn about the French, but hadn't anticipated meeting people from so many countries. I made friends from all over the world, sharing meals, stories and beliefs.

Some of my favorite memories are of the cultural dinners that my new friends and I shared every Sunday. I tried foods I had never had before, such as Indian balti (a form of curry) and Czech latkes (potato pancakes), and learned about each friend's native country. I celebrated national Bulgarian holidays, played German Easter games and learned about Poland's history

and about the resilience and courage of Polish students when their prime minister, Lech Kacsynski, died in a plane crash in Russia.

Before I went abroad, I was not sure it was the right step in my education. I worried the experience would slow me down by taking away a semester in which I could be achieving other goals. However, now that I have done it, I know it was absolutely the right move.

There are countless reasons why every student, whatever his or her major or goals, should study abroad, the most important being to find out how much there is to learn about the world, and how little we know. ♦

— Maria Barbero is a junior majoring in communication.



Maria Barbero at the Louvre; with the Mona Lisa; at the Eiffel Tower with Hernan (from Argentina) and Bogi (from Hungary); celebrating Easter in Dijon with an international array of friends.

# Poetic license

Jesse Millner delves deep for his muse / By Karen Feldman

**T**hose who find poetry intimidating or think it's limited to the sing-songy rhymed verses of their childhood may discover they've been missing out upon reading one of Jesse Millner's creations.

Millner, who has taught composition and creative writing at Florida Gulf Coast University since 1998, crafts muscular free verse, densely packed with imagery and revelation filtered through his personal experience.

He recently won the 2010 Angel of the Arts literary artist award from the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers.

In nominating him for the award, FGCU Professor James Brock wrote, "In addition to being a staggeringly gifted and prolific poet, Jesse is a popular and influential teacher...who has had a profound effect on countless students."

Millner writes confessional poetry, free verse based on his life and experiences – and he tries not to lie too often. But, he says, "even when it's about yourself, it has to connect to someone else" and, although he generally begins with his own experience, "I often find myself in places that have little to do with my own story. My life is a bridge to other places."

To write poetry, Millner believes you must have "the willingness to follow the framework of your subconscious. That's where the imagination lives. Most people go through the day hearing normal white noise. Poems come from a much more submerged place. You have to figure out ways to get to that interior thought."

One way in which he encouraged students in his creative writing class to reach that primal part of themselves was by enlisting Win Everham, an FGCU professor of environmental studies, to lead them on a swamp walk.

Millner describes the act of writing poetry as "a very lonely kind of business. You don't live for the approval of the masses. You must live with the fact that you're mainly writing for yourself, but at the same time, you want to share with other people."

To that end, he's contributed poems to many publications and published a number of poetry chapbooks. Last year, his first full-length collection, "The Neighborhoods of My Past Sorrow," was published by Kitsune Books.

Born in Virginia, he lives in Fort Myers with his wife (assistant professor of journalism) Lyn, and their dog, Sam. ♦

## Colorblind

in Miami of all places, my poet  
friend sees the world in grey,  
except for the time, three years ago  
when he visited an acupuncturist,  
had a needle stuck in his forehead,  
then watched a tropical world blossom  
into impossible greens, blues and whites.

For the next few hours he wandered  
stunned along Biscayne Bay, watching  
the egrets alight from mangrove branches,  
watching the forked tail frigate birds  
flash over the little islands in blue-black  
streaks of feathered meaning.

And, Jesus, he said, the bay itself  
was a miracle, the water transparent,  
revealing the underwater grasses,  
as if he were peering into a mirror  
that worked in an opposite sort of way,  
luring the watcher into the depths  
of glare and trapped sun  
and bewildered fishes.

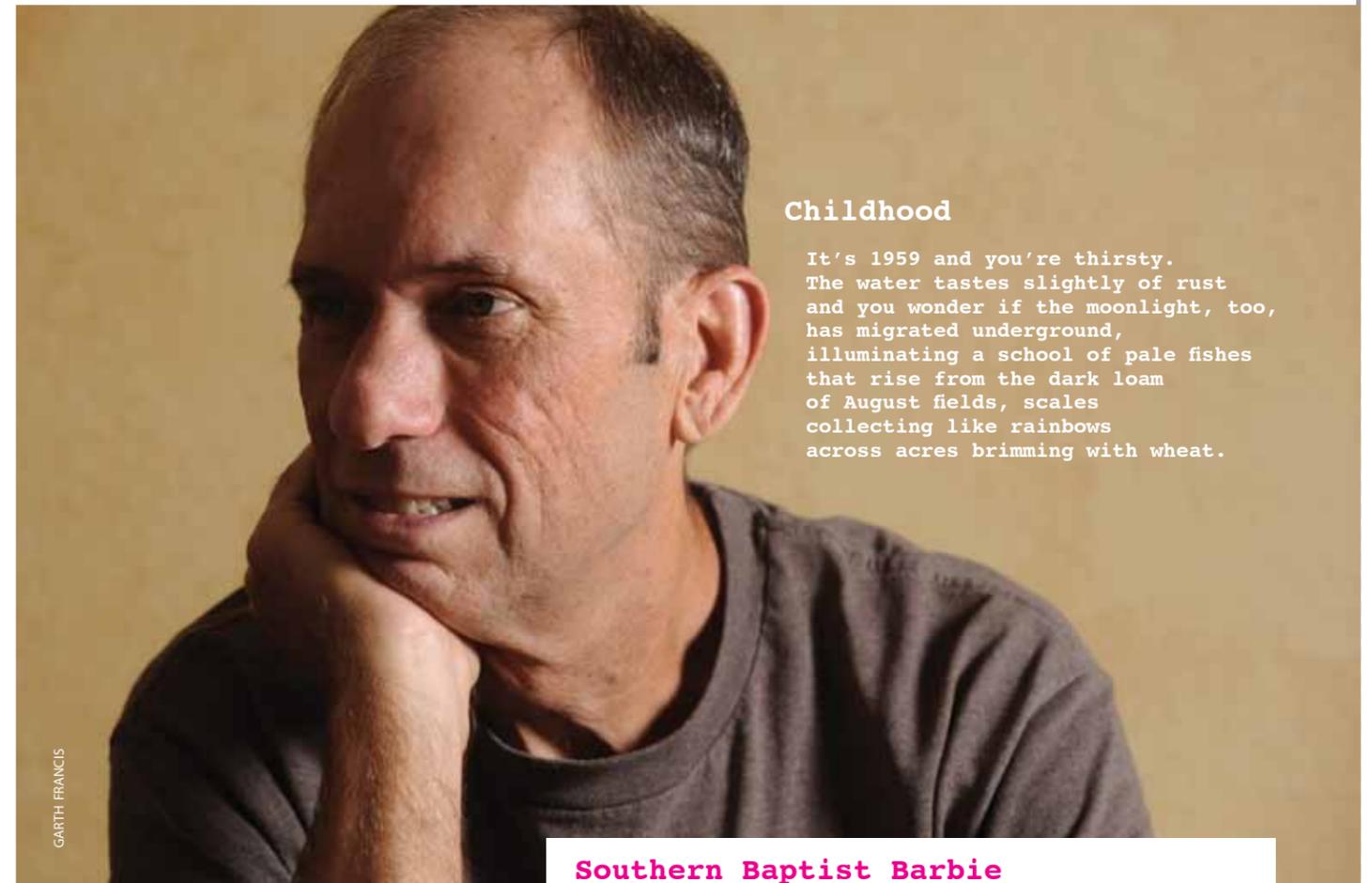
Then he went home and quickly matched his ties  
with his socks, mated shirts with possible  
pairs of pants,

looked carefully into his wife's  
eyes, saw the green and brown patterns  
dancing in each pupil,

walked outside into his backyard,  
noted the red tomatoes, the yellow peppers,  
and the purple flowers of wisteria, which became  
his favorite plant.

And later when he saw no colors again,  
he wrote poems for days about every thing  
he had seen: creatures, bodies of water,  
islands, trees, vegetables, flowers, stars, the moon,  
and by the fifth day he had written himself  
into a bird, and on the sixth day he flew away,  
and on the seventh day his wife went upstairs to his study,  
found only an empty chair and an open window,  
the wind stirring the poems in his abandoned notebook  
into white-capped waves blurring a green, distant shore.

– for Michael Hettich



## Childhood

It's 1959 and you're thirsty.  
The water tastes slightly of rust  
and you wonder if the moonlight, too,  
has migrated underground,  
illuminating a school of pale fishes  
that rise from the dark loam  
of August fields, scales  
collecting like rainbows  
across acres brimming with wheat.

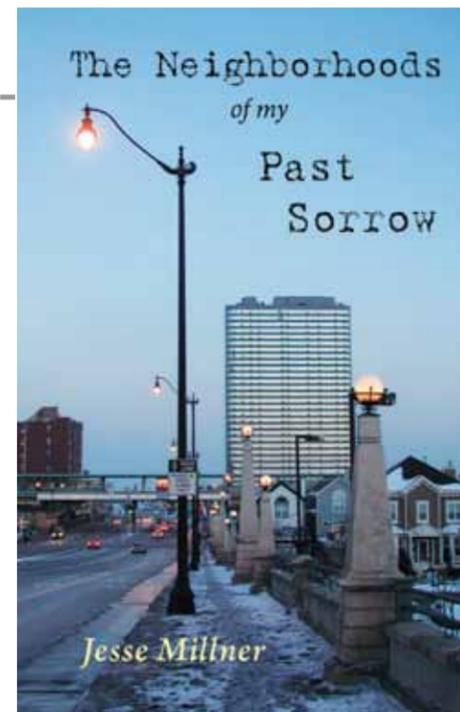
## Southern Baptist Barbie

for Denise Duhamel

Southern Baptist Barbie  
doesn't dance when  
she takes her fear  
to church each Sunday,  
and prays for a Jesus  
who looks just like Ken  
to save her from the narrow  
road she walks each day  
with a pink lunch box  
and a special miniature King James  
Bible translated by Mattel.

In her lunch box she has tiny moon  
pies and itty bitty bottles of RC  
Cola and each night she sits  
in the window of her toy farmhouse  
and listens to the plastic cows moo  
as a toy kingdom night comes on  
replete with small stars that approximate  
the major constellations. She takes out  
the Gospel according to Mattel and memorizes  
all the good parts about plagues and miracles  
and Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus.

