

Piano prodigy bound for Carnegie Hall ▶ Student center becomes “Harv’s Place”
Basketball teams head to post-season play ▶ Food Forest takes root

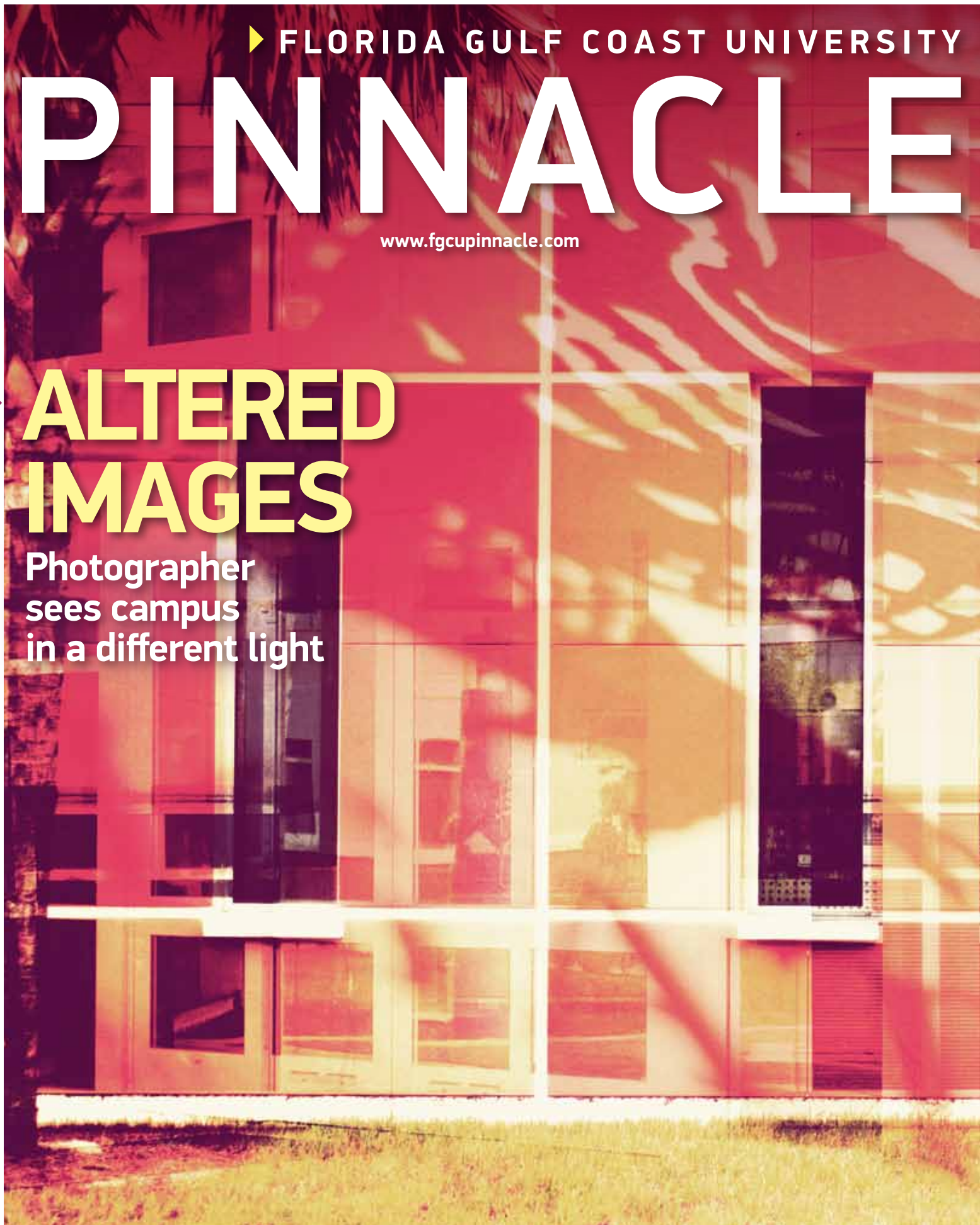
▶ FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

PINNACLE

www.fgcupinnacle.com

▶ ALTERED IMAGES

Photographer
sees campus
in a different light



Philanthropy.

As personal as your goals.

Shouldn't your philanthropic goals receive as much attention as your investments?

When included in your overall wealth management program, the UBS Donor Advised Fund can be a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving. Using a planned approach to giving can help ensure that your philanthropic passions receive optimal support while providing immediate tax benefits.

Benefits of the UBS Donor Advised Fund:

- You can contribute a wide range of assets including cash, marketable securities, restricted and closely-held stock, limited partnerships, real estate and tangible personal property.
- Because the UBS Donor Advised Fund is a tax-exempt entity, income from the assets it holds can accumulate tax-free. The more your donor advised fund grows, the more you can grant to your favorite causes.

**Advice you can trust
starts with a conversation.**



Left to right: James Tronnes, Jeffrey Berry, Jerome King

Berry and King Wealth Management Group

Jeffrey Berry, AAMS®
First Vice President–Investments

Jeremy King, CRPC®
First Vice President–Investments

7950 Summerlin Lakes Drive, Suite 1
Fort Myers, FL 33907
239-277-3638 800-237-1110
berrykinggroup@ubs.com

ubs.com/team/berryandking



Accredited Asset Management SpecialistSM and AAMS[®] are registered service marks of the College for Financial Planning[®]. Chartered Retirement Planning CounselorSM and CRPC[®] are registered service marks of the College for Financial Planning[®]. Neither UBS Financial Services Inc. nor its Financial Advisors provide tax or legal advice. Clients should contact their personal tax and/or legal advisors regarding their individual situations. **UBS Financial Services Inc. is a subsidiary of UBS AG.** ©2010 UBS Financial Services Inc. All rights reserved. Member SIPC. 7.00_Ad_8.5x11_FY1206_BerryKing

CONTENTS

Winter, 2012

Volume 6 / Issue 1

DEPARTMENTS

3

President's Q&A

5

Editor's Corner

6

How to...

Take great wildlife photos

7

Cutting Edge

The business of sustainability

8

Faces

Minding the Vester center

9

Collective We

Gay Straight Alliance gives voice to a community

11

Where Are They Now?

Bernard Pino

11

By the Numbers

Counting cars

36

Sense of Place

PGA golf lab

53

Class Notes

On the cover:

'Perpendicular' – Paul Rodino was captivated by the lines and color panels of SoVi Dining as well as the alligator warning sign outside.

FEATURES



12

AT YOUR SERVICE

The university's award-winning civic engagement program hits a milestone: 1 million-plus hours.

BY DREW STERWALD

18

VIEW FROM WITHIN

Temple Grandin headlines National Conference on Autism at FGCU.

BY KAREN FELDMAN



22

A WALK TO REMEMBER

Riddled with health issues, an inspiring young woman delays a lung transplant to attend graduation.

BY ATHENA PONUSHIS



28

ABSTRACT IMPRESSIONS

A photographer views campus through an artistic lens – with surprising results.

BY PAUL RODINO



38

Piano prodigy

An FGCU sophomore wins an international competition and the chance to play Carnegie Hall.

40

Sweet season

Basketball, volleyball and swimming teams have plenty to cheer about.

44

Dream makers

The annual President's Scholarship Luncheon brings together donors and the students whose aspirations they help realize.

47

'Harv's Place'

The student union has been named for donors Harvey and Janet Cohen.

50

Night at the Nest

Guest Urban Meyer fires up a sell-out crowd the annual athletics fundraiser.



ON THE WEB

www.fgcupinnacle.com

Catch up with classmates:

Read about fellow alumni and enter your own news item.

Selling it:

Find out how to advertise in Pinnacle magazine and online.

Heading home:

Link to FGCU's home page.

Latest issue:

Access the current issue of Pinnacle magazine.

The President says:

Learn what President Wilson G. Bradshaw has on his mind.



Photo galleries:

See pictures from recent FGCU events.

Roll 'em:

View videos of events and behind-the-scenes stories about FGCU.

The big story:

Read about the people and programs that make the university so dynamic.

Sports:

Get the latest news on FGCU's sports teams.

“Some of the most important lessons...occur outside the classroom”

An increasingly diverse population enriches campus culture.

Q: Since its inception, FGCU has worked hard at increasing the diversity of its faculty, staff and student body. Why is that important?

A: It allows for a richer educational and cultural experience for students and exposes them to the world in which they will work once they graduate. We aren't simply talking about racial diversity here. We also mean intellectual, philosophical and ideological diversity. The world our students are living in is quite different from what it was even 25 years ago. It's a global community. Students here in Southwest Florida work with people in India, China and Mozambique, among other places. The demand from the business sector for students prepared to succeed in that environment is great.

Q: How has the university's population changed in recent years?

A: The student body, faculty and staff has grown increasingly more diverse. Hispanic students make up 16 percent of the student population, an 11 percent increase over the previous year. The number of African-



American students has jumped 11 percent from the year before. They represent about 7 percent of enrollment now. Add in our Asian students – about 2.4 percent of enrollment – and that means that 25 percent of students are non-white.

Q: To what do you attribute the increase in minority enrollment?

A: Students are successful here and, as they experience success, they tell others about it. We also have programs to prepare students who are under-represented, programs for academically gifted students, programs for those interested in pursuing STEM (science, technology, engineering

and mathematics) degrees. FGCU is one of 21 universities nationwide to receive a student services support grant to encourage student participation in the STEM disciplines. We have been awarded a five-year, \$1 million grant from the federal Department of Education to retain and graduate low-income, first-generation students pursuing STEM disciplines.

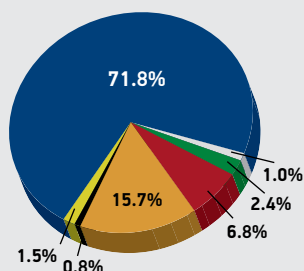
Q: In what other ways do students benefit from diversity?

A: A diverse faculty is often one of the ways in which institutions define their strength. At FGCU, 7.5 percent of the faculty is African-American and 7.7 percent is Hispanic. More than 56 percent are women. For many students, it may be the first time they interact in a meaningful way with people who come from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. In addition to enriching and energizing the educational experience, some of the most important lessons students learn occur outside the classroom -- in the residence halls, the library, Harv's Place (student center). They are exposed to a wealth of cultural values and ideas. It serves them well when they go out into the world. ■

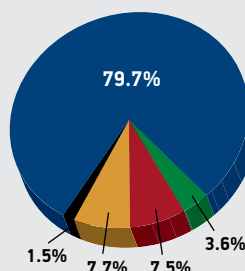
FALL 2011



STUDENT ENROLLMENT



UNIVERSITY FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES





Purchase a Membership Today and... *Experience the Pride!*



*Visit our website for a
Virtual Tour of the
Arnold Palmer Signature
Championship course!*

www.wildeatruncc.com
20300 Country Club Drive Estero,
FL 33928
Phone: 239-947-6066



the gift that gives back

The Charitable Gift Annuity

It's a simple way to bestow a charitable gift while receiving income for life and a possible tax savings.

How does it work?

A donor makes an irrevocable gift of cash, publicly traded securities or other assets to FGCU. In return, the Foundation agrees to pay a fixed annual income at a set rate that's consistently higher than money market rates.



For more information:
Contact Pete Lefferts, at (239) 590-1077
or visit www.fgcu.edu/foundation/plannedgiving



Single Life		Two Lives	
Age	Annuity	Age	Annuity
70	5.1%	70	4.6%
75	5.8%	75	5.0%
80	6.8%	80	5.7%
85	7.8%	85	6.7%

Editor /
Karen Feldman

Art Director /
Dave Anderson

Staff Writer /
Drew Sterwald

Contributing Writers /
Betsy Clayton, Chris Duncan,
Craig Handel, John Holmes,
Kevin Pierce, Athena Ponushis,
Rick Weber

Photographers /
Garth Francis, Molly Grubbs,
Nicole Halmos, Bob Klein,
David Dack Maki, John Petracco,
Eric Raddatz, Paul Rodino, Matt Slaby,
Tristan Spinski, Brian Tietz

Class Notes /
Kim Williams

Circulation /
Timothy Clark

Researcher /
Lillian Pagan

Web Manager /
Timothy Clark

President /
Wilson G. Bradshaw

Publisher /
Steve Magiera

Editorial Director /
Ken Schexnayder

GET IN TOUCH /
Pinnacle Magazine (239) 590-1081
E-mail: communityrelations@fgcu.edu
Website: www.fgcupinnacle.com

ADVERTISING /
Call (239) 590-1081

Pinnacle may be obtained in an alternative format from the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance at (239) 590-7405 or (800) 590-3428 or the Office of Adaptive Services at (239) 590-7956. Those with speech or hearing impediments may use the Florida Relay at 711 (TTY, VCO, HCO, ASCII or Speech-to-Speech).

Pinnacle Magazine is published quarterly by FGCU's Office of Community Relations & Marketing, Division of University Advancement.

Address changes may be sent via e-mail to tcclark@fgcu.edu or mailed to address below.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pinnacle Magazine, Office of Community Relations & Marketing/University Advancement, Campus Support Complex, FGCU, 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565.



Cancer, like all things, is relative

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, I WILL HAVE GRADUATED FROM A SIX-MONTH IMMERSION course in cancer. I might even have enough hair on my head to abandon the black bandanna that's been my traveling companion since September.

Despite the dread that single word conjures up, it was not the huge ordeal I'd anticipated. Friends have marveled at my upbeat attitude and bravery as I've made my way through chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Although I appreciate their admiration, it's excessive.

I had one small, obvious tumor that was caught early and treated aggressively by two brilliant doctors and their compassionate staffs. Family and friends were with me every step of the way. The growth appears to be gone, and my life is returning to normal.

Wasn't the treatment horrible, friends ask? There were some unsavory moments, but not many.

Might the cancer recur? Sure, but everyone stands a chance of getting some form of the disease.

During one chemo session, when the nurses tried – and failed – nine times to find a vein into which they could pump my chemotherapy drugs, a bout of self-pity threatened to seize me.

As a single tear trickled down my left cheek, I looked around. To my left, a nurse was talking quietly to a very ill man about hospice care. To my right sat a man with a plate in his head and a tracheotomy tube in his throat.

I quickly realized how insignificant a few needle pricks were and how relatively minor was the condition in which I found myself.

Everyone faces challenges, but for most of us, they come and go in relatively

short order. In the following pages, you'll meet two women who thrive despite medical issues most of us would consider insurmountable.

After diagnosing her as autistic, Temple Grandin's doctors advised her parents to institutionalize her and move on. They ignored that advice and instead enrolled their daughter in private schools in which she received lots of individualized instruction along with the loving support of her family. The result: Grandin, who earned a doctoral degree, went on to become an inventor, author, professor and nationally known expert on autism and animal welfare. She'll speak on campus in April.

Melody Lynn graduated from FGCU in December, the first in her family to earn a college degree. She chose to graduate rather than undergo a lung transplant that might add years to her life. She has cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder that robs her of breath and her hearing. It's kept her from her greatest passion, dancing, and will likely cut short her life. Nonetheless, Lynn doesn't waste time on self pity. She's too busy enjoying life.

Autism. Cystic fibrosis. Cancer. Life throws obstacles in our paths every day. How we respond makes all the difference.



Karen Feldman
KAREN FELDMAN
Editor
kfeldman@fgcu.edu

UPFRONT

[IN THE NEWS]

Building named for president

Academic Building 3 is now known as Merwin Hall, in honor of FGCU's second president, William Merwin, who died in May at age 71.

"Dr. Merwin served as president during a time of unparalleled growth and development, and he

will be fondly remembered as a dynamic leader whose vision and many accomplishments significantly advanced our university," said

President Wilson G. Bradshaw.

Merwin served as president from 1999 to 2007. During his tenure, FGCU grew from 24 to 71 buildings, nearly tripling in enrollment and raising \$218 million through a university capital fundraising campaign.

Founding marketing professor dies

Lee Duffus, a founding professor of FGCU, died Nov. 20 at age 72.

An associate professor of marketing, he was also active in community activities, particularly

youth soccer, for which he won a Junior Olympic gold medal for coaching and refereeing. He wrote three books on the topic.

