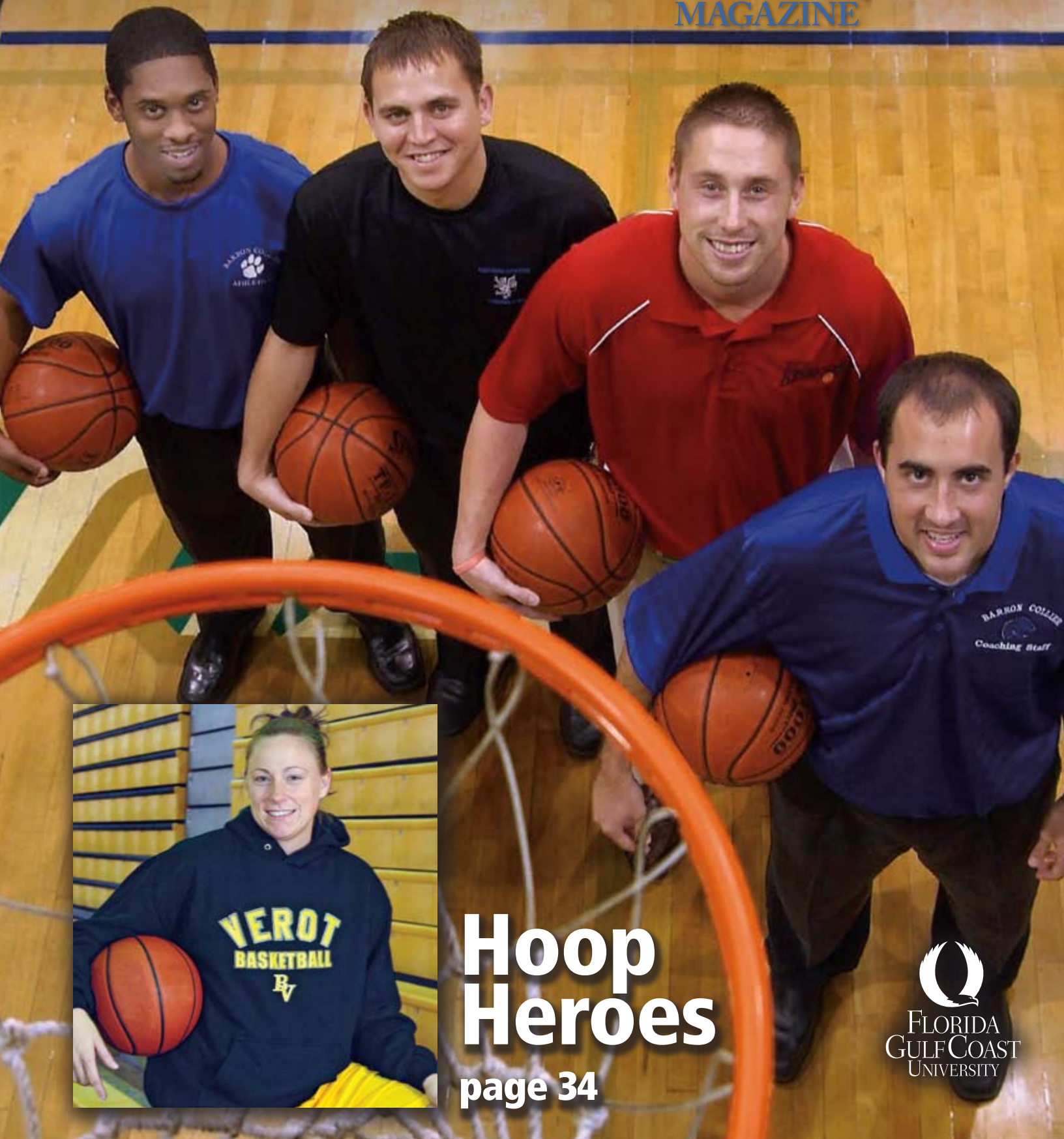


Pinnacle

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

FEB. | MARCH 2008



Hoop Heroes

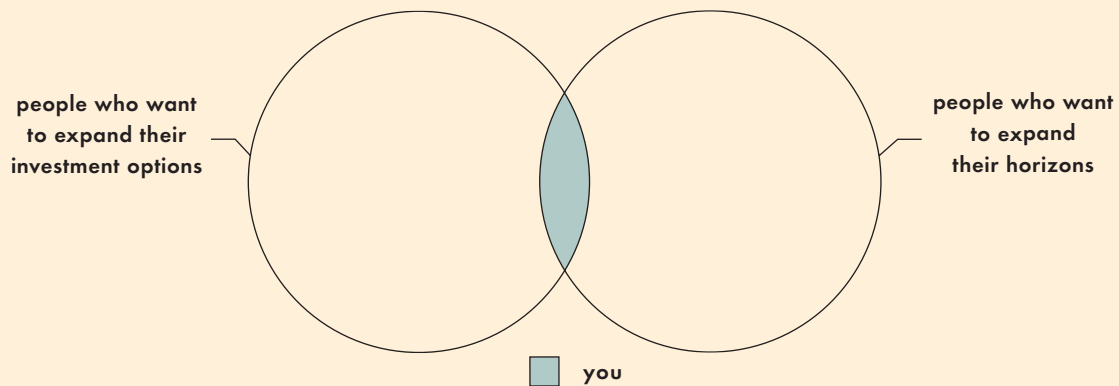
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BROADENING PERSPECTIVES



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On the cover: FGCU alumni, from left, Gabe Pean, '07; Darrin Wallace, '04; Trevor Montgomery, '06; Bryan Crislip, '05; and Trish Fleming, '05 (inset) all coach high-school basketball teams.

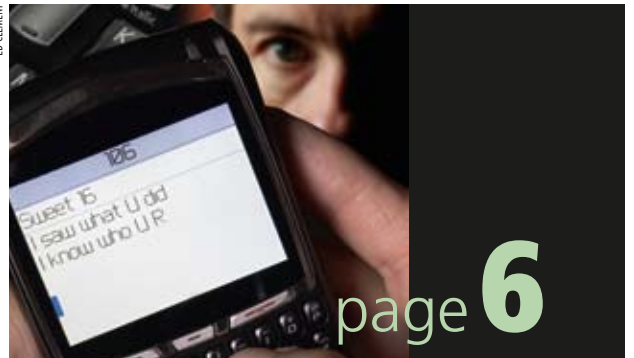
Photo by Ed Clement
Inset photo by Garth Francis



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Lutgert Hall Courtyard

Alumna relishes
rookie year
with NBA

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Of storm clouds and silver linings

Politics being what it is, it's tough to get a consensus on anything.

There's been one notable exception of late in Florida: the state of the state budget. Politicians and pundits, bureaucrats and watchdogs all say it's in woeful shape and sure to get worse before it gets better.

Housing starts are down. Real estate prices are dropping. Unemployment, bankruptcies and home foreclosures keep climbing. That all adds up to a huge shortfall in Florida tax revenues that will affect every branch of government and all social-service agencies to some extent.

Universities are not immune. We've already felt the pain of budget cuts and a 5-percent tuition hike. There's more to come this year and next as the effects of the recently approved increase in home-stead exemptions and the portability of Save Our Homes tax shelters take hold.

There's no question that stormy times lie ahead for education in the Sunshine State.

Nonetheless, Florida Gulf Coast University has much for which to be thankful. Through the generous support of area residents and businesses, the University's expansion rolls on.

The just-finished Outdoor Sports Center now houses coaches and student-athletes. The new soccer fields are covered with thick green grass.

Lutgert Hall, the future home of the Lutgert College of Business, should be ready for occupancy this fall. Its creation is a testament to the enthusiasm with which the region's business community has embraced the University's efforts to upgrade facilities in order to better prepare tomorrow's entrepreneurs and corporate leaders.

Holmes Hall, which will house the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering, is on the rise and should be ready to welcome students next

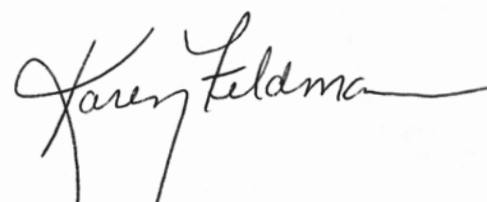
January. Construction also has commenced on Sugden Hall, in which the Resort and Hospitality Management program will reside.

Besides the proliferation of concrete structures on campus, the number of scholarships and the amount awarded continue to grow, thanks to community support. In the 2007-08 academic year, 729 students received FGCU Foundation scholarships totaling \$1.2 million – a four-fold increase over six years ago.

In a November appearance before the FGCU Faculty Senate, Florida Board of Governors Chancellor Mark Rosenberg said Florida's universities must do more with less.

While some state universities are reducing services, FGCU continues to serve Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. In addition to for-credit courses, the lifelong-learning program, Renaissance Academy, offers more than 350 classes this winter and spring in 14 locations from Punta Gorda to Naples, while the University's Professional Development Academy has expanded offerings in Charlotte County.

In the trailblazing spirit with which the University was founded, its administration, faculty, staff and student body move forward with optimism and creativity. The generosity and support of the community provide the fuel for that movement and, in turn, the region reaps the rewards in the form of an ever more well-educated workforce.



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News update

University plans festive presidential inauguration

While the nation's presidential inauguration is almost a year away – and the guest of honor yet to be decided – Florida Gulf Coast University is in the midst of organizing its own ceremony, set for March 28, when Wilson G. Bradshaw will be formally inaugurated as the University's third president.

The entire community is invited to this festive occasion, which promises to be full of symbolism, spectacle and pride.

"An inauguration brings together the University community, our geographic community and the national academic community," says Audrea Anderson, FGCU associate vice president for University Advancement and chairwoman of the Inauguration Committee.

FGCU will invite dignitaries representing colleges and universities from across the nation. Those who attend "will become a part of the inaugural procession to share in this momentous occasion," she says.

Although the President began work in November, the March ceremony marks the formal recognition of his role as leader of the University.

"It sets an appropriate tone for the new era," Anderson says. "A new president ushers in a

new era, defining his priorities, his vision and his goals to make the University grow, develop and thrive."

The inaugural procession will include FGCU faculty, international students from more than 50 countries bearing the flags of their home nations, University vice presidents, deans, alumni, state and local officials and the FGCU Board of Trustees.

Among those expected to speak will be University and community leaders as well as state officials.

FGCU Board of Trustees Chair Scott Lutgert will conduct the investiture of the President, after which Bradshaw will deliver his address.

Nancy Cobb-Lippens, founding director of the Bower School of Music and an accomplished composer, has written a musical work specifically for the new President. It will be performed during the ceremony. She will also conduct an all-University choir, composed of students, faculty and staff.

The inauguration takes place at 1 p.m. Friday, March 28, at Alico Arena on the FGCU campus.



President Wilson G. Bradshaw





ED CLEMENT

Library expansion enhances form&function

BY KAREN FELDMAN

To meet the needs of an expanding student body, this past summer the FGCU Library more than tripled in size with a \$17-million addition.

The facility now occupies 114,000 square feet, with another 20,000 square feet in use as classroom and office space. The Library will take that space over as the University grows, says Kathleen Miller, director of FGCU Library Services.

The expansion, designed by M.C. Harry and Associates, won first prize in the 2008 Architectural Showcase of the Florida Educational Facilities Planners Association.

The Library has come a long way since the University's opening when it occupied a small meeting room in Ben Hill Griffin Hall and held three computers and a smattering of reference books, moving into its own building in September 1997.

The recent addition and renovation of the existing two-story structure includes "a lot of new space devoted to student activity," Miller says, including 20 group-study rooms.

The open computing lab has been enlarged and there's expanded multi-media computing in rooms for small groups for viewing videos and DVDs.

The new Starbucks has been a big hit, too.

"We're a small campus compared to many universities, but if you're in the middle of a day of hard work and want a cup of coffee or water, having to go across campus and wait in line in the cafeteria is not that attractive," she says.

To Miller, the best part of the addition is "the space is so inviting. It speaks to student needs for quiet study space and collaborative study. The place is just jumping with students. To see all those students coming through and finding what they need, that's very satisfying."

Beyond that, she says, "It's beautiful. Walking into the atrium and seeing the water in the front and the three stories is inspiring. I hope it will inspire students to do their best work."

An expansive atrium, at left, provides an inviting, well-lit space for studying.



ED CLEMENT



GARTH FRANCOIS

The recently enlarged Library boasts an attractive new entrance, top, and a Starbucks Coffee shop.

Cyber-safe



Professor gives adults the 411 on protecting children from Internet threats

BY JAY MACDONALD

Imagine the school bully from your past, the one who helped himself to your lunch tray, called you names, ridiculed you in the hall and spread malicious gossip about you behind your back. It was pretty uncomfortable, wasn't it?

Now imagine that same bully terrorizing you around the clock, at home and at school, by sending a relentless barrage of threatening text messages, phony photos and venomous videos through your e-mail, your cell phone, even the MySpace Web site you share with your friends.

That's the infuriating, unfathomable reality of today's "cyber bully," the latest high-tech incarnation of an ancient menace that pushes some young teens to suicide, often before their parents even know what's happening.

"Cyber bullying is a horrific problem," says Russ Sabella, professor of counseling in Florida Gulf Coast University's College of Education. "It's so bad that you can't talk about cyber bullying without also talking about suicide. In fact, there's a new term for it online: 'bullycide.'"

The horror of high-tech

harassment hit Southwest Florida hard in June 2005 when a Cape Coral student, 15-year-old Jeffrey Johnston, committed suicide after enduring two years of cyber bullying from a classmate. His mother Debbie, a Cape Coral teacher, now devotes much of her time to pushing the state Legislature to pass the anti-bullying "Jeff's Law" through her Web site, JeffreyJohnston.org.