Where's Damascus? she wonders  
as a tiny heart almost beats within her  
and an almost wind nearly stirs the curtains  
and she almost believes that Christ rose from the dead.

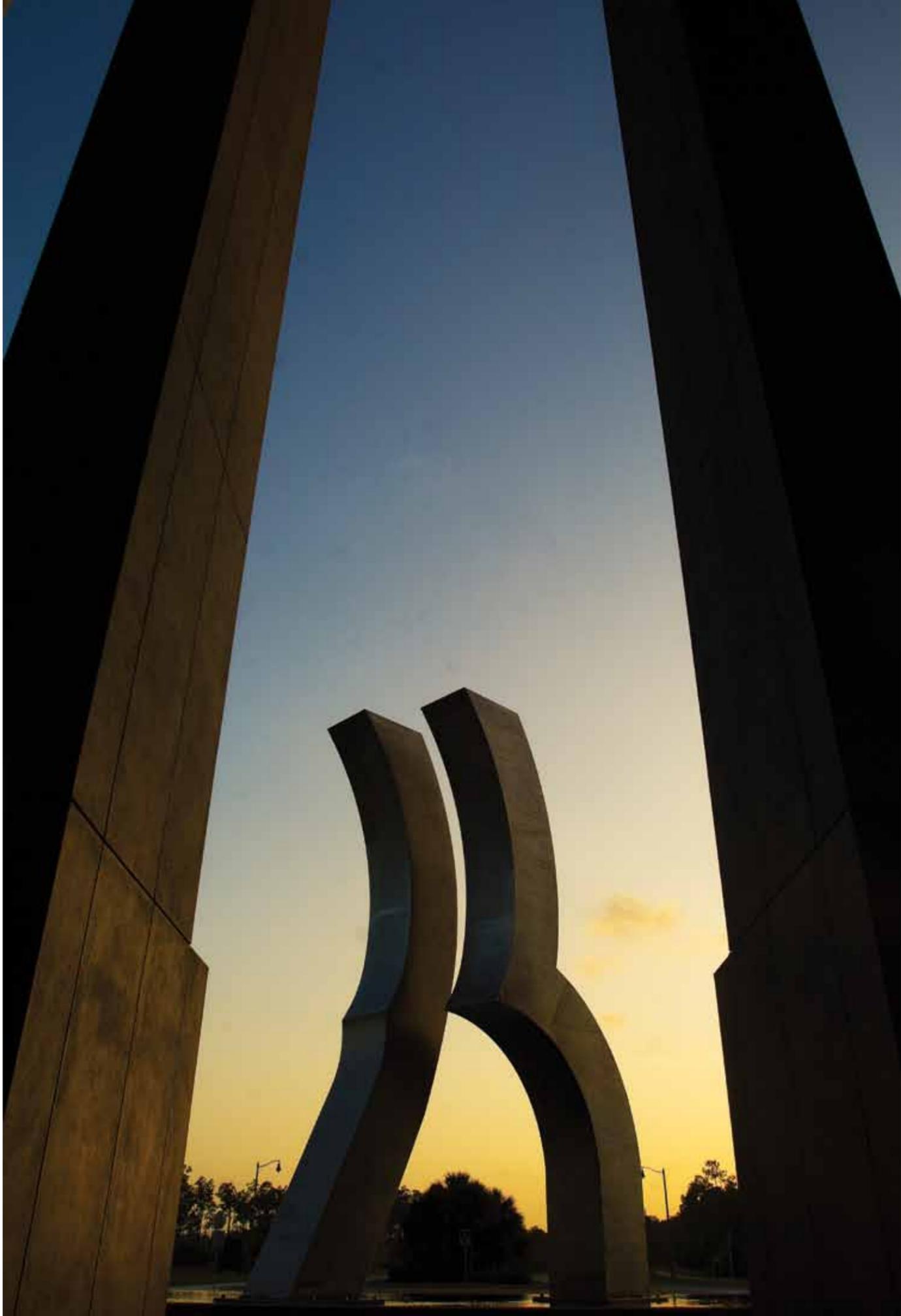


# art for art's sake

Campus collection aims  
to provoke thought

By Nancy Stetson  
Photos by Andrew West

**'CROSS CURRENTS'** by Albert Paley



**G**reat art belongs on college campuses. Just like a university education, art challenges perspectives, unsettles assumptions and alters the ways people look at the world.

Through the Florida Art in State Buildings program, one half of 1 percent of the cost of a public building, up to a maximum of \$100,000, is set aside for public art. The money can't be used for landscaping or lighting, or for art hidden in someone's office. It must be displayed in a public place.

Art on campus increases a university's cultural profile, raising its reputation and stature. And, if a

university chooses wisely, the campus becomes a destination for art lovers.

Art is also an investment. "Cross Currents," an Albert Paley sculpture on campus, for example, has tripled in value, according to Morgan Paine, associate professor of art.

With its rapid growth and ongoing construction, FGCU is in an ideal position to procure even more art.

But as is always the case, nothing is universally loved.

"Each project has generated its own sense of complaint and outrage," says Paine. "If you put up art nobody notices, you probably haven't picked the right thing."

Here's a look at some art on campus:

▲ **'BIG TEMPTATION'** by Romero Britto

◀ **'HUMAN RACE'** by Raymond L. Lutzert



**'CROSS CURRENTS'**

Albert Paley's "Cross Currents" is hard to miss. Located in the Central Plaza, it's big, bold, and colorful, an almost 22-foot-tall sculpture.

At first glance, you might think this 17,000-pound structure is just a jumble of colorful shapes, but the more you look, the more you see. Paley plays with positive and negative shape. Though abstract, the jagged teeth of an open-mouthed alligator, shards of sunlight, the fringe of palm fronds and the rough silhouette of a palm trunk are visible.

The bright colors are representative of

Florida: the pink of flamingoes, blue for the sky and gulf, the reds and oranges of sunsets.

**'HUMAN RACE'**

It's the first thing visitors see upon entering the FGCU campus: Raymond Lutgert's minimalist sculpture "Human Race," standing in front of Lutgert Hall, home of the Lutgert College of Business. (Raymond and Beverly Lutgert donated \$5 million to help establish the business school and its building; their son, Scott, is the chair of the FGCU Board of Trustees.)

The two stainless steel curved columns,

standing 24-feet tall, are set in a reflecting pool. When the sun hits the textured columns just right, the water sparkles with patterns.

The artist, who died May 28, said that "the work symbolizes the competition of individuals whether in business or in other aspects of life." So the columns can be seen as two figures competing, one curving forward and winning, the other bent in a slight V, folding back on itself.

**'BIG TEMPTATION'**

"Big Temptation," by Miami-based Brazilian pop artist Romero Britto, was a gift to the University after his retrospective at the Main Gallery earlier this year.

Set outside the Arts Complex, this cartoon-like, multi-patterned snake is divided into nine sections by Britto's trademark black outlines. Patterns on

the snake's skin include pink and white stripes and blue polka dots on a light blue background.

The snake, which wears a crown, is carrying an apple on his back and has a sly look in his eye.

Made of aluminum with enamel, "Big Temptation" is simple, colorful and child-like, with a strong Pop Art feel.

**'SCYTHE'**

Andy Browne's oil-on-wood "Scythe," on the first floor of the Student Union, is part of her 16-panel pod series. An expressionistic view of a black scythe with pieces of greenery and seeds flying across the top of the picture, this painting practically pulsates with color.

According to the artist, who moved here from New England, the work reflects her astonishment at the flora and colors of Florida.

◀ **'SCYTHE'** by Andy Brown

**'ARCHWAY'** by Brower Hatcher ▼





**'ARCHWAY'**

Brower Hatcher's "Archway," between Whitaker Hall and Academic Building 3, looks as if Buckminster Fuller created a giant blue Slinky, incorporating pieces of colored glass, tile and seashells.

The work is actually an arch within an arch, each end resting on four-legged steel columns painted green. Mesh basket-like seating at the base is reminiscent of a volleyball or basketball net, subtly echoing the playground atmosphere of the work.

When the sun hits it at a certain angle, it creates colored reflections on the sidewalk: raspberry, orange and cobalt blue.

**'METAMORPHALAXIS'**

Naples artist Lynn Davison is known for her nude portraits, but "Metamorphalaxis," hanging on the second floor of the Student Union, is a still-life showing six sheer and opaque white scarves atop a colorful Navajo rug.

This is a technically difficult oil painting by an artist who likes to challenge herself. It's a study in contrast: the flimsy cloths against the sturdier rug, their whiteness against the determined, colorful stripes, as well as the cloths' multiple random folds against a rigid pattern. And if you look closely, you'll see a variety of colors in the white material: peach, blue and lavender.

The scarves look as if they're dancing across the painting.

**'DREAM TO CONQUER'**

The multi-media sculpture on the wall of the Arts Complex consists of six icons that symbolize the University's mission. Created by Assistant Professor Mary Sullivan Voytek, it's constructed with standard and newly invented metals. When finished, the work will incorporate multi-colored neon backlighting.

Apollo is the Greek god of the arts and patron of intellectual pursuits. His neon-lit reins will connect to the Florida dollar orchid (symbolizing Florida's native beauty and FGCU's ecological mission). The compass is a tool universally used by artists and scientists. And the honey bee symbolizes the artist's mission of cross-pollination of ideas.

Apollo's chariot is a gear, symbolizing industrialization and advancement, and echoing the shape of the gear is the film reel, which marries technology and art. ♦

— Nancy Stetson is a freelance writer who lives in Cape Coral. Andrew West is a photographer for *The News-Press*.

▲ **'METAMORPHALAXIS'**  
by Lynn Davison

► **'DREAM TO CONQUER'**  
by Mary Sullivan Voytek





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# A Major League student

After stellar year, FGCU pitcher Chris Sale strikes it rich

By Chris Duncan



**C**hris Sale still has a hard time wrapping his mind around his three-year metamorphosis at Florida Gulf Coast University.

How did a skinny freshman pitcher who barely got recruited transform his body and his game into that of a multimillion-dollar big-league prospect? "Coming into FGCU, I never thought I'd get to this level," Sale says. "It's been a rough road but a fun road. I worked hard these last three years, but it's crazy to think how far I've come."