"Lee was a friend to all and he touched many lives," said President Wilson G. Bradshaw.

Born in Jamaica, he earned his bachelor's degree from Pratt Institute and his doctoral degree from Purdue University. Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Duffus Family Student Scholarship Fund at FGCU. ■



Merwin



Duffus

[HOW TO...]

Take great wildlife photos

WILDLIFE ABOUNDS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, BUT A QUICK SNAP OF YOUR CELL phone won't capture its beauty. Photographer John Holmes shares tips on taking great nature photos.

1. Camera and quality lens: Use at least a 300 mm. A longer lens is nice, but limits mobility. Use camera settings that give a minimum of 1/1000th of a second shutter speed. A monopod can help and makes a good, multi-purpose walking stick.

2. Dress for success: Camouflage is not necessary but muted colors (such as gray or khaki) are less visible and threatening to wildlife. Save that red shirt for a party.

3. Water, **water:** Any body of water can be a wildlife magnet. As areas dry up in winter, food sources become concentrated in the water. You may find extreme feeding for just a few days as birds zero in on concentrated food as the water becomes more shallow. Wildlife that is feeding is often less wary than normal, affording great photo opportunities.

4. Good locations: On campus, try the lakes and canals, the oak hammocks on the nature trail, the cypress domes (wet and muddy), and the meadows on either side of the entrance road. If you slowly and quietly approach these areas, you may see an abundance of wildlife never noticed before. Be prepared for the

unexpected, such as a spooked bird, a snake or an alligator.

5. Make a plan: Study the terrain and habits of species you expect to find. Google Maps provides a great overview. First and last light of the day can be more active but most of my photography was done at lunch time. Look for cavities in trees, bark scrapping, chewed acorns on the trail, all indicating the presence of wildlife. That empty nest you see in the fall may be active come spring.

Listen for red shouldered hawks, the tapping of pileated woodpeckers or the hooting of barred owls. Or just relax on a log and let the wildlife find you.

6. Subtle approach: Never approach wildlife directly. If in motion, note the direction of travel and attempt to get ahead and converge with it. Also a slow zig-zag approach can be effective. Comfort zones vary considerably

for different species. A little blue heron can be very approachable while its large cousin the great blue heron, is very unsociable.

JOHN HOLMES was FGCU's purchasing coordinator until his retirement in May 2011, allowing him more time to photograph the area's abundant fauna.



John Holmes captured this eagle in flight in north Cape Coral using a Nikon D300S with a 500mm AFS VR lens, 1/2500th of a second, at F4, ISO 200.

“ This is the real hands-on course that’s going to give them practical skills that will serve them well after graduation.”

- FGCU PROFESSOR GERRY SEGAL, ON HIS “MANAGEMENT 3781: SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT” CLASS

[CUTTING EDGE]

Students help local businesses green up

Class puts sustainability tenets into practice.

STUDENTS IN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Gerry Segal’s “Management 3781: Sustainable Business Management” class can’t say they weren’t warned. It’s right there in the course description: “Be prepared to see what’s in trash bins and note all waste generated.”

If you ask the 23 students whether this was a valuable application of their tuition dollars, they’d all likely respond with an enthusiastic yes. It allowed them to get out of their seats, get their hands dirty and positively impact not only the environment, but a business – Chez Boët (formerly Bamboo Café) in Naples, owned by Lisa Kelly Boet.

Frank Lee, a 23-year-old business management major, had taken University Colloquium – a required sustainability course for all undergraduates – but this class took that a step further.

“This time the experience outside the classroom didn’t just involve a grade, but could potentially involve the well-being of a business owner,” he says. “That’s how she (Boet) makes her livelihood. Not that she’s relying on our professional skills to consult her in that direction, but we have the potential to affect that.”

Says Segal, “This is not the traditional textbook course where they learn a lot of theories and spit it back on an exam – and then maybe forget half of it a few months down the road. This is a learn-by-doing sort of course where they have to go out and problem-solve. They have to do the research. This is more like what they’re going to do after graduation. This is the real hands-on course that’s going to give them practical skills that will serve them well after graduation.”

Segal divided the class into five teams,



FGCU seniors Natasha Gascon, left, and Melissa Rodriguez, center, meet with Chez Boët owner Lisa Kelly Boet in the restaurant’s kitchen.

with each responsible for a sustainability report that offered recommendations for six functional areas: energy audit (electricity and natural gas); water; waste and pollution; product and supply chain; green marketing; and change management. On Dec. 15, they presented their findings to Boet.

That’s where the Dumpster diving came in. They examined what was being thrown out and noticed that the vast majority was food waste. Their suggestion: have a bucket in the kitchen when vegetables are trimmed, then donate the trimmings to a local farmer to use for compost or to feed animals.

Boet was struck by the students’ enthusiasm and determination.

“They understood our limitations – some of the things we’re faced with,” she says. “It’s not easy to say, ‘OK, we’re going to change everything in a week.’ It’s a process. They have been very astute about that. It’s been a great process because both sides have learned.”

Chez Boët recently became the first certified “green” business in Naples, so Dumpster diving paid demonstrable dividends.

– Rick Weber

[A-VERSE]

KEVIN PIERCE is host of “FGCU Perspectives” on WGCU-TV and is host and producer of “The Florida Environment” on WGCU-FM and other Florida public radio stations. He lives in Fort Myers.



BIGGEST LOSERS

NEWS ITEM — “I love anthropologists, but there aren’t any jobs in anthropology.” - Florida Governor Rick Scott, proposing that funds for the liberal arts be trimmed and its degrees deemphasized.

Reality TV shows (which I am not a viewer of) Are what I’d rather he chose To see that there were fewer of.

COMMUNICATIONS MINOR

NEWS ITEM — In an organized campus event, a minister and an adult film star debated pornography.

The farmer’s son, a student, feared his dad might be irate When he found out porn and pastor had been scheduled for debate. The student’s dad, a farmer, saw no reason for such scorn Having misheard that the conflict pitted pasture against corn.

VOLT FOR ME

NEWS ITEM — Thanks to a donation, FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw now gets around in an electric car.

His power, large, Required current: He couldn’t charge Where outlets weren’t. ■

[FACES]

Bob Wasno

Jack of all trades facilitates research at Vester station.

AN FGCU STUDENT APPROACHES BOB WASNO WHILE HE'S BEING INTERVIEWED FOR this story and coos about "how cool" the Vester Marine & Environmental Science Research Field Station is. It's her first visit to scope out the facilities for a research project, and she peppers him with questions.

"This is what it's all about," Wasno says of the student's wide-eyed enthusiasm. "You can feel the energy going back and forth."

Time and again in his four years as Vester's facilities and resource coordinator, Wasno has seen students' eyes light up as they dip a canoe paddle into Fish Trap Bay for the first time. Some 2,000 students a year visit or use the field station located 12 miles from campus in Bonita Springs.

Naturally, Wasno is all about trumpeting the far-reaching science that students, faculty and visiting researchers conduct at the field station.

But even Wasno, 50, can be wowed by the sheer beauty of this waterfront wonderland on Little Hickory Island, a spit of land with quick access to the Imperial River, Estero Bay and Gulf of Mexico. The deep tan on his rangy frame attests to hours spent outdoors – when he's not hitting the ice in an over-30 amateur hockey league.

"Waz" (rhymes with Oz), as friends call him, has always loved the outdoors. He grew up fishing and hunting with his father in Pennsylvania.

"As a kid, being able to see firsthand the polluted waters and mine drainage – I thought, 'This is something I could really get involved with trying to rectify,'" he says.

A second-story perch in one of the Vester compound's three buildings – Wasno dubbed it "the tuna tower" – affords an enviable panorama: storms



Bob Wasno has spent much of the last two decades on and in Southwest Florida waters.

rolling in from the west while the sun rises in blue sky to the east; osprey fledging from a nest across the inlet; manatees bobbing in the sheltered back-bay waters.

"This place is really a treasure," Wasno says. "How lucky are we that Norm and Nancy Vester could see the potential of this place?"

Wasno was working on his master's degree in environmental sciences at FGCU when the university acquired the fish-house-turned-resort. A longtime marine biologist for Lee County and a former Florida Sea Grant Program coordinator, Wasno was hired to maintain the property as a research center with wet labs, a fleet of seven boats and two dozen canoes and kayaks and a fish and shellfish hatchery.

His engineering background from the

U.S. Army and occasional contracting work provided the skills necessary to outfit the station and modify it for the diverse instructional and experimental needs of faculty and students. A certified advanced diver and licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain, Wasno also ensures the safety of those working on the water.

"This job takes several people with expertise in basic electrical, plumbing, construction, boat driving and trailering, boat maintenance, diving and excellent interpersonal skills for engaging in outreach," says Aswani Voley, professor of marine science and Vester director. "Bob is all these people packaged into an individual and does all these tasks with utmost alacrity."

– Drew Sterwald

“The LGBT community needs a lot of allies – their voice makes more of an echo. Allies want the same things for them that they want – it’s not just their cause. It’s something I feel is important.”
– MELISSA LAU, GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE CO-PRESIDENT



[COLLECTIVE WE]

Gay Straight Alliance

LGBT community, its allies making their voices heard.

“IT GETS BETTER!”
THE CRY RESOUNDED
THROUGH A SUGDEN
Hall classroom recently
as about 40 FGCU

students shouted and waved at a video camera. They raised their voices to denounce bullying, to mourn lives lost, to send a message of hope to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) teens facing harassment because of who they are.

The university’s Gay Straight Alliance, one of FGCU’s largest student organizations, taped its message for the It Gets Better Project. The worldwide movement began in September 2010, after a number of students around the country took their own lives as a way to escape the pain of persistent bullying. They couldn’t see ahead to a time when their lives might be better.

More than 30,000 user-created videos like the GSA’s have been posted to the project’s website by celebrities, sports teams and President Barack Obama to try to prevent more teen suicides and to inspire hope.

After their group shout-out, FGCU students taped individual messages for the project.

“It’s exciting to see so many people want to participate in our events,” says GSA co-president Matthew Stoner, a junior majoring in computer science. “We started out as a really small organization with 10



Above: Jessie Rankin tapes a video for the It Gets Better Project.

or 20. It has grown to about 100-120. Through an organization like ours, people are becoming more aware of the struggles we face. The tide is starting to turn.”

Established in 2003, FGCU’s alliance

aims to promote activism, build awareness of LGBT issues and celebrate diversity on campus and off. Roughly 80 percent of its members identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning; the rest are heterosexual “allies” like co-president Melissa Lau, a junior majoring in resort and hospitality management.

“The LGBT community

Below: Drag Bingo is a popular activity of the Gay Straight Alliance.

needs a lot of allies – their voice makes more of an echo,” Lau says. “Allies want the same things for them that they want – it’s not just their cause. It’s something I feel is important.”

In addition to fun activities like Drag Bingo, emceed by drag queens, the GSA has served as host for the statewide Florida Collegiate Pride Conference. Members also volunteer at Visuality, a new nonprofit educational and social center for LGBT youth in Fort Myers.

Look for the GSA’s video and watch others’ inspirational messages at www.itgetsbetter.org.

– Drew Sterwald



[COMMUNITY]

Will work for food

Students cultivate knowledge through campus Food Forest.

SOME DAY SOON, FGCU STUDENTS WILL ENJOY THE fruits of their labors in the Food Forest.

They broke ground last summer on this half-acre field between Sugden Welcome Center and Kleist Health Education Center for a botanical collection of tropical and subtropical edible species. The FGCU Food Forest represents an interdisciplinary initiative to teach principles of regional, sustainable agriculture.

The FGCU Student Government approved more than \$100,000 for the project proposed by a team of students and faculty, including the Backyard Farmers organization.

"It's important to understand where our food comes from, to understand what can grow in Southwest Florida," says Scott Stimpson, who graduated in December with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies. "We want to give that connection to people."

President Lauren Schuetz and other Student Government leaders deemed the project a good fit for FGCU.

"It's part of the university's mission to be sustainable," she says. "It's important to get students involved."

The group employed engineering, ecology, horticulture and design skills to conceive and execute the plans. Volunteers



Above: Scott Stimpson, '11, shows volunteers how to plant shrubs.

Far left: Student Government leaders participated in a planting day.

Near left: Radishes ready to harvest.

sweated throughout the summer digging paths and building berms; in the fall, they planted native ground cover as well as vegetables, such as spaghetti squash, Swiss chard and beets. After the danger of winter freezes passes, they will begin transplanting propagated fruit trees, such as papayas, mangoes and avocados.

long for some payoff: Under optimum circumstances, papaya can begin fruiting at 8 months. Harvested fruit will be distributed on campus.

Follow the progress of the project and find out how you can help at fgcufoodforest.weebly.com.

— Drew Sterwald

“It’s part of the university’s mission to be sustainable. It’s important to get students involved.” *(Talking about the Food Forest project)*

– LAUREN SCHUETZ.

FGCU STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

[WHERE ARE THEY NOW?]

Bernard Pino

Nurse helps plant seeds for healthy living.

BERNARD “BEN” PINO’S EPIPHANY CAME WHEN HE FOUND HIMSELF in the lobby of Broward General Medical Center and realized people could buy a Big Mac right there, on their way to the elevators to visit sick loved ones – many of them hospitalized because of conditions related to heart disease, strokes, obesity or diabetes.

The FGCU nursing graduate (’06), whose mother’s nursing career instilled in him the desire to care for people, was struck by the irony and plotted to do something about the correlation between those conditions and people’s diets.

“I knew people needed easy access to nutritious food – as easy as going to McDonald’s and as cheap or cheaper,” says Pino, 28, who grew up in Miami and lives in Fort Myers.

That logic led Pino and partner Andrea Guerrero to found the nonprofit Heartland Gardens in December 2010. It’s a one-acre community garden off McGregor Boulevard in south Fort Myers with a raised-bed labyrinth of community food-bank plots.

“The whole ‘Teach a man to fish’ saying is real. Buy a couple seeds, get a huge tomato plant and have 150 to 200 tomatoes to eat,” says Pino, whose passion is to educate the public on the benefits of local, organically grown food and to provide people with the tools to prepare nutritious meals daily from what they’ve raised.

They conduct interactive classes such as preservation workshops and hands-on outdoor kitchen events. New for 2012: a permaculture design



Ben Pino, '06, co-founded Heartland Gardens.

course that will teach sustainable landscaping and mulching techniques.

Still working as a nurse, Pino is pleased with the nonprofit’s success. Heartland started with 12 food-producing gardens and is on its way to a goal of 500, both at its site and at local businesses, residences and schools, where Pino and Guerrero help set them up.

A 15-week “Grow Your Own Food” course in spring 2010 had 40 spaces but only 25 participants; the same course in fall 2011 filled its 40 slots with 12 people on the waiting list.

“We make it absolutely as easy as possible to start,” Pino says. “If all you want to do is grow one tomato plant, start there. It’s extremely rewarding.” For more information, go to www.heartlandgardens.org.

– Betsy Clayton

[BY THE NUMBERS]

You auto know

Parking Garage 4 opened in January north of Lutgert Hall, adding space for 750 more vehicles on campus. As enrollment and staff continue to grow, competition for parking spaces is unlikely to abate. In the 2010-11 school year, 13,710 parking permits were issued.

8,706



Number of parking spaces on campus. Garages hold 4,417 vehicles; surface lots accommodate 1,600 in the core campus and 4,289 campus-wide.

Average number of parking citations issued on campus during a school year.

8,297

1,400

Average number of parking citation appeals submitted yearly.



\$30

General parking fine if paid within 10 calendar days.

Reserved-space violations are \$100, and disabled-space violations

\$100

Fine for using a permit not issued to you, falsifying a permit application, creating duplicate decals or permits or other fraud.



\$200. Having two or more overdue unpaid citations may result in the immobilization of the vehicle.

Dollars generated by parking citations in 2010-11. Half goes into parking operations; the remainder is used for short-term emergency loans to students for tuition or fees.

\$182,725

91

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) parking decals issued since 2010 to drivers of low-emission and fuel-efficient vehicles. Preferred parking is provided for a limited number of students, faculty and staff who have registered with Parking Services.