Sabella found his way to the center of the cyber-bullying storm through his two main areas of research: sexual harassment and technology training

for school counselors and administrators. Little did he imagine that his two academic pursuits would one day intersect, much less with young lives at stake. Now he speaks nationally to parents and counselors and writes about cyber bullying on his Web site, Schoolcounselor.com. This spring, he will publish a book on cyber bullying, "Guarding-Kids.com: A Practical Guide to Keeping Kids Out of High-Tech Trouble" (Educational Media Corp.).

Unlike the school bully



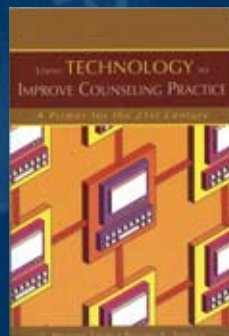
"You can't talk about cyber bullying without also talking about suicide."

— Russ Sabella

Russ Sabella

Facts of life

- **Who:** Russ Sabella
- **What:** Professor of counseling, FGCU College of Education
- **Age:** 42
- **Family:** Wife, Betty; sons Joe, 14, and Matt, 8
- **Role models:** “My parents. They are Sicilian immigrants who came over back in the ‘50s. My father was a bricklayer and my mother was a seamstress. Through determination and hard work, they really achieved the American dream.”
- **Last book read:** “Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . And Others Don’t,” by Jim Collins
- **Hobbies:** Fishing, swimming, biking, watching movies
- **Publications:** “GuardingKids.com: A Practical Guide to Keeping Kids Out of High-Tech Trouble” (2008)
Co-author of “Counseling in the 21st Century: Using Technology to Improve Practice” (2004), and “Confronting Sexual Harassment: Learning Activities for Teens” (1995)



EDUCATION

of old, that physically imposing, underachieving miscreant who disrespected students and teachers alike, today’s cyber bully is just as likely to be the prom queen or the captain of the football squad.

“Cyber bullying has become an equal-opportunity offense now,” Sabella says. “In fact, if teachers knew who the cyber bullies were, they would be shocked. These are kids who

have great relationships with their teachers, get good grades, and no longer need brawn.

The saying goes, ‘you don’t need biceps anymore; you just need fast thumbs’ (for texting).”

In cyber bullying, the gender tables are turned as well. “Males will oftentimes bully one to many; one person will bully many others,” says Sabella. “For females, it’s the reverse; a group of girls will typically bully one boy. In fact, there are more female cyber bullies than there are male.”

Sabella says cyber bullying peaks in the seventh and eighth grades, nature’s most confusing time and a developmental stage at which peer pressure and experimentation can lead to tragic results without adult



child ©istockphoto.com/AlmaJLittles

supervision.

Why do they do it? The classic reasons: attention, jealousy, revenge, adolescent anger or all of the above. But unlike traditional bullying, cyber bullying can kill, for three reasons:

- **It’s intense:** If you thought a finger in your chest was frightening, imagine a multimedia assault, including real or doctored images and video of you in humiliating situations or compromising positions, coming at you and your friends via e-mail, instant messaging, blogs and social networks such as MySpace.
- **It’s relentless:** School bullying was once confined to school hours on school grounds. Technology now enables a seamless flow of multimedia harassment 24 hours a day.
- **It’s inescapable:** Previous worst-case solutions such as changing schools or even cities don’t work; a persistent cyber bully can make the victim’s life miserable from afar.

The wild card here is that in most U.S. households, the kids – not their parents – are the technology experts.



locked laptop ©istockphoto.com/dm_schwartz

Because parents often don’t use or understand the gadgetry their adolescents use, they are inclined to dismiss the danger of a cyber bully – in those rare instances in which their teens actually confide in them.

“Some parents think it’s no big deal, ‘just delete it,’” says Sabella. “But some cyber bullies are doing the same things that al Qaeda does; they’re using networks and communications mechanisms to support a form of terrorism.”



teen girl ©istockphoto.com/photomagic

Sabella encourages parents to create a tech-friendly home environment in which cyber bullying cannot flourish. How?

- **Educate yourself:** Computer savvy parents should go onto MySpace, open an account, read the FAQs and learn how it works. Those who aren’t, should ask their children to teach them.
- **Arm yourself:** Parents should ensure they have a good content blocking/filtering device on their in-home Internet connection and be vigilant about using it. The device costs about \$40.
- **Stay alert:** Make sure all In-

“Cell phones are the number one tool that cyber bullies use ... ”

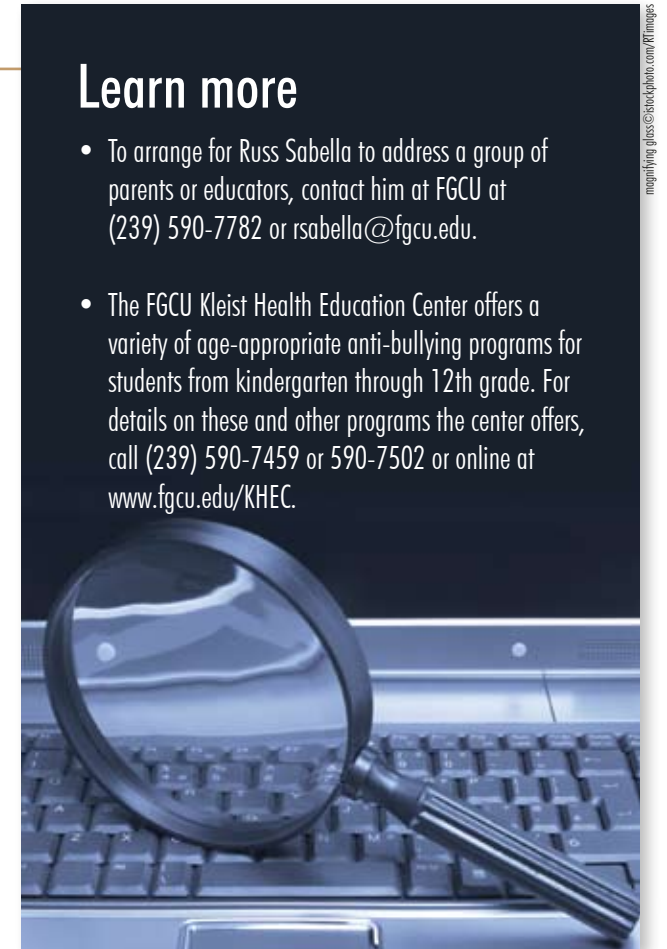
– Russ Sabella

ternet-connected computers and other devices are used in a viewable place where adults can monitor the content.

Contrary to what a teen may argue, “everyone” does not have a cell phone and a MySpace network site; Sabella says about 25 percent to 30 percent have one or both. He’s opposed to middle-school students having either.

“Cell phones are the number one tool that cyber bullies use, especially since they can do video and photo and IM (instant messages) and get on the Web, and I can’t think of one good reason why a kid should have a social-network account,” he says. “These are tools of mass destruction really.”

Parents may be in the dark about cyber bullying, but school counselors are not. “One of the things we know about campus shootings is that the shooters always had a Web presence and they wrote things that, in hindsight, would have been clues



magnifying glass ©istockphoto.com/KTimages

Learn more

- To arrange for Russ Sabella to address a group of parents or educators, contact him at FGCU at (239) 590-7782 or rsabella@fgcu.edu.
- The FGCU Kleist Health Education Center offers a variety of age-appropriate anti-bullying programs for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. For details on these and other programs the center offers, call (239) 590-7459 or 590-7502 or online at www.fgcu.edu/KHEC.

that something was wrong,” says Sabella.

Unfortunately, educators are caught in a gray area with how to proceed in cyber-bullying cases. Sabella hopes Jeff’s Law and similar initiatives around the country will free schools to use their disciplinary processes to fight this growing menace.

“As an educator, if I learn of sexual abuse that is happening off campus, I am obligated to report and deal with it, but not with cyber bullying, even though there are kids getting hurt in both situations,” he says. “If a kid is being neglected or physically abused, if I don’t report it, I could go to jail. But with cyber bullying, I’m supposed to ignore it?”

– Jay MacDonald is a freelance writer who lives in Austin, TX.

FGCU Professional Development Academy debuts in Charlotte County

BY MELISSA BABINS

Charlotte County business owners and professionals now have easy access to practical courses that can help them hone their skills. Florida Gulf Coast

University's Professional Development Academy, which began in November, takes the University's expertise on the road to those who might not be able to make it to classes held at FGCU in south Fort Myers.

FGCU faculty, including instructors from FGCU's Small Business Development Center, provide the course instruction. In designing the program, Bloomberg consulted with leaders of the non-profit organization, Enterprise Charlotte, and the Enterprise Charlotte Education Task Force, to determine what skills were most needed there. The curriculum was developed based on those needs.

He also met with Punta Gorda City Manager Howard Kunik, who added his perspective to the planning process, saying the area needed

employees with good skills in critical thinking and problem solving. Bloomberg launched the program in Charlotte County because there is a preponderance of small- to medium-sized businesses, making it a logical starting point. Until the program began, Charlotte County residents who wanted this sort of training had to access it through more distant classes offered by FGCU's Small Business Development Center. Having classes meet in Charlotte County makes it infinitely easier for local residents to work them into their schedules.

Even before the first year's classes conclude in July, Bloomberg is planning for the future of FGCU's Professional Development Academy. He

plans to solicit additional ideas from the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce to determine what needs still remain to be filled. He also expects to gather information from a cross-section of those who have taken classes there to find out what worked and what needs improvement.

After the initial program is completed and refined in Charlotte County, Bloomberg expects to replicate it in Lee and Collier counties.

Therese Canino, an employee of Ant-Ser Termite and Pest Control in Charlotte County, took the three-hour Basic Bookkeeping course last fall to help her be more effective in her new position in the company's financial department.

Although she'd have preferred the course to have been longer, she liked what was offered.

"The professor offered in-depth answers to questions," she says.

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Julie Mathis thinks the program is a great idea.

"It continues the partnership the community has with FGCU," says Mathis. "The courses are very practical and they are at times when working people can have access to them, and those are two important components."

— Melissa Babins is an FGCU senior who lives in Port Charlotte.

Course Schedule

Feb. 18-21

Writing Your Business Plan
Cost: \$199
6 to 9 p.m.
Charlotte County Schools
Professional Development Center,
4086 Beaver Lane, Port Charlotte

March 6

Team Building
Cost: \$89
6 to 9 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center
18150 Murdock Circle, Port
Charlotte

March 18 and 20

Project Management
Cost: \$109
6 to 9 p.m.
Charlotte County Schools
Professional Development Center

April 10

Time Management
Cost: \$89
6 to 9 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

April 22

Stress Management
Cost: \$89
6 to 9 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

May 8

Successful Business Writing
Cost: \$109
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

May 13

The Four Roles of Leadership
Cost: \$125
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

May 20

Presenting/Public Speaking
Cost: \$109
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

June 12

Presenting/Public Speaking
Cost: \$109
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Charlotte County Schools
Professional Development Center

June 19

Meeting Advantage
Cost: \$125
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

June 24

Successful Business Writing
Cost: \$109
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

July 15

The Seven Habits Fundamentals
Cost: \$125
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Charlotte Technical Center

Learn more

Classes cost \$49 to \$199 per student, with some group discounts available. For more information about Professional Development Academy courses, go online at www.fgcu.edu/charlottecenter. Register by calling FGCU's Charlotte County Office of Continuing Education and Off-Campus Programs at (941) 504-7414 or register in person at 26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda.



Steven Bloomberg



hands on desk © iStockphoto.com/Alvaro



hand with pen © iStockphoto.com/Razz



pen and laptop © iStockphoto.com/Prof

Program radiates bright, healthy ideas about sun exposure

Adults may worry about the damage caused by sun exposure, but children rarely give it a thought.

The problem with that is, although parents may attempt to be vigilant about making sure their children are protected, they aren't always there to ensure their offspring take the proper precautions.

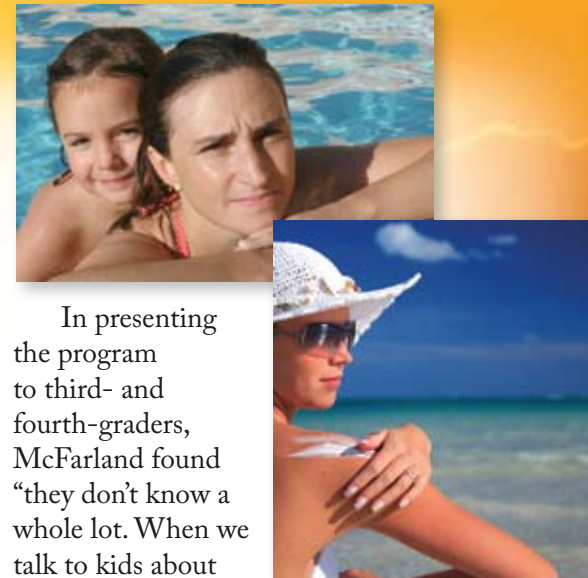
Considering that 20 percent of Americans develop skin cancer in their lifetimes, that someone dies from the disease every hour and that over time sun exposure can cause cataracts and immune disorders, it's critical that children learn how and why to protect themselves.

That's the goal of SunWise, a new environmental and health program offered by FGCU's Kleist Health Education Center.

Renee McFarland, director of the Kleist Center, attended a national health education conference last summer, saw a presentation about the program by the Environmental Protection Agency, and realized there was a need for the course locally.

"We live in Florida. These kids need some information about the damage sun exposure can cause," she says.

Although the program teaches people of all ages about the problem, the primary targets are elementary school students.



In presenting the program to third- and fourth-graders, McFarland found "they don't know a whole lot. When we talk to kids about sunscreen, they know what it is, but think they only need it when they go to the beach. We talk about how your skin needs to be protected whether you're at the park or at baseball. I saw it was a rude awakening for many of them."