FGCU baseball Coach Dave Tollett's mentoring, summer baseball games and a growth spurt contributed to Sale's

remarkable transformation. After a magical junior season in which he went 11-0 with a 2.01 earned-run average, the 6-foot-7, 180-pound lefty was drafted 13th overall by the Chicago White Sox in June's Major League Baseball Draft.

That's the highest an FGCU athlete has ever been drafted. Sale earned a signing bonus of \$1.656 million.

The deal comes after a season in which he was named Collegiate Baseball's National Player of the Year, the Atlantic Sun Conference Pitcher of the year, a finalist for the College Baseball Foundation's Pitcher of the Year award, and a finalist for the 2010 USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award.

The 21-year-old began his professional career in July, when he suited up for the Winston-Salem Dash, Chicago's Class A team, pitching a scoreless inning to help the team pick up a series-clinching win over the Potomac Nationals during his first game.

That performance won him a promotion to the Triple-A Charlotte Knights, taking him a step closer to major league play.

"I've been in this profession for over 25 years and Chris Sale is the best pitcher I've ever had in one of my programs," FGCU Athletics Director Ken Kavanagh says. "He's truly remarkable. Chris led the nation in strikeouts this year with 146 and he only had four walks. Usually power pitchers walk batters, but Chris is different."

Kavanagh calls Sale, a criminal justice major who made the Dean's List in the fall semester, "a great ambassador for FGCU sports."

LEFT-HANDED PITCHER

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	BB	SO
11	0	2.01	17	15	2	2	103.0	83	14	146

- > **Age:** 21
- > **Hometown:** Lakeland
- > **Major:** Criminal justice
- > **Honors:** National Player of the Year by Collegiate Baseball; Finalist for the Golden Spikes Award given annually to the nation's best amateur player; Ping! Baseball First Team All-American; 2009-10 Atlantic Sun Conference Pitcher of the Year; Louisville Slugger NCAA Division I First-Team All-American
- > **Favorite FGCU moment:** "Winning three Atlantic Sun Conference regular-season championships," Sale says. "The first one was crazy. I was pitching in the game and I closed it out and we all dog piled on top of each other."
- > **Favorite FGCU professor:** Ronald Curtis. "A real cool guy," Sale says. "He taught me a lot in the criminal justice field."



FILE PHOTOS

**“Chris is our poster child. He’s set a great example, on and off the field, for all FGCU athletes. He put our program on the map.”**

— Dave Tollett, FGCU baseball coach

"Chris is our poster child," Tollett says. "He's set a great example, on and off the field, for all FGCU athletes. He put our program on the map."

Sale, who was followed by major league scouts at every game last season and featured in myriad national publications, helped FGCU baseball win three consecutive Atlantic Sun Conference regular-season titles in its first three years in NCAA Division I.

"I think it's awesome FGCU is getting this publicity because it's done so much for me," Sale says.

Sale credits Tollett – the pair spent countless hours talking about baseball and life – for his success. Tollett, the only NCAA Division I coach to offer Sale a college scholarship, told the pitcher to hit the weight room and play summer ball.

Weight training helped transform the speed of his fastball. Sale, who threw 90 miles per hour as a 160-pound freshman, is up to a major-

league-ready 98 mph today.

He plans to return to FGCU one day to finish his degree, and says the 74-game summer league baseball season helped him gain confidence in his game.

Sale's on-field breakthrough came at the prestigious wood-bat Cape Cod League last summer. He went 4-2 with a 1.47 earned-run average en route to being selected the league's Most Valuable Pitcher and top prospect.

"I wasn't expecting to do that well," Sale says. "I came back from Cape Cod and said, 'Did I just wake up from a dream or am I this good?'"

As he begins his professional career,

Sale says he'll never forget his time at FGCU. It was on the Estero campus where he met his fiancée, junior Brianne Aron. The couple's son, Rylan, was born in May.

"The best three years of my life," Sale says about FGCU. "I went through so much there. I had a great baseball career. I furthered my chances of getting a degree. I found the person I want to spend the rest of my life with. I had my first child. I don't know what more you could want in three years." ♦

— Chris Duncan is a freelance writer who lives in Bonita Springs.

## FGCU teams prepare for full Division I role in 2011-12

By Chris Duncan

The FGCU baseball team won its third consecutive Atlantic Sun regular-season championship and nearly became the first Eagles squad to qualify for an NCAA Division I postseason tournament. FGCU (38-20) was left out of the 64-team tournament by the NCAA Selection Committee.

FGCU softball also had a successful season in what Coach Dave Deiros described as a rebuilding year. The Eagles (24-28) fought through inexperience and injuries to land a third-place finish in the A-Sun regular season.

The performances give FGCU Athletics Director Ken Kavanagh hope not only for the coming season, but for the crucial 2011-12 campaign – the first season all FGCU teams will be eligible for postseason play. The baseball and volleyball teams were eligible for the 2009-10 playoffs because they were fast-tracked, cutting the four-year transitional phase in half.

“As you can see with baseball, we’re close to breaking through,” Kavanagh says. “We believe once we break through, we’ll represent ourselves very well because all of our teams not only want to reach the playoffs in two years, they expect to.”

Kavanagh points to the volleyball



FGCU baseball team

team, which came one victory away from advancing to the 2009 NCAA tournament, losing in the A-Sun postseason championship match.

FGCU baseball – which went 73-20 in the Atlantic Sun in its first three seasons in Division I – won’t have its best player, Collegiate Baseball’s National Player of the Year Chris Sale (see story on page 32), next season as he was drafted in the first round of June’s Major League Baseball Draft, but will return stalwarts such as senior infielders Mikel Alvarez and Zach Maxfield.

Sale, pitcher Pete Woodworth – who signed a free-agent deal with the Tampa Bay Rays in June – and infielders Alvarez and Stephen Wickens were named to the All-Atlantic Sun First Team, while pitcher Ritchie Erath and first baseman Maxfield

were named to the Second Team.

“There’s no doubt we’re a school on the rise,” Sale says. “I think people fear to play us now, and I think all the guys coming back are going to carry the tradition.”

FGCU only graduated two seniors from a 2009-10 squad that went a program-best 25-5 in conference and upset traditional powers Wichita State, Oklahoma State and Clemson.

“This program is in a position to continue to add to its legacy,” Kavanagh says. “To think about a team winning three conference championships in its first three years in Division I, no other team has done that before.”

Coach Dave Tollett’s nine-member freshman incoming class should bolster the program.

“A lot of players looked at us and committed to us who probably wouldn’t have come here if not for what Chris Sale did on a national stage,” Kavanagh says.

FGCU’s softball coach also has a highly rated eight-member freshman class this fall. Most of the class can play multiple positions, Deiros says.

“The thinking process behind our last two classes is we want to get ready for our first opportunity for postseason eligibility in 2011-12,” Deiros says. “We’re trying to be successful now but we also want to put ourselves in a good situation for 2011-12.”

Rising senior outfielder Courtney Platt, who picked up second team All-Atlantic Sun honors in 2010, and rising sophomores first baseman Mariah Fernandez and shortstop Tiffani Upchurch, will be looked on to carry the load. Fernandez and Upchurch were named to the 2009-10 conference All-Freshman Team.

Kavanagh was stunned the softball team did so well considering that four starters suffered season-ending injuries.

“Deiros called it a rebuilding year but his team played an unbelievably (tough) schedule,” Kavanagh says. “I’m just excited for next year but everybody, except baseball and volleyball, has to be patient for another year and then we’ll be eligible for the postseason in all sports.” ♦

## Tollett named top coach for third year in a row

Florida Gulf Coast University baseball coach Dave Tollett claimed his third consecutive Coach of the Year award this season, becoming just the third head coach to win back-to-back-to-back Coach of the Year honors (Stetson’s Pete Dunn did it in 1988-90; Georgia Southern’s Jack Stallings won it 1985-87).

Tollett has led the Eagles to three consecutive regular season titles, combining for a 111-51 overall record and a 73-20 conference record in the Eagles’ three years in the A-Sun. The team bested top caliber non-conference opponents on the road, picking up victories at Clemson (4-2), Florida Atlantic (8-5), Wichita State (7-2), Florida International (10-7), University of South Florida (10-9), and Oklahoma State (10-7).

“What Dave continues to accomplish is phenomenal,” says FGCU Athletics Director Ken Kavanagh. “It’s remarkable that he could take a program that didn’t even exist less than a decade ago to winning the competitive A-Sun conference championship our first three years and with back-to-back Top 50 national rankings. Although he is much more about collective accomplishments, it is gratifying to see that his peers have also admired his work and have rightfully voted him Coach of the Year all three seasons.”

Under Tollett’s leadership the team also successfully claimed all 10 A-Sun Conference series on the season, sweeping three-game sets with the University of South Carolina Upstate, Campbell, Belmont, East Tennessee State and University of North Florida.

“We had a lot of players play really well this season,” Tollett says. “The entire team came together to pull out some very tightly contested games and to defend our regular season championship. I appreciate the efforts of our players and coaches.” ♦



“It’s remarkable that he could take a program that didn’t even exist less than a decade ago to winning the competitive A-Sun conference championship our first three years and with back-to-back Top 50 national rankings.”

— Ken Kavanagh, FGCU Athletics Director



Coach Dave Deiros with the softball team

## Fay Biles becomes third University Foundation fellow

Years before the first structure stood on the Florida Gulf Coast University campus, Fay Biles was helping to build a firm foundation for the future institution.

The former vice president for public affairs and development at Kent State University in Ohio knew how to raise money for higher learning. She willingly shared that knowledge when the FGCU Foundation formed in the early 1990s, serving two four-year terms on the board.

It was a cause in which she strongly believed – and still does.

“Southwest Florida was growing rapidly and needed a first-class university,” she says. “We formed a committee and worked to have it established in Naples.”

Although FGCU wound up being built in Fort Myers, she continued to support its development.

“It’s become the institution I wanted it to be,” she says. “Every program has been designed to meet the needs of the community – education, health, business, engineering. It’s doing a wonderful job with the environment, too.”

She was also instrumental in launching the University’s Renaissance Academy, the popular program that offers hundreds of lifelong learning courses each year around Southwest Florida, connecting countless more people to FGCU.

In June, the membership committee of the current Foundation board voted unanimously to name the long-time Marco Island resident a Foundation Fellow.