SERVING TO **LEARN** & LEARNING TO **SERVE**

Award-winning
program tops
1 million hours
of community
engagement

By **DREW
STERWALD**



Courtesy of Kaylee Wallace

When Kaylee Wallace signed up to spend a week in Ecuador in June 2011, she figured she'd tally some community service hours and catch some rays on the beaches of the coastal city where she'd be staying.

The senior biology major didn't realize how much the trip would change her life, how much bringing a smile to a child's face would touch her heart.

Instead of lounging in the sand, Wallace worked 12 hours a day with other student volunteers helping doctors repair the cleft palates and polydactyl hands and feet of poor children. She started out doing triage, evaluating patients' needs. Soon she was scrubbing up to help with surgical procedures, suturing wounds and preparing IVs. The group performed 80 to 100 procedures a day.

"It was pretty intense," Wallace recalls. "When you see a child with a cleft lip and they're so small – the compassion comes out in you. It was so powerful. I got a lot more out of it than I thought I would."

So much, in fact, that Wallace altered her career goals. She'd always loved the science of medicine – the lab work. Now, she plans to become a physician's assistant so she can work with people instead of microscopes.

Service-learning opens eyes, touches hearts, changes minds. It moves classroom lessons into the real world, pairing practical skills with community needs. It nurtures a commitment to civic engagement while enriching personal and professional development.

It's serving to learn and learning to serve.

Since opening in 1997, Florida Gulf Coast University has amassed more than 1 million service-learning hours and earned national recognition for its program. The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars last

Kaylee Wallace helped doctors repair cleft palates on children in Ecuador.

fall honored FGCU with its Higher Education Civic Engagement Award – one of only six institutions honored as national role models.

The university also was recognized on The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and was named 2011 Engaged Campus of the Year by Florida Campus Compact, a coalition of 50-plus colleges and universities committed to promoting community service.

"Florida Gulf Coast University has created an environment that brings students and community organizations together, showing that the best and most well-rounded academic experience is not just defined by classroom learning," said Mike Smith, president of The Washington Center.

"Florida Gulf Coast University has created an environment that brings students and community organizations together, showing that the best and most well-rounded academic experience is not just defined by classroom learning."

— Mike Smith, president of The Washington Center

FGCU students participate in 80 hours of service-based learning prior to graduating. The EaglesConnect program helps them match personal passions and academic goals with more than 300 agencies, including social, legal and health services, environmental organizations, educational institutions and much more.

Service can take place close to home or far afield, in a couple of hours between classes or during "alternative" vacation breaks in other states or countries.

Senior Kelly Snauwaert was naturally drawn to Special Equestrians, a

therapeutic riding program for children and adults with developmental or physical disabilities. While she also has completed service-learning related to her marine science major, she has always had a passion for horses and loves to work with kids. She enjoys saddling up the horses and leading the riders around the stables east of Fort Myers.

"Just knowing you have put that smile on someone's face makes a difference," she says. "It's really rewarding when they engage with you."

The feeling is mutual, according to Jan Fifer, Special Equestrians' executive director. In the three years since FGCU established the partnership, the nonprofit and its participants have grown to depend on the students. At least two dozen students have worked together to build a new trail at the stables and created their own Facebook page to connect with one another. One student even serves on the board of directors.

"I can't imagine not having them," Fifer says. "We have all kinds of volunteers, but the kids really relate to the college students in a really special way. They get excited to see them. They create a friendship bond."

Advancing engagement

Undergrads also are required to complete the University Colloquium, a hands-on environmental-education course covering sustainability and ecological literacy. Colloquium students engage in 10 hours of service-learning and complete papers and projects in which they reflect on their experiences.

Additionally, College of Arts and Sciences students complete a three-credit Foundations of Civic Engagement course in which they analyze an issue in the community and develop and complete a project that addresses the problem and advances civic engagement.

Programs like FGCU's are being modeled throughout the American educational system, according to Service-Learning Director Jessica Rhea.

"It's gaining momentum in higher education because it's a high-impact teaching practice," she says. "It's not just a feel-good practice. It's more than community service. True service-



learning requires you to reflect, discuss, do journal entries or write a paper. It guarantees you think about it.”

‘Not just putting in hours’

Some students roll their eyes at first, wondering why they have to fulfill community service on top of academic requirements. Even Wallace, the student who went to Ecuador, initially considered it a hassle. Her feelings changed when she took the civic engagement class and started putting the principles to work.

“You see people’s attitudes change — they become passionate about it,” she says. “It changes you, makes you a better person.”

The key is connecting students with an issue or organization they care about

and linking it to their course work, Rhea says.

“It’s more meaningful for them,” she says. “People who find something that connects with their passions say it doesn’t feel like something that they *have* to do anymore — they *want* to do it. Some of them even get competitive about it.”

She could be talking about Renato Talhadas, a senior sociology major who has tallied more than 300 hours and hopes to set a school record. (There isn’t one, but the university is considering adding an honor cord for graduates who demonstrate exceptional commitment to service-learning.)

Talhadas says FGCU’s commitment to service-learning factored into his decision to enroll here.

Sarah Lacey, left, and Kelly Snauwaert volunteer at Special Esquestrians in Fort Myers.

“I didn’t want to go to a ‘football school,’ ” he says. “There are people known for being honors students or student-athletes — I’m the service-learning guy. Service-learning allows you to put others before yourself. It’s a good wakeup call.”

Talhadas has amassed hours mentoring and tutoring kids at a local YMCA and providing HIV/AIDS counseling in his native Brazil during school breaks. Despite an extra-intense course load, he says it’s not difficult to fit volunteer work into college life.

“It’s not just about putting in hours,” he says. “When you meet individuals with AIDS, the engagement is very

personal. They're not just people with AIDS. They're human beings."

A similar sense of empathy drove then-senior Caity Kauffman ('11, Journalism) to orchestrate a 20-page newspaper insert about St. Matthew's House last spring. The special section was designed and printed at the Naples Daily News, which inserted it in its Easter Sunday edition as well as the Bonita Banner. It reached tens of thousands of readers.

The nonprofit St. Matthew's House shelters homeless people, provides food for those who need it and runs a transitional residential program for people in recovery. Proposing an additional shelter in Bonita Springs, the organization stirred public opposition that grabbed headlines.

The news stories outraged Kauffman, who dug deeper into the controversy, invoking Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Law to request e-mails to and from the Bonita Springs City Council and mayor. In one message, a city councilwoman characterized all the people who would come to St. Matthew's House as ex-convicts and sex offenders.

"I was so upset that I had to do something about it," Kauffman says. "It got my fire started. I wanted to put a face on the issue. It's easy to say no to proposals like this. The voice of the homeless is not being heard."

So, she rallied four classmates from her civic engagement class who spent 40 hours interviewing and writing St. Matthew's House Times. They listened to the stories of ex-drug dealers and mothers escaping abuse and addiction, stories of trial and triumph that illustrated the importance of the services St. Matthew's House provides.

"A lot of these people get ignored," Kauffman says. "They want someone to talk to. Anybody can end up at this point."

St. Matthew's House's expansion plans are still up in the air, but the project

FIRST PERSON:

St. Matthew's House opens a door back into society.

By Caity Kauffman

Tonight, Jon, Chyanne, Megan and I (sans David) headed down to St. Matthew's House at dinner to start our first interviews with the residents.

The first time we hung out at St. Matt's two weeks ago, I met Randall. He's a super tall African-American guy, who is soft spoken, articulate and has a bright smile from ear to ear. I knew immediately I wanted to interview him.

Randall is a 33-year-old Seattle native who is at St. Matthew's House on a court-ordered, five-month drug rehab program. He first went to prison at age 17 for kidnapping and attempted murder and was there for most of his 20s.

He told me about life in prison, the terrifying economics behind being a crack dealer, and showed me the scars peppering his body from seven gunshot wounds.

"I was a dope boy. I was a gang banger. I was suicidal," he told me. "I didn't want to kill myself. I just didn't care if my lifestyle killed me."

Harsh, guilt-ridden, but for Randall, cathartic realizations.

Most importantly, he told me about how coming to rehab at St. Matthew's House was the beginning of holding himself

accountable for his actions. He is now seeing the ripple effect of using drugs, and said he finally realized that being a drug dealer has an expiration date.

I asked him, "You know you can't deal drugs until you're 70, right?" He replied, "Exactly right. But I didn't realize that before."

If he fails any portion of the five-month program, he returns to prison for 20 months.

He's got a lot to lose, and St. Matthew's is helping keep him off the streets. They're his support system and his ticket back to mainstream society. He's been sober for 21 days.

The rest of the group chatted with other residents who wandered in and out of the dining hall, including a mother with three kids. She had a 7-year-old girl, a 3-year-old boy and an 18-month-old boy. She came to St. Matthew's after losing her job and apartment just a week before Thanksgiving.

Next week, she's moving out of St. Matt's and into her own apartment.

— Excerpted from 2011 graduate Caity Kauffman's blog about her service-learning project.



Caity Kauffman worked with four other students to produce this newspaper insert promoting St. Matthew's House.





Sarah Paul, left, and Zania Richardson volunteer at the Big Brothers Big Sisters' holiday party in December in Fort Myers.

WHERE THE HOURS GO

A sampling of programs that benefit from students' community service:

■ **Wings of Hope** is the environmental education program in which students train to educate elementary school students – roughly 4,000 a year – about local wildlife, water conservation methods and other ways to “go green.” About 440 FGCU students are involved in the program every year, each serving about 10 hours for a total of 4,400 hours annually.

■ **The Harry Chapin Food Bank** and its partner agencies – which feed the hungry in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties – benefit in several ways. FGCU's Collegiate High School Program contributes 200 hours of service by educating the community about the issue of hunger and collecting thousands of cans of food. The art department's annual Empty Bowls event – at which students' ceramics projects are filled with donated soup and sold – raised \$3,600 last year to stock the Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee pantry. In January, the FGCU Cares Team raised more than \$32,000 for Harry Chapin's annual Hunger Walk.

■ **The Food Forest** funded by FGCU's Student Government drew more than 150 students from multiple disciplines who served 1,275 hours in just the first three months of land preparation and planting (see story on page 10). A model for productive sustainable agriculture, the Food Forest called upon knowledge and service related to environmental engineering and environmental science and will continue to engage students in University Colloquium and other service-learning areas.

was a key real-world experience for Kauffman.

“It was important,” she says. “It meant something.”

Field experience important

Helping students bridge the gap between the classroom and the working world is an important benefit of service-learning.

Field experience is ever more important in so many professions, according to Assistant Professor Belinda Bruster, director of the bachelor's degree program in social work. She has written a paper about service-learning with two students; they hope to present it at a statewide social work conference in June.

“We're trying to get more faculty around the country to take ownership of

service-learning,” Bruster says. “Part of our new core competencies is connecting the classroom with the field.”

Her paper outlines a project that grew from Bruster’s Vulnerable Populations class that took students to Immokalee last spring. They volunteered at the Guadalupe Center, which works to break the cycle of poverty in a town where more than half of all families live below the federal poverty guideline. They saw firsthand the importance of providing educational, social and other support programs and resources for a very real “vulnerable population.”

“It’s extremely important for them to have these experiences before they graduate,” Bruster says. “We try to expose students to the field a lot by their senior year. It’s real-world experience. They become more attuned to their own biases. It begins to shape them as social workers.”

In some instances, students and faculty get to see the long-term effects of their efforts. In the College of Health Professions, Professor Halcyon St. Hill’s senior seminar class in Spring 2011 decided to organize a farmer’s market at the Collier Area Transit transfer station at the county government complex. The goal: to provide access to healthy food options for municipal workers and public transportation users.

The interdisciplinary project required students from diverse health-related programs to use critical thinking and resolution skills in cost-benefit analysis, procuring appropriate vendors, navigating government codes and procedures and educating the public about the nutritional value of fresh produce.

“The most exciting part of this was that students brought this project to fruition with the opening of a farmer’s market that is still viable,” St. Hill says. “What they learned is how important it was to transfer knowledge to real-world situations through providing a volunteer service to society, and how important sharing professional experience can be in terms of civic engagement.” ■

FIRST PERSON:

Taking vital signs and chasing chickens in Haiti.

By Michael G. Danis

Imagine how shocked people were when I turned down Labor Day weekend parties to instead volunteer for a medical mission trip to Haiti! No parties in Haiti. No electricity, phones or warm water, either. Just insects, mud, rubble and lots of sick people.

Was I crazy? Perhaps, because there are easier volunteer opportunities that don’t require typhoid vaccines or spending over \$500 of your own money for travel expenses. For me, however, volunteering in Haiti wasn’t just a way to earn service-learning hours for graduation. It was an opportunity to explore “disaster relief” nursing and positively impact people’s lives and health.

While in Haiti, I helped the medical team care for 521 patients in a mountaintop school accessible only by foot. At first I figured I’d only be used for my strength. Many of the nurses were older and couldn’t lift the 50-pound suitcases filled with medical supplies, much less tote them up the mountain.

My role quickly expanded though. High school anatomy and physiology labs had prepared me for the real thing! I took over 200 sets of vital signs. My sign language skills even allowed me to communicate with a deaf child when no other member of the team could. I also helped set up the pharmacy.

One afternoon we cared for the



Michael G. Danis gave up a holiday weekend to use his nursing skills in Haiti.

elderly who could not climb the mountain. We set up on a concrete front porch next to the farm. I took turns taking vital signs and chasing chickens off the porch. Does volunteering get more extreme than that?

Every evening the team would debrief, and I would take the minutes. After returning home, I prepared a mission summary report for the group to present to the sponsoring organization’s board.

I am excited and very pleased to have contributed to the mission in so many different ways.

— Nursing major Michael G. Danis’ essay appeared in the Spring 2011 edition of *On the Wing*, the Office of Service-Learning’s newsletter.

BY THE NUMBERS

1 million-plus

Service-learning hours completed since FGCU opened in 1997.

18,759

Students have participated.

5,352

Students who completed more than the 80 hours required.

117.48 hours

Average for students who exceed the minimum.

AUTISMS

from the inside

Temple Grandin has made a career out of demystifying this mysterious condition.

Temple Grandin is a respected educator and best-selling author. She's a groundbreaking animal scientist and industrial designer. In 2010, she was the subject of the HBO film, "Temple Grandin," starring Claire Danes, and was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people.

She is all of those things because – not in spite – of the fact that she has autism.

By KAREN FELDMAN

Photo by MATT SLABY



Photographed last year at Colorado State University's
ARDEC (Agricultural Research, Development, and
Education Center) facility near Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Grandin, 64, will be a keynote speaker on Saturday, April 13, at Promising Pathways: The Road to Best Practices in Autism, an annual conference held at Florida Gulf Coast University. (See story on page 21.) She will speak about her experiences with autism. Formally known as autism spectrum disorder, this complex set of neurodevelopment disorders causes social awkwardness, difficulty communicating and, often, repetitive behavior. (See accompanying box.)

Like many children with the disorder, Grandin was unable to talk at age 3 and exhibited multiple behavioral problems. Rejecting doctors' advice to institutionalize her, her parents sent her to private schools, where her skills were nurtured and she thrived.

She went on to earn bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, studying psychology and animal science. She has taught animal science at Colorado State University in Fort Collins since 1990.

Her realization that hypersensitivity to sound and touch can cause fear in people with autism as well as animals motivated her to devote much of her life to reducing that anxiety. She has worked extensively to develop humane livestock facilities that eliminate fear and pain from the slaughtering process and written extensively about humane treatment of animals. She has also designed a device that helps those with autism ease tension and has published books about the condition, recommending ways to improve the lives of those who have it.

Grandin's work is particularly useful because she is able to explain autism from a uniquely personal perspective.

She recently spoke with Pinnacle magazine by telephone. Here are some of her comments.

Q: What will your talk at FGCU entail?

A: I'll talk about the importance of early intervention and the sensory problems of people with autism, that they can be sensitive to sound or fluorescent lighting.

I'll talk about careers and jobs. Autism

is a big spectrum. There are people who are extremely handicapped who are not going to be able to live independently. But many people who have it can be successful. I believe half of Silicon Valley has some degree of autism. I think Steve Jobs had it. (Albert) Einstein had no language until age 3. Mozart probably had some form of the disorder, too.

