

Pinnacle

FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2009

**Engineering program
comes of age** page 24





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

University vital to region's economic well-being

There's no denying Southwest Florida is hurting as a result of the worldwide economic slump. But with the region's high unemployment and foreclosures setting a national high watermark, imagine what the state of affairs would be if Florida Gulf Coast University did not exist.

The University's aggressive building campaign, high-skill/high-wage jobs and spending by our faculty, staff and students contributed an impressive \$389 million to the region's economy in 2007-2008.

In little more than a decade, FGCU has become a major economic power. Fostering that power is critical to the region's recovery and its continued health for years to come.

A recent analysis of the University's impact on the five-county service area (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties) determined that in addition to the \$389 million in expenditures, FGCU helped create 3,525 jobs and \$162 million in labor income. Gary Jackson, director of the Regional Economic Research Institute in the Lutgert College of Business, conducted the analysis.

With more than 1,284 full-time employees, FGCU has become the ninth-largest employer in Lee County, paying a median salary of \$55,000, among the region's highest.

Its more than 10,000 students buy approximately \$30 million worth of goods and services annually. Not included in that economic study were the 112,600 service learning hours that students performed without pay for non-profit organizations in the 2007-2008 academic year.

In that same period, our faculty was awarded almost \$14 million in grants for research and sponsored programs, some of which explore issues vital to the region's well being, including improved water quality and preservation of important flora and fauna. As a result of our faculty research, the University has applied for seven U.S. patents.

FGCU generated \$71 million in construction last year, completing four new buildings. Three more are under construction and are expected to contribute \$31 million to the local economy in the coming year.

The University plays a pivotal role in diversifying the region's economy from one based primarily on service, tourism and agriculture to one that also includes knowledge-based industries.

Creating the highly skilled work force necessary for that transition is FGCU's primary mission. With the graduation of 1,128 students this spring, the University's alumni number more than 10,000, representing a cross-section of FGCU's 82 degree programs, including the first 20 graduates of the School of Engineering.

Our graduates will become educators, nurses, lab technicians, health care administrators, business and financial professionals, scientists, biologists, public administrators and entrepreneurs.

FGCU's strategic plan projects student enrollments reaching 15,000 by 2013. This growth plan is critical to meeting the higher education needs of the region. It allows FGCU to fulfill its mission of educating Southwest Floridians locally, providing opportunities for students who cannot be served by the older state universities, which have reached capacity.

FGCU was founded because the region needed the resources only a thriving state university could provide. That need is even more critical now as Southwest Florida struggles to pull out of the recession and looks to better insulate its economy from future downturns.



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

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Peter Blaze Corcoran



On the cover: Students Jenna Blanski, Eric Cherasia and Larry Murillo use torsional loading to test properties of a steel rod.

Photo by Ed Clement



LINDSEY TOUCHETTE

Alumnus grows business from senior thesis

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Doug Bladich

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The power of dreams

Throughout the production of this issue of Pinnacle, a phrase I hadn't thought of in a long time kept running through my mind: "If you build it, he will come."

Change the "he" to "they," and that line from the 1989 movie, "Field of Dreams," could be the theme of this issue. In fact, it applies equally well to the University as a whole.

Florida Gulf Coast University rose up from the ground in what was then an out-of-the-way locale, in much the same way that Ray Kinsella's Iowa cornfield seemed an unlikely spot for a baseball field.

In 1997, the University opened with a handful of buildings and 2,584 students. This community's desire for, and support of, a full-scale University built what has become an institution with more than 70 buildings and 10,220 students enrolled in 51 undergraduate and 31 graduate degree programs.

With the recent opening of Holmes Hall, home of the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering, building takes center stage through a program the primary purpose of which is to teach students how to create structures of all kinds.

These are the most visible examples of the University's building efforts, but building is really what the institution has always been about and what it does in virtually every aspect of its operation.