Like the other two members of this exclusive group, Barron Collier, III and Ben Hill Griffin, III, she has demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership and managerial ability and personally promoted the advancement



Fay and Bedford Biles

of higher education and FGCU through dedicated service to the Foundation.

“The Foundation is grateful to Fay Biles for her dedication and support from the University’s earliest days,” says Steve Magiera, Foundation executive director and vice president for University Advancement. “We could not have grown so rapidly or developed such a comprehensive institution without the energy and expertise of people like Dr. Biles.”

Fay Biles and her husband, retired attorney Bedford, bought their first house on Marco Island in 1967, using it for vacations at first, but becoming full-time residents in 1989 and getting involved with a multitude of good causes.

The couple bring with them a treasure trove of expertise. Each also has taken part in pivotal moments in history.

Fay Biles was a professor of health education at Kent State University on May 4, 1970, when the Ohio National Guard shot to death four students.

Later, as Kent State’s vice president for public affairs and development, she played a major role in helping to rebuild the university’s image and enrollment.

Bedford Biles left Duke University in his sophomore year to join the Army and became a demolition specialist and paratrooper. He was one of 18,000 paratroopers with the 101st Airborne who landed on the Normandy beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1942. He also jumped in a major invasion of Holland as well as the Battle of the Bulge. For his bravery, he earned a host of awards including the French Legion of Honor, three purple hearts, four bronze service stars and an American Defense Service Medal.

He returned to Duke, where he met freshman Fay Reifsnnyder. The couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

The Bileses have ensured that their support of FGCU will continue on for many years by remembering the University in their wills. ♦

GARTH FRANCIS

## AS&D Division endowment funds quality management institute

Leaders of the Conference on Quality for the Space and Defense Industry have established the ASQ – Aviation, Space & Defense Quality Endowed Fund with a gift of \$100,000 to Florida Gulf Coast University. It is the first such endowment by an American Society for Quality division.

The University will apply to the state for matching funds, increasing the gift’s value to \$150,000.

The endowment will establish the Program for Quality Management in the Lutgert College of Business, which will engage faculty, students and the professional community in the development of education programs, forums and professional development opportunities in the study of integrated quality management and effective value-stream management.



Michael Dreikorn, education chair for the Aviation, Space and Defense Industry division of the American Society for Quality

The endowment arose from the realization that college graduates need an understanding of quality principles. By creating an endowment, the Aviation, Space and Defense Quality division can help to ensure a focus on quality.

“There were many advantages for selecting FGCU,” said Michael

Dreikorn, education chair of the division. “FGCU was very willing and eager to work with the division. Since FGCU is a relatively young university, it is still growing and open to new ideas.”

Professor David Collier, who holds the Alico Chair of Operations Management in the Lutgert College of Business, will lead the endowment efforts.

“This endowment comes at a perfect time for the University,” he says. “We are growing at a very quick pace and this money will provide us with a cornerstone to solicit local businesses for more support and funding. Working with AS&D Division and local section members, we can also develop a feeder pool of ready-to-use talent. The local economy is ripe for high-tech and defense sector businesses and we hope to be part of the solution.” ♦

## AT&T helps teachers boost technology skills

To better equip educators to help at-risk students, the AT&T Foundation has partnered with Florida Gulf Coast University in an educational technology program.

The philanthropic arm of the telecommunications company recently awarded FGCU a \$50,000 grant that will fund two-year master’s programs in educational technology.

“The AT&T Foundation is pleased to fund the tuition of five teachers from Title I schools pursuing advanced degrees in educational technology,” says Andrew Hall, AT&T external affairs director.

There are 33 Title I schools in Southwest Florida. These are schools in which more than 40 percent of the students qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program, indicating many live in or near poverty and may be at risk of failure. Language barriers, parents with little education and other factors make it difficult for these students to keep pace with their studies.



Andrew Hall, AT&T external affairs director

The AT&T grant will provide training to enable teachers to better link their students and schools with the Florida Virtual School – an online program for grades K through 12 – and identify new ways to use technology to assist students with limited English proficiency, such as constructing websites in the native languages of the parents so they can assist their children in learning.

The program can also lead to activities “that engage and stimulate at-risk students with tasks that concentrate

on developing skills in problem solving and advanced thinking; and assist in the professional development of other teachers incorporating technology into their curricula,” says Marci Greene, dean of FGCU’s College of Education.

FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw sees great potential in this program.

“Using technology as a tool to enrich teaching within the classroom and to extend meaningful educational experiences beyond those walls can significantly increase learning opportunities, particularly helpful to at-risk students,” he says. “This initiative blazes a path to higher education for these students. We are extremely grateful to AT&T Foundation for its support of this important initiative.”

The program will include teachers from Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee county schools. Once trained, these teachers will share their knowledge with other teachers, creating a growing team of educational technology experts who are also well-versed in the needs of Title I schools. ♦

## Naples Garden Club establishes Endowed Fellowship at FGCU's Kapnick Education and Research Center

Naples Garden Club has created an endowed fund to benefit Florida Gulf Coast University and The Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center.

The club established the Naples Garden Club Fellowship Endowed Fund with a gift of \$100,000. The FGCU Foundation will apply for 50 percent in matching funds from the State of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts. When fully funded, the value of the gift will be \$150,000.

Proceeds from the fund will be given as Naples Garden Club Fellowships to FGCU students who are juniors, seniors or graduate students majoring in horticulture, a botany-related field, or environmental studies and are conducting research at the Kapnick Center at the Naples Botanical Gardens.

Liz Chehayl, president of the Naples Garden Club, says that "Garden Club members will be able to witness the students' research and interact with them because they will be working in our own



From left, Donna Price Henry, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Liz Chehayl, president of Naples Garden Club; Lydia Galton, Naples Garden Club member

backyard at the Naples Botanical Garden. This endowment is the culmination of many decades of scholarships we have awarded locally in botany, horticulture and environment. We are delighted to partner with FGCU."

The Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center officially opened

in February and serves as a center for classes, research, lifelong learning, garden club and plant society meetings and shows. FGCU owns the Center, which is the University's first permanent presence in Collier County.

"Florida Gulf Coast University is truly honored to receive this generous gift from the prestigious Naples Garden Club organization," says FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw. "We believe that research conducted by students and faculty at FGCU's Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center can truly make a difference in our Southwest Florida community, the state of Florida and beyond. We are deeply appreciative of this donation."

Naples Garden Club has more than 180 members who are dedicated to the love of gardening, the artistic design of plant material, community beautification and preservation of the natural world. It is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs. ♦

## Botanical garden fellowships will support botany research

Dr. Leonard Ginger and Naples Botanical Garden have established a fellowship to help support students involved in plant-based research.

The Dorothy M. Rygh Fellowships will be awarded to juniors, seniors or graduate students majoring in botany-related fields who conduct research at The Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center.

The botanical garden will donate at least \$5,000 per year in perpetuity to provide these fellowships, which are funded by a donation from Ginger to



the botanical garden.

"I had previously set up scholarship awards at Northwestern University for students conducting research at the Chicago Botanic Garden," says Ginger. "The newly created FGCU fellowships,

named for my good friend Dorothy Rygh, follow in this tradition."

The University welcomes such support for its research efforts at the Kapnick Center, situated within the Naples Botanical Garden.

"The research our faculty and students conduct at the Kapnick Center, our first permanent facility in Naples, will benefit the whole region," says FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw. "We are grateful for this investment, which will further that effort." ♦

## New endowed scholarship helps educate tomorrow's teachers

Florida Gulf Coast University students who aspire to teach future generations will be eligible for a scholarship created by Scott and Simone Lutgert.

The Lutgerts have pledged \$10,000 to establish the Sheldon and Celie Chassin Scholarship Endowed Fund.

Proceeds from the endowment will be awarded each year to students who are enrolled full-time in the University's College of Education.

"My wife, Simone, and I are pleased to establish this scholarship in honor of Simone's parents," says Scott Lutgert, chair of the FGCU Board of Trustees. "Sheldon and Celie Chassin were hard-working individuals who placed great value on education, and we honor their memory with this scholarship to support deserving students in their academic pursuits." ♦



Scott and Simone Lutgert

## First Generation students reap benefits of McIntosh gift

Stephen and Constance McIntosh have donated \$10,000 to establish an endowed scholarship for students who will be first in their families to attend college.

The Steve and Connie McIntosh Scholarship Endowed Fund will provide First Generation scholarships to students whose parents have not earned bachelor's degrees and who demonstrate financial need.

"It is my honor to have chaired the Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation Board this year," McIntosh says. "Each of us has the unique opportunity to create a legacy. As first-generation college students ourselves, Connie and I are very pleased to endow a scholarship that will provide deserving individuals with an education, strengthen our university, and assure the long-term well-being of our community." ♦



Constance and Stephen McIntosh

## Harvard Jolly creates First Generation scholarship

Students who could not afford to attend college on their own will be the recipients of a new scholarship set up by Harvard Jolly, Inc.

The architectural firm has donated \$10,000 to establish the Harvard Jolly

Architecture Scholarship Endowed Fund, which will be awarded to students considered the first generation in their families to go to college.

"The importance of First Generation university graduates is paramount," says Jeffrey Cobble, AIA, president of Harvard Jolly. "Added to Harvard Jolly's longstanding commitment to our partnership with FGCU, the decision to create this endowment became easy." ♦



Jeffrey Cobble, president of Harvard Jolly, Inc.; Ward Friszolowski, Harvard Jolly senior executive vice president; and Tyler Patak, Harvard Jolly senior architect

## Students help raise much-needed funds

Florida Gulf Coast University students helped the University Foundation conduct its annual alumni phone-a-thon this past spring.

Their efforts raised close to \$3,000, including more than 90 gifts from alumni contributing for the first time. These alumni donors were able to maximize their donations by taking advantage of the Foundation board's offer to match all first-time gifts of \$100 or more.

Alumni interested in making gifts may contact the Office of Annual Giving at (239) 590-1062. ♦



Melissa Vasallo



Jean-Claudel Saint-Preux

Planned giving options provide donors with an opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of FGCU students while creating lasting legacies that reflect the personal values of each donor. Learn how to make a bequest or gift by calling Judie Cassidy at (239) 590-1058. For information on planned giving, contact Peter Lefferts, FGCU Foundation director of planned giving at (239) 590-1077 or pleffert@fgcu.edu.