During the interactive program, which runs 45 minutes to an hour, McFarland covers topics such as the times of day when the sun is at its most hazardous, what the dangers are and how sunscreen helps protect from damage.

There are various activities during the program as well as some that classroom teachers can use before and after the class.

"We don't like it to be a one-shot deal," says McFarland. "Children need repetition" to make the lesson stick.

For details on SunWise and other Kleist programs, call (239) 590-7459 or 590-7502 or visit online at www.fgcu.edu/KHEC.



Sun Safety Action Steps



A slide from the SunWise program offers safety tips.

Happenings



Words of inspiration

At FGCU's 19th commencement ceremony, held in December, President Wilson G. Bradshaw told graduates: "Education is the way that you furnish your mind and heart to be an interesting place to spend the rest of your life."



Rite of passage

Some 760 students graduated during FGCU's 19th commencement ceremony, held Dec. 16, at Alico Arena. Of those graduating, 151 earned master's degrees, while 609 earned bachelor's degrees.



Chancellor visits Faculty Senate

Florida Board of Governors Chancellor Mark Rosenberg addressed the FGCU Faculty Senate in November. He praised the Senate for the work it did and encouraged members to forge strong ties with student leaders. He also cautioned of tough economic times ahead and that Florida universities will have to do more with less to maintain high standards in the face of budget cuts.



Presidential address

FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw spoke to the Faculty Senate right after Chancellor Rosenberg, pledging to work hard to deliver the financial resources the University needs to deliver a high-quality education to all students and to support the scholarly needs and growth of the faculty.



Landmark exhibition

FGCU recently hosted "I Am in It: Contemporary Chinese Art Expressions," an exhibit of contemporary calligraphy featuring the works of four Chinese artists. All four visited the University, attending the preview reception and holding classes at the University and around the community. Pictured, from left: translator Xu Hui; artist Shao Yan; artist Lan Zhenghui; Judith Cassidy, FGCU senior director of Advancement; guest curator Yiguo Zhang; artist Pu Lieping; and artist Yilao.



Show and tell

Chinese artist Pu Lieping explores seal script, the ancient style of calligraphy, with sixth-grade students at Gateway Charter School. The artist came to Southwest Florida as part of the four-person exhibition, "I Am in It: Contemporary Chinese Art Expressions," held at FGCU in January.

INVESTING WISELY

Scholarships grow tomorrow's leaders

BY CHRIS WADSWORTH

Looking back, April Miller never considered a college education a sure thing.

Her family didn't have much money and she knew early on she'd get little help when it came time to pay for school.

But during her senior year at Cape Coral High School, Miller spent countless hours applying for scholarships at Florida Gulf

Coast University, getting some vital assistance in the process.

"My grandmother helped a lot," Miller says. "She pushed me a lot and it definitely paid off."

Miller was soon stunned to learn that she had received a full, four-year scholarship from the Fernandez Family Foundation.

"It was just overwhelming," she recalls. "It was a huge relief (for me) ... and for my family, too."

She graduated from FGCU in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Finance.

Today, Miller is the executive vice president and chief financial officer for Yacht Clubs of America, a \$300-million company based in Fort Myers.

The story of her success is just one of many that comes out of FGCU's Foundation, which grows the University's scholarship endowment.

At the start of the 2007-08 academic year, the Foundation had nearly 380 scholarship funds available to FGCU students. From those it

awarded \$1.2 million in scholarships. That's a huge increase from the \$278,000 awarded just six years ago.

All told, the University's total scholarship endowment is more than \$22 million – a tremendous sum for a 10-year-old school.

"This has greatly exceeded what we expected, especially for a fairly new institution," says Steve Magiera, FGCU's vice president for Advancement. "We're very fortunate that the community has embraced Florida Gulf Coast University with its generosity."

That charitable spirit has allowed ever more students to choose FGCU for their college careers, regardless of their socio-economic state. In the 2007-08 school year, 729 students have received FGCU Foundation scholarships. (Some funds award more than one scholarship.)

Yet, even with such impressive growth, the need for scholarships is certain to rise.

"We're at about 9,000 students right now and we're going to grow to an estimated 15,000 to 17,000 students by 2015," Magiera says. "That means additional scholarships will be needed."

Donations are made to the FGCU scholarship program at all levels. Smaller amounts – usually those less than \$10,000 – go into the fund that is awarded to students right away. Larger amounts often go toward the scholarship endowment, where the principle is invested and the earnings are used as awards.

In some instances, the state will match scholarship donations from the public up to 100 percent of the contributed amount.

PHOTOS BY ED CLEMENT



"FGCU welcomes donations from anyone interested in making a lasting impact on the lives of these students," says Linda Lehtomaa, FGCU senior director of Advancement.

"Ultimately, our community becomes the biggest winner when our students graduate and become productive members of society."

April Miller is already doing her part to give back to the community and she's making plans for still more philanthropy in the future.

Since graduation, she's volunteered as a big sister with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwest

Florida and last year, her company sponsored a charity bowling event to benefit the organization. She also donates to the FGCU Alumni Association. As she gets older and more established, she and her husband, Jason, plan to add their share to the school's scholarship programs.

"I think that's the biggest payoff," she says. "(A scholarship) changes your life and then you can do something for someone else and give back."

— Chris Wadsworth is a freelance writer who lives in Fort Myers.

April Miller, executive vice president and chief financial officer for Yacht Clubs of America in Fort Myers

Meet five
current
scholarship
recipients.



Justin Hojnacki

Age: 33
Class: Senior
Major: Environmental Studies
Hometown: Buffalo, N.Y.

In the early 1990s, Justin Hojnacki was a typical college student – studying psychology by day, waiting tables by night. But the easy money of the restaurant business proved too appealing. He quit school and spent a decade managing restaurants and nightclubs.

Over the years, he returned to school several times, but financial hardships prevented him from earning his degree.

"I basically ran out of money," he says.

Three years ago, Hojnacki moved to Southwest Florida to be closer to family. He enrolled at FGCU and quickly fell in love with the school's focus on the environment and green living. He left psychology and restaurant management courses behind and dedicated himself to his new major – Environmental Studies.

"I want to go into regulation versus the conservation goal that most students go after," he says. "I want to be on the forefront of creating laws that help the environment."

His academic road is made infinitely easier by a Fogg First Generation Scholarship. Aimed at environmentally inclined students who are among the first in their families to attend college, the scholarship allows Hojnacki to work just a few days a week and focus on his studies.

He has already made the President's List for high academic achievement. His ultimate goal: to work for a state environmental agency and perhaps someday for the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Rachel Wise

Age: 19
Class: Junior
Major: Communication
Hometown: Deltona

The tappity-tap of a keyboard is the background music to Rachel Wise's dream of becoming a hard-nosed, professional newspaper reporter and editor.

In the fourth grade, Wise announced her intention to become a journalist. She quickly achieved her goal, writing articles for an elementary school publication, her high school newspaper and freelancing for a local newspaper in Daytona Beach.

"I've been working on some sort of newspaper since elementary school," she says. "It's definitely a lifelong passion of mine."

It's a passion that may never have been realized without the help of several important scholarships, including the Brian and Denise Cobb Scholarship. Denise Cobb is a former CNN anchorwoman.

Today, Wise is the managing editor of Eagle News, the student-run newspaper at FGCU. She says not having to worry about money allows her to focus on what's really important in college.

"I'm a straight-A student, so I spend most of my time studying or working at the paper," Wise says. "If I had to work an outside job, my studies would suffer."

Wise hopes to attend graduate school in New York City and would like to ultimately be a big-city newspaper editor.





Hank Grimmick

Age: 40
Class: Senior
Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Mission Viejo, CA

Each evening, Hank Grimmick and his 5-year-old daughter, Guendlynn, compare notes on their days at school. Grimmick is studying at FGCU; Guendlynn attends kindergarten.

"She'll ask me what I did for 'Show and Tell,'" he says with a laugh.

Grimmick's love of computers and technology landed him a full-time job right out of high school. He quickly advanced into management, heading up an IT department.

Over the years he tried to go on to school, taking courses at a junior college, but life got in the way.

"I always wanted to (get my degree), but when you are young and have no children and no responsibility, you can always do it tomorrow," Grimmick says. "One year turned into two and then five and then 10."

Twenty years later, Grimmick has gone back to school, studying Computer Science at FGCU.

He's able to do so thanks, in part, to the Keith Bullock Memorial Scholarship, named for a much-loved FGCU employee who died. While he's thankful for the money, which he applied to his tuition, he's more honored than anything.

"I was absolutely ... taken aback that somebody would think of and understand the challenges of having a full-time job and a family and be trying to go to school," he says. "That the family would think of someone like that — it was a wonderful gift."

Joia Ford-Williams

Age: 21
Class: Junior
Major: Biology
Hometown: Clewiston

Junior Joia Ford-Williams is a naturally happy person and she expresses that joy by smiling — all the time. She calls her fascination with perfect pearly whites a "healthy obsession."

"I was always very passionate about people's teeth and their smiles," says Ford-Williams, who had braces as a young teen. "I noticed that people who had straight teeth had higher self-esteem."

Now, she focuses on her undergraduate studies so she can attend dental school at the University of Florida. Her goal is to become an orthodontist.

Meanwhile, Ford-Williams stays busy as co-president of the Black Student Alliance, as a senator with the Student Government and by serving on numerous campus advisory boards.

Raised by her single, struggling mother, Ford-Williams knows that money doesn't grow on trees. So she is extremely thankful for the anonymous donor who has given her scholarship money two years in a row.

"It's truly a blessing," she says to the benefactor she has never met. "You didn't have to help me, but you chose to and I thank God for you all the time."





Tomas Baltazar

Age: 19
Class: Sophomore
Major: Marketing
Hometown: Felda

In the 1980s, Tomas Baltazar's parents immigrated to the United States from Guatemala. With little schooling in their backgrounds, the elder Baltazars followed the path of so many other immigrants in Southwest Florida: they went to work picking crops in the fields around Southwest Florida.

However, they understood the value of an education and pushed their five children to study hard. That pushing paid off.

Tomas Baltazar is a sophomore at FGCU studying Marketing. His older sister attends the University of Florida.

"I wasn't satisfied with a high-school degree," he says. "I want to do more and I want to set a good example for my younger siblings."

He says his success wouldn't have been possible without financial aid, including the Barbara and Joe Marlin Hilliard Scholarship he received.

The money helped cover the cost of books and student fees.

"It helped me not to stress out about how I was going to pay for things," Baltazar says.

This semester, he moved into campus housing so he can spend more time studying and less time commuting. It's one more part of the college experience that wouldn't have been possible without this scholarship.

Scholarship luncheon celebrates giving, receiving

BY KAREN FELDMAN

The annual President's Scholarship Luncheon is an opportunity for scholarship recipients and donors to meet one another and share their happiness in giving and receiving.

"Gifts from sponsors are hard-earned, and given with joy," Steve Magiera, FGCU's vice president for Advancement, told the group at the ninth annual event, held in November. "Scholarships are received with just as much joy ... and a sigh of relief. This luncheon offers a nice opportunity to share that joy person to person."

And share they did.

Janice Anderson, a graduate student in Nursing who received a scholarship from George Riley, spoke of her struggles and successes in getting an education.

On her own at age 13, she dropped out of seventh grade, moving from job to job and place to place in the Louisiana bayou. At 17, she became a single mother.

"My child gave me the inspiration to learn to achieve what I needed to succeed," Anderson said. "This meant growing up faster than most 17 year olds."

She got her GED and landed a job as a factory worker. But her life changed drastically when her 9-year-old daughter was hit by a car while waiting for a school bus. She spent two months in the hospital helping to care for her severely injured daughter, but the little girl died.

From that tragedy, Anderson eventually returned to community college.

"I remembered the encouragement of the nurses who believed in me and I wanted to help others," she said.

She earned her LPN, then her RN and is finishing her master's degree in Nursing.

"This will allow me to help others in ways I could only dream of until I received this scholarship," Anderson said. "I would like to thank Mr. Riley for this scholarship that will help me

to help others find their strength."

April Miller '03, expressed her thanks for the four-year Fernandez Family Scholarship she received that made college a reality for her. The Cape Coral woman juggled studies and a part-time job while also serving as Miss Cape Coral and volunteering with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

She's now chief financial officer and executive vice president for Yacht Clubs of the Americas.

"The day I graduated college, I promised myself I would never forget the kindness that was bestowed on me and hopefully someday I will be able to give back as much as was given to me," she said. "I would like to thank all the donors and the Foundation. Without the kindness of people like you I would not be where I am ... Your consideration will not only help the students of today, but how they live their lives tomorrow."



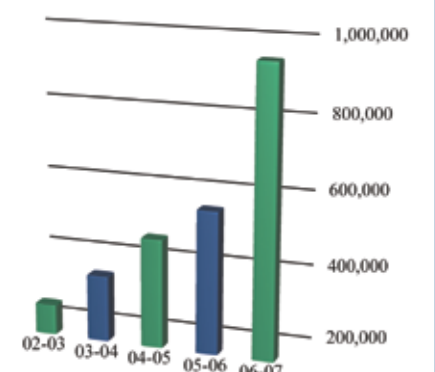
Janice Anderson

Scholarship recipient Stephanie Cifuentes talks with Kathie Beeken, donor of the William and Kathryn Beeken Scholarship.