Here are just a few of the ways FGCU contributes to building:

- Dozens of FGCU community members, under the leadership of Assistant Professor Tina Gelpi, helped build a 10-year plan to wipe out homelessness in Lee County.
- Professor Peter Blaze Corcoran helped craft, and continues to champion, the Earth Charter, which aims to build a better world for all.
- Alumnus Doug Bladich built on his communication degree and senior project to launch a successful hair salon.
- The FGCU Library is amassing documents and memorabilia of historical value, such as the colorful folk tales of the late Verna Aardema, as it builds its archives.
- The University's Honors Program guides top students in building the knowledge and skills required to become leaders in their fields.
- University health educators are teaching thousands of high-school girls about prevention and detection of breast cancer, building a network of young women more likely to recognize warning signs and take life-saving action.
- The Eagles athletic teams, led by the women's basketball team, are building Eagle pride at the University and a reputation as tough competitors in the ranks of Division I college sports.

Those are just examples we've covered in this issue. Previous ones have chronicled the efforts of FGCU donors, faculty, staff, students and alumni to expand scientific knowledge through groundbreaking research; imbue the community with an understanding of, and need to protect, the environment; expand the ranks of teachers, health-care providers, entrepreneurs and other professionals needed in a 21st-century workforce; and create a sound network of support for countless not-for-profit organizations through hundreds of thousands of hours of voluntarism.

Now, in spite of the financial challenges it faces, FGCU's zeal for building remains strong and vital, as you'll read in the pages that follow.

Like Ray Kinsella, the University community has embraced the belief that if you dream the impossible, the incredible will happen.

Karen Feldman

Karen Feldman
Pinnacle Editor

ED CLEMENT



WELL-TOLD TALES

Children's author brings African lore to life

Story by Karen Feldman/Collection photos by Ed Clement

Necessity may be the mother of invention but, in Verna Aardema's case, it was motherhood that made invention necessary.

The Michigan-born elementary school teacher and newspaper correspondent struggled to get her daughter to eat and so began fabricating stories to engage the youngster while feeding her.

It was one of these stories that launched her career as an author of children's literature.

Aardema, who lived in Lee County for the last 16 years of her life, went on to write 33 books based primarily on African folk tales. Copies of several of those books – including Spanish and German editions – as well as typed manuscripts with edits scribbled in the margins, galley proofs, photos and other mementoes, are contained in a collection in the FGCU Library Archives.

Leafing through the volumes, readers travel through Aardema's colorful imagination populated with the sights and sounds of Africa. There's "Rabbit Makes a Monkey Out of Lion," in which the nimble rabbit and his friends make a fool of the king of the forest; "Princess Gorilla and a New Kind of Water," in which



Verna Aardema

King Gorilla decrees his daughter will only marry a suitor strong enough to consume a barrel of mysterious, intoxicating water; and "Half-a-Ball-of-Kenki," a tale in which the title character saves Fly from Leopard and Leopard winds up with a spotted coat.

Several volumes in the Library collection are autographed by Aardema to FGCU founding faculty member Carolyn Spillman, who taught language arts and children's literature. She retired in 2006, but returns to teach a children's literature course each year.

Spillman met Aardema in the 1980s, when the author lived in North Fort Myers. Their shared love of children's literature formed a bond that lasted until Aardema's death in May 2000.

"She was such an excellent storyteller," Spillman says. "I loved the way she used ideophones in her stories. It was a unique trait of hers."

Ideophones are ideas in sounds, or sounds used to create an impression. For example, in one story Aardema used "goler, gofer, gofer" to convey the sound of water pouring from a jug.

Spillman marvels at how Aardema could take a fragment of a tale she found while poring over folk literature in the public domain, and weave it into a full story.

"I've seen those kernel stories," she says. "They were very bare. She gave them life."

Her book, "Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears," illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon, received the prestigious Caldecott Medal for children's literature in 1976. Another book, "Who's in Rabbit's House?" was the 1977 School Library Journal Best Book of the Year.

In an appreciation of Aardema published in The News-Press after her death, former Lee County Library spokeswoman Noreen Reagan said, "Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain" – you just like saying that. Her books are lyrical writing. It's almost like singing."

Aardema's tales dealt with distant cultures, with the exception of "A Bookworm Who Hatched," her autobiography.

She tells of growing up, one of nine children, in a white wood home with a stone chimney her father built in New Era, Mich.

"For me, becoming a writer probably began with loving stories," she writes. "Mama read to us children as we sprawled on the floor around her rocking chair – me near the back so I could hide with my tears if the story was sad."

She describes the cedar swamps near her home to which she'd escape after dinner to avoid doing dishes.