# The natural

Alumna honored for her passionate pursuit of a better world

**R**icky Pires, the 2010 Florida Gulf Coast University Alumna of Distinction, has fashioned the perfect job for herself.

As the founder and director of Wings of Hope Foundation, an innovative environmental program for elementary school students, she spends upwards of 80 hours a week enlisting others in the cause about which she cares most: saving the planet, particularly that portion that constitutes Southwest Florida.

“Environmental education is becoming endangered because it’s not being funded,” Pires says. “Kids don’t get to go on field trips anymore and don’t connect with the natural world. They will be our future decision makers, our commissioners, governors and homeowners. We need to educate our children and our children’s children and their children.”

To that end, her Wings of Hope program involves some 200 FGCU

By Karen Feldman  
Photos by Garth Francis

students each semester who learn the gospel of environmental sensitivity and help spread it to elementary school children. To date, Pires estimates the message has reached more than 100,000 children, their friends and families.

For Pires, a former Florida state champion baton twirler turned dental assistant and mother, her current role is one for which she’s trained her whole life. A Floridian since age 5, she loves the state’s fragile subtropical environment, has long been alarmed by what’s happening to it and has waged a personal battle to save it.

Long before she started Wings of Hope, she volunteered at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida’s wildlife clinic in Naples, working with an unending stream of injured and distressed animals. She realized how

difficult it was becoming to find safe places to release them back into the wild as a growing human population claimed more and more of the land and resources they needed to survive.

“Instead of sitting back and complaining, when FGCU opened and offered an environmental studies program, I decided to go back to school,” she says.

As an environmental studies major, the 2000 graduate created a presentation during which she turned the classroom into a panther habitat.

“We each had to wear a tag identifying what species we were and we had to avoid being eaten while trying to locate our own prey,” says Maria Roca, an FGCU associate professor of communication who taught the class. “Large panther tracks led into the classroom and the whole room was transformed.”

Roca was so impressed with the concept, she suggested Pires turn it into an environmental education

program for children. With the support of FGCU’s then-President William C. Merwin, who created a full-time position for her, Wings of Hope took flight.

Through the course of a school year, Pires and FGCU students she has trained work with small groups of fourth- and fifth-grade students in area public schools, involving them in hands-on experiences designed to make them aware of the plight of the endangered Florida panther, the importance of conserving water and the need to protect the state’s flora and fauna.

Students take part in classroom activities, keep journals about what they learn and visit Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW), a vast wilderness preserve that includes Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. They become members of the Panther Posse, serving as panther biologists as they learn to identify wildlife signs, using compasses and ground positioning systems.

On another day, they take part in scavenger hunts in which they look for various forms of wildlife, water and resources. They get family and friends involved through simple activities such as watching a sunset together or taking a hike, activities today’s busy families rarely do, Pires

says. At the end of the course, each student receives a photo of a panther kitten.

The program is funded through grants by various environmental organizations and governmental agencies.

It was her passionate commitment and impressive results that won her this year’s Alumni Association honor.

“It’s our distinct pleasure to honor Ricky Pires with the Alumna of Distinction Award,” says Kevin Price, chair of the FGCU Alumni Association’s awards selection committee. “Her work with the Wings of Hope program has been a shining example of the quality of our graduates and their ability to make a positive impact on a local, regional and national scale.

“In light of the recent oil spill in the gulf, it’s more important than ever that we inspire our youth to play an active role in protecting our wildlife.”

Despite the impressive number of people she’s already reached, Pires has bigger plans. She wants to take Wings of Hope to other colleges around the nation in hopes they’ll create their own versions. And, who knows? Maybe she can reach further still.

“Oprah has her girls’ school in Africa,” she says. “They need to know about the natural world, too.” ♦



Ricky Pires leads a Panther Posse session at Pinewoods Elementary School in Estero.

## PEER REVIEWS

**“Ricky Pires has created one of the most successful environmental education programs in the state and nation. Ricky is changing lives of both FGCU (students) and a wide range of community learners, many of whom would never otherwise venture beyond the urban landscape or manicured subdivision neighborhoods. Ricky is the epitome of a successful FGCU graduate who is not only passionate about her family, but has that same drive to make a difference. ... Ricky’s work and example make her old professors want to keep on going to catch up!”**

— Bill Hammond,  
FGCU professor emeritus  
of environmental studies

**“As a student, Ricky Pires was a professor’s dream come true. She set the bar very high in all of her assignments. Ricky’s energy, passion and determination have kept Wings of Hope alive and thriving through the most difficult economic times. Her work will have a profound impact for generations.”**

— Maria Roca,  
FGCU associate professor  
and senior faculty associate at the  
Center for Environmental  
& Sustainability Education

**“One of the things I appreciate most about Ricky Pires is that she was able to identify a problem – the lack of time for faculty to meet the environmental education needs of K-12 students in the region – and then design, implement and fund a solution – Wings of Hope – which now enriches both the elementary school students and our own students’ educations.”**

— Win Everham,  
FGCU associate professor  
of environmental studies

## HOW TO HELP

The non-profit program Wings of Hope operates solely on grants and private donations. It needs a utility vehicle (mule) to transport children with physical disabilities along dirt paths at the CREW nature preserve. To start the fund, founder Ricky Pires is donating the \$1,000 bonus she (and all other FGCU employees) will receive in October. To help, visit [www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope/](http://www.fgcu.edu/cas/wingsofhope/).

# Alumni Association honors Soaring Eagles

This year, the **Florida Gulf Coast University Alumni Association** introduced a **new award honoring accomplished graduates**, inducting four alumni into the **Soaring Eagles**. Recipients were individuals who have dedicated time and resources to their communities and excelled in their professions after earning degrees in the last decade. The Soaring Eagles Society complements the Alumni of Distinction Society, which has been honoring graduates since 2004.



## JONEL GOMEZ, '02 and '08

Giving birth to two children did not slow down Jonel Gomez as she pursued her master's degree in nursing at FGCU.

"It was a great fit," she recalls. "I could stay home with them and be up until 2 in the morning writing papers, and they wouldn't know."

These days, instead of balancing term papers and diapers, she juggles work as a nurse practitioner with her roles as wife and mother. Even though daughter Kinley and son Alden are only 6 and 5, respectively, Gomez hopes to squeeze in work on a doctorate in the next few years. Eventually, nurse practitioners will need the advanced degree, she believes.

How does she manage it all?

"I'm very driven to excel in anything I do," she says. "Any time there's an opportunity to learn more, I'm there."

Gomez also finds time to incorporate teaching into her career. In spring 2008, she served as an adjunct clinical instructor in FGCU's College of Nursing. And at Shell Point Retirement Community in south Fort Myers, where she worked for almost two years, she developed learning modules for the nursing staff.

She also finds time to teach her children the importance of giving back by encouraging them to create and deliver cards, artwork and homemade trinkets to Shell Point residents.

Gomez credits her success to the support of Keith, her husband of 10 years, who nominated her for the Soaring Eagle Society.

"Jonel leads by example and in doing so is creating a path of life that others can follow and admire," her husband says. ♦

**Degrees:** B.S. and M.S., nursing  
**Age:** 33  
**Home:** Fort Myers  
**Occupation:** Nurse practitioner for Stephen J. Laquis, a Fort Myers oculo-plastic surgeon



## SCOTT GUELCHER, '05

Since earning his bachelor's degree five years ago, Scott Guelcher has woven his way into the Southwest Florida arts community – or, more accurately, painted his way.

Now a full-time artist, he describes his work as an abstract mix of realism and pop art. Everyday urban imagery and contemporary themes are entwined and rendered in a variety of media.

An ambitious installation about the U.S. government testing of the hydrogen bomb in the Marshall Islands, "Bikinis and Bombs," began as his senior project and evolved into a solo show last year at the daas Gallery in Fort Myers. He has served as the education director at the Alliance for the Arts, an umbrella organization for Lee County performing and visual arts groups. In 2008 and 2009, he received arts grants from the City of Fort Myers, and he won the Alliance's 2008 Angels of the Arts award for best new artist.

Guelcher credits FGCU and its faculty with instilling values he lives by today.

"The Arts Complex is just like a family," he says. "It gave me a sense of community."

Associate Professor of Art Patricia J. Fay, who nominated Guelcher as a Soaring Eagle, says he tackles new challenges with enthusiasm.

"Making a life in the arts is not an easy thing to do – it takes truly unusual levels of perseverance that are rarely balanced by tangible rewards," she says. "Scott has crafted a path for himself in the art world that is based on continuous growth and personal application, whether teaching, managing arts programs or continuing to develop his own studio work." ♦

**Degree:** B.A., art  
**Age:** 33  
**Home:** Lehigh Acres  
**Occupation:** Artist

## SPENCER ROACH, '05

When Spencer Roach graduated from high school in Louisiana, college tuition wasn't in the cards. So at 19, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard. Four years later, reassigned from Seattle to Fort Myers Beach, he was able to enroll at FGCU through a Coast Guard educational program.

"It provided me with a great foundation," he says.

Roach's decorated service and academic success since earned him a spot in law school thanks to the exclusive Judge Advocate General program. Only six officers around the country were chosen last year. The Coast Guard pays their regular salaries while they go to school.

"I really feel like I won the lottery," he says. "Law school was a long-term goal, but I didn't know how I'd accomplish that in active duty."

And active it has been. Roach has distinguished himself in military and community service ever since. His heroism in rescuing lives during a severe winter storm in Alaska won him a medal. The Navy and Marine Corps honored him for helping enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq in the Persian Gulf. The Florida State Legislature noted his efforts to register voters and organize communities.

"His strong moral code propels him to serve those around him ... regardless of where his career takes him," says Ruth Rodrigues, FGCU's Campus Reservations and Records Management director, who nominated Roach for the Soaring Eagles Society.

His proudest accomplishment? Helping rebuild Louisiana Coast Guard units devastated by Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

"The first year down there was hell, like a war zone, worse than some Third World countries I've visited," Roach says. "To help those units and those people get back to a normal life – that tour turned out to be an incredibly rewarding experience." ♦

**Degree:** B.A., political science  
**Age:** 32  
**Home:** Cape Coral/ Coral Gables  
**Occupation:** Student at University of Miami School of Law, lieutenant in U.S. Coast Guard



## MAGALI SOLIMANO, '03

After graduating from FGCU, Magali Solimano spent two years with the Peace Corps, working in a rural, mountainous region of Ecuador. She taught business skills to women and helped establish financing for lunch programs at two elementary schools.