Q: What are some of the mistakes made when working with people with autism?

A: There are lots of labels. People get too hung up on labels. Kids with autism are labeled "quirky," "nerdy" and "different." Labels don't help. Figure out what a kid is good at and that can turn into a job.

There are different kinds of minds. I'm a visual kind of thinker. I think totally in pictures. Another kind of mind is a mathematical thinker – these would be kids who are good with numbers but have trouble with reading. Then there are word thinkers, those who think completely in words. You need to match the career to fit with the mind.

You tend to find out around third or fourth grade what kids are good at. What you have to do is build on a kid's area of strength, enhancing the area where he's strong while also doing some work on areas where he's not strong, but too often

the tendency is to focus on deficits. There needs to be more focus on strengths that can be turned into careers.

Q: What kind of careers do you think are well suited to people who have autism?

A: I turned visual thinking into a career. I went into something where I could use my visual thinking skills. I could design things in my head and test run them. I thought everyone could do that. I didn't even know it was a special skill. Visual thinkers would do well in art, graphic design, architecture, computer animation and fixing cars and trucks. Mathematical thinkers make good computer programmers, mathematicians and physicists. Word thinkers make good writers.

Whatever kind of thinkers they are, they need to learn basic job skills. We're seeing lots of kids doing well in agriculture through groups like Future Farmers of America and Boy Scouts. There's not enough emphasis on learning job skills anymore. The loss of paper routes is bad. It taught job skills. There are too many quirky, nerdy kids who ought to be out there doing great things who are sitting around playing video games instead of learning job skills.

Q: What can youngsters do now that might help instill those skills?

A: Middle school kids can be walking dogs for people, making Power Points for businesses, maintaining church websites, making greeting cards and selling them, making crafts and selling them or working in a farmers market. When I was 13, I did sewing jobs. When I was in high school, I took care of nine horses. I was 15.

Q: What's your view of the medications being used to treat autism?

A: We're seeing too many young children on too many drugs. It's absolutely disgusting. There's a place for careful, conservative use of medication, but antipsychotics like Risperdal are

“I believe half of Silicon Valley has some degree of autism. I think Steve Jobs had it. (Albert) Einstein had no language until age 3. Mozart probably had some form of the disorder, too.”

being given out like candy. It's terrible. It makes kids fat and ups the chance of getting diabetes.

Q: What do you think should be done for young children diagnosed with autism?

A: The main problem with autism is the social circuits just aren't hooked up. We need to teach social skills. Little kids – the 2- and 3-year-olds – need at least 20 hours a week of one-on-one work with an effective teacher. It could be a family member or a grandmother from the church or a college student who has had a little training – they can take a couple of workshops and learn what they need to know. The worst thing you can do with an autistic 3-year-old is let him sit in the corner watching TV. He needs to be engaged with a human being, doing something, interacting, taking turns. You have to teach that to autistic kids. They

are really bad about that. They need to be taught table manners. When the kid makes a mistake, you don't scream 'no!'. If I'd reach across the table, my mother would say 'Ask your sister to pass it.' She'd give the instruction. The child's brain needs to be kept engaged with the world.

Q: What about getting a dog for a pet or service animal as a way of engaging a child with autism?

A: Some autistic kids respond well to animals. They are instant best buddies with the dogs. Others may be afraid then get to like the dog, and then there are some that don't like animals because of their sensory sensitivity. They don't like the smell or the dog barks and hurts their ears. There are really good things being done with animals, but it's not instantly perfect for everybody. Start by trying out the neighbor's Labrador retriever. You may find out quickly that it's too much sensory stimulation and isn't going to work.

Q: You've said you don't advocate finding a cure for autism. Why is that?

A: I'm not talking about severe autism, people who are extremely handicapped and aren't ever going to be able to live independently. But if there's no autism, you'd better take really good care of your computer because there would be nobody to fix it and nobody to make a new one. A little autism gives you an engineer. There would be fewer artists and musicians, too, without it. ■

AUTISM CONFERENCE SET FOR APRIL

Promising Pathways, a national conference on autism, takes place Saturday, April 14, at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The annual event aims to keep families, educators and health-care professionals working with those with autism spectrum disorders informed about the latest research.

Keynote speakers are Temple Grandin (see accompanying story) and Tristram Smith, a clinical psychologist and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where he leads federally funded studies that explore the effectiveness of various interventions for children with autism spectrum disorders.

What began as a community event has grown rapidly in the five years during which it's been held at FGCU, says Marci Greene, dean of the College of Education.

The idea is to make information available to a broad cross-section of health-care professionals as well as families.

“We want to make sure families are aware of research-based interventions,” says Greene. “There are many practices out there that haven't been proven. Families are grasping for help and sometimes get led down a path that may not have been the best one to take. We want to continually keep our educators, university faculty and parents up to date.”

The conference runs from 8 a.m. (registration) through 2:45 p.m. at Alico Arena on the FGCU campus. The event is free and offers continuing education credits for some health-care professionals.

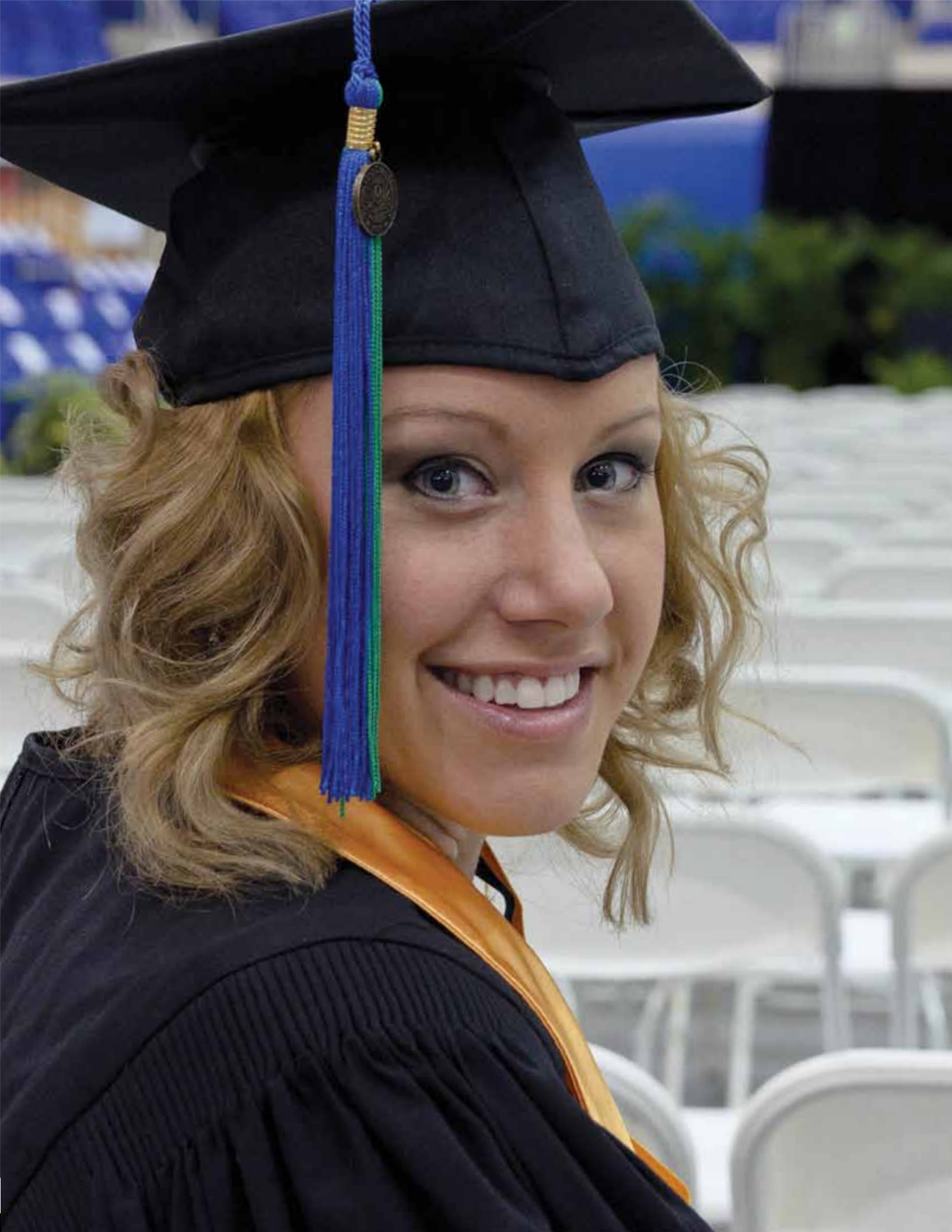
Space is limited. Register at www.fgcu.edu/events/promisingpathways/

DEFINING AUTISM

WHAT: Autism spectrum disorder encompasses a range of neurodevelopment disorders, ranging from mild forms, such as Asperger syndrome, to severe cases in which people are unable to care for themselves.

SYMPTOMS: Those with autism may fail to respond to their names, avoid eye contact, have difficulty interpreting social cues and lack empathy. Some engage in rocking and twirling, biting or head-banging, have difficulty playing interactively with others, may speak in a sing-song voice about a narrow range of favorite topics and exhibit inflexible adherence to specific routines or rituals. They are often hypersensitive to sound, touch or light.

CAUSES: Scientists don't know for sure what causes it but genetics and environment appear to play roles.





The dance of her life

Battling worsening cystic fibrosis, FGCU alumna chooses graduation over impending lung transplant.

Melody Lynn thanks God for Facebook. She can keep up with the girls she grew up dancing with – girls, now young women, doing headstands in China, gazing up at the Eiffel Tower, cheering in the stands at college football games. Lynn lives through their pictures and posts. She writes to them on the social networking website: “I will be getting a double lung transplant, hopefully very soon.”

Lynn, a 2011 Florida Gulf Coast University graduate, has cystic fibrosis. She has spent her life focused on a number – the one that measures her pulmonary function. She has watched that number drop lower and lower. As a junior in high school, her lungs functioned at 82 percent of normal. Now, her 26-year-old lungs are functioning at 30 percent – the number at which doctors start talking transplant.

Just weeks before graduating from FGCU in December, Lynn asked her doctors, “Please wait ’til I walk across that stage.”

By ATHENA PONUSHIS

Photo by MOLLY GRUBBS

Reprinted from Florida Weekly

A

nd so they did, and she did.

Her graduation was not just her walk, because her life has not been

just her fight. Everyone who has ever come into her life has had to find a way to deal.

"They've had to stay strong so I could stay strong," she says.

So when it came to her graduation, she figured if she was breathing, she was walking. She would hold off on a new pair of lungs to walk for the family that has never let her spend a night in the hospital alone, for the friends who wrote back on Facebook: "If you are ready for this, then we are all ready for you."

Lynn's condition was diagnosed at age 7. She doesn't remember how the doctors tried to explain a genetic disease clogging her lungs with mucus, blocking her digestive organs from absorbing food.

Ginger Lynn, her mother, remembers hearing the results of the sweat chloride test.

"Are you telling me I'm going to lose my little girl?" she asked the specialist.

"I'm telling you I'm about to make your little girl feel a lot better," the specialist replied.

Then Ginger Lynn watched her daughter inhale her first nebulizer treatment. She saw her stop crying and start breathing. "It was like she was brand new," she says.

Melody Lynn recalls that suddenly, she was no longer a little girl sitting inside, reading books on the couch. She was outside riding bikes with her cousin, running around the block, playing tag.

Tickle fights

Lynn's childhood pulmonologist asked her if she was ticklish. She thought he was joking. But he told her, if you're having a coughing fit, start a tickle fight. The laughing jiggles the mucus away from the lung walls.

So in the middle of night, when one of her girlfriends would hear her cough, she would reach over and tickle her, then run down the hallway. Lynn says that on those slumber-party nights, "the mucus didn't have a chance to settle and make a home in my lungs."



Above: Melody Lynn's parents, Ginger and Michael, cheer on their daughter during December's graduation ceremony. **Right:** Lynn waits her turn to walk on stage to receive her diploma.

Her treatments now are not so playful. She wakes up three hours before she has to be wherever she has to be. She puts on The Vest. It inflates like a life vest and constricts her chest like a blood-pressure cuff. It sounds as if a helicopter has landed in her living room as air hoses connecting The Vest to a generator pulse, inflate and deflate to shake up the mucus in her lungs. She wears The Vest for 20 minutes, petting

her dog, inhaling four different aerosols, taking in medicine as liquid mist.

Her father wakes up hearing her cough, hearing her clear the mucus her treatment loosened, hearing her take that one, deep breath at the end.

Lynn says she does not question God, but her daddy does.

"I sometimes wonder if it's something me and her mom did wrong. Why her?" asks Michael Lynn, who calls his little girl "one tough bird," the first in her family to graduate college. "You know what really gets me: The kids 'round here smoking

cigarettes, doing drugs, ending up in trouble, giving up. They could care less about life. Then you look at Melody. She does everything she can do to get a breath in some days."

He says this while sitting on the back porch of his Cape Coral home. He has a motorcycle-weathered face, and he's trying to steel his gaze, but he can hear his little bird coughing on the other side of the porch's sliding glass door. Under his camouflage hat, trails of thought lead to tears.

"She's said a couple times, 'Daddy, I'm not afraid to die. I want this,'" he says. "She's ready for this transplant. Do I have a choice? Not really, right?"

Lynn sees her cystic fibrosis as enriching her life. Without it, would she have had the family she has? Would she have had the same best friends? Would she have been able to dance the "Maniac" solo from "Flashdance" on her Make-A-Wish Royal Caribbean cruise?

"When I dance, I don't cough. I've trained myself not to," says Lynn, who started dancing at 2 years old. "A lot of times, I might not be able to put what I'm feeling into words. Nothing



Photo by Nicole Halmos

accurately describes it. But if you ever were to see me dance, you would know exactly what I'm feeling."

Cast in "Cats" at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers, she missed just one of 82 shows. Versed in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, hip hop and more, Lynn has sometimes finished a competition and headed straight for an IV.

She always dreamed of being a dancer, but she chose resort and hospitality management with an event management concentration as her major. Even though her parents taught her she could do anything she wanted to do, Lynn knew she needed a backup plan.

She has not had the lung capacity to dance in three years.

In performing her last few dance routines, she picked up the tempo by watching other dancers breathe. "Bounce, bounce, slide," became "breathe, breathe, slide," because, at 20, an antibiotic called Tobramycin caused her to lose her hearing and she could no longer hear the beat.

Two years later, she was diagnosed with episodic arthritis, "directly related to the bacteria growing inside the mucus stuck inside of my lungs," she says.

That mucus also makes it hard for her to gain weight. She remembers celebrating when she finally reached 100 pounds, swallowing enzymes at each meal, then running around and saying, "Go ahead, ask me how much I weigh. Ask me."

Lynn now weighs 113 pounds.

Despite all of her ailments, she does not look sick. She looks like a thriving college girl – her university T-shirt cut into a V-neck, hair tie around her wrist, knees bent to her chest, wearing the same jeans she had on the day before. Beauty marks, perfectly placed near her jaw and on her neck, overshadow her hearing aids.

"Yes, her cystic fibrosis is sad, but you wouldn't feel that way around Melody, because Melody's not that way," says George Alexakis, an FGCU associate professor in the resort and hospitality program. "She's made her mind up to be happy. It's as simple as that."



Above: Lynn checks the crowd in hopes of finding her family after the graduation ceremony at FGCU. **Right:** Lynn's grandmother, Bonnie Smith, congratulates her after the ceremony, as Smith's fiancé, Guy Hubbard, looks on.

Lynn does not ask “why me” because of a walk she took with her mom down the hallway of the neonatal intensive care unit during one of her stays at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg.

“Here were all these babies, helpless. Their parents were not there,” she says. She does not pray to God to save her from her disease. She may be breathing at 30 percent, but she’s still breathing. She may not have the energy to walk her dog around the block, but she’s still walking. She may not be able to get her IV port wet in the shower, but she can still wash her hair in the sink.

“Other people need His time more,” she says.

Her grandmother, Bonnie Smith, remembers hospital hallways and her own conversations with God. She remembers “losing it” in the elevator, pulling it together in the hall, somehow walking into her granddaughter’s room and saying cheerfully, “Hey baby, how you doing?”