Foundation scholarships awarded over the past five years:

Fiscal Year	2002-2003	278,665
Fiscal Year	2003-2004	373,690
Fiscal Year	2004-2005	441,779
Fiscal Year	2005-2006	577,313
Fiscal Year	2006-2007	963,020





Arthrex helps fund new Engineering building

Arthrex Inc. recently donated \$50,000 to name the Arthrex Biomechatronic Research Lab in Holmes Hall, the future home of the FGCU U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering, which is now under construction. The company, with U.S. headquarters in Naples, develops products for, and offers educational services to, orthopedic surgeons and their patients. From left: Jim Sweeney, chairman, U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering; Frank Maas, Arthrex vice president of engineering and RA/QA; Wilson G. Bradshaw, FGCU president; Reinhold Schmieding, Arthrex founder and president; and Susan Blanchard, director, U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering.



U.S. Bank assists students with financial needs

U.S. Bank recently donated \$10,000 to establish the U.S. Bank Scholarship Endowed Fund, which will benefit qualified students with financial needs. Based in Minneapolis, it's the sixth largest U.S. commercial bank and operates two trust and investment services offices in Florida, in Naples and West Palm Beach. From left: Kim Anderson, U.S. Bank vice president and portfolio manager; Bruce Pilavis, U.S. Bank vice president and wealth manager; Greg Holtz, Sr., U.S. Bank vice president and managing director; Wilson G. Bradshaw, FGCU president; Craig Mann, Sr., vice president of the U.S. Bank Cincinnati office; and Darlene McCloud, FGCU director of Major Gifts.



FGCU staff creates scholarship

Members of the FGCU Computing Services Department have established the Computing Services Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will assist qualified students enrolled in Computer Information Systems and Computer Science studies. From left: Duncan McBride, FGCU associate vice president, Administrative Services; Mary Banks, FGCU director, Computing Services; Wilson G. Bradshaw, FGCU president; and Charlie Weaver, FGCU assistant director, Computing Services.



B & I gives back

B & I Contractors Inc. donated \$5,000 to the Physical Plant Endowed Scholarship Fund in November. From left: Steve Magiera, FGCU vice president for Advancement; Jason Grabowski, vice president, B & I Contractors, Inc.; Gary Griffin, president, B & I Contractors, Inc.; Vikki McConnell, FGCU assistant director, Physical Plant Finance and Business Operations; Jim Hehl, FGCU Physical Plant director; and Troy Kelly, FGCU Physical Plant coordinator.

Lutgert Hall

Taking care of business

Local companies, individuals help build firm foundation

BY KAREN FELDMAN

The widespread support Southwest Florida's business community has given Florida Gulf Coast University will be plainly visible in Lutgert Hall, future home of the Lutgert College of Business.

Individuals and corporations have donated generously toward the construction of the \$19.4-million, 62,000-square-foot building designed by the Fort Myers architectural firm of SchenkelSchultz and constructed by Owen-Ames-Kimball Company.

Raymond and Beverly Lutgert got the project off to a great start with their \$5-million donation that was matched by the state, which had already committed \$9.4 million to the project.

According to Richard Pegnetter, founding dean of the Lutgert College of Business, the Lutgerts' gift provided "the foundation from which we leveraged additional state funds to make this dream a reality. We are honored to call ourselves the Lutgert College of Business, and the name will stand as a timeless legacy to the Lutgerts' vision for Southwest Florida."

More recently, other area companies and individuals have provided the money needed to construct specialized rooms. Their gifts also create a permanent endowment fund that will provide enhancements for faculty recruitment and development, student activities and travel, and help make the Lutgert College of Business a state-of-the-art training center for tomorrow's entrepreneurs and business leaders.

One big benefit of the new building will be that Business programs, now housed in five locations, will all be together.

"It will be the first time in the history of the College that we'll have everyone in one location," says J. Howard Finch, associate dean of the Lutgert College of Business. "I feel very strongly that it's going to be an enhancement for building a College culture, for building relationships across programs."

The soaring three-story atrium will serve as the lobby, a gift from the Health Management Associates Foundation. Adjoining it on the first floor will be a portfolio management and trading room, in which students will manage real investment funds, made possible by a gift from Wasmer, Schroeder & Company, Inc. Finch says the

(continued on page 26)



Lutgert Hall



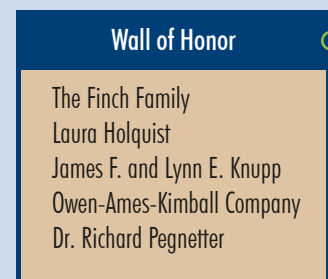
Wasmer, Schroeder & Company, Inc. Trading Room

Wasmer Schroeder
Martin M. Wasmer and Michael J. Schroeder



Health Management Associates Atrium

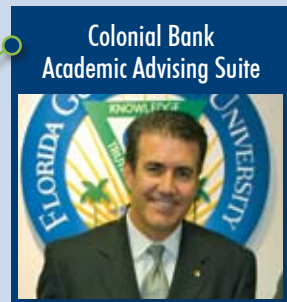
HMA Foundation



Wall of Honor

The Finch Family
Laura Holquist
James F. and Lynn E. Knupp
Owen-Ames-Kimball Company
Dr. Richard Pegnetter

First floor plan



Colonial Bank Academic Advising Suite

Colonial Bank
Harlan Parrish



Source Interlink Companies Case Study Classroom

Source Interlink
James R. Gillis and FGCU President
Wilson G. Bradshaw



Oswald Trippe and Company Conference Room

Oswald Trippe and Company
John Pollock and Gary V. Trippe

Third floor plan

"Health Management Associates, Inc. is privileged to support Lutgert Hall. We believe that the atrium serves as a focal point for students, instructors, business people and professionals alike as they come together to learn, enhance and improve the business of business. We are honored to have our name associated with this high-caliber center of learning."

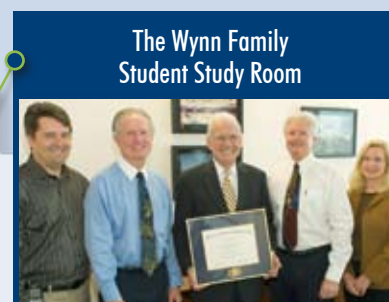
— **Joseph V. Vumbacco, CEO, retired, Health Management Associates, Inc.**

Second floor plan



The Fifth Avenue Advisors Student Study Room

Fifth Avenue Advisors
Craig Lyon, FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw and Timothy Cartwright



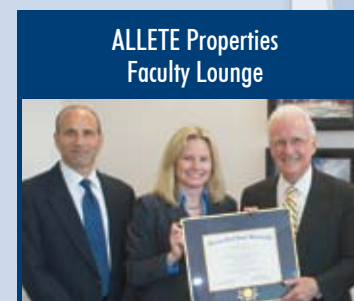
The Wynn Family Student Study Room

The Wynn Family
Michael Wynn, Larry Wynn, FGCU Dean Richard Pegnetter, Jerry Wynn and Linda Wynn Smith



Chico's Executive Board Room

Chico's Charities, LLC
Michael Smith, Charlie Kleman and FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw



ALLETE Properties Faculty Lounge

ALLETE Properties
Jeffrey Roth, Laura Holquist and FGCU Dean Richard Pegnetter

Fourth floor plan



Moorings Park Executive Training Room

Moorings Park
Patricia Ruble, Dan Lavender, Michelle Payton, Patricia Barton, Guenther Gosch, FGCU Dean Richard Pegnetter, FGCU Associate Dean Howard Finch, Alan Korest, FGCU Dean Denise Heinemann, Mike Fallon and Kent McRae



Lutgert Hall

Why donors gave

Charlie Kleman, president, Chico's Charities: "Chico's is proud and eager to support FGCU as it endeavors to maintain the already high standards it has established. FGCU's impact on the community is being felt far beyond the numerous skilled graduates across many disciplines who have become Chico's associates and who now call Fort Myers their home."

Laura Holquist, president, ALLETE Properties: "ALLETE Properties is honored to contribute to the growth of FGCU and the Lutgert College of Business in particular. The excellent programs it provides along with the state-of-the-art facilities at Lutgert Hall will attract talented future professionals who can help diversify and strengthen our regional economy."

Guenther Gosch, CEO, Moorings Park: "Moorings Park's contribution to Lutgert Hall is an expression of gratitude to the faculty and staff for their personal contributions of time and talent to our community. Helping to provide an excellent teaching environment will help assure we will continue to enjoy this valuable resource."

Martin M. Wasmer, CEO, Wasmer, Schroeder & Company: "It is exciting to be a part of the Lutgert College of Business. We are pleased to bring a unique learning experience through the gift of a classroom dedicated to the education about, and trading of, securities."

Harlan C. Parrish, president and CEO, Colonial Bank Florida West Coast: "We were excited to participate in the naming rights of the Academic Advising Suite for Lutgert Hall as it underscores Colonial Bank's commitment to supporting education. We are proud of the growth and success that FGCU has achieved in its first 10 years and we have been pleased with the quality of graduates who have joined our growing team."

John M. Pollock, CIC, president, Oswald Trippe and Company: Oswald Trippe and Company believes everyone has a responsibility to make a positive difference in the lives of others, and community support is part of who we are. Support for education, however, is an opportunity to reach beyond our individual communities. Education is forever, and that influence that students and graduates have on lives has no boundaries or limits. Helping to help make that happen is a privilege."

Timothy Cartwright and Craig Lyon, managing directors, Fifth Avenue Advisors: "Fifth Avenue Advisors believes in Southwest Florida and its future prospects. An essential ingredient of that future is a strong entrepreneurial economy anchored by a world-class university that collaborates with the business community. FGCU and the Lutgert College of Business will be important catalysts driving innovation and developing critical business leadership that will influence and shape this region's economy. We are very pleased to be supportive of this facility and its ongoing mission."

Michael Wynn, president, Sunshine Ace Hardware (The Wynn Family): "To ensure that Southwest Florida will continue to thrive we must continuously reinvest in key areas of the community that drive commerce, leadership and responsible policy. Our name in Lutgert Hall is a reminder to others that the Wynn Family feels FGCU is a key part of that process and deserves our support for a healthy future."

(continued from page 23)

room will include a liquid crystal display (LCD) ticker that will show stock movement and be visible from the atrium. Colonial Bank provided money for an academic advising suite, where students and college advisors can meet privately. Source Interlink funded a case study classroom.

Other specialized spaces include group study rooms, two of which have been funded by the Wynn Family and Fifth Avenue Advisors; a classroom with two-way observation capability for marketing presentations and focus groups; rooms for Computer Science and Computer Information Systems class instruction and research; and a robotics project room with secure storage space.

Oswald Trippe and Company funded a conference room on the third floor, where most of the faculty offices will be situated.

On the fourth floor will be an executive training room for the Executive MBA program and Small Business Development Center seminars and client meetings, funded by a gift from Moorings Park. Chico's Charities donated money for an executive board room, while ALLETE Properties funded a faculty lounge.

Gifts ranged from \$5,000 to \$300,000. Room sponsorships start at \$15,000. Those who donate \$5,000 will be listed on the Wall of Honor in the atrium lobby.

Lutgert Hall is expected to open in August.

To donate

For more information on Lutgert Hall and opportunities for named spaces, contact J. Howard Finch at (239) 590-7370 or Linda Lehtomaa at (239) 590-1071.



Ruth Faith, center, with scholarship recipients Kristina Southwick, left, and Windy Butler, right.

Ruth Faith's vision, ideals live on through gifts to University

Visionary Ruth Faith shattered stereotypes, never allowing her gender to limit her options. Even after her death last winter at age 77, she has continued helping women advance professionally.

The philanthropic iconoclast moved to Southwest Florida in 1971, and soon joined Zonta International, a global organization of professional and executive women working to advance the status of women. It was through Zonta that Faith became involved with Florida Gulf Coast University.

"Ruth loved what we were doing," says Steve Magiera, FGCU vice president for Advancement.

Faith made her first gift to FGCU in 1994, three years before students were admitted. She established the Ruth L. Faith Endowed Scholarship for Women in Mathematics in 2000, with a donation exceeding \$114,000. The following year, she established the FGCU Foundation's first four charitable gift annuities, assigning the charitable remainder portions to her endowed scholarship. She also made FGCU a beneficiary of her estate through a simple bequest, assigning her legacy dollars to her endowed scholarship. With gifts from her engineering co-workers at Source, Inc.

in Cape Coral and others, the endowment now exceeds \$339,000.

"Ruth was an accomplished yet unassuming woman, someone who didn't brag about her successes, but they were legion," says Magiera.

As an employee of Douglas Aircraft and an aerodynamicist for ACF Electronics in the 1950s, she helped design flight simulators for aircraft. Malcolm Abzug, an aeronautical consultant and friend, wrote Faith was "one of the pioneer women who made it easier for scientifically smart women to follow."

Since 2000, 17 female FGCU math majors have received more than \$30,275 from the Ruth L. Faith Endowed Scholarship Fund.

"The Ruth Faith scholarship took a huge weight off my shoulders," says Victoria Jessop, a junior Accounting major. "It allowed me to focus on my studies."

Junior Heather Acton is grateful for her Ruth Faith scholarship, too, saying, "She believed in me ... Two years later, I am continuing my education as a math major thanks to her encouragement. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed by many."

Freshman Kristen Buckley, another recipient, feels the same way.

"Her professional contributions moved an industry," says Magiera. "Her generosity now helps young women in higher education, and her vision will serve as a beacon to donors to follow in her footsteps."

"Her vision will serve as a beacon to donors to follow in her footsteps."

—Steve Magiera

Employees provide sound structure through scholarship

BY LINDA GUERRINE
DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING



Linda Guerrine

Employees of FGCU's Physical Plant Department don't simply service and maintain the campus, they help build future leaders through an endowed scholarship fund that will assist in perpetuity students enrolled in Environmental Studies, Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering. Other supporters have contributed to the fund as well, including ATP Engineering South, PL, B & I Contractors, Inc., SimplexGrinnell and USSI. The

fund now exceeds \$18,000. On Nov. 2, the Physical Plant Endowed Scholarship Fund committee awarded its first scholarship to freshman Keishla Negron-Acevedo, from Tavernier.