"I wanted to use my finance skills in a small community very far from the banking world," she says. "I was helping farmers with their livelihood on a daily basis. I always knew I wanted to contribute my skills and abilities in some way. I didn't want to get too sidetracked."

That focus has kept her on track to success. She had completed a United Nations International Poverty Centre internship in Brazil, a master's degree in international affairs and public health from Columbia University and a finance internship in Colombia. These accomplishments led to her current post at The Economist as an expert on financial markets, investment climates and policies in 15 Latin American nations.

Solimano's success impressed mentors such as Howard Finch, the Lutgert College of Business Alico Chair in Financial Management and Planning.

"She formulated a plan to jump-start her career after completing her degree and she has executed it perfectly," says Finch, who nominated Solimano for the Soaring Eagle award. "Throughout her experiences, she has always been appreciative of the influence and guidance she received from the faculty and administration at FGCU."

Solimano believes the University's academic programs and her campus leadership experiences formed a strong foundation for her career.

"It definitely prepared me for the work I'm doing now," she says. ♦

**Degree:** B.S., finance  
**Age:** 29  
**Home:** New York City  
**Occupation:** Regional editor – Americas, The Economist Group, New York, N.Y.



— Stories by John Francis / Photos by Garth Francis

## CLASS NOTES

## Wedding, engagements and births

■ **Angela Gewinner, '10** (Elementary Education) and **Evan Rosenberg, '03** (Management) announced their engagement. A March wedding is planned.

■ **(1) Carmen Missura, '09** (Community Health), and Joshua Quaintance married on June 5. Missura is a case manager at Youth Haven in Naples. Quaintance is a deputy sheriff for Lee County Sheriff's Department.

■ **(2) Kelly Patrick, '07** (Marketing), and Justin Hill will marry Aug. 14 at Elk Creek Vineyards in Owentown, TN. Patrick is a sales support coordinator for ServiceSource. Hill is an account manager with Towne Park in Nashville.

■ **Donald Routh, '06** (History), and Margaret Gonzalez were married on June 27. Routh is completing a master of arts degree in history at FGCU. They live in Cape Coral.

■ **(3) Courtney Dwyer Satkoski, '07** (Master's, Public Administration), and Dave Satkoski announce the birth of their daughter, El, on Jan. 7. Courtney Satkoski is an adjunct instructor at FGCU. The family lives in Estero.

■ **(4) Ashley Tremblay, '10** (Elementary Education), and **Evan Crawford, '09** (Communication), have announced their engagement. Crawford is employed by Rock Resorts as the sales and marketing coordinator. A July wedding is planned.

■ **(5) Jennifer Weldon, '09** (Nursing) and Rick Weldon announce the birth of their daughter, Finley Anne, on May 13. She weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces.

## Newsmakers

■ **Chandra Allen, '05** (Master's, Secondary Education), has won the National Association for Developmental Education's Outstanding Alumnus Award. Allen is a math teacher at Guilford Technical Community College.

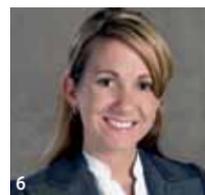
■ **(6) Allison Allie, '05** (Master's, Business Administration), was promoted to assistant vice president of Marsh U.S. Consumer Alumni Services division. She joined the Chicago office in March 2008 as client executive. She is responsible for growing client relationships, developing custom solutions for association insurance programs and creating client-specific business plans to ensure program growth. Allie provides account management in the public and private institution sectors.

■ **(7) Mary Banks, '01** (Master's, Business Administration), was honored with the Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award on April 23 at the annual FGCU Celebration of Excellence.

■ **(8) Isaac Brundage, '02** (Master's, Educational Leadership), was honored by FGCU Student Government as the Staff Member of the Year at the annual Celebration of Excellence award ceremony in April.

■ **Susan Byars, '01** (Master's, Curriculum and Instruction), has accepted the position of university registrar at FGCU. She is a founding member of the University.

■ **Annette Castillo, '05** (Political Science), received a Juris Doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University.



Send your items about new jobs, promotions, relocations, weddings, births and other milestones to the Office of Alumni Relations at: [alumnirelations@fgcu.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@fgcu.edu) or by mail to FGCU, 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565

■ **(9) Corrie Edwards, '08** (Communication), has accepted a position with PGA of America as the communications and marketing coordinator for South Florida. She is responsible for communications, implementation of marketing plans and coordination of the South Florida GolfPass. Her office is at the national headquarters of PGA of America in Palm Beach Gardens.

■ **Tyler Hamilton, '07** (Business Administration), won 2009 Airman of the Year for both Kirtland Air Force Base and the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center. He competed at the next level, Air Force Materiel Command, in April at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

■ **Dawn Hennessey, '99** (Early Education), is a middle school language arts teacher for Collier County Public Schools. She is embarking on her 10th year as a teacher.

■ **Philip Heubeck, '10** (Art), was named 2010 New Artist of the Year by the Alliance for the Arts at the Angel for the Arts Awards ceremony.

■ **Katherine Liebl, '09** (Master's, School Counseling), is the new counselor at Lehigh Senior High School. She was also recently voted in as president elect for the Lee County School Counselor Association.

■ **William Lindsay, '04** (Master's, Nursing), has accepted the position of certified registered nurse anesthetist at Physicians Regional Healthcare System in Naples.

■ **Gabby Marquez, '07** (Psychology), received her master's degree in health and physical education from Virginia Tech University. She is the assistant aquatic supervisor for the Town of Blacksburg, VA.

■ **(10) Melissa Michel, '07** (Nursing), was awarded 2010 Nurse of the Year on May 5 at North Collier Hospital in Naples.

■ **Silvia Ramos, '01** (Liberal Studies), is the manager of diversity initiatives at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. She graduated from Radford University in Virginia in May with a master of science in counseling and human development with a concentration in student affairs administration.

■ **Tiffany Ramos, '09** (Communication), was named Graduate of the Year at Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida annual awards luncheon May 5. She became involved with Goodwill through the High School/High Tech program, which provides career exploration and youth leadership opportunities to high school students with disabilities. Ramos is employed at the Pentagon as a program analyst and continues to contribute to the High School/High Tech program as a speaker on topics such as self-advocacy, individual education plans and bullying in the classroom.

■ **Braxton Rhone, '06** (Management), is a financial adviser for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. He has been with the Bank of America family since 2006.

■ **(11) Jamie Van Cleve, '09** (Elementary Education), received the Association of Childhood Education International's Nancy Bartlett Hitch Student Scholarship Award at the annual conference in Phoenix, AZ. This award is given annually to two students nationwide who have excelled academically, demonstrate outstanding scholarship and show promise as emerging educators by their involvement in extracurricular activities and volunteerism related to their professional goals.

■ **Brooke Youngquist Sweat, '09** (Resort and Hospitality), was named one of six players to the Under 26 Beach National Training team by the USA Volleyball beach department. She is also an upcoming star on the Association Volleyball Professionals tour. Sweat and partner Kristen Batt finished seventh at the AVP Santa Barbara Open in May.

## In memoriam

Florida Gulf Coast University expresses sympathy to the family and friends of the following alumnus:

■ **Kyle Clayton, '04** (Marketing), died unexpectedly May 16. He is survived by his parents, Sandy and Mike Clayton, brother Tyler and sister Casey. Clayton was an avid golfer and enjoyed life. He was employed at Lexjet. ♦

## EVENTS



## Battle of the birds

FGCU baseball fans cheered on the Eagles as they battled the University of Miami at Hammond Stadium on April 14. Among those who turned out to tailgate with the Alumni Association were Frank Graceffo, Andrew Kunkle, '05 (Computer Information Systems), Angela Hodge, '04 (Communication) and Eric Balmer.

## Summer soirée

Melissa White, '05 (Master's, Reading Education), left, celebrates with Robyn Covino, '06 (Master's, Reading Education), after winning the Business Card Challenge at the FGCU Alumni Association's summer soiree June 24 at Pizzaiolis in Naples. Alumni and friends networked while sampling an array of appetizers.



## Eagles flock to the ball park

Alumni attended an exciting evening of baseball as the Tampa Bay Rays took on the Arizona Diamondbacks at Tropicana Field on June 26. After the game, fans enjoyed a live performance by the band Barenaked Ladies. Among those in the stands were, from left, Lauren Richardson, '11 (Master's, Mental Health Counseling), Jared Odor, Loretta DeMarco, and Lindsey Touchette, '05 (Communication).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## August 10

## Webinar series: "Home Buying Tips for Today's Market"

■ **Noon, Virtual**  
Join fellow Eagles online for a free presentation on how to navigate today's real estate market.

## August 24

## Comedy Night

■ **7 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, main campus**  
Join current students for a night of laughter during their first week back to school. Comedians Steve Byrne and Derek Hughes will perform during this one-night-only show.

## September 9

## Eagle Nights: Law Reception

■ **6 p.m., main campus**  
Learn what life in the legal field is all about. Join current law school students and practicing attorneys for a panel discussion on topics such as what to expect when applying to law school and what a career in law entails.

## September 11

## Dollars for FGCU Scholars

■ **6 p.m., Beacon Bowl, 5400 Tamiami Trail, Naples**  
Have a ball bowling for a good cause at the fourth annual fundraiser benefiting the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Register a team of five or sign up as an individual for an evening of glow bowling, fun, food and Eagle giveaways. Life members are invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of Beacon Bowl. Companies interested in sponsoring a lane may call (239) 590-1087.

## September 13

## Law School Fair

■ **11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Student Union Ballroom, main campus**  
Alumni interested in attending law school are invited to meet with more than 40 recruiters from across the nation.

## October 2

## National Day of Service

■ **Times and locations vary**  
Make a difference in your community by joining fellow alumni throughout the nation in various service projects. Visit our website at [www.fgcu.edu/alumni](http://www.fgcu.edu/alumni) for a listing of planned activities in various cities. Interested in hosting a community project in your area? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (239) 590-1087.

## October 2

## National Day of Service: Southwest Florida

■ **9 a.m., Bunche Beach, Fort Myers**  
Alumni, students, faculty and staff will kick off FGCU Sustainability Week with a beach cleanup. Volunteers are needed to help restore the area. Materials and drinks will be provided.