Smith remembers seeing children with

cancer. She would crochet blankets for them, her thoughts vacillating between “Thank God, that’s not my baby” and “Why did you make my baby sick?” She finally settled on, “Why can’t we all have fat, happy babies?”

In November, Smith says, her granddaughter told her, “I’m tired, Grandma.”

Smith can’t say any more; she’ll lose it.

Improving odds

“Cystic fibrosis patients have so many treatments. They have to do chest therapies, they have to take enzymes when they eat, some have to take insulin when they eat. They spend so many hours of the day trying to take care of themselves,” says Luis Faverio, a pediatric pulmonologist who took care of Lynn for 10 years before he moved to Orlando.

“The older they get, the more medical problems they have,” he says. “Then they’re young adults with a desire to create a life, to be successful in life, to be

productive in life, like Melody’s trying to do with school and work.”

Of her college graduation, he says, “It’s something really difficult to achieve, especially considering the amount of time she must spend just taking care of her health.”

According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the disease affects 30,000 people in the United States and 70,000 worldwide. When Lynn was diagnosed, the life expectancy of those with the disease was 25 years old.

A child born with the disease today has a life expectancy of 40-plus years.

“With all the proactive research, really pushing science to the limit, they’re close to finding a cure for this condition,” Faverio says. “Unfortunately, they haven’t yet, but we will probably see a cure in the near future,

hopefully the next 10 to 20 years.”

Lynn wishes she could have face-to-face contact with others who have the disease, but patients are kept separate, so as not to share different strains of bacteria.

If she could sit with someone else who experiences charley horses in her stomach from coughing, someone who also compares breathing to an obstacle course, her breath “having to get through all the hills and valleys to get where it needs to go,” she might be able to say to her all the things she doesn’t say to her mom.

“A lot of what is unsaid doesn’t necessarily have to be said. Sometimes I just look at my mom,” she says. “We may be sitting in the doctor’s office. I don’t have to say what’s on my mind. She just knows. She knows how to fix it.”

The delicate dance ahead

The girl with the ballerina frame, blond hair and blue eyes can keep her strong stance when she speaks about her lung transplant, but she unbinds when it comes to her mom.

“When I think of the countless hours my mother has not slept, worried about

me missing my medication, the countless hours she’s spent in the hospital with nothing to do,” she says tearfully. “Her life stopped to keep mine going.”

She thinks about the dance studio her mom ran for 23 years. She thinks how her mom named her Melody because her name had to be musical. She thinks how her mom was dancing pregnant in a recital the last week of June; Melody was born the first week of July.

Then Lynn does what she does whenever she thinks about her pulmonary function number – she sees her life, her number rising higher and higher. She turns to her new hope, Jen Likness.

On Dec. 2, Likness celebrated the one-year anniversary of her lung transplant.

“When you need a lung transplant, you’re not scared of it, you’re hoping for it,” says Likness, who met Lynn in November.

She told Lynn stories of going to Disney World with her family. Her firefighter brother-in-law sat down because his feet hurt. Likness looked at him and said, “I’m breathing, you’re walking.” She told Lynn of

her recent trip to New York City. Walking the streets, she had to stop to thaw her hands – not because she couldn’t breathe.

Now 29, Likness knows her lungs came from a college student in Alabama, and that’s all she knows.

“I know her life was able to move forward, that’s all I needed to know. She’s more than two years older than me, and that’s a lifetime when you’re talking about something that’s taking your life,” Lynn says, eager to start the preliminary tests for her own lung transplant.

Once all her tests are complete, Lynn will be put on a list. A phone call may come at any time, day or night, to let her know: New lungs are available.

“So I’m going to take a semester off before I start my master’s and do this lung thing,” is how she explains it to her mother.

Her mother says that without the stage jitters, the performance would not be as fulfilling.

Her daughter, the dancer, now waits for her phone call. ■

ATHENA PONUSHIS is a writer who lives in Cape Coral.



JANUARY UPDATE

Since graduating in December, Lynn has been in limbo. Without her consent, she says Medicaid changed her insurance provider to one her pulmonologist does not accept. Hence testing for her pending lung transplant was delayed by paperwork. Lynn says she was able to start scheduling appointments Feb. 1.

In the meantime, she treated herself to a haircut and got caught up on her dental hygiene, having four wisdom teeth extracted and 13 cavities filled on the same day – Friday, Jan. 13. To ward off painful dry sockets in her mouth, she was unable to use her aerosol treatments so her arthritis flared up. And she had to sleep sitting up in a recliner in her living room for two days.

She also auditioned for “Chicago,” running March 16 to April 1 at the Cultural Park Theatre in Cape Coral. Casting called her back and she awaits her second audition as Pinnacle goes to print.





Camera obscura

Campus seen through the lens of an artist

By DREW STERWALD

"No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did, he would cease to be an artist."

— Oscar Wilde

Artists see the world differently, which is one reason Pinnacle commissioned art photographer Paul Rodino to focus his lens on the Florida Gulf Coast University campus.

Rodino, owner of In One Instant Gallery of Photography in Fort Myers, is known especially for zooming in on the unnoticed but telling details of urban landscapes — unusual forms, time-worn surfaces and unexpected juxtapositions. Lately, he has taken to designing digital montages that form an abstract visual narrative.

Turning his artist's eye toward FGCU presented unanticipated challenges.

"I struggled with this," Rodino says. "Most of the things I do revolve around old or decayed or quirky architecture. Everything at FGCU is so new."

Simply photographing buildings? Too literal.



'INTERSECTION'

Education and business, concrete and glass at Lutgert Hall.



'PERPENDICULAR'

Rodino was captivated by the lines and color panels of SoVi Dining as well as the alligator warning sign outside.



'OUTSHINE'

'Human Race' reaching for the sky.

"I wanted to show my point of view," he says. "Instead of showing the campus as it is, I needed to show how it can be seen in kind of an abstract way. I knew I could do that with montage."

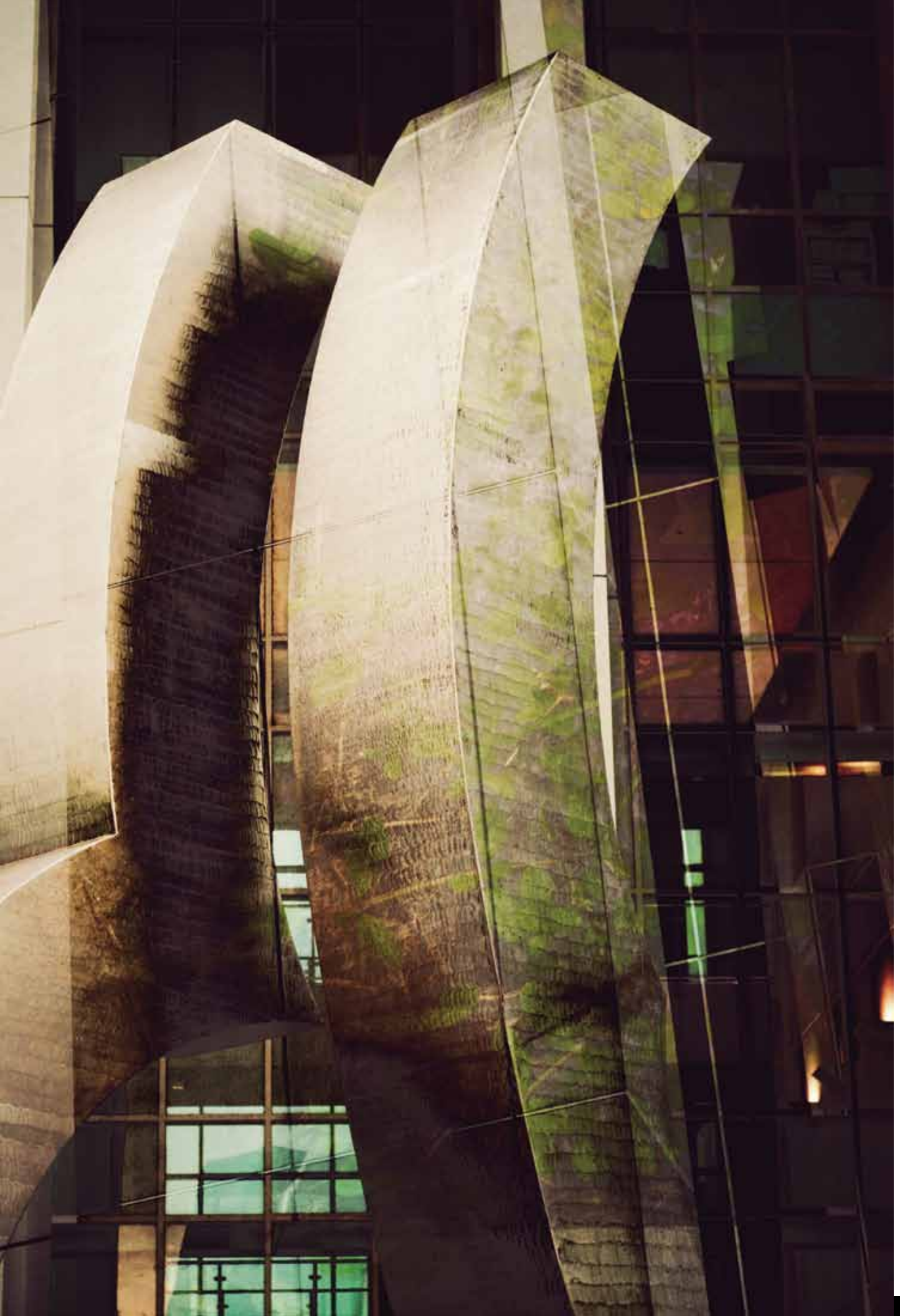
Figuratively panning to the spaces around structures, Rodino built layers of context for FGCU icons such as Raymond Lutgert's "Human Race" sculpture by peering into unexplored nooks and discovering subliminal patterns, textures and tonal relationships. In other words, the things commonly overlooked.

The more abstract collages pull the viewer in with a complexity that can challenge perceptions of a familiar environment. A dialogue begins with "where is that?" and moves on to "why is that?"



Paul Rodino

Photo of Paul Rodino by David Deck-Mah







Most of the pieces in the series published here exclusively are composed of imagery found in the same general location and shot with a Nikon Digital SLR camera using standard lenses. The artist later assembled and manipulated the frames using Adobe PhotoShop software.

Rodino, 48, studied fashion illustration, advertising and photography at art institutes in Fort Lauderdale and Colorado and worked in advertising for decades before fully pursuing his passion for art photography. He has been training an artistic lens on the world ever since he got his hands on his father's Kodak 126 Instamatic as a kid in Cape Coral in the 1970s.



'WELCOME'

Hospitality at Sugden Hall as well as in a birdhouse.



'CONNECTION'

Curves and lines – and students – meet in the Cohen Center.



'ECOSYSTEM'

Finding the intersection of preservation and construction.



'EYRIE'

Alico Arena,
where Eagles dare
and lamp posts mimic
palm trees.



'ELEMENTS'

Earth, water, air, but
no fire, in the Bower
School of Music.

After a period of manipulating Polaroid film, he moved on to transferring images and treating them with encaustic, or hot wax. While fully embracing today's technology, Rodino still values the techniques and traditions of the past.

"You need to know how to work in an un-technological world to appreciate what you can do now," he says. "I can really appreciate the analog." ■





SHADES OF ...'

The Arts Complex goes monochromatic.



'HUB'

Signs of student life in The Arts Complex courtyard.

SENSE OF PLACE

PGA GOLF MANAGEMENT
SIMULATION &
TRAINING ROOM

Fairway to heaven

High-tech golf lab gets future pros in the swing of things.

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF ONLY 20 SCHOOLS IN THE NATION offering golf management programs accredited by the PGA of America. One of its brightest selling points to prospective students: Room 227 in Sugden Hall.

The “PGA room” or “golf lab” is outfitted with \$100,000 of state-of-the-art technology designed to give students hands-on experience in analyzing and improving golfing form and technique, understanding ball aerodynamics and even playing world-famous courses – virtually, at least.

“There’s a certain wow factor,” says Assistant Professor Tara McKenna, program director. “All this technology is at students’ disposal. It separates us from other golf training programs.”

Lest you consider dropping in to get some tips on improving your handicap, access is limited to participants in the 4 ½-year golf management program, which boasts 122 students.

Here four freshmen golf management majors demonstrate some of the room’s features:

1 WII ON STERIODS: Joe Korb plays the GolfAchiever simulator, which uses laser technology to measure variables such as launch angle, ball speed and swing path. Proprietary algorithms calculate the carry distance of the ball (which hits a buffered screen and drops to the floor). The software’s 3D graphics also allow golfers

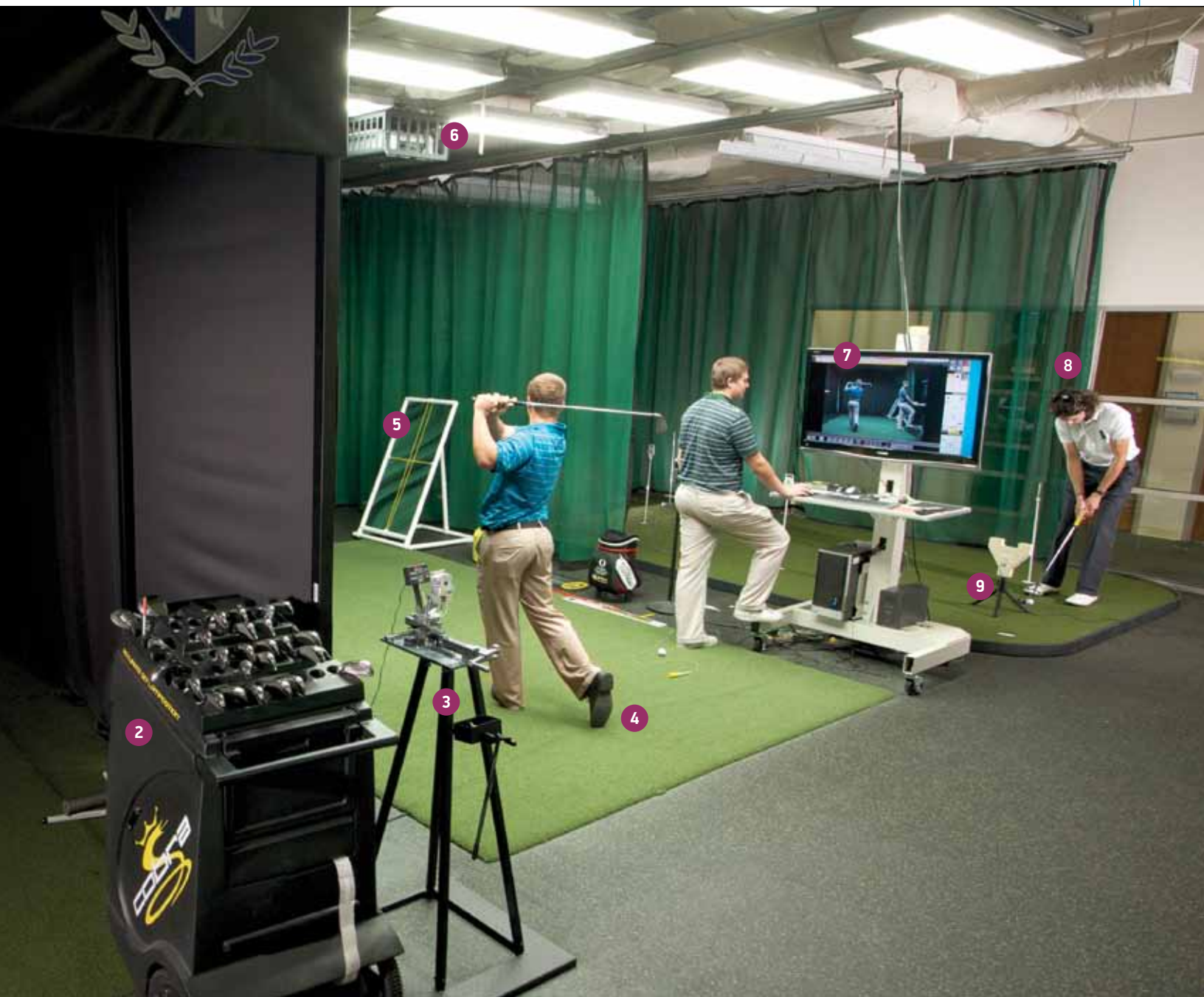
to play on legendary courses around the world.