"I appreciate the Physical Plant's confidence in me and their willingness to contribute toward

my future," she says.

The employees hope to grow the fund so as to support several students annually.

"I'm proud to contribute to a scholarship that recognizes achievements and encourages students to explore the world of engineering, and hopefully become part of the top minds who can engineer solutions to the increasing predicament of sustainability," says Irma Sanchez, Physical Plant office manager.

Come for brunch

Each spring, the Office of Annual Giving holds the President's Society Brunch, where we meet and thank members for their continuous support of the University. This year's event takes place Saturday, March 22. It will be hosted by President Wilson G. Bradshaw and will recognize members' commitment to the University over its first decade.

The President's Society honors those who make substantial annual gifts to the University. Unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 to \$24,999 qualify for annual memberships; a one-time gift of \$25,000 or more qualifies for a life membership.

For more information, contact the Office of Annual Giving at (239) 590-1062.

Richard Steves leaves bequest to University

In life, Richard W. Steves was an anonymous friend of Florida Gulf Coast University. It was only after his death in December 2004, at age 97, that the Fort Myers man's \$10,000 bequest to the University became public knowledge.

"His gift will create the Richard W. Steves Endowed Scholarship Fund and support student scholarships in perpetuity," says Steve Magiera,

FGCU vice president for Advancement.

"Anonymous estate gifts are actually quite common," says Pete Lefferts, director of Planned Giving. "Many people don't want anyone else to know their intentions. They are happy to give and don't need any recognition."

Giving without calling attention to himself was what Steves intended.

"Mr. Steves obviously valued the role higher education plays in our society and, in particular, the growth of a new University in Southwest Florida," says Magiera. "We are grateful for his support and honored to be part of his legacy."

Sports

FGCU athletes make mark in Division I

BY CARL BLEICH

Less than two months after making its debut in Division I, the Florida Gulf Coast University men's basketball team won a place in the national record books. FGCU cruised to a 60-30 victory over the University of Pennsylvania Dec. 29 at Alico Arena, holding Penn to a Division I record six points in the first half and setting the record for the least points allowed in a first half. FGCU also allowed just one field goal in the half and held Penn to 5.9 percent shooting from the field, both Division I records at the time.

The Eagles led the contest 60-20 before emptying their bench in the game's final minutes. The blowout victory is especially astonishing considering that Penn beat FGCU 97-74 last season, won the Ivy League conference and participated in the NCAA Tournament.

"We played some great defense," FGCU Athletics director Carl McAloose says. "Our guys did a great job. There was so much improvement from last year and that shows the job that Dave Balza and his staff have done."

Here are some other highlights from the winter sports season at FGCU:

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team won its first game as a member of Division I on Nov. 12 when it topped Bethune Cookman in Daytona Beach by a score of 60-57. Sophomore guard Kyle Matheny sank two key free throws in the game's final seconds to preserve the win. Junior forward Landon Adler scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the contest despite fouling out with just more than four minutes remaining.

The men's squad also won its first-ever Atlantic Sun Conference basketball game when it topped the University of North Florida 70-67 in Jacksonville, despite an outbreak of the flu, which affected several players. Senior forwards Terike Barrowes and Adam Liddell played while sick



Above: President Wilson G. Bradshaw, right, speaks with a sports commentator during the first televised FGCU Division I game.

Top right: Fans went all out for FGCU's televised game against Stetson.

Center: Rob Quaintance

At right: Crowd shows its spirit



PHOTOS BY BRIAN TIETZ

Sports Calendar

For details, contact Matt Fairchild at (239) 590-7061.

February

Sunday, Feb. 10

Men's Basketball vs. USC Upstate
2 p.m., Alico Arena

Monday, Feb. 11

Women's Basketball vs. East Tennessee State
7 p.m., Alico Arena

Friday, Feb. 22

Women's Softball vs. South Dakota State
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
6 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Women's Softball vs. Boston College
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
8 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Saturday, Feb. 23

Women's Softball vs. St. Bonaventure
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Women's Softball vs. Western Carolina
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Sunday, Feb. 24

Women's Softball vs. South Dakota State
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
9 a.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Women's Softball vs. Boston College
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
11 a.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Women's Softball vs. St. Bonaventure
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
3 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Women's Softball vs. St. Bonaventure (DH)
5 p.m. and 7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Thursday, Feb. 28

Men's Tennis vs. Campbell
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Campbell
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Basketball vs. Jacksonville
5 p.m., Alico Arena

Women's Softball vs. Mount St. Mary (DH)

5 p.m. and 7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Men's Basketball vs. Jacksonville
7:15 p.m., Alico Arena

Friday, Feb. 29

Women's Softball vs. Mount St. Mary
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
6 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Women's Softball vs. Northern Illinois
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
8 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

March

Saturday, March 1

Men's Tennis vs. Gardner-Webb
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Gardner-Webb
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Basketball vs. North Florida
5 p.m., Alico Arena

Women's Softball vs. St. Francis
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
6 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Men's Basketball vs. UNF
7:15 p.m., Alico Arena

Women's Softball vs. St. Bonaventure
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
8 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Sunday, March 2

Women's Softball vs. Northern Illinois
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
11 a.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Men's Tennis vs. Villanova
Noon, FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Villanova
Noon, FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Softball vs. Mount St. Mary
FGCU Spring Break Invitational
1 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Monday, March 3

Men's Tennis vs. Fairfield
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Fairfield
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Tuesday, March 4

Men's Tennis vs. Boston College
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Toledo
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Thursday, March 6

Men's Tennis vs. Jacksonville
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Jacksonville
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Saturday, March 8

Men's Tennis vs. North Florida
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. UNF
10 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Tuesday, March 11

Women's Tennis vs. Indiana
Exhibition
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Wednesday, March 12

Women's Softball vs. Tennessee-Chattanooga (DH)
3 p.m. and 5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Monday, March 17

Women's Tennis vs. Drake
9 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex
3 p.m., Second round match

Tuesday, March 18

Women's Softball vs. Long Island (DH)
5 p.m. and 7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Wednesday, March 19

Men's Tennis vs. Stonybrook
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Stonybrook
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Thursday, March 20

Women's Softball vs. Campbell (DH)
5 p.m. and 7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Thursday, March 27

Women's Tennis vs. Kennesaw State
3 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Saturday, March 29

Men's Tennis vs. Mercer
9 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Women's Tennis vs. Mercer
9 a.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Monday, March 31

Women's Softball vs. Savannah State (DH)

5 p.m. and 7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

April

Tuesday, April 1

Women's Softball vs. Savannah State
2 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Friday, April 4

Women's Softball vs. Kennesaw State (DH)
4 p.m. and 6 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Sunday, April 6

Women's Softball vs. Mercer (DH)
1 p.m. and 3 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Wednesday, April 9

Men's Tennis vs. Stetson
3 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Wednesday, April 16

Men's Tennis vs. DePaul
2 p.m., FGCU Tennis Complex

Friday, April 18

Women's Softball vs. North Florida
5 p.m. and 7 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Sunday, April 20

Women's Softball vs. Jacksonville (DH)
2 p.m. and 4 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex



Dana Frantz



Top: Chelsea Dermeyer

Above: Delia De La Torre, in white and Coach Karl Smesko, far right.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team scored a huge upset over the University of Central Florida in Orlando on Dec. 9. The Eagles topped the Knights 81-75 behind a career-high 21 points from freshman guard Shannon Murphy and 20 points from senior guard Chelsea Dermeyer.

and sophomore center Tyler Rodriguez did not make the trip because of the bug. Senior guard/forward Casey Wohlleb drilled a free throw with less than 10 seconds remaining to help seal the historic victory. Wohlleb finished the game with a game-high 22 points.

By Jan. 25, the team's record stood at 7-13 overall, 3-3 in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

The women's squad also won the FGCU Holiday Classic at Alico Arena on Dec. 20 and 21. The Eagles topped Texas Pan-American and Memphis. The Eagles drilled Texas Pan-American 74-40 behind 20 points from sophomore forward Adrienne McNally. The next day, FGCU rolled over Memphis 71-49 behind 19 points from McNally, who was named the tournament's most valuable player.

By late January, the team had an overall record of 8-7, and was 3-2 in the Atlantic Sun Conference.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING/ DIVING

The women's swimming and diving team has quickly become a mid-major power in Division I. The Eagles are ranked No. 22 in Collegeswimming.com's mid-January Division I mid-major poll, and have been ranked as high as No. 17. The Eagles topped St. Louis University, 108-66, in the FGCU Invitational on Jan. 5. At the time, St. Louis was ranked No. 15 in

that poll and FGCU won every event of the meet. The next day, FGCU topped junior college power Indian Rocks Community College, but fell to Penn State in a tri-meet at the Lee County/FGCU Aquatics Center. Freshmen Viktoria Hyddmark and Rachel Rein took first and second place, respectively, in the 200-yard backstroke. Prior to the two home meets, FGCU competed in the 14th Annual Miami (Ohio) Invitational in Oxford, Ohio. Freshman Cori Lallier won the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 2:05.69, while junior Courtney Gallo won the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 16:51.24. The Eagles finished fourth out of 16 teams. As of late January, the team's record stood at 7-5.

"All of our coaches are hard workers," McAloose says. "We are going to continue to get better and better as the years go on. I'd hate to be one of our opponents."

— *Carl Bleich is a freelance writer and FGCU student.*



Morgan Tibbs

Viktoria Hyddmark



JASON P. SMITH

A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME



Athletics department scores big with spacious building, lushly sodded soccer field

BY KAREN FELDMAN

Athletics coaches get spacious offices with a view at the new Outdoor Sports Center.



Florida Gulf Coast University's colorful new Outdoor Sports Center befits the school's new status as a Division I contender.

The building sits just east of Alico Arena's parking lot and north of the recently completed soccer field. The grand opening takes place Feb. 28.

The 20,000-square-foot complex houses coaches' offices, locker rooms, showers, laundry facilities, lounge and study space for the men's and women's soccer, baseball and softball teams, and offices for men's and

women's tennis, men's and women's golf and the women's swimming and diving teams.

A spot that's likely to be in great demand for all sorts of events is the spacious VIP suite with an attached kitchen and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the baseball complex. It can accommodate up to about 80 people for a broad range of activities, including sporting event receptions and conferences requiring PowerPoint presentations.

"It's not just for sports, but for all of the University," says Butch Perchan, director of Athletic Advancement.

The Center was designed by Fort Myers architect Ted Sottong, of the firm Architecture Inc., who donated his time and talents, Perchan says.

To the coaches, moving into the new building marks a radical change in circumstances.

Assistant Athletic Director and tennis coach J. Webb Horton's first FGCU office was in a trailer near the tennis courts. He thought moving into Alico Arena a few years ago was a big improvement. But that was before the Athletics department grew to include 14 teams.

"There was a need for us to expand," he says. "Luckily, donors have been very generous to the institution, whether it's money for the new engineering or business schools or Athletics."

He particularly likes the environmentally conscious aspects of the new center, including lights on motion sensors that turn themselves off when there's no one using a room.

"The whole complex is absolutely beautiful," says baseball coach Dave Tollett. "It's very efficient from both an athletic side and an academic side. It's an incredible building."

Besides well-appointed locker rooms and offices, there are two rooms devoted to study, a vital aspect of the Athletics program. Student athletes must maintain high GPAs in order to play.

That's a huge upgrade in Patti Stringham's view. Both the diving coach and academic adviser for Athletics, she's doubly blessed.

"My office was in a trailer by the pool, but I was always needing to talk with one of the coaches at Alico Arena," she says. "One of the

PHOTOS BY ED CLEMENT



greatest benefits is not having to jump all over the place. It's easier for the student-athletes to find me. Before they'd be ringing me up constantly on my cell phone. Now it's nice because they can just walk in and I'm always here."

Eventually, one of the new study rooms will be equipped with computers and both rooms will boast furniture conducive to studying. But, even now, the quiet space – and the fact that a coach may walk in at any moment to make sure players are applying themselves – give athletes the proper atmosphere and motivation to succeed academically.

Overall, the building and everything needed to equip it and the soccer fields (which still lack a scoreboard and bleachers) will run \$3.2 million. Of that, about \$2 million has been raised so far.

For more information, contact Perchan at (239) 590-7030.

"Luckily, donors have been very generous to the institution, whether it's money for the new engineering or business schools or Athletics."

– J. Webb Horton

Top: The new Outdoor Sports Center boasts a colorful and spirited paint job.

Bottom: The VIP suite affords a bird's-eye view of the baseball complex.



From left: Bryan Crislip, '05; Trevor Montgomery, '06; Gabe Pean, '07; Darrin Wallace, '04. Not pictured, Leighton Bowie, '04, and Trish Fleming, '05.



Former student-athletes pass on love of game

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

They were likely hard to miss as undergraduates: those lean, angular basketball players, whose fluid motions marked them as athletes even when they weren't in uniform.

On the basketball court they carried not only their own ambitions, but those of a young and hopeful University. They played on FGCU's first competitive teams, teams with overwhelmingly winning records at the Division II level, through seasons ranging from 2002 to 2007.

What it took these student-athletes to get there – the discipline, the huge sacrifices of time, the mental and physical toughness to work out constantly and the need to succeed academically – may be difficult for non-athletes to fathom.

Their accomplishments would make any one worthy of note. But during March Madness, the height of the nation's basketball frenzy, Pinnacle revisits six alumni who devoted themselves to the game as students and now work to pass that passion on to countless Southwest Florida teens.

All six take their love of the game to area high schools, three as head coaches, three as assistant coaches.