## October 27-28

## Grad Fair

■ **11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bookstore, main campus**  
This is the official one-stop source for graduation information, services and products. We guarantee seniors no hassle for a tassel. Take care of your graduation planning and get everything you need to become an FGCU alum! Visit us online for details

## November 4

## Wine Down for Education

■ **6 p.m., Location to be determined**  
Gather with fellow alumni and friends for a wine tasting event benefiting the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Guests will enjoy a variety of wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres.

## November 19

## Eaglepalooza

■ **6 p.m., Recreational fields, main campus**  
Visit the FGCU Alumni Association tent during this popular event featuring a host of games, food and live music. Alumni tickets for the main event may be purchased at a discount through the Office of Alumni Relations. Tickets are limited. Membership ID required. ♦

**Awards or Recognitions**

■ **Kris De Welde**, Ph.D., Social and Behavioral Sciences, president-elect, Sociologists for Women in Society-South, April 23.

■ **Bob Diotalevi**, J.D., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, selected to serve on the technology committee, American Association for Paralegal Education, Feb. 7; judge, St. Thomas More Moot Court Competition, Ave Maria School of Law, April 1.

■ **Tanya Kunberger**, Ph.D., College of Business, School of Engineering, Southeastern Section Outstanding New Teacher Award, American Society for Engineering Education, March 18.

■ **Karen Royal**, College of Professional Studies, Resort & Hospitality Management, Administrative Professional of the Year, International Association of Administrative Professionals, April 21.

■ **Russell Sabella**, Ph.D., Graduate Studies, Senior Faculty Individual Service, FGCU, April 23.

■ **Pamella Seay**, J.D., LL.M., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, judge, semifinal rounds, International Environmental Moot Court Competition, Stetson University College of Law, March 14.

■ **Dean Stansel**, Ph.D., College of Business, Economics and Finance, 2010 Policy Communicators Contest, second place, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and Association of Private Enterprise Education, April 12.

**Book Publication**

■ **Joan Glacken**, Ed.D., Health Sciences and Danilo Baylen, Ed.D., "Cases 'n' Places: Global Cases in Educational and Performance Technology," Information Age Publishing, Inc., Charlotte, N.C., book chapter, "Retooling for New Opportunities: Faculty Development, Technology and Change."

■ **David Thomas**, Ph.D., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "Professionalism in Policing: An Introduction," Cengage Learning, Clifton Park, NY, p. 384.

**Grant Awards**

■ **David W. Ceilley**, College of Arts and Sciences, Marine and Ecological Sciences, \$43,760, Kitson and Partners, Aquatic Faunal Study at Babcock Ranch, March 4-Dec. 31.



BUSBEE

CEILLEY

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■ **David W. Ceilley, Edwin M. Everham III**, College of Arts and Sciences, Marine and Ecological Sciences, \$24,900, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Quality Technical Support and Data Analysis: Tasks 1-5, Jan. 13-Dec. 14.

■ **David W. Ceilley, Edwin M. Everham III and Serge Thomas**, College of Arts and Sciences, Marine and Ecological Sciences, \$25,000, Big Cypress Basin of Southwest Florida Water Management District, Lake Traffic Biological & Limnological Assessment, Jan. 1-Sept. 30.

■ **Eric Strahorn**, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, College of Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, \$8,000, National Bureau for Asian Research, June 1-30.

**Professional Presentations**

■ **Sheila Bolduc-Simpson**, M.A., and **Mark W. Simpson**, Ed.D., Language and Literature, "I Think, You Think: Teacher-Student Reflections Using Free Online Technologies," Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education, San Diego, CA, March 29-April 2.

■ **Mark Bradshaw Busbee**, Ph.D., College of Arts and Sciences, Language and Literature, "N.F.S. Grundtvig's Influence on the Rise of Scholarly Medievalism in 19th-Century England," 21st DeBartolo Conference on 18th- and 19th-Century Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, April 2.

■ **Douglas Carothers**, Ed.D., College of Education, Undergraduate Studies and **Barbara Fitz**, "Ed Venture Charter School: The school that 'works' to make a difference," Council for Exceptional Children, Nashville, TN, April 21-24.

■ **Douglas Carothers**, Ed.D., and **Carolynne Gischel**, Ed.D., College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, "How various states are implementing the RtI model," Council for Exceptional Children, Nashville, TN, April 21-24.

■ **Patricia Coccoma**, Ed.D., LCSW, **Belinda Bruster** Ph.D., LCSW, College of Professional Studies, Social Work, "Mentoring for Success: A Service Learning Partnership with Independent Living Foster Care Youth in Southwest Florida and Undergraduate Social Work Students at Florida Gulf Coast University," Mississippi Child Welfare Institute Conference, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS, Feb. 3-4.

■ **John Cox**, Ph.D., Social and Behavioral Sciences, "War Crimes, Genocide, and Justice: A Global History," Association for the Studies of Nationalities annual convention, Columbia University, New York, NY, April 15; "David M. Crowe's 'The Holocaust: Roots, History, and Aftermath': Its Contributions to Holocaust Education and Scholarship," annual conference, Southern Conference on Slavic Studies, Gainesville, March 26.

■ **Jeanie Darnell**, DMA, College of Arts and Sciences, Bower School of Music, "Role of the First Lady in Opera Naples' production of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute,'" Naples, March 5-6.

■ **Kris De Welde**, Ph.D., Social and Behavioral Sciences, "Academic Justice in an Era of Budget Cuts: Faculty Governance Concerns, Commitments and Crunching Numbers," Left Coast Feminisms: Reimagining Borders, Bodies, and the Law, Sociologists for Women in Society, Santa Barbara, CA, Feb. 6; "Greening Service Learning: Teaching Social Justice and Sustainability via a Sociology of Food Course," Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: Worlds at Risk, Atlanta, April 23.

■ **Duane Dobbert**, Ph.D., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "School Bus Drivers: The First Line of Defense Against Child Sexual Predators," annual winter meeting, Northwest New York State School Districts, Buffalo, NY, Jan. 25; "Family Violence in the 21st Century: The New Paradigm," Columbus, Ohio Police Academy, Columbus Police Department, Ohio Bar Association, Columbus, OH, April 19.

■ **Elizabeth Elliott**, Ph.D., College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, "Equipping Teachers for the 21st Century," National Association for Alternative Certification, Las Vegas, Jan. 26-30.

■ **Shawn Felton**, M.Ed., and **Tim Desmarreau**, College of Health Professions, Physical Therapy & Human Performance, "Hyperextended Knee In A Collegiate Football Quarterback," third Biennial Athletic Training Educators' Conference, Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association, Atlanta, Feb. 4.

■ **Shelby Gilbert**, Ed.D., College of Education Dean's Office, "The Narrowing Mathematics Achievement Gap in the United States: Is No Child Left Behind Working?," 2010 Comparative and International Education Society, Michigan State University, Chicago, March 1-5.

■ **Carolynne Gischel**, Ed.D.; **Susan Hibbard**, Ph.D.; **Douglas Carothers**, Ed.D., College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, "General educator training in functional behavior analysis to address problematic student behaviors," Council for Exceptional Children, Nashville, TN, April 21-24.

■ **Joanne Hartke**, M.S., Florida Institute of Government, "Uncover the Secrets to Keep Customers Coming Back," American Society of Training and Development, FGCU, Fort Myers, Feb. 17.

■ **Bradley Hobbs**, Ph.D., College of Business, Economics and Finance, "Actualizing Caplan - Developing Historical Perspectives on Human Progress," University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, March 1.

■ **Bradley Hobbs**, Ph.D. and **Stephan Gohmann**, College of Business, Economics and Finance, "Undergraduate Seminar on Ludwig von Mises - Liberalism: The Classical Tradition and The Anti-Capitalist Mentality," University of Louisville, Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, Louisville, KY, Feb. 25-27.

■ **Scott Karakas**, Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction, "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Creative and Critical Thinking in the Arts and Sciences," Oxford Round Table, Harris Manchester College, Oxford, England, March 28-April 2.

■ **Jong-Yeop Kim**, Ph.D., College of Business, U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering, "Evaluation of Storm Event Particulate Metals Removal By Hydrodynamic Separation and Batch Settling Clarifier," "Significance of Using Different Particulate Matter Indices on Representing Particulate-bound Metals Load and BMP Performance During Stormwater Events," and

"Development and Application of Particle Separation Efficiency Model for a Hydrodynamic Separator with Cumulative Probabilistic Distribution Functions," World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2010, American Society of Civil Engineers, Providence, RI, May 16-20.

■ **Barry Lipton**, D.D.S., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "Forensic Odontology and the Law," Stetson College of Law, Gulfport, April 7; "Testimony of an Odontologist in Criminal Court," Stetson College of Law, April 21; "Forensic Training for Homicide Detectives: Odontology," annual training, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Fort Myers, March 10; "Antemortem and postmortem training for forensic dentists in a mass disaster," FEMORS 2010 annual training, University of Florida, Orlando, March 20; "Missing and Unidentified Persons, The Odontologist's Responsibility," 40th annual scientific session, American Society of Forensic Odontology, Seattle, Feb. 23.

■ **Barry Lipton**, D.D.S., and **Dr. Warren Tewes**, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "Missing and Unidentified Dental Coding," Star of the South Dental Association, FBI, Houston, April 15-16.

■ **Myra Mendible**, Ph.D., College of Arts and Sciences, Language and Literature, "The Body on the Scaffold: Public Shaming as Media and Legal Spectacle," Popular & American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, Feb. 14-17.

■ **Charlie Mesloh**, Ph.D. and **R. Wolf**, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "My Weapon is Bigger the Yours: The Need for Self-Regulation in the Less Lethal Marketplace," 47th annual conference, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, San Diego, CA, Feb. 22-25.

■ **Adam Musolino**, M.A., First Year Advising, "Incentivizing an Academic Retention Program for Probated Students," National Academic Advising Association Region 4 Conference, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, March 22.

■ **Adam Musolino**, M.A., **Ashley Pittman**, M.A., **Carrie Kinnunen**, **Tyler Withrow** and **Wesley Kirk**, First Year Advising, "Lights, Camera, Advising!" National Academic Advising Association Region 4 Conference, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, March 23.