2 HAVE A FIT: A club-fitting cart helps students learn how to custom-fit clubs for themselves or clients. Clubs vary in a number of factors, including the length, lie angle and flexibility of the shaft.

3 TRY ANGLES: The lie and loft machine enables students to measure and adjust the angle at which the shaft meets the club head (the lie) and the angle of the club face (the loft), which controls trajectory and affects distance. Adjustment involves bending the hardened metal in which an iron is cast.



Photo by Brian Tietz



4 DRIVE ON: Kyle Smith practices his swing in one of the hitting bays.

5 MIRROR, MIRROR: Useful for analyzing and practicing one's swing.

6 IN FOCUS: An overhead mount captures Smith's form on a digital camera.

7 SCREEN TIME: Austin Nutting uses V1 Pro Swing Analysis software to assess Smith's swing on a monitor. A split-screen feature allows students to compare swings with PGA Tour pros.

8 GREEN SCENE: Antonino Balducci practices putting on a five-hole green that's

contoured to mimic a real golf course.

9 MINUTE DETAILS: SAM PuttLab uses ultrasound measurements to analyze 28 parameters of a putting stroke. Results are displayed in easy-to-understand graphics. "It's almost TMI, but it's great information," McKenna says. ■

THE ARTS

► "Expressing the inexpressible"

[MUSIC]

Prelude to a concert career

Gifted piano major bound for Carnegie Hall this fall

PLAYING CARNEGIE HALL IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT MOST ASPIRING MUSICIANS CAN ONLY fantasize about – a dream that eludes them despite talent and hard work.

For one Florida Gulf Coast University music major, that vision is about to become reality. Sophomore Priscila Navarro, 17, of Peru will travel to New York City this fall to perform a solo recital at the legendary hall – one of the most prestigious concert venues in the world.

"She is a very special talent," says Michael Baron, professor and head of keyboard studies in FGCU's Bower School of Music. "She learns and memorizes new compositions astoundingly quickly, but what really sets her apart is her ability to internalize and develop such a mature interpretation in such a small space of time."

The recital date had not been set as of Pinnacle's press deadline, but Navarro already was thinking ahead to her program.

"I'm not really nervous – it makes me want to work even harder," she says. "It's a very important recital. I never thought I'd get to play Carnegie Hall."

Navarro, who started piano lessons relatively late at age 9, already has won national and international competitions, outshining older, more experienced musicians. She has

Priscila Navarro before her recital in January at FGCU's U. Tope Recital Hall.



Photo by Brian Tietz

“I’m a third-generation piano merchant, and I’ve heard most of the great pianists of our time perform. In my opinion, her level of performance is not just good for a student or young performer. It’s at a standard comparable to the vast majority of currently touring concert pianists.”
 - GREG BILLINGS, FOUNDER OF THE STEINWAY SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA.

performed abroad with orchestras and was awarded a full scholarship to the renowned Tanglewood Music Festival in Massachusetts. Last November, she traveled to Europe for the first time for two weeks of lessons and master classes at the Warsaw Conservatory in Poland, where she also gave a solo recital.

Her ticket to Carnegie Hall was winning the 20th International Chopin Competition of Texas in January. As usual, she was the youngest contestant among finalists from all over the world.

Greg Billings, founder of the Steinway Society of Southwest Florida, which awarded Navarro a scholarship, called her accomplishments “astounding.”

“I’m a third-generation piano merchant, and I’ve heard most of the great pianists of our time perform,” he says. “In my opinion, her level of performance is not just good for a student or young performer. It’s at a standard comparable to the vast majority of currently touring concert pianists.”

The acclaim Navarro has earned brings international attention to FGCU’s 5-year-old Bower School of Music. The best of the school’s 14 piano performance majors are talented enough to be studying at major American conservatories such as The Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music, according to Baron.

He met Navarro at the National Conservatory of Peru when she was 15. He travels regularly to South America as well as Europe and Asia to play concerts, lead master classes and recruit promising students.

“I chose FGCU mainly because of Dr. Baron,” Navarro says. “My teacher in Peru thought I could learn a lot from him. Also, since I was very young and was going to be living by myself, it seemed best to come to a smaller city with a smaller school.”

Still, she wouldn’t have been able to attend the university without financial assistance from the Steinway Society as well as the Myra N. and Van Zandt

Williams Jr. Scholarship Fund and the BIG Arts Kenneth L. Nees Classical Music Scholarship.

“It would have been impossible for my family to afford it,” she says.

Navarro was born in Huanuca, a small Peruvian town where there were no pianos to play. It wasn’t until her mother moved to a bigger city that Navarro was able to enroll in a summer keyboard class.

“I finished in three months what most do in a year,” she recalls. “I learned to read at 4. This was just another language to learn – how to read music.”

But the young girl also excelled at math and spent two years in an advanced engineering program. Then a teacher told her she had to choose between engineering and music.

“I enjoyed engineering a lot, but I couldn’t imagine life without playing piano,” she says.

Now it fills her days and nights. Navarro has thrown herself into Rachmaninoff’s third concerto, a difficult work that figured prominently in the Academy Award-winning 1996 film “Shine.”

“The process of learning is not just the dynamics – you can do that in a week,” she says. “Unless you spend time with it, let it mature, you won’t have much of an interpretation.”

Not only does Navarro practice about four hours a day – six or seven hours on weekends – but she devotes several hours a week to accompanying instrumental and vocal students. She also finds time to read Nietzsche and other philosophers – for fun.

In the near future, Navarro is likely to qualify for star-making contests such as the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Dallas and the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, Baron says. In the meantime her schedule will include recitals here and in Peru, a summer festival appearance in Italy and possibly another visit to Poland.

– Drew Sterwald

ARTS CALENDAR

3/17 SATURDAY

“Green Music”

7:30 p.m., student composers and performers.
 U. Tobe Recital Hall, Bower School of Music,
 FGCU campus.

3/19 MONDAY

“Clay Collaborations”

Curated by art professor Patricia Fay.
 Runs through 4/5. ArtLab, FGCU campus.

3/20 TUESDAY

“Ballrooms and Foreign Lands”

7:30 p.m., opera gala featuring students.
 U. Tobe Recital Hall, Bower School of Music,
 FGCU campus. \$7

4/4 WEDNESDAY

Annual Celebration of the Arts

◆ 5-7 p.m. opening reception, annual juried student art exhibition. Main Gallery, Arts Complex, FGCU campus. Runs through 4/12.

◆ 7 p.m., Instrumental Chamber Ensemble concert. U. Tobe Recital Hall, Bower School of Music, FGCU campus.

◆ 8 p.m. “Faustus Burns Brightly.” Professor Barry Cavin adapts the classic story of a man who bargains his soul for earthly pleasures. 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday through 4/15, TheatreLab, Arts Complex, FGCU campus. (Also at 8 p.m. 4/29 at Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First St., Fort Myers.)



4/10 TUESDAY

Jazz Ensemble

7:30 p.m., U. Tobe Recital Hall, Bower School of Music, FGCU campus.

4/12 THURSDAY

Symphonic Band

7:30 p.m., Cohen Center ballroom, FGCU campus.

SPORTS PAGES

▶ compete, excel

Stellar season

Basketball, volleyball, swimming teams have plenty to cheer about.

[MEN'S BASKETBALL]

F GCU'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM MAY HAVE DROPPED SIX OF ITS FIRST NINE GAMES this year, but the Eagles were in every game until the end.

All six of those losses came on the road, but by mid-February, the Eagles had secured themselves a spot in postseason competition, trouncing Lipscomb at home, 89-68. As of Feb. 15, they were 13-13 overall, 8-7 in conference.

"I can't say enough about this team because of the tough schedule, but we have played hard and had a chance to win every game," first-year coach Andy Enfield said.

FGCU lost one-point games to Texas Christian, Southern Methodist and Nebraska.

Enfield credits his team's defense, a mix between man-to-man and zone, for the team's early success. The Eagles showcased that defense in their 51-50 loss to Nebraska on the road. The Cornhuskers' Dylan Talley hit the game-winning shot with 10.4 seconds left in the game, but Nebraska's 51 points were the fewest FGCU has allowed this season.

Junior guard Sherwood Brown and freshman guard

Bernard Thompson have become leaders for FGCU, which hopes to win the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament. The championships will be held Feb. 29-March 3 in Macon, Ga.

[WOMEN'S BASKETBALL]

The FGCU women's basketball team, which went 28-4 last year en route to capturing the Atlantic Sun Conference's regular season championship, is well on its way to another conference title.

The Eagles were undefeated in conference play by early February and had the ninth best win-loss percentage in the nation.

The victories are headlined by an eye-opening 59-58 win over Big 10 champion

Michigan State in November at Alico Arena. Sophomore Sarah Hansen won the game by hitting a clutch free-throw with 0.4 seconds left in regulation in front of a delirious home crowd of 3,108 fans.

FGCU, which is in its second year of NCAA eligibility, is 2-1 all-time against the Big 10.

"I think we're off to a pretty good start," Eagles coach Karl Smesko said in December. "I think every team has a lot of room to improve at this point and we're no exception. I don't think there's one area of play where we are playing up to our capabilities yet but I have seen a lot of progress."

By mid-February, the Eagles had clinched a berth in the A-Sun Championships and led the conference, with a 15-0 conference record and 23-2 overall.

[VOLLEYBALL]

Despite a host of young players and postseason inexperience, FGCU's volleyball team unleashed a run to the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament semifinals this year.

The third-seeded Eagles fell to second-seed Lipscomb in three sets in the semifinals in Nashville, Tenn. FGCU finished the season with an 18-13 overall record, 10-3 in the Atlantic Sun. The



Junior Sherwood Brown has led the men's team in rebounding, four straight games.

“We all hoped for a better outcome, but I am really proud of what our team did this year.”

- DAVE NICHOLS, HEAD COACH,
FGCU VOLLEYBALL



Top: FGCU's volleyball team made it to the Atlantic Sun Conference semifinals this year. **Right:** Freshman Emma Svensson finished the Georgia Tech Invitational last November with three individual NCAA qualifying times.

Eagles have advanced to the conference tournament semifinals in two of the past three seasons.

"I felt that our youth finally caught up with us. We struggled to find a rhythm and made some unforced errors but we keep fighting like we have done all year," FGCU coach Dave Nichols said. "We all hoped for a better outcome, but I am really proud of what our team did this year."

With a roster highlighted by six freshmen and three sophomores, FGCU went 2-1 in the Penn State Tournament in September. The Eagles shocked four-time defending national champion Penn State by winning their first set before losing 3-1 to the Nittany Lions.

Senior Jelena Simic spearheaded the team in kills. Freshmen Jill Hopper



and Gigi Meyer provided strong performances for the Eagles in digs and assists, respectively. Nichols will look to Hopper and Meyer, the daughter of Ohio State football coach Urban Meyer, to lead the team next year.

[SWIMMING]

For the fourth consecutive year, FGCU's women's swimming and diving

team captured the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association championship, this year besting their opponents by more than 300 points.

"I'm so happy we did it again," says head coach Neal Studd. "The conference has improved so much yet we won by our biggest margin ever in a team effort. I have a great group of girls and I am so proud of the tradition we have built here."

The championship meet took place at the University of Georgia in Athens.

The Eagles finished the regular season with an 11-2 dual meet record (4-0 CCSA).

FGCU's Maegan Butler was honored as the Most Outstanding Diver of the Meet, placing first in both the 1-meter and 3-meter dive. Andrew Goe took home Women's Diving Coach of the Year award for the second consecutive year. Freshman Emma Svensson took home the Most Outstanding Female Freshman Performer of the Meet.

Studd paid tribute to the five seniors who will depart after this season – Danielle Butler, Victoria Cadge, Alessandra Ciani, Leah Daniel and Teri Lytle – who have never lost a conference meet in their four years at FGCU.

"We have five incredible seniors who are not only great athletes but great people," he says. "I want to wish my perfect seniors all the best."

[CROSS COUNTRY]

The FGCU men's and women's cross country teams had solid seasons.

The men finished eighth out of 10 teams in the A-Sun Conference Championship in Nashville, Tenn.

The women finished seventh out of 10 teams at the championships. Junior Barrie Cohen led the Eagles by placing 24th out of 78 runners.

— Compiled by Chris Duncan

[SOCCER]

Soccer teams end season with first NCAA playoff games

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEIR FIRST SEASON OF NCAA DIVISION I POSTSEASON ELIGIBILITY, BUT FGCU's men's and women's soccer teams didn't play like rookies.

Both squads advanced to the NCAA playoffs, each losing in the first round. The men, who won the Atlantic Sun Conference's regular season and postseason championships, finished the season 12-6-2 after losing to Central Florida in the first round. The women became the first FGCU team to qualify for the NCAA Division I postseason, edging the Eagles men by five days. The women lost to the University of Florida in the first round, ending the year 14-5-2.

"For both teams to have the success they did in the first year of eligibility shows that FGCU soccer and Southwest Florida soccer is on the map," Eagles men's coach Bob Butehorn says. "This is a sport I think can do huge things at FGCU. If we continue to get tremendous fan support and support from the administration, our ceiling is really high."

Butehorn, whose program didn't have a soccer field when he became its first coach in 2007, believes both programs are hungry to accomplish more next season.

"We've seen the playoffs, tasted it and we want more," he says.

The FGCU men will lose nine seniors, including All-America first-team goalkeeper Adam Glick, to graduation. Butehorn will likely rely on sophomore-



Senior Gina Petracco, right, assisted freshman Shannen Wacker as she scored the winning goal in double overtime to take the A-Sun Conference title.

to-be Nathan Ingham to fill Glick's large shoes. Ingham recently was called up to start for the under-20 Canadian national team.

FGCU women's coach Jim Blankenship, meanwhile, hit the recruiting trail a day after the team's loss to Florida in the postseason. The women will lose eight seniors to graduation.

"That's why I'm on the road right now recruiting," Blankenship said in a phone interview from Philadelphia. "We're busy trying to find the next

group that will lead us back to where we are accustomed to being. We want to get back to the playoffs."

Blankenship, who started FGCU's women's program in 2007, is looking forward

to making more history with the club in future years. He says it was special to lead the first Eagles team in school history into the NCAA Division I postseason.

"I don't know if the kids grasp it yet," Blankenship says. "It's something I'm extremely proud of. This was the group that built this program and to cap it off with something this historical is amazing. It's something we probably won't understand the significance of for several years." ■

CHRIS DUNCAN is a freelance writer living in Bonita Springs.



Nathan Ingham

Hilton Family Hotels Two Miles From FGCU



Special FGCU Rates Available

- Complimentary Wi-Fi, Suite Start® hot breakfast daily and airport/area shuttle
- Manager's Reception with complimentary light meal and beverages Mon.-Thurs. nights
- Meeting facilities and catering services



16450 Corporate Commerce Way
Fort Myers, Florida 33913
239-210-7300

fortmyersairportfgcu.homewoodsuites.com

- Complimentary Wi-Fi and airport/area shuttle
- Great American Grill® restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, Pavilion Lounge
- 2,000 sq. ft. of meeting and banquet facilities
- Refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker in all guest rooms



16410 Corporate Commerce Way
Fort Myers, Florida 33913
239-210-7200

fortmyersairportfgcu.hgi.com

Where there's a will... The future is brighter



Entrepreneurial inspiration

James and Eleanor Newton led extraordinary lives among uncommon friends, which was what James Newton named the memoir he wrote about their long acquaintance with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Charles Lindbergh and Alexis Carrel. Through their generous gift to FGCU, the Newtons have helped pave a path for the next generation of entrepreneurs and inventors.



(239) 590-1077 | www.fgcu.edu/foundation/plannedgiving

'Lifelines to a better future'

Scholarship recipients show appreciation to donors.