LEIGHTON BOWIE, '04
POSITION: FORWARD
HEIGHT: 6 FEET, 7 INCHES
HOMETOWN: PORT CHARLOTTE
MAJOR: EDUCATION

Leighton Bowie marvels at how strange it all seems, to find himself working in the same halls in which he played a decade ago as a star at Port Charlotte High School.

Bowie, 27, now serves as the assistant boys varsity coach at Port Charlotte.

"We love him. He contributes a great deal," says Athletic Director James Vernon.

Out of high school, Bowie headed to the University of Charleston in South Carolina to play ball, but wasn't happy there.

"I wanted a place closer to home, and FGCU was perfect, but I had a problem: I only had one more year to play," he says.

FGCU's coaches and students gave him a warm welcome.

"A lot of times, a person from the outside is treated as an outcast, but that didn't happen there," he says. "And it helped me a lot as far as coaching, because FGCU runs a potent offensive game, and I learned that."

When his high school alma mater gave him a job in its vocational department and a chance to coach, he tried it, and discovered he loved it. "This is as much a learning experience for me as for the kids," he says. "I know a lot that I can't yet present to them, so the question is how to simplify this game and teach it."

He doesn't plan any major changes.

"I don't see myself becoming a college coach," he says. "I think I'd always do high school, because I love working with these kids."

BRYAN CRISLIP, '05
POSITION: GUARD
HEIGHT: 6 FEET, 3 INCHES
HOMETOWN: PARKERSBURG, WV
MAJOR: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Bryan Crislip's broad smile and easy-going manner belie his ferocious competitive drive and athleticism.

He transferred to FGCU from Arkansas as a recruit. The skills honed on the tough, winning Eagles teams took him to the professional level in Holland, where he hoped to play 15 or 20 years. But he soon found it wasn't the life he wanted, and returned to the University as an assistant to the women's head basketball coach, Karl Smesko.



Leighton Bowie as an FGCU Eagle



Trish Fleming, right, coaches Bishop Verot students on the courts.

Now 25, Crislip is head boys varsity coach at Barron Collier High School in Naples, ranked 10th in state 5A competition, and considered one of the toughest high school teams in Florida – much of which he attributes to his FGCU



Bryan Crislip, above, as an FGCU Eagle and, below, as head coach of Barron Collier High School

experiences.

“FGCU helped me out a great deal, because they gave me second chances,” he says, referring both to his chance to play for the Eagles, and the chance to coach after graduation. “I got to learn under great

coaches, (men’s head) Coach (Dave) Balza, and Coach Smesko, who knows the motion offense and is one of best game coaches I’ve ever seen.”

Now, he says, everything he learned is coming home for his student-athletes. “I can use it to mold them the way I want to, and go from there. If it was just me, without these experiences, I’d be completely lost.”

Crislip sees differences between the jobs of coaching at the high school and college levels.

“At FGCU, if you missed a grade, you had 15 or 20 hours of study hall,” he recalls. “At the college level, the coaches are like parent figures, and at FGCU they made sure academics were just as important as basketball.”

At the high-school level, there’s a secret weapon: “I have parents,” he says. “They can make a big difference.”

Crislip’s competitive spirit remains intense.

“I want to be a big-time coach, to guide Barron Collier ... so they’re number one in the state. But you never know what’s going to happen tomorrow, so I figure I want to be the best coach I can be, and no matter where that takes me, that’ll be fine.”



GARTH FRANCIS



GARTH FRANCIS

And if that still isn’t enough for a Hoosier who began playing in the fourth grade, there’s always “the street.”

“I play pickup ball with the guys sometimes,” she says. “You have to play smarter against guys.”

Both in basketball and academically, she believes FGCU helped make her smarter and more mature as the University itself matured.

“FGCU has changed so much, and I’m proud to say I went there,” Fleming says. “I feel lucky.”

It’s luck she’s sharing with others.

TRISH FLEMING, '05
POSITION: GUARD/FORWARD
HEIGHT: 5 FEET, 10 INCHES
HOMETOWN: WESTFIELD, IND.
MAJOR: COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

GARTH FRANCIS



Trish Fleming is a Hoosier, so basketball runs in her blood.

Now 27, she holds a significant position as a customer marketing analyst at the Fort Myers-based clothing conglomerate, Chico’s, where she analyzes customer demographics, along with data from major credit-card companies.

But that’s only her 8-to-5 gig. After 5, she gets her basketball fix, serving as assistant girls varsity coach at Bishop Verot High School.

“I do it because of the heart and desire I have,



Trish Fleming as an FGCU Eagle

TREVOR MONTGOMERY, '06
POSITION: FORWARD
HEIGHT: 6 FEET, 4 INCHES
HOMETOWN: FORT MYERS
MAJOR: SPECIAL EDUCATION

Trevor Montgomery, 25, was born and raised in the City of Palms and is an Estero High School graduate. Now, to his relative surprise and the gratification of his colleagues at North Fort Myers High School, he’s the head varsity basketball coach for boys. Montgomery is also responsible for the school’s job training program.

“He’s very personable, he really gets involved with the students he’s teaching — he just really likes them — and they all love him,” says Margaret Wear, a colleague and employment specialist at North.

Montgomery’s ability, and his generosity toward young people, comes from family and FGCU, he says.

“My mother works in the education field, she’s a guidance counselor, and that influenced me,” he says. “But

the love I have for basketball,” she says. “It’s a really simple game, if you understand it. And I think I do. Coach Smesko made the game simple to me ... So teaching that to other girls and teaching his philosophy to them, that gives me a sense of accomplishment.”

Even that isn’t enough sometimes, so anyone watching the FGCU women’s varsity team practicing or scrimmaging might see Fleming suited up and on the court, a favor from her former coach that helps sharpen his current players as well.

“She’s become a friend. We consider her family,” Smesko says. “She’s one of the finest people I know.”

Trevor Montgomery as an FGCU Eagle



the thing that really did it while I was at FGCU was a three-day internship at a high school – that sold me on teaching.

“So I applied for a job, and the principal said, ‘If you take the job, do you want to coach?’ I couldn’t believe it.”

He found the first year – last year – to be the toughest challenge he ever faced.

“Teaching and coaching at the same time – I’d go in at 6:30 a.m. and leave at 8:30 p.m.,” he says. “I’ve never been stressed out before, but I was stressed last year. It was a new experience. This year I know what to expect.”

He could handle the pressure, in part because of his FGCU experience, he says.

“I could have gone anywhere out of high school, but FGCU turned my life around. Basically, it was brand new and it had the best of everything. There were smaller classes, new technology, you could form relationships with your professors. I played ball for three years there and loved it.”

Being a high school coach has taken a bit of adjustment.

“It’s sort of different, hearing kids not all that younger than me calling me coach. It’s a big responsibility.”

GABE PEAN, '07
POSITION: GUARD
HEIGHT: 5 FEET, 9 INCHES
HOMETOWN: WESTIN
MAJOR: COMMUNICATION

“Tough, determined, a great athlete,” is the way Balza remembers Gabe Pean – someone who relied on sheer ability and desire to play ball at FGCU against opponents who were almost always much larger.

“And he knows the game well, so I feel very lucky to have him as my assistant coach, and the junior varsity coach,” says fellow alum Bryan Crislip, Barron Collier High School’s head varsity coach.

Pean grew up playing basketball in Fort Lauderdale, where he graduated from Westin High School. He came to FGCU, in part, because the scrappy, hard-fighting Eagles were willing to take a chance on a scrappy, hard-fighting player who was still 3 inches short of 6 feet suited up.

He relished the chance to play, and “to make a name for the school,” which is what he’s helping to do now at Barron Collier.

“It’s really exciting to be able to let the kids know that you’ve been through a lot yourself, and you know a lot about the game. And they give you this respect, because you’ve played college ball, and they’re trying to get to the level you were at.”

At FGCU, he says, he learned to feel at home. And thanks to the University’s merit-fueled basketball program, he also proved to himself a principle he’s trying to pass on to his players.

“You always have to compete, no matter how tall or short you are,” he says. “I tell the kids the same thing: It doesn’t matter how tall you are, as long as you compete. As long as you play.”

DARRIN WALLACE, '04
POSITION: GUARD
HEIGHT: 6 FEET
HOMETOWN: CAPE CORAL
MAJOR: COMMUNICATION

Considered as fate, Darrin Wallace’s basketball career waited a long time before it led him to the place he belonged: on the Eagles team. He played at two other schools before landing at FGCU for his senior year.

Now 28, he is the old man of the group of former FGCU student-athletes who coach and

continue to play in pick-up games or scrimmages against current players and old friends.

Wallace is in his first year as head coach of the boys varsity team at Gateway Charter High School in Fort Myers, where he moved after three years as assistant coach at Cape Coral High, his alma mater. He also teaches social studies.

“I only had one year at FGCU, the transition year when we couldn’t play for any championships, but it was a great one,” he says. “We didn’t get as much recognition, but we won 23 games. And I learned a lot from Coach Balza. I also made great friends. They’re still my best friends.”

The transition from his playing days at Hillsborough Junior College in the Tampa area, and from Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, might have been difficult – but it wasn’t.

“I think the transition was easy. I already had a couple of friends on the team, and my personality and others were very similar, so it worked out,” he says.

Now, in a new, small high school where his players face teams drawn from bigger, more established programs, he’s teaching the team how to compete and win.

It’s something he says he learned at FGCU, in a single glorious year. And it’s something he hopes to take back to the college level someday, giving back what he learned as an Eagle.

– Roger Williams is a freelance writer based in Alva.

Darrin Wallace as an FGCU Eagle



Gabe Pean as an FGCU Eagle



Darrin Wallace, left, with the High Hoops Razorbacks, a Fort Myers basketball team that he coached from 2004 to 2007.

Alumni Association Happenings

Career Series

Feb. 26: “Life as a Merchandise Buyer and Planner” 3:30 p.m., Student Union #214 Speakers from Chico’s, FAS headquarters will discuss merchandise buying and merchandising planning. Alumni will get a look at what it’s like to work in the headquarters of a major retailer at this free event. Hosted by FGCU Career Services.

March 25: “Life as a Resort Manager” 3:30 p.m., Student Union #214 Joe Murgalo, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point general manager, will talk about his life in the hospitality industry at this free event. Sponsored by FGCU Career Services.

Mentoring Opportunities

March 24: Student speed interviewing Student Union #213 Help FGCU students sharpen their interviewing skills in a fast, fun format with rotations at 5:30 p.m., 6:20 p.m. and 6:50 p.m. Business attire preferred. Hosted by FGCU Career Services and the FGCU Alumni Association.

March 27: Student etiquette dinner 6 p.m., Embassy Suites Fort Myers – Estero Help students prepare for formal business dinners. Host a table and enjoy a complimentary four-course dinner while showing students how to impress future employers. Protocol expert Virginia Edwards will lead an etiquette session. Limited to one alumna/alumnus host per table. Business attire required. Hosted by FGCU Career Services and the Alumni Association.

Social Hours

March 15: Discover Cayo Costa & Cabbage Key 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Pineland Marina Board the Tropic Star for a trip to Cayo Costa National Park and historic Cabbage Key, the island that inspired Jimmy Buffett to write “Cheeseburger in Paradise.” \$60 per person (includes boat ride, parking and lunch) Sponsored by FGCU Outdoors and the Alumni Association.

May 2-4: All Alumni Weekend FGCU Campus, Fort Myers An inaugural all-years reunion takes place. Graduates are invited to return to campus and celebrate with an alumni dinner, campus tours and family activities. The weekend pays special tribute to the Classes of ‘98 and ‘03.

Celebration

April 25: A Toast to Our Graduates 5-6:30 p.m., Student Union first floor lobby FGCU campus, Fort Myers Celebrate the spring class of 2008 at a pre-graduation reception. Free admission. Sponsored by the Alumni Association.

For more listings, visit www.fgcu.edu/alumni For event details contact: Allison Allie, director of Alumni Relations, at alumnirelations@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-1016.



ALUMNA BEARISH FOR BASKETBALL, SCORES JOB WITH NBA TEAM



BY AMBER RISH, '03

I used to watch FGCU's basketball teams compete in front of cheering fans in Alico Arena. Now I hear fans scream for the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies, the team for which I work managing the Community Investment department.

Through the guidance of Butch Perchan, director of Athletic Advancement, I discovered my passion for the professional sports industry.

My Sports Management classes helped me understand sports as a business. A stint as coordinator of Marketing and Promotions for the Eagles (2002-04) taught me that working in sports was not about winning and losing games, it's about giving back to the community that supports the team.

My path to the NBA wasn't easy. Just as athletes must, I paid some dues. I worked in Fort Myers as the media/public relations director for the Florida Firecats arena football team. After graduating in 2003, I worked for the Florida Flame NBA Development League team



Amber Rish and a St. Jude's patient at a home game

in Fort Myers – until the team suspended operations after two seasons.

After a move to Atlanta and a two-year job search, I was about to head back to my parents' home in Oklahoma to reassess my career goals when I learned of the job opening with the Memphis Grizzlies. I set my sights on the job, landed it and headed to Memphis in June.

Not long after the draft, I had our first round draft pick, Mike Conley, dancing to "Soulja Boy" with a room full of energetic elementary students. In that moment, I knew I was living my dreams.

Every day is different. I visit 60 schools each season, hosting reading sessions with our players, mascot Grizz and dance team members. These high-energy performances help get youngsters excited about reading.

The best part is working with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, bringing patients and their families to games and introducing them to the crowds, helping to raise awareness of the hospital's wonderful work.

My rookie year with the Grizzlies has been the best year of my life. Although the field is competitive, winning this job was worth the hard work and perseverance it took to get here. I'd encourage others with a similar passion to get in the game, too.

– Amber Rish, 26, majored in Management.