■ **Sandra Pavelka**, Ph.D., College of Professional Studies, Public Affairs, "The Legacy of Community Restorative Justice: A National Dialogue Forum" and "Taking the Next and Necessary Step: Measuring Performance in Juvenile Justice," National Conference on Juvenile and Family Law, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judge, Las Vegas, March 14-16.

■ **Nadejda Popov-Reynolds**, Ph.D., Social and Behavioral Sciences, "A History

of Violence: Discussions of violence within the Army in Athenian lawsuits," Justice in the Ancient World, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, March 5-7.

■ **Chris Rahmings**, M.Ed., **Shelby Gilbert**, Ed.D., College of Education Dean's Office, "A Generation at Risk: The Growing Dilemma of Childhood Obesity in the United States," 2010 Comparative and International Education Society, Michigan State University, Chicago, March 1-5.

■ **J. Michael Rollo**, Ph.D., Vice President's Office, Student Affairs, and **Wayne Griffin**, Associate Director University of Florida Counseling Center, "Responding to Troubled Students: The Role of Student Affairs," 2010 national conference, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Chicago, March 6.

■ **Russell Sabella**, Ph.D., Graduate Studies, "Data Boot Camp for School Counselors," Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa, April 28; Keynote Address: "Guarding Kids Against High Tech Trouble" and "Web 2.0 Communication and Collaboration Tools to Reach and Teach," South Dakota School Counselors Association, Aberdeen, SD, April 22-23.

■ **Halcyon St. Hill**, Ed.D., M.S., M.T.(ASCP), CLS, FASAHP, College of Health Professions Dean's Office, "Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Update," Florida Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, Orlando, March 4; "Successful Aging for a Healthy Workforce: Education, Multi-Sector Strategies and Challenges," 36th annual meeting and educational leadership conference, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, Reno, NV, March 4-7.

■ **Mark Simpson**, Ed.D., and **Sheila Bolduc-Simpson**, M.A., College of Education, College of Education Dean's Office, "Poster Presentation," Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education, San Diego, CA, March 28-April 2.

■ **Dean Stansel**, Ph.D., College of Business, Economics and Finance, "More Competition, More Economic Growth?: A Panel Study of Local Government in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," 79th annual meeting, Southern Economic Association, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 21-23; "Why Are Some Cities Growing While Others Are Shrinking?: An Examination of Taxes and

Economic Growth in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," 35th International Conference, Association of Private Enterprise Education, Las Vegas, April 11-13.

■ **Dean Stansel**, Ph.D., and **Matt Holian**, College of Education, Economics and Finance, "Housing Values and Decentralization of Local Government in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," 35th International Conference, Association of Private Enterprise Education, Las Vegas, April 11-13.

■ **Jo Stecher**, Ph.D., College of Health Professions, Nursing, "Diagnostic Labs: Why Basic Labs Require Advanced Interpretation in Transplant Patients," and "Lunch and Learn: Get Started in Research," Symposium for Advanced Transplant Professionals, North American Transplant Coordinator Organization, Fort Lauderdale, Jan. 15-17.

■ **Tunde Szecsi**, College of Education Dean's Office, and **V. Thirumurthy** and **M. Salakaja**, "Cross Cultural Gaze on Guiding Principles for Early Childhood Education: India, Hungary and Russia," annual conference, Association for Childhood Education International, Phoenix, AZ, April 28-May 1.

■ **Tunde Szecsi**, College of Education Dean's Office, and **L. Lee**, "ACEI Award Winning Educators' Philosophy, Experiences, Achievement and Stories of Working with Children," annual conference, Association for Childhood Education International, Phoenix, AZ, April 28-May 1.

■ **Arie van Duijn**, Ed.D., P.T., OCS; **Gregory Robrahn**, graduate student; **Roberto Lopez-Rosado**, DPT, M.S.; and **Sharon Bevins**, Ph.D., P.T., College of Health Professions, Physical Therapy & Human Performance, "Relationship Between Physical Therapist Emotional Intelligence and Patient Satisfaction," National Combined Sections Meeting, American Physical Therapy Association, San Diego, CA, Feb. 17-21.

**Publications**

■ **David W. Ceilley, Edwin M. Everham III (PI), Brenda L. Thomas**, and **Dan Hamilton**, College of Arts and Sciences, Marine and Ecological Sciences, "Riparian Vegetation along Tributaries to

Estero Bay," Florida Scientist, quarterly, pp. 420-436.

■ **Lisa Crayton**, Ph.D., College of Education, Graduate Studies, "Home to School Transitions: A Guatemalan Family Portrait," The Tapestry Journal, monthly, pp. 40-49; "Developmental Disabilities Exposed: A Memoir of Remorse, Regret, and Recovery," Florida Educational Leadership, quarterly, pp. 30.

■ **Bob Diotalevi**, J.D., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "Going the Distance...the Fight Over Online Paralegal Education," The Paralegal Educator, The American Association for Paralegal Education, quarterly, pp. 49-54; Online U (interviewed for feature article), Gulfshore Business Magazine, monthly, pp. 22-25.

■ **Alison Elgart**, Ph.D., College of Arts and Sciences, Biological Sciences, "Are the Gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park 'True' Mountain Gorillas?" American Journal of Physical Anthropology, monthly, pp. 561-570.

■ **Nicola Foote**, Ph.D., College of Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, "Manuela Saenz and the Independence of South America," World History Connected, quarterly.

■ **Debra Giambo**, Ph.D., College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, "High-Stakes Testing, High School Graduation, and Limited English Proficient Students: A Case Study," American Secondary Education Journal, quarterly.

■ **Walter Rodriguez**, Ph.D., College of Business, Information Systems and Operations Management; **Steve Fiore**, University of Central Florida; **Kris De Welde**, FGCU Social & Behavioral Sciences; **Deborah Carstens** and **Veton Z. Kepuska** Florida Institute of Technology, "Ubiquitous Collaboration (uC) Learning: Connecting the Physical and Virtual Worlds," Ubiquitous Learning: An International Journal.

■ **Russell Sabella**, Ph.D., **Timothy Poynton**, Ph.D., and **Madelyn Isaacs**, Ph.D., College of Education, Graduate Studies, "School Counselors Perceived Importance of Counseling Technology Competencies," Computers in Human Behavior, quarterly, pp. 609-617.

■ **David Thomas**, Ph.D., College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, "Facilitating Organizational Culture: New Chief Old Value Systems," Southwest Journal of Criminal Justice, quarterly, pp. 250-266.

■ **Lynn K. Wilder**, Ed.D., and **E.J. Rotz**, and **A.W. Sonntag**, College of Education, Curriculum and Instruction, "Addressing Homelessness in Urban Schools," OSEP: National Institute for Urban School Improvement, quarterly, pp. 1-20. ♦



GILBERT

RODRIGUEZ

SZECSI

THOMAS

Entries are compiled from the PERFORMANCE e-newsletter of professional accomplishments. FGCU faculty and staff are encouraged to submit their outstanding accomplishments at [www.fgcu.edu/CRM/form1.asp](http://www.fgcu.edu/CRM/form1.asp). Volume 8, issues 6-9



**Nature by night**

FGCU junior Nicholas Masiello and a friend set off on the University's nature trails for a night-time photo safari. He captured this image using a fisheye with macro lens attachment, an ultraviolet filter, a manual setting and a bit of trial and error. Masiello is from Port Charlotte and is a fine arts major. ♦

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Parting Shot is a forum for photos and prose that present a unique, personal perspective. Submit material for consideration to Pinnacle Editor Karen Feldman at [kfeldman@fgcu.edu](mailto:kfeldman@fgcu.edu) or call (239) 590-7093.



"ParrotFishe" by James Prosek

**ART EXHIBIT:**  
"Imaginative Acts of Attention"

Thursday, Aug. 26-Thursday, Sept. 30: The show features works by four artists – Troy Abbott, Adam Chapman, Enrique Gomez de Molina and James Prosek – whose creations have a surrealist edge and explore the physical, emotional and spiritual relationships among humans, nature and machines. The opening

reception takes place 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, in the Arts Complex Main Gallery, FGCU campus, Fort Myers. Call (239) 590-7238 for details.

**MUSIC:**  
"Classical Quintets"

Thursday, Sept. 16: Bower School of Music faculty Michael Baron (piano), Judy Christy (oboe), Kirsten Bendixen-Mahoney (horn),

Kristen Sonneborn (bassoon) and Paul Votapek (clarinet) perform at 7:30 p.m. in the recital hall in the new music building on FGCU's main campus. Call (239) 590-7851 for details.

**THEATER:**  
"No Exit"

Wednesday, Oct. 20-Saturday, Oct. 31: This existential classic by Jean-Paul Sartre examines the impact of choices people make, of the price we pay for desiring things we cannot have and the need to see the world as it really is. Performances take place at TheatreLab, the black box theater at the Arts Complex on FGCU's main campus, Fort Myers. Call (239) 590-7268 for show schedule and tickets.

**NETWORKING:**  
Small Business Development Center Breakfast

Saturday, Sept. 25: The fifth annual event features breakfast as well as SBDC analysts and other entrepreneurs. Small business owners are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussions and workshop at the Southwest Florida Enterprise Center, 3903 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers. Call (239) 745-3700 to reserve a spot.

**FUNDRAISER:**  
FGCU Founder's Cup Golf Tournament

Friday, Oct. 15: The 19th annual Founder's Cup begins at 11:30 a.m. at Grey Oaks Country Club, off Airport Pulling Road in Naples. Registration is \$2,000 per foursome or \$500 per person. For details, contact Michele Kroffke at (239) 590-1074 or [mkroffke@fgcu.edu](mailto:mkroffke@fgcu.edu). ♦

**4th Annual**  
**D for FGCUs Scholars**

**The FGCU Alumni Association invites you to grab your bowling shoes!**

A benefit for the FGCU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

\$25 adults / \$15 children (7 and under)  
Includes: two games, shoes, Nemo buffet, and beverages. Space is limited, RSVP required by Sept 6.  
Register online at: [www.fgcu.edu/alumni](http://www.fgcu.edu/alumni) or call (239) 590-1087.

**6p.m. • Saturday • September 11 • Naples**

Beacon Bowl, 5400 Tamiami Trail N. Naples, FL

\* Life members are invited to join us for an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Beacon Bowl. Space is limited; don't strike out. Secure your spot by calling (239) 590-1087



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