ADEBOLA ADIGUN COULDN'T SEE HOW HE WAS GOING TO CONTINUE HIS EDUCATION at Florida Gulf Coast University. While working toward a two-year degree at another institution, he had juggled classes and taken care of his single mother, who was fighting stage-four breast cancer. Two months after he graduated, doctors found the disease had spread to her lungs, liver, stomach and brain. His mother was dying.

"There was no way for me to go to school," Adigun told the audience at the President's Scholarship Luncheon in December. "The money wasn't there. The support wasn't there. And for me, the motivation wasn't there."

After meeting with an FGCU financial aid adviser, he applied for and won the Sanibel-Captiva Trust/Schubert Scholarship and the Donald and Elizabeth Manchester Scholarship. Now a junior majoring in elementary education, Adigun is on his way to achieving his goal of becoming a teacher.

"Like a race, sometimes we all need someone to cheer us on," he said of the help he has received. "It has been a light in the presence of darkness. It is refreshment in the midst of a drought. It is life in the presence of death."

Adigun was one of two students chosen to speak at the luncheon, an annual event that brings together scholarship winners and the hundreds of generous donors who support them.

Endowed funds topped \$50 million this year, and the FGCU Foundation awarded \$1.4 million to 950 students as of the fall term. The need remains great: More than 3,000 applied for financial aid as the school year began.

Scholarships show students that their hard work and dedication matter, President Wilson G. Bradshaw told the



“Like a race, sometimes we all need someone to cheer us on.”
 - ADEBOLA ADIGUN, FGCU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



1. Ruth U. Tobe and FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw
2. Robert Shrader and Farhana Huda
3. Jim Mitchell and Krystal Sanchez
4. Joseph Giangreco and Dot Haddow
5. Students and donors mingle at the President's Scholarship Luncheon.
6. Scott Fraser, President Wilson G. Bradshaw and Rebecca Fogg
7. Adebola Adigun
8. Al Hanser and Daniela Georgieva

600 guests at the luncheon sponsored by Ajax Building Corp.

“For so many of our students, the scholarships they are awarded are lifelines to a better future,” he said.

Bradshaw encouraged recipients to remember the many individuals who helped them throughout their lives and especially the people sitting next to them in the reception hall at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples.

“Your scholarship sponsors believe in you,” he said. “They believe you will succeed and make the world a better place.”

Scholarships not only support students working toward undergraduate degrees; they help those returning mid-career to enhance their professional opportunities for the future.

Ashley Carter of Naples, who received the Karen Eastwood Memorial Scholarship, is a mother of three who works full time coordinating marketing and public relations at The Philharmonic Center for the Arts in Naples. She started there as an intern with a non-business-related degree and is now working on an MBA.

“I’m sure I speak for all the students in the audience when I say how much it means to be awarded a scholarship,” Carter said. “My family truly believes that education is the key to opportunity, so my husband and I have made a commitment to each other and to our children. We sometimes look at each other and wonder how we will manage it, but we know we have made the right decision.” ■



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The need for scholarships is great and growing. For every applicant who receives aid, two do not. To help provide scholarships for deserving students, contact the FGCU Foundation at (239) 590-1060.

PHILANTHROPY

(continued from previous page)



Dr. Steve and Ester Lee Machiz

Wine Fest gift launches music therapy degree

WITH AN EYE ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM the physical and emotional healing powers of music, Southwest Florida Children's Charities is donating \$1 million over five years to help launch a music therapy degree at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The program will address a growing need for professionals in the field and a gap in educational opportunities; only two other Florida universities offer music therapy degrees.

"We are delighted to partner with the university to make the music therapy program a reality. The graduates of the program will make a difference in the

lives of children and families in Southwest Florida," said Dr. Steve Machiz, founding chairman of the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest, the charities' signature fundraiser. "We're always looking for opportunities to help children."

Research shows that music benefits individuals with autism and other neurological impairments. It also helps soothe the autonomic nervous system and quells depression and anxiety.

The Southwest Florida Children's Charities Music Therapy Program within FGCU's Bower School of Music will prepare graduates for work in a booming and promising field, according to Donna Price Henry, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. It is expected to welcome its

first majors in August 2014.

"Adding a degree in music therapy will be an asset to the university and will enable its graduates to make a significant difference in the lives of many Southwest Florida children," Henry says.

The Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest has donated nearly \$3.5 million to local organizations since its inception. An earlier gift to FGCU funded scholarships for pre-medical students pursuing degrees in pediatrics.

This year's festival, Feb. 24 and 25, included a vintner-wine dinner with FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw and his wife, Jo Anna, as hosts. The festival is sponsored by Northern Trust. For more information, go to www.swflwinefest.org. ■

Center of attention

Harvey and Janet Cohen Center dedicated to honor \$3 million gift.

WHEN HARVEY AND JANET COHEN OF NAPLES BEGAN planning their legacy, they decided it would center on helping humanity. Their initial donations helped build NCH North Naples Hospital and supported the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida.

Recognizing the importance of college as a time for young people to build enduring friendships, develop leadership skills and embrace the values of civility, the couple also chose to make a \$3 million lead gift to Florida Gulf Coast University to enhance student life on campus.

"I like youth and presenting them with the opportunity to excel and amount to something," Janet Cohen said.

To honor the couple's legacy, the student union was christened the Harvey and Janet Cohen Center during a Jan. 10 celebration.

It was a bittersweet day for Janet Cohen, as her husband did not live to see their gift come to fruition. He died in February 2011, just seven months after the death of their only child, Frances, from breast cancer.

Family members and friends joined Cohen as she mingled with students, faculty and staff at the dedication of "Harv's Place." They shared his favorite snack – hot dogs – before students presented Cohen with a framed certificate of appreciation and President Wilson G. Bradshaw expressed the university community's gratitude.

"Your very generous donation will make possible programs that we would not otherwise have been able to offer," he



Top: Janet Cohen at the dedication of the Harvey and Janet Cohen Center.



Left: Janet and Harvey Cohen

said. "The Cohens shared a view that many important lessons are learned outside the classroom."

Sanibel artist Lucas Century's wall plaque inside the center's main entrance highlights the Cohens' story.

Harvey David Cohen was born in 1921 in Cincinnati, the oldest of five children. He was a junior at the University of Cincinnati when the United States entered World War II and he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After the war, he completed his undergraduate studies and went on to earn a law degree in 1947.

That same year, love blossomed. Before starting his professional career at a local law firm, he eloped with Janet Guttman, a childhood friend of his sister's. She

was born in Cincinnati in 1925, but grew up in the small town of Wilmington, northeast of the city, where she worked weekends at her father's clothing store.

Like her husband, she valued education and was accustomed to working hard, saving money and giving back to the community.

"It's too bad when people forget where they came from," she said.

Eventually, their financial prudence allowed them to invest in commercial real estate development. Harvey Cohen was especially interested in urban revitalization; by developing surrounding properties, he helped turn the once quiet Skywalk of downtown Cincinnati into a bustling commercial area. In the 1980s, the couple retired to Naples.

The values that were key to the Cohens' success in business and in life are those they hoped to instill through their donation to FGCU. Janet Cohen is especially pleased that their names now adorn the student union, the heart of any college campus.

"It's an alive place," she said.

– Drew Sterwald

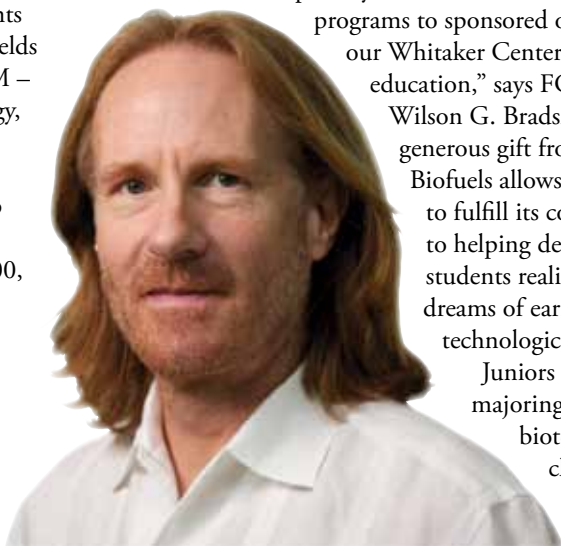


Algenol Biofuels establishes STEM scholarship

A LGENOL BIOFUELS INC. HAS CREATED AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP THAT WILL be awarded to students majoring in the fields comprising STEM – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The scholarship fund, which is valued at \$250,000, will assist juniors and seniors who

Paul Woods,
Algenol Biofuels
founder and chief
executive officer



are pursuing careers in these important fields of study.

“STEM education has long been a priority at FGCU – from our academic programs to sponsored outreach from our Whitaker Center for STEM education,” says FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw. “This generous gift from Algenol Biofuels allows the university to fulfill its commitment to helping deserving students realize their dreams of earning degrees in technological fields.”

Juniors and seniors majoring in biology, biotechnology, chemistry, environmental

engineering and mathematics are eligible for the scholarship.

“Algenol Biofuels is committed to developing our future scientists and engineers,” says Paul Woods, Algenol Biofuels founder and chief executive officer. “As a premier industrial biotechnology company using enhanced algae to produce ethanol from carbon dioxide for under \$1 per gallon, we are a prime example of how advanced biology and innovative engineering can drive economic growth and job creation in our community.”

The company has partnered with FGCU in recent years, hiring students as interns and graduates for full-time positions.

“We are honored by this opportunity to further promote FGCU’s growing STEM initiative,” Woods says. ■

Founder’s Cup golf tournament breaks \$1 million mark

F LORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY’S LONGEST-RUNNING FUNDRAISER, the Founder’s Cup Golf Tournament, netted \$69,000 last fall, bringing to more than \$1 million the amount raised through the event’s 20 years.

The tournament, which took place at Pelican’s Nest Golf Club in Bonita Springs, benefits the FGCU Foundation, which provides funds to enhance scientific, educational and charitable programs at the university that are not funded by the state.

“We continue to be amazed by the support we receive from Southwest Florida businesses and the community,” says Kelley Reyff, director of events and special projects for the FGCU Foundation. “We filled 53 teams and

all the sponsorship opportunities.”

Major sponsors of the 2011 tournament included: Estero Bay Chevrolet, Service Painting Florida, Maddox Construction Company, Johnson Controls, Fifth Third Bank, Taylor Rental of Naples, Arthrex, United Mechanical, Ajax Paving Industries, Lodge Construction, SimplexGrinnell, Wayne Wiles Floor Coverings, Manhattan Construction and Media Source.

Low gross winner on the Gator Course was the foursome from Coleman, Hazzard & Taylor, P.A. Team Verandah was low gross winner on the Hurricane Course.

For details or to register for the 2012 Founder’s Cup, contact Reyff at (239) 590-1074 or via email at kreyff@fgcu.edu. ■



Golfers lined up to start the Founder’s Cup Golf Tournament in October.

Couple's gift will benefit generations of students

HERBERT AND CAROLYN CONANT HAVE WATCHED FLORIDA GULF COAST University grow and thrive during the almost 20 years in which they have lived in Cape Coral.

Throughout those years, they have been committed to serving their community and have a special passion for education.

Their desire to make a difference motivated them to create a generous deferred gift to FGCU, which will exist in perpetuity.

"We love universities and think they're very important," says Carolyn Conant, who worked in university administration early in her professional life. "We've watched FGCU grow and found what has been done to date very impressive."

The Herbert D. and Carolyn E. Conant Scholarship Endowed Fund will be used to award scholarships to students majoring in engineering or science who have grade point averages of 3.5 or higher and demonstrate outstanding leadership in school or volunteer activities. Both of the Conants believe that engineering and science are very important to the country's welfare.

The value of the gift, which will be funded from the Conants' estate, will be determined by market conditions, but could total as much as \$1 million.

They created the estate gift, Herbert Conant says, because "we wanted to ensure that we can live our current lifestyle until the end of our lives."

Estate gifts allow donors to ensure their own financial security and that of their families while also providing a gift that lasts in perpetuity.

Herbert Conant served in the Marines, earned a degree in mechanical engineering, then went to work for The Turner Corporation, a Fortune 500 firm based in New York City. He eventually became the company's CEO and chairman of the board.

Carolyn Conant worked in university administration and then in the construction industry.

"The Conants' generosity will make a difference in the lives of students and their families for generations to come," says Steve Magiera, FGCU Foundation executive director. "The university deeply appreciates such gifts."

Estate gifts not only provide opportunities for recipients of the scholarships they fund, they also create lasting tributes to the donors, their vision and generosity. ■



Herbert and Carolyn Conant

Spirited sell-out crowd attends Night at the Nest gala

Urban Meyer helps boost annual fundraiser to \$150,000.

AT 6:07 P.M., AN FGCU OFFICIAL TAPPED ME ON THE SHOULDER AND SAID, “YOU don’t mind if we steal a place setting, do you?”

Before I could confirm that the thievery was fine, he said, “Urban Meyer’s friend is joining him.” Within seconds, the place setting and the seat were whisked away.

It might have been the only available seat on the floor of Alico Arena. If the official hadn’t taken that one, he might have had to unscrew some bolts in the concrete behind us and remove one of the blue chairback seats.

The joint was rocking on Dec. 4 for FGCU’s Night at the Nest Gala, with 540 seats sold – nearly double the 300 at last year’s event.

Butch Perchan, senior associate athletics director for external affairs, said the event benefited from the knowledge the committee gained from last year’s event and the dedicated door-to-door solicitation of the staff, but also offered: “Urban Meyer was a huge addition to the event. Huge. He’s a good guy. We couldn’t find a finer gentleman to say such good things about FGCU. He’s been like that from day one.”

That was last spring, when Meyer – who coached the Florida Gators to two football national titles in a three-year span – took a campus tour with daughter Gigi, who is now a freshman setter for FGCU’s volleyball team.

As much as Meyer grew to love the school, there still was some question whether he would honor his commitment to be the event’s keynote speaker. On Nov. 28, three days after he buried his father, Meyer was introduced as Ohio State’s new coach, setting off a wild week. No one would have blamed him if he had said, “You know, this is too much.” But he said he never thought about bowing out.



CHRIS SALE

Chris Sale’s life is about to change. Collegiate Baseball’s National Player of the Year in 2010 at FGCU, Sale is moving into the starting rotation for the Chicago White Sox. Selected 13th overall in the 2010 draft, Sale has been told he’ll switch from being a setup reliever to a starter in a rotation featuring Jake Peavy, John Danks and Gavin Floyd.



“I couldn’t be in a better position,” he said during his appearance at the Night at the Nest gala. “I’m very excited about the opportunity they’ve given me to start. It’ll be a little bit different and it’ll be a challenge, but I’m looking forward to it.”

Nothing he does will be without a grateful heart for what FGCU did for him.

“I came in here pretty much limping into my baseball career,” he says. “They got my head screwed on straight and pointed me in the right direction. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate what they did for me here. That’s why I take off time (to come back). This isn’t a burden for me. I love coming to these things.”





\$9,000 for a sideline pass” and offered a crisp salute.

In the end, the event – the dinner, auction and golf tournament – produced gross income of \$150,000 for the Eagle Club’s largest fundraising event in support of all 14 FGCU athletics teams.

“We are extremely pleased with this event,” Perchan says, “and frankly, we think we’ll do better next year.” ■

RICK WEBER is a Fort Myers-based writer.

CASEY COLEMAN

Since Casey Coleman completed his second season with the Chicago Cubs, the team has hired a new president of baseball operations (Theo Epstein), a new general manager (Jed Hoyer) and a new manager (Dave Sveum).



Coleman, a 24-year-old right-handed pitcher, just hopes he’s part of the plan to transform the tragicomic Cubs into something special.

“In Chicago, it’s a thing where they’re trying to rebuild,” he said, taking a short time out from the FGCU gala. “But at the same time, in Chicago, you’ve got to win now. The fans, media ... they want results. If they have that confidence in me, I’ll be ready. If they feel like I’m needed in a trade to go somewhere else, that’ll be fine, too.”

Coleman, the first FGCU player to reach the major leagues, credits the school for instilling mental toughness.

“When I first signed here, it wasn’t a big school,” he says. “No one had really heard of us. We rode buses everywhere and had to carry our own equipment. Stuff like that goes a long way when you’re in minor-league ball. Some guys have a tough time dealing with that, coming from a big university.”