Above: Mike Conley dancing at an elementary school.

Right: Amber Rish, top row, second from left, with the team's mentor program.



Message from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I hope you are ready for what promises to be a memorable 2008, as Florida Gulf Coast University Alumni Association celebrates several anniversaries of note, including the Class of 1998's 10-year anniversary and the Class of 2003's five-year anniversary. On behalf of the FGCU Alumni Association, I am excited to invite you back to campus for All Alumni Weekend 2008, slated for Friday-Sunday, May 2-4.

The theme for the weekend, "What Happens Here, Leads Everywhere," encourages all alumni to return to campus and gather together for this very special Las Vegas casino-style weekend. The celebration pays tribute to thousands of alumni who devoted much time and effort to their University years and have since taken their education and used it to better themselves, their families and their communities. The weekend promises something for everyone.

Some highlights include:

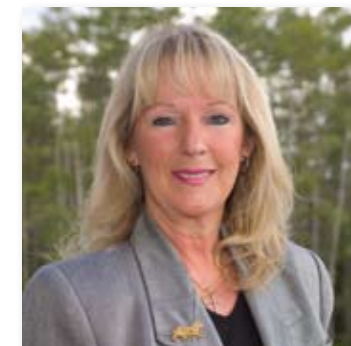
- Hear from the University's new president, Wilson G. Bradshaw.
- Honor FGCU excellence at the Alumni Convocation.
- Return to the classroom during the College luncheon for lively conversations led by the deans and favorite faculty.
- Reconnect with one another at the all-University barbecue and the Casino Night gala.
- Celebrate Alumni Weekend as a family affair with activities for all ages.

Please plan to join us for this special weekend. I hope to see you at All Alumni Weekend 2008, when we will honor the 10 years of excellence we have achieved at FGCU. Go Eagles!

Best wishes,

Cynthia A. Bennett

Cynthia Bennett, '99
Alumni Association President
alumnirelations@fgcu.edu



Save the Date!

MAY 2-4, 2008
FGCU CAMPUS

**WHAT HAPPENS HERE,
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www.fgcu.edu/alumni

Class Notes

■ Weddings, engagements and births



Randall Auvil and Nick Goblirsch

Randall Auvil, '05 (Communication) and **Nick Goblirsch** have announced their engagement. Randall is the public relations coordinator for Gravina, Smith & Matte. Nick is a golf professional at Verandah Club in Fort Myers. The wedding is set for April 2009 in Sarasota.



Braxton Rhone and Jill Brauer

Jill Brauer, '07 (Social Work) and **Braxton Rhone**, '06 (Management) were married Dec. 29 at the Gulf Coast Church of Christ in Fort Myers. Jill is pursuing her master's degree in Social Work at FGCU. Braxton is an assistant manager at Bank of America. The couple live in Naples.

Justin Burton, '05 (Psychology) and **Isabel Vargas** have announced their engagement. The couple will be married July 5. Justin is pursuing his master's degree in Clinical Social Work at FGCU.



Justin Burton and Isabel Vargas

Kristina DeMarco, '07 (Sociology) and **Shawn Meyer**, '05 (Nursing) were married Nov. 17 at Diamondhead Beach Resort on Fort Myers Beach. Shawn is a nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Lee Memorial Hospital. He is pursuing a master's degree in Nurse Anesthesia. Kristina has begun her first post-graduate job. The couple live in Estero.



Kristina DeMarco and Shawn Meyer

Amber Greco, '04 (Master's, Nursing) and husband **James Greco** announced the birth of their son **Leo James Greco** on Aug. 29. The couple, Leo and their 3-year-old daughter live in Bonita Springs.



Leo Greco

Sarah Griffin, '07 (Communication) was married Jan. 5. She is a file clerk for Becker & Poliakoff.



Sarah Griffin



Barbara Knapp

Barbara Knapp, '05 (Communication) and **Ryan Scott** were married Dec. 12 in Las Vegas. Barbara is an English teacher at Pace School in Fort Myers. Ryan is employed with Johnson Engineering.



Alexandre Castellar and Flavia Nascimento

Flavia Nascimento, '04 (Finance) and **Alexandre Castellar** announced their engagement Oct. 19. Their wedding is scheduled for December. The couple met in 1997.



Peter Giustina and Melissa Nese

Melissa Nese, '05 (Marketing) and **Peter Giustina**, '05 (Accounting) were married June 20, 2005, in Whitehouse, Jamaica.



Brittany Partridge and Beau Bauer

Brittany Partridge, '07 (Marketing) and **Beau Bauer** were engaged Dec. 30. A June 2009 wedding is planned. Brittany is the marketing coordinator for Robb & Stucky Interiors in Naples. Beau is completing his last semester at FGCU.

Stephen Pauly, '07 (Business Management) and **Marilla Shoemaker** have announced their engagement. Stephen is a financial analyst at Ameriprise. The couple plan to marry in May.

Jermaine Primus, '05 (Entrepreneurship) and **Ashley Townsend**, '05 (Management) were married June 9 in Naples. Jermaine is employed with Atilus.



Ashley Townsend and Jermaine Primus

Ashley works for Private Capital Management. The couple are expecting their first child in August. They live in Naples.

Becky Toole, '04 (Management) and husband **Tim Toole** announced the birth of their son **Ryan Smith Toole** on Nov. 1. He weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and was 18 inches long. The family lives in Naples.



Ryan Smith Toole



Clint Wheeler and Lauren Waller

Lauren Waller, '07 (English) and **Clint Wheeler** have announced their engagement. They will be married March 1.

■ Newsmakers

'99 Pat Gordin (Master's, Curriculum and Instruction) graduated from the University of South Florida in 2006, with a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. She has since



Pat Gordin

taught two graduate courses for FGCU's College of Education and published a book review for the Community College Journal of Research and Practice. She works at Edison College as director of Institutional Effectiveness, coordinating strategic planning, research and accreditation reporting.

'01 Stephanie Taylor (English) is Mrs. Clark County 2007. She also participated in Mrs. Washington Pageant in July 2007, at which she received the volunteerism award for her work with the Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Stephanie Taylor

'02 Jonathan Sheppard (Earth Systems Science) earned a master's degree in Geophysics from Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) in 2004. He started a sustainable aquaculture consultancy firm, Sheppard Sustainable Technologies. Jonathan is contracted to build sustainable organic fish farms on the island of Montserrat.



Jonathan Sheppard

'03 Lyndsey Allender (Secondary Education) is a golf coach and an English teacher for the International Baccalaureate program at Cape Coral

High School. She married **Jim Allender** in October 2004. The couple recently welcomed a new pet, Macie Mae, into their home. The couple live in Cape Coral.

Stephen Daugherty (Executive, Master's Business Administration) was promoted to chief executive officer of South Bay Hospital in Sun City Center in July 2006. He is working on building a new hospital in Apollo Beach. He lives in Bradenton with his wife and son.

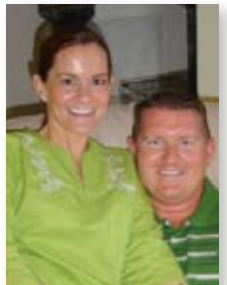
Heidi Franz-Hoyt (Communication) is pursuing her master's degree in Communications online at Marist College in New York. She works for Ave Maria University as a library associate for public services.

Eugene Hoyt (Computer Information Systems) was recently promoted to manager of campus applications for Ave Maria University's systems and engineering department.

Michael Savage (Criminal Justice) is a full-time civil attorney for the law firm of Glenn N. Siegel in Murdock. He represents clients harmed by unlicensed builders, files civil suits and helps individuals with unemployment claims.

'04 Suzanne Cox (Nursing) was recently promoted to director of the Minimum Data Set and Care Plan Department for Coral Trace Health Care Center.

Ron Duquette (Communication) is an account executive for Neighborhood America. The company builds mobile marketing and enterprise social networks solutions for the World Wide Web. His position enables him to travel and meet many new people. Ron previously was a licensed real estate agent for Priceless Realty.



Lyndsey and Jim Allender



Ron Duquette

Jeff Reed (Master's, Curriculum and Instruction) achieved national board certification in Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Social Studies History from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He is the social studies department chair and teaches sociology and journalism at Brentsville District High School in Nokesville, VA.

'05 Ron Baumgart (Biology) is in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University.

Anthony Fite (Management) is a firefighter/emergency medical technician for Estero Fire Rescue. After graduating from FGCU, he received his EMT certification and graduated from the Fort Myers Fire Academy in 2006. He lives in North Fort Myers.

Arnie Sarlo (Executive, Master's Business Administration) is the vice president and general manager of Babcock Ranch.

Andrew Wappes (Computer Information Systems) has recently accepted a position as field account executive in Chicago for Gartner, Inc. He has worked for the company for two years.

'06 Doug Kollmer (Liberal Studies) traveled the country for 12 months as a national consultant for Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity after graduation. In May, he returned to his home state of New York. He is a police officer for the City of New York.

Aleksander Kukushkin (Master's, Curriculum and Instruction) is a national board certified teacher with his certification in Mathematics. Aleksander teaches calculus and precalculus at Golden Gate High School. He attends Nova Southeastern University and is working toward an education specialist designation in Mathematics.

Katherine Liebl (Psychology) is pursuing her master's degree in Education in FGCU's School Counseling program. She is a member of Chi Sigma Iota, an international honor society for counseling.

'07 Jesse Bouchard (Marketing) was recently hired as a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual for the South Florida group.

Kristy Burja (Biology) has joined the Peace Corps. She teaches biology and chemistry at a secondary school in Kenya, Africa. As a secondary project she hopes to start a community AIDS education project. Kristy will be in Kenya for two years.

Kristin Foelgner (Marketing) is employed at Gartner, Inc. as an inside account manager in Fort Myers. While a student at FGCU, she was on the women's tennis and cheerleading teams.

Lindsey Garven (Environmental Studies) was sworn in as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer



Katherine Liebl



Kristin Foelgner



Lindsey Garven

on Dec. 7 at the U.S. Ambassadors Compound in Banjul, Gambia. She will be implementing environmental programs and assisting women in starting businesses. Lindsey will be serving her two-year commitment in Sanyang, Gambia in West Africa.

Sonja Sieling-Boumenot (Master's, Business Administration) is the human resources manager for Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire, a non-profit agency. She has earned the Professional Human Resources (PHR) certification designation. Sonja lives in Vermont with her husband and four children.

In memoriam

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

Valerie Fuller, '04 (Master's, Business Administration) died of ovarian cancer on Nov. 11. She was 34 years old. Valerie was employed at The Tennessean in the Marketing and Research Department. She was a published writer and enjoyed painting and photography. Valerie is survived by her mother, father, brother and fiancé.

Reach out

Alumni are encouraged to share their news about new jobs, promotions, relocations, weddings, births and other milestones. Send items to the Office of Alumni Relations, alumnirelations@fgcu.edu or mail to Office of Alumni Relations, Florida Gulf Coast University, 10501 FGCU Blvd. South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565.



FGCU spirit hits road

The FGCU Alumni Association gathered more than 60 alumni and booster club members for a bus trip to Florida Atlantic University. Eagles basketball fans traveled to Boca Raton to cheer on FGCU as the team took on the FAU Owls. Among those attending were Jessica Jackson and alumna Rosa Cabrera, '06 (Master's, Reading Education).



Networking night at Rivals

FGCU Alumni Association members and friends gathered at Rivals Sports Kitchen at Miromar Outlets for an Eagle Alumni Networking Night, reconnecting with classmates before the holiday season. Alumni Jaime Lopez, '07 (Finance) and Rose McGahee, '00 (Master's, Community Mental Health), relaxed after work while they shopped for products offered by Arbonne International and learned about FGCU's rivals in the Atlantic Sun Conference. The event attracted more than 40 alumni and friends of FGCU.



Showing their colors

FGCU alumni Jennifer Sparrow, '98 (Master's, Curriculum and Instruction), Jenni Cavenago, '00 (Master's, Curriculum and Instruction) and Carlos Cavenago, '00 (Criminal Justice), waved to television cameras and cheered on the men's basketball team during FGCU's first televised game at Alico Arena. The basketball game against Stetson University attracted more than 4,000 fans, breaking attendance records.

2008 Alumna/Alumnus OF Distinction Award

The Alumni Association Board of Directors annually honors a distinguished graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University. This is the most prestigious award the association bestows upon a graduate in recognition of the recipient's contributions to society. The 2008 recipient will be announced at the 12th annual Celebration of Excellence Awards ceremony set for April 18, 2008, at Alico Arena.

Alumni of Distinction Society

• **2007: Guenther Gosch, '03** (Executive MBA), president and CEO of Moorings Park



• **2006: Robert Mulhere, '01** (MPA), RWA, Inc.'s vice president and director of Planning Service



• **2005: Dr. Allen Weiss, '01** (Executive MBA), president of NCH Healthcare System



• **2004: Dr. John Little, '03** (Executive MBA), consultant and physician at the Neighborhood Health Clinic, Collier County



Do you know an outstanding graduate?

Nominations for the 2008 Alumna/Alumnus of Distinction will be accepted through March 3, 2008. Nomination forms are available online at www.fgcu.edu/Alumni/528.asp or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (239) 590-1087.

Entries for Professional Briefs are compiled from the PERFORMANCE E-newsletter of Professional Accomplishments. FGCU faculty and staff are encouraged to submit their outstanding accomplishments at <http://itech.fgcu.edu/newsletter/form1.asp>.

Vol. 6, Issues 3 and 4, November and December, 2007

Awards or Recognitions

Elizabeth Elliott College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, Ph.D., and students **Alison King, Jacquelyn Kemp, Brynn Applegate, Ashley Peterson** and **Lynn Painter**, "ACE - Achieving Chapter Excellence," Kappa Delta Pi - International Honor Society in Education, Nov. 1.