“When I decided to take the job, we went through my calendar with the AD and I said, ‘Well, this is non-negotiable,’” Meyer says. “There were other ones we clicked out of. A bunch of them. No disrespect to the other ones, but they weren’t involving my daughter.

“This school has been so good to Gigi. We’re sold on this place. We’ve got a four-year commitment, and we’re going to be involved in everything we possibly can do to help them, because they do it right. We’re excited. I wasn’t going to let this one go.”

Meyer Mania hit its peak when his auction donation – a weekend in Columbus for next season’s Ohio State-Michigan game – received the night’s highest bid: \$9,000. He later joked about “some nut paying



1. Golf expert Jim Suttie and pro golfer Derek Lamely, '03
2. FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw congratulates Steve, Joanne and Caryn Rasnick.
3. Shelley and Urban Meyer with President Wilson G. Bradshaw
4. Dana Vidussi and Austin Shanfelter
5. Bob Beamon and Danielle Beau brun
6. John Petracco, Krista Scott, Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott and David Crowther
7. Urban, Gigi and Shelley Meyer

Couple, company establish business, athletics scholarships

LIFELONG LEE COUNTY RESIDENTS GLENN AND ANGELA BLACK HAVE CREATED two scholarship funds that will benefit Florida Gulf Coast University students who excel in athletics and who are pursuing careers in business.

The Blacks have pledged \$100,000 to create the Glenn and Angela Black Family Endowment, which will award scholarships to students majoring in disciplines within the Lutgert College of Business.

The couple's business, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/Glenn Black Group, also has pledged \$100,000 to create a scholarship that is already being awarded on a monthly basis to outstanding student-athletes.

The Glenn Black Group has worked with Lutgert College of Business students as

interns and has hired graduates for full-time positions with the firm.

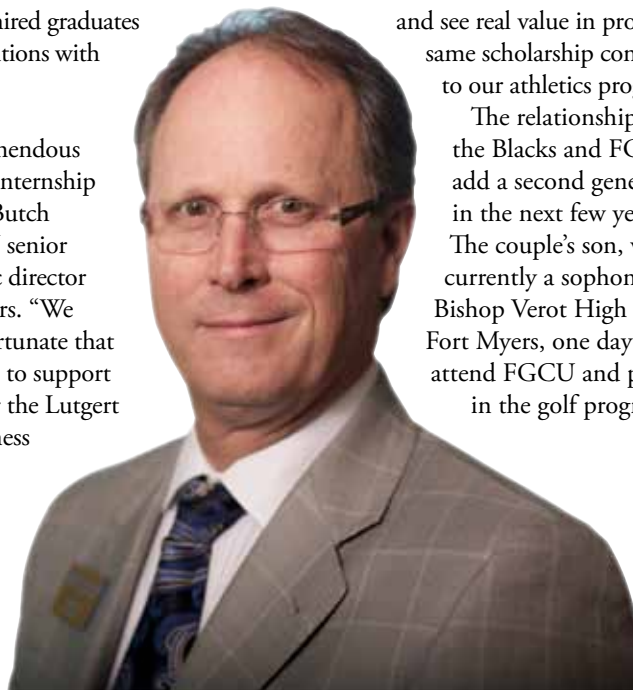
"The firm has experienced tremendous success with its internship program," says Butch Perchan, FGCU senior associate athletic director for external affairs. "We are extremely fortunate that the Blacks chose to support a scholarship for the Lutgert College of Business

and see real value in providing the same scholarship commitment to our athletics program."

The relationship between the Blacks and FGCU may add a second generation in the next few years.

The couple's son, who is currently a sophomore at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers, one day hopes to attend FGCU and participate in the golf program. ■

Glenn Black of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network/Glenn Black Group



Construction firm forges fund for engineering students

DEANGELIS DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION Inc. is building a scholarship endowed fund that will grow to \$50,000 by October 2015.

The scholarship will benefit full-time Florida Gulf Coast University students majoring in engineering. When the university establishes a construction management major, this endowment will change to benefit students in that major.

Students who have graduated from high school in the five-county region that comprises Southwest Florida are eligible to apply.

"As a locally owned business, we've



Steve Soud, CFO and partner, and Jay Waltbillig, principal/vice president of DeAngelis Diamond Construction

always been committed to giving back to our community," says Jay Waltbillig, the company's principal/vice president. "We're proud to support FGCU with a scholarship for the College of Engineering. FGCU has made a tremendous impact in our community by providing students the avenue for quality education and innovative learning. Our goal is to reward local students who exemplify commitment and leadership in the classroom and community."

DeAngelis Diamond Construction is based in Naples with a satellite office in Sarasota. It was founded in 1996. ■

CLASS NOTES

► This world is but canvas to our imaginations

Ashley Cecil Spencer

Physical therapist maintains FGCU ties.

ASHLEY CECIL SPENCER CONDUCTS THIS INTERVIEW FROM THE front seat of her car while her two daughters, Cece, 3, and Drew, 1, sleep in the back. Hey, when you have two kinetic kids, you seize every opening you get.

"This never happens," she says. "Especially with my 3-year-old. She's not a napper."

This is the life she envisioned after earning her bachelor's degree in human performance ('05) and her master's in physical therapy ('08), both from FGCU. Spencer, 28, the first student in FGCU's human performance program, is a full-time home-health physical therapist at Senior Home Care in Naples.

"I love it," she says. "I have everything I thought I'd have at this point – my two children, a wonderful husband, a career. I always have a plan for the future. Even when I've achieved the one I thought

I had, I've always come up with something new. I always think of things I'll do in the future. I think of different types of therapy I'd like to do. But I'm happy with what I'm doing. For a mom with children, it's a perfect setting."

Spencer served last summer as an adjunct professor at FGCU in human performance – which focuses on analyzing movement and maximizing performance of high-level athletes, fitness-oriented people and special populations such as children and older adults. She says she values her human-performance background because much of physical therapy is exercise, and she used that in her master's program to create the softball team's first strength and conditioning program.

Her ties to the school are strong. She played on FGCU's softball team, was an

Academic All-American, served as a graduate assistant coach for two years and full-time assistant for one year. What does she hold in her heart? The people.

"I keep in contact with so many," she says. "I have such good relationships with different students I had classes with, girls I coached, some off the coaching staff. I look back and can't believe how many people I have in my life from FGCU."

– Rick Weber



'05, '08 ◀

[WEDDINGS, ENGAGEMENTS AND BIRTHS]

'05

Lindsey Touchette, (Communication), and **Nate Touchette**, (Marketing), announced the birth of their twins, Gavin and Addisyn, on Oct. 24. Gavin was 19 inches, 6 pounds and 2 ounces. Addisyn was 18 inches, 5 pounds and 5 ounces. The family lives in Naples.



'07

Melissa Amoroso, (Resort and Hospitality Management), and Bob McCormick were married Nov. 5. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii. They live in Arlington, Va.

Ryan Hopkins, (Criminal Justice), and Lauren Strok have announced their engagement. They live in Columbus, Ohio.



Amber McDaniel, (Community Health Services), and Adam Pitts were married on Sept. 10. She is employed as an occupational therapist in Marianna.



Courtney Dwyer Satkoski, (Master's, Public Administration), and Dave Satkoski announced the birth of their son, Crew Dwyer Satkoski, on May 6. He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Crew is the younger brother to sister El Malone, age 2. Courtney Dwyer Satkoski is an instructor at FGCU. The family lives in Estero.

CLASS NOTES

(continued from previous page)

Joey Lewis

Golf program groomed head pro at Trump club.

'09

"YOU'RE HIRED!" WHILE DONALD TRUMP DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY those words to Joey Lewis, he had some comments for the '09 graduate after appointing him head golf professional of one of his 10 courses.

"It wasn't direct," says Lewis, 26, who learned from General Manager Lili Amini that he landed the job at the Trump National Golf Club in Los Angeles. "It was more in line with what he asks for in a pro is ratings and are expectations being met and am I a person who's best fit for the job?"

Lewis, who earned his bachelor's degree in golf management, was interim head pro for seven months before he won the permanent position in July. He began working full-time for the club in September 2009, organizing golf events, arranging receptions and corporate events and promoting the club.

These days, Lewis troubleshoots, runs corporate clinics and occasionally gives lessons. He and his assistants play in Southern California PGA tournaments, but it's more about networking than competing, he says.

Among the celebrities that have graced his course are actors Mark Wahlberg and David Spade, NFL player Vince Young, boxer Oscar De La Hoya and soccer star David Beckham.

"I learn something new every day," Lewis says. "It's a challenging position. It's never ending, but I see a lot of cool things."

Growing up in Estero, Lewis played golf in high school. When he enrolled at Santa Fe Community College, he didn't



Joey Lewis, right, instructs a client at Trump National Golf Club in Los Angeles.

play much and realized he missed the sport. After transferring to FGCU, he headed straight for the PGA Golf Management program.

Lewis earned internships at Oregon's prestigious Bandon Dunes in 2007 and 2008. In his second tour, he was named co-intern of the year, which helped him land an internship at Trump National from January to August 2009. Three weeks after he graduated, Lewis began working full time at Trump National.

Lewis said his experiences at FGCU prepared him well for his job. Internship coordinator Marty Hall and adjunct instructor Ken McMaster have been great resources.

"Marty set me up with the internship program and Ken helped when I had questions in regards to staffing and how to proceed with it," he says. "I definitely couldn't have done this without them." ■

CRAIG HANDEL is a Fort Myers-based writer.

'08

Amy Surprenant, (Master's, Occupational Therapy), and Todd Cofer, '07 (Political Science), were married on Sept. 24. The couple met at FGCU, where Surprenant was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and Cofer was in Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. They live in Arlington, Va.



'10

Francesca da Silva, (Music), and Alejandro Osborn were married on May 22 in a garden ceremony in Punta Gorda. She is the director of bands at Oak Hammock Middle School in Fort Myers. They live in Lehigh Acres.



'11

Sonja Bloch, (Human Performance), and Brandon Renfro have announced their engagement. The couple met at FGCU when she joined the sailing club and he was the president. The wedding is scheduled for March 3.

[NEWSMAKERS]



'99

James Robinson II, (Management), has been named a partner in the Global Commercial Litigation Practice Group of White &

Case. He was previously an associate of the firm. Robinson has a law degree from the University of Florida.

'00

Kara Crider, (Management), has joined deSCO, LLC, a leading management software provider for the service industry, as director of marketing. She is responsible for directing and managing deSCO's strategic marketing plan and corporate communications.

“Marty (Hall) set me up with the internship program and Ken (McMasters) helped when I had questions in regards to staffing and how to proceed with it. I definitely couldn't have done this without them.”

- JOEY LEWIS, '09, GOLF PRO, REFERRING TO FGCU STAFF

'03

Heidi Franz-Hoyt, (Communication), co-wrote a paper, "Communication Changes and the Use of Social Support by Spouses of Alzheimer's Patients." She was selected to present it at the National Communications Association Conference in New Orleans. Franz-Hoyt works at FGCU.



'04

AnnaDannielle Carter, (Legal Studies), is a member of the Florida Bar. She graduated from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center and successfully passed the Florida Bar Exam.

Jeffrey Lewis, (Art), has turned to Kickstarter to fund a new exhibit of limited edition images. Kickstarter allows individuals to make donations to help finance creative projects and, in return, receive rewards produced from the project. Lewis' project, "As I Am," is an exhibit with a theme of self-acceptance.



Tiziana Marchante, (Psychology), has relocated to Savannah with her husband and daughter. After working at FGCU, she is now a part-time French interpreter.

'05

Scott Guelcher, (Art), was September's guest artist at the Coloring The World Gallery in Fort Myers.

David Vespignani, (Sports Management), is the new boys' basketball coach at Page High School in Arizona. He is also pursuing his master's degree in education at the University of Phoenix.



Darrin Wallace, (Liberal Studies), has been named the boys' basketball coach at Cape Coral High School.

'06

Anna Burrelli, (Psychology), has joined William Peace University in Raleigh, N.C., as an admissions counselor. She will represent the university to prospective students, parents, secondary school counselors and organizations involved in the college selection process.

'10

Taylor Cooke, (Human Performance), has been named head coach of the Ave Maria University cross country program.

Joseph Hunt, (Communication), is the communications coordinator for the Athletic Department at the University of South Florida.

'11

Brittani Earl, (Criminal Forensic Studies), is the director of annual giving for the FGCU Foundation. She is also pursuing her master's degree in criminal forensic behavioral analysis at FGCU.



Amber Pacheco, (Health Science), is the operations manager for events and special projects for the FGCU Foundation.

Ashley Yance, (Master's, Business Administration), is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. She lives in Fort Myers.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

alumnirelations@fgcu.edu
or by mail to: Florida Gulf Coast University,
Attention: Alumni Relations,
10501 FGCU Blvd. S., Fort Myers, FL
33965-6565

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CALENDAR



3/6 **TUESDAY**

Webinar Series:

How to make your resume stand out

A resume creates an employer's first impression of you. Make sure it stands out for all of the right reasons. Join Amy Scott to learn how to write the most effective resume. Noon, Virtual.



4/4 **WEDNESDAY**

Etiquette Dinner

Learn proper etiquette for business meals with employers. Etiquette expert Nonnie Owens will discuss ways to leave a lasting impression. Enjoy a five-course meal while networking with current students and fellow alumni. Space is limited. 6 p.m. Airport Holiday Inn, 9931 Interstate Commerce Drive, Estero. Call (239) 590-1087.

4/19 **THURSDAY**

Presentation of Senior Art Projects

Join graduating art majors as they unveil their projects during the opening reception. Time TBD, FGCU Art Gallery, main campus. ■

Hip-hop star shines at Eaglepalooza



PARTING SHOT is a forum for essays, photos and art that present a unique, personal perspective. Submit material for consideration to Pinnacle Editor Karen Feldman at kfeldman@fgcu.edu or call (239) 590-7093.

MIAMI-BORN HIP-HOP ARTIST PITBULL HEADLINED THIS YEAR'S Eaglepalooza in November at Germain Arena. The concert was held off campus for the first time for space and security reasons. Pitbull had a No. 1 Billboard hit in 2011 with "Give Me Everything," a collaboration with Ne-Yo. He also has worked with Jennifer Lopez. Brian Tietz shot this photograph using a Canon EOS 5D Mark II with a Canon EF 24mm F/1.4 lens and an aperture of $f/2$, ISO 500 with a 1/250th-second shutter speed. ■

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATE A
COLLEAGUE,
FORMER STUDENT,
VOLUNTEER OR
FELLOW GRADUATE!

DEADLINE FOR
NOMINATIONS:
APRIL 1, 2012

Visit www.fgcu.edu/Alumni/AlumniAwards.html
to find criteria, previous winners and nomination
forms. Call the Alumni Office at (239) 590-1087
with any questions.

Alumni of Distinction & Soaring Eagles Society

Poetic License



Show your pride with an FGCU license plate and support student scholarships.
Now EZ to get...no line...no wait. Go to EZTagFL.com

Proceeds (\$25) benefit university scholarships

For more information visit the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles at www.hsmv.state.fl.us/



Florida Gulf Coast University
Pinnacle Magazine
10501 FGCU Boulevard S.
Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FT. MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 498

A large advertisement for NCH Healthcare System. On the left is a portrait of Maria Nave, a smiling woman with blonde hair, wearing a red halter top. To her right is the NCH Healthcare System logo in red. Below the logo is the handwritten text 'This is my hospital.' in black ink. Further down is a quote from Maria Nave, followed by the phrase 'Here's why:' in red cursive. Below this are three bullet points listing hospital accolades. At the bottom right is a call to action. The website 'www.NCHmd.org' is at the bottom left.

NCH
Healthcare
System

This is my hospital.

-Maria Nave
Owner & Dance Instructor,
Dance Arts By Maria

Here's why:

- Voted best doctors, nurses, quality, and reputation in Collier County by National Research Corp.
- 650 highly skilled physicians using the latest technologies.
- 2 hospitals, 715 beds, and more than 55 years of service.

**NCH wants to be your hospital.
Call us at 436-5430.**

www.NCHmd.org