Danielle Rosenthal, Library Services, M.L.S., Florida Library Leadership Institute, the State Library and Archives of Florida, Aug. 8.

Pamella Seay, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, J.D., L.L.M., elected chair, Charlotte County Airport Authority, Nov. 15; appointed member, International Programs Advisory Board, Stetson University College of Law, Oct. 26; appointed to task force on paralegal outsourcing, The Florida Bar Professional Ethics Committee, Sept. 20.

Professional Presentations

Kevin Aho, College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities and Arts, "Rethinking the Psychopathology of Depression: Existentialism, Buddhism, and the Aims of Philosophical Counseling," American Philosophical Association, American Society for Philosophy, Counseling, and Psychotherapy, Baltimore, MD, Dec. 27-30.

Bob Diotalevi, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, J.D., and **Lyn Millner**, College of Arts and Science, Department of Communication and Philosophy,

"Media and Ethics," Gulf Coast Live, WGPU-FM, Fort Myers, Dec. 11.

Elizabeth Elliott College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, Ph.D., and students **Alison King, Jacquelyn Kemp, Brynn Applegate, Ashley Peterson** and **Lynn Painter**, "Building A Chapter Legacy," 49th Convocation, Kappa Delta Pi - International Honor Society in Education, Louisville, KY, Nov. 1-4.

Peng Feng, College of Arts & Sciences, Mathematics and Science, "Existence and Uniqueness of Large Solutions to a Class of Semilinear Elliptic Equations," 7th MSU-UAB Conference on Differential Equations and Computational Simulations, Mississippi State and University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL, Nov. 1-3.

Peg Gray-Vickrey, Laurie Coventry-Payne and **Mary Ann Zager**, Provost's Office, "Using the QEP to Solve Real Problems: A Service-Learning Partnership to Develop a Green City," 2007 Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, New Orleans, Dec. 10.

Douglas Harrison, College of Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office, Ph.D., "Jonathan Edwards and Crisis Theology in Contemporary Evangelicalism," 2007 Modern Language Association annual conference, Chicago, Dec. 26-30.

Scott Karakas, Elizabeth Heath, Lisa Courcier, College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., "Lessons From the Ether: Using Technology to Facilitate Learning in a Large-Enrollment Online Introduction to the Visual and Performing Arts (electronic submission)," International E-Learning Symposium, Knowledge Design Forum, Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 9-11.

Scott Karakas, Halcyon St. Hill, Kamla-Kay McKenzie, Nora Demers, Curriculum and Instruction, Ph.D., "FGCU Strategic Model for Revitalizing General Education: Shared Governance in Action," 112th Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - Commission on Colleges,

New Orleans, Dec. 7-11.

Susan Kohler, College of Education, Dean's Office, M.Ed. Counseling & Special Ed, "Inciting a Riot for Reading using Dynamic Reading Strategies," Florida Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, ASCD, Orlando, Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

David Lounsbury, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, Ph.D., "Protocol at the Death Scene," 5th Annual Korean National Police Forensic Conference, Republic of Korea, National Police Agency, Seoul, Korea, Nov. 29. "Tricks of the Trade for Crime Scene Processing," Korean National Crime Scene Investigator's In-Service Training Seminar, Republic of Korea, National Police Division of Scientific Research, Seoul, Nov. 30.

Melih Madanoglu, Sherie Brezina, Ph.D., College of Professional Studies, Resort and Hospitality Management, Ph.D., "Hotel Spas: Drivers of Hotel Revenue and Profitability," Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) Annual Convention, Jacksonville, Oct. 17-20.

Melih Madanoglu, Ersem Karadag, College of Professional Studies, Resort and Hospitality Management, Ph.D., "Private Equity and Lodging Firm Stock Values: Beauty in the Eyes of Beholder?" Twentieth Association of Hospitality Financial Management Educators Symposium, New York, NY, Nov. 10.

Charlie Mesloh, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, Ph.D., "Human Injuries and Less Lethal Weapons Deployments: A Five-Year Analysis" and "A Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Conductive Energy Weapons: TASER X26 vs. Stinger 200," Less Lethal Weapon Technical Working Group, National Institute of Justice, Seattle, WA, Dec. 1-2.

Charlie Mesloh, Komaal Collie, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, Ph. D., "Evaluation of Chemical and Electric Flares" and "Evaluation of Infrared Strobe Technology," Personal Protective Equipment Technical Working

Group, National Institute of Justice, Albuquerque, NM, Dec. 11-12.

Danielle Rosenthal, Lois Christensen, Ph.D., College of Education, Library Services, M.L.S., "A New Approach to Engaging a Campus in Issues of Assessment," Association for General & Liberal Studies 47th Annual National Conference, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME, Oct. 20.

Martha Rosenthal, College of Arts & Sciences, Mathematics and Science, Ph.D., Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 7-11.

Pamella Seay, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, J.D., L.L.M., "Legal Ethics and the Non-Lawyer: Exploring How the Rules Extend to Non-Lawyer Employees, Experts and Others," Litigating Land Use, CLE International, Tampa, Dec. 3; "Ethics in the Event of a Disaster," Lunchtime Learning: Recent Developments in Estate Planning, US Bank, Fort Myers, Dec. 6.

Pamella Seay, J. Brock McClane, Howard Schiffman, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, J.D., L.L.M., presiding judge, International Environmental Moot Court Competition, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL, Nov. 8-10.

Dean Stansel, Mushfiq Swaleheen, College of Business, Finance and Accounting, Ph.D., Economics, "Government Spending and Economic Growth in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," 77th annual conference, Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, Nov. 18-21.

Anica Sturdivant, College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities and Arts, "46th Founders Juried Awards Exhibition," von Liebig Art Center, Naples Art Association, Naples, Nov. 17-Jan. 13; with **Paul Rodino, Richard Rosen** and **Kathleen Walsh**, "Group of 4 Invitational," BIG Arts Founders Gallery, BIG Arts, Sanibel, Dec. 3-31.

David Thurmaier, College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., College Music Society

National Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, Nov. 16.

Mary Wisnom, College of Professional Studies, Resort and Hospitality Management, Ph.D., "Spa Management 101," Resort and Commercial Recreation Association Annual Conference, Nassau, Bahamas, Nov. 5.

Thomas Valesky, Cecil Carter, Shari Huene-Johnson, College of Education, Graduate Studies, Ed.D., "Developing a Collaborative Internship Program," Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration, Kansas City, MO, Oct. 31-Nov. 4.

Arie van Duijn, Kathy Swanick, Ellen Williamson, College of Health Professions, Physical Therapy and Human Performance, Ed.D., "Web-based Instruction and Face-to-Face Instruction of Physical Therapy Psychomotor Skills: Effects on Student Performance," International Conference for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA, Nov. 1-2.

Janusz Zalewski, D. Trawczynski, J. Sosnowski, College of Business, Computer Information Systems and Decision Sciences, Ph.D., "The Effect of Large Clock Drifts on Performance of Event- and Time-Triggered Network Interfaces," DepCos'07, 2nd International Conference on Dependability of Computer Systems, Wroclaw University of Technology, Szklarska Poreba, Poland, June 14-16.

Janusz Zalewski, Andrew Kornecki, Henry Pfister, College of Business, Computer Information Systems and Decision Sciences, Ph.D., "Numerical Assessment of Software Development Tools in Real-Time Safety-Critical Systems Using Bayesian Belief Networks," International Multiconference on Computer Science and Information Technology, Polish Information Processing Society and IEEE Computer Society, Wisla, Poland, Nov. 6-10.

Publications

Kevin Aho, College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D.,

"Logos and the Poverty of Animals: Rethinking Heidegger's Humanism," The New Yearbook for Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy, Vol. 7 pp. 1-18.

John Cox, College of Arts & Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ph.D., History, book review of James M. Glass, Journal of Jewish Identities, Vol. 1 Issue 1, pp. 114-116; book chapter: "Herbert Baum: Jewish Resistance to the Nazi Dictatorship," "The Human Tradition in Modern Europe, 1750 to the Present," pp. 157-171.

Lisa Crayton, College of Education, Undergraduate Studies, Ph.D., "Abandoning Ship: Finding Myself as a Teacher," Florida Educational Leadership, Fall 2007, pp. 33-34.

Bob Diotalevi, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, J.D., quoted in "For murder cases, the system stalls," The News-Press, Oct. 21.

Karen Eastwood, William Ritchie, Dan Borgia and **Paul Eberle**, College of Business, Management and Marketing, Ph.D., "Chinese Preferences for Selecting International Joint Venture Partners: A Comparison of Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions and Cameron and Quinn's Organizational Culture," Journal of Global Business, Vol. 18 Issue 36, pp. 87-98.

Nicola Foote, College of Arts & Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ph.D., "Review of Gendered Paradoxes: Women's Movements, State Restructuring and Global Development in Ecuador," Bulletin of Latin American Research, Vol. 26 Issue 2, pp. 305-307; "Review of Being and Blackness in Latin America," Journal of Latin American Studies, Vol. 39 Issue 03, pp. 687-9.

Debra Giambo, Tunde Szecsi, Ph.D., College of Education, Graduate Studies, Ph.D., "Does Diversity Education Make a Difference in Teacher Education?" Practice and Theory in Systems of Education, biannually 2007, pp. 35-50.

Finance professor lauded for entrepreneurial approach

Professor Bradley Hobbs has won a national teaching award, and he has FGCU senior Emily Brockelsby to thank.



Emily Brockelsby, Bradley Hobbs

Hobbs, a professor of Economics and Finance, won a 2008 Acton Foundation Excellence in Entrepreneurship Education Award. The nonprofit organization makes these awards based on student nominations, recognizing teachers who excel in the classroom and ignite a passion for entrepreneurship in students.

"I've always thought teaching was important," says Hobbs. "I like exposing students to different ideas and pulling the rug out from under their beliefs. The most important part of teaching is to dispel the truths they know for sure and at least make them think about it and question it."

He encourages students to think critically and independently, qualities that are vital to succeeding as an entrepreneur.

"I don't care what your argument is, defend it, by God!" he says. "It's important that students are allowed to make up their minds and do that through the process of rational reason."

Brockelsby, of Naples, came to FGCU in spring 2007 to finish her degree after an absence of about 8 years, but didn't know what she wanted to study.

In Hobbs' classes, she learned that finance is more than formulas and calculations, that its ultimate aim is to improve the economic condition for everyone.

"I worked harder in his class than I ever had in any other university class," she wrote in her nominating letter. "Dr. Hobbs inspired me to achieve more than I thought was ever possible."

Working on her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Finance with minors in Economics and Computer Information Systems, she says, "I plan to pursue my doctoral degree in Finance so that I may have the privilege of teaching. The inspiration for this came directly from the excellence of Dr. Bradley Hobbs."

He receives \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Austin to participate in the national award ceremony. Brockelsby also gets a trip to the ceremony and \$1,000 toward her education.

"The Living Blog"

Feb. 13-17, 20-24

The Theatre Lab, FGCU Arts Complex

Opening reception: 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 13

Conceptualized and directed by Barry Cavin

Actors explore the idea of apocalypse in a multi-media presentation.

The Art Gallery at Florida Gulf Coast University presents: "Where the Wild Things (Still) Are: A Wildlife Art Exhibition organized for Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc. and the

FGCU Art Gallery"

Feb. 28 –

March 28

Guest curator:

Karen Shaw

Opening

reception

preview party:

5-8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 28

Closing party:

5-8 p.m.

Friday, March 28

This exhibition

is aimed at

heightening

awareness of

wildlife and

the need for its

protection.



This painting by Don Kettleborough is one of the many works available at "Where the Wild Things (Still) Are: A Wildlife Art Exhibition organized for CROW and the FGCU Art Gallery".

"2008 Celebration of the Arts"

4-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9

Opening reception for the FGCU Art Student Exhibition, Senior

Project Exhibition and Theatre Opening Night

This annual event showcases the work of the University's talented fine art and theater students.

"Omnium Gatherum"

April 9-13 and 16-20

The Theatre Lab, FGCU Arts Complex

Opening reception: 4-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9

Written by Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros and Theresa Rebeck

People from divergent walks of life gather for a dinner party and explore such wide-ranging topics as food, capitalism, terrorism, mortality and "Star Trek" in a post-9-11 world.

FGCU Art Student Exhibition and Senior Project Exhibition

April 9-26

FGCU Arts Complex

Opening reception: 4-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9

For information or tickets:

Gallery: 590-7199

Theatre Lab Box Office: 590-7268

Tickets for Theatre Lab performances are \$10 general admission, \$5 for FGCU students, faculty and staff.

Bower School of Music Spring Performances

Songs of African-American Composers: A Tribute to Black History Month

Presented by the School's vocal majors

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26

FGCU Student Union Ballroom

President's Concert

Outstanding student and faculty performers

7:30 p.m., Friday, March 14

FGCU Student Union Ballroom

Faculty Recital

Michael Baron, piano

8 p.m., Monday, March 31

Bower Chapel at Moorings Park

120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples

For complimentary tickets, call the Bower School of Music at (239) 590-7851.

University Choirs Concert

University Choir and Chamber Singers

7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10

FGCU Student Union Ballroom

Jazz Improvisation Concert

David Thurmaier, guitar, and Doug Russo, bass

3 p.m., Sunday, April 13

FGCU Student Union Ballroom

Chamber Singers

8 p.m., Tuesday, April 15

Bower Chapel at Moorings Park

120 Moorings Park Drive, Naples

For complimentary tickets, call the Bower School of Music at (239) 590-7851.

Wind Orchestra and String Orchestra Concert

7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 17

FGCU Student Union Ballroom



Dr. Nancy Cobb-Lippens, conductor, at left, with the Bower School of Music Chamber Singers.

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