"That's when I made up my first stories," she says. "Soon I began writing down the stories I thought of in the swamp, and asking God to help me become a good writer."

She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University in 1934. That same year, she began her 39-year career as a grade school teacher. She also served as a corre-

spondent for the Muskegon Chronicle.

Meanwhile, her daughter Paula proved the ultimate muse when Aardema was forced to create stories to coax her to eat. She mailed one of those stories about Africa to a publisher.

"An editor suggested I use it in a juvenile novel," she writes. "I did African folk tales instead, and 'Tales from the Story Hat' was born."

She goes on to describe her writing process, which may seem as exotic as her African tales to today's technologically sophisticated children.

"After finding a folktale I like and deciding how I want to redo it (tell it in my own words), I write it first in pencil," she explains. "Then, using the typewriter, I revise it at least three times. Then it goes to my agent and she forwards it to the editor. If the editor likes the story she helps me to perfect it."

When she wasn't writing, Aardema enjoyed reading her tales to children in local schools in hopes of inspiring them as well.

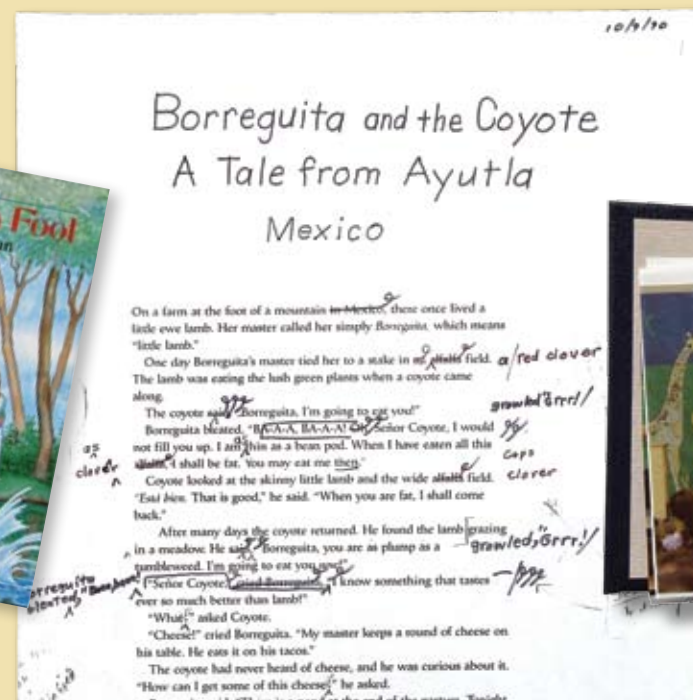
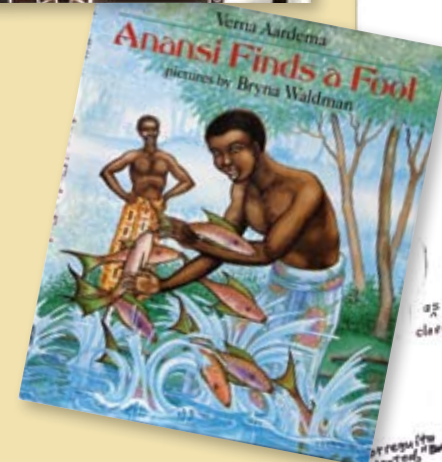
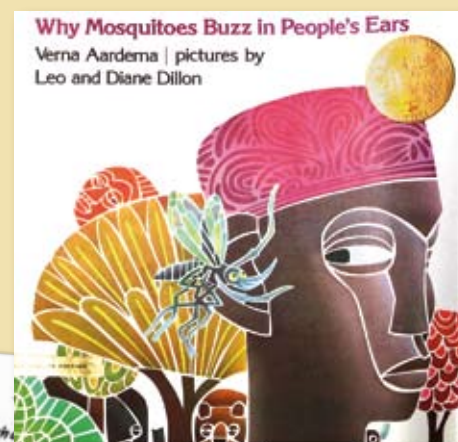
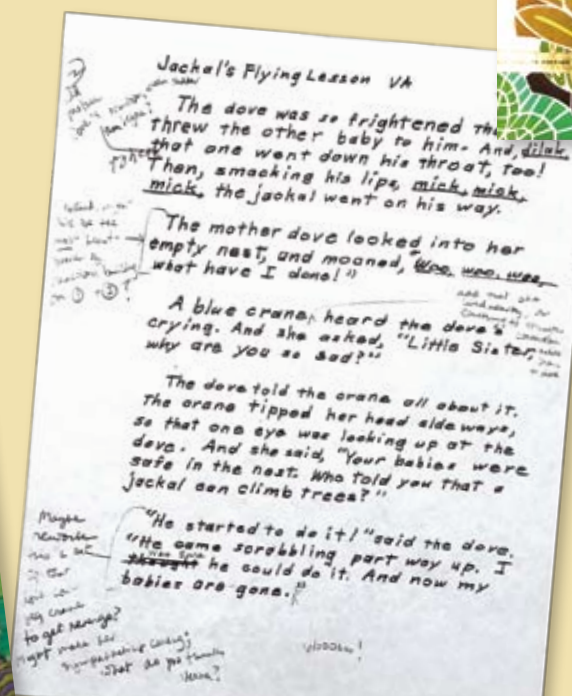
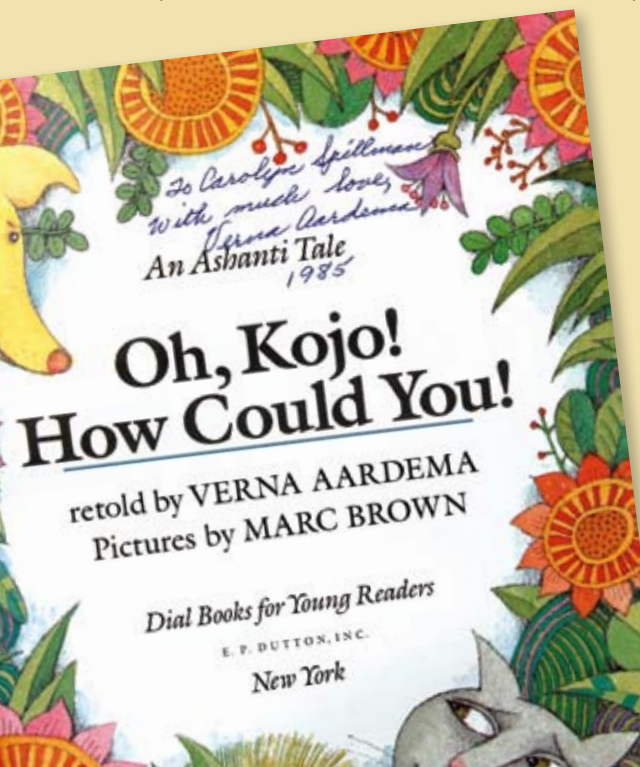
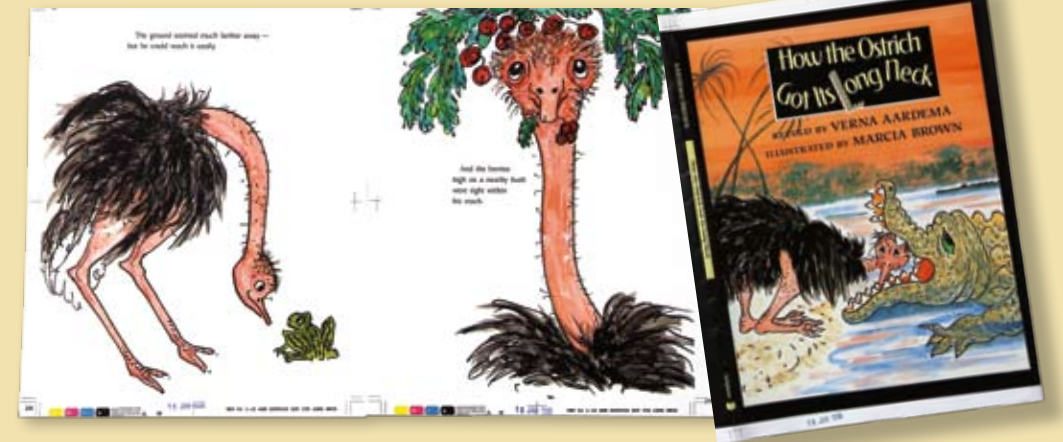
She also liked to bake for her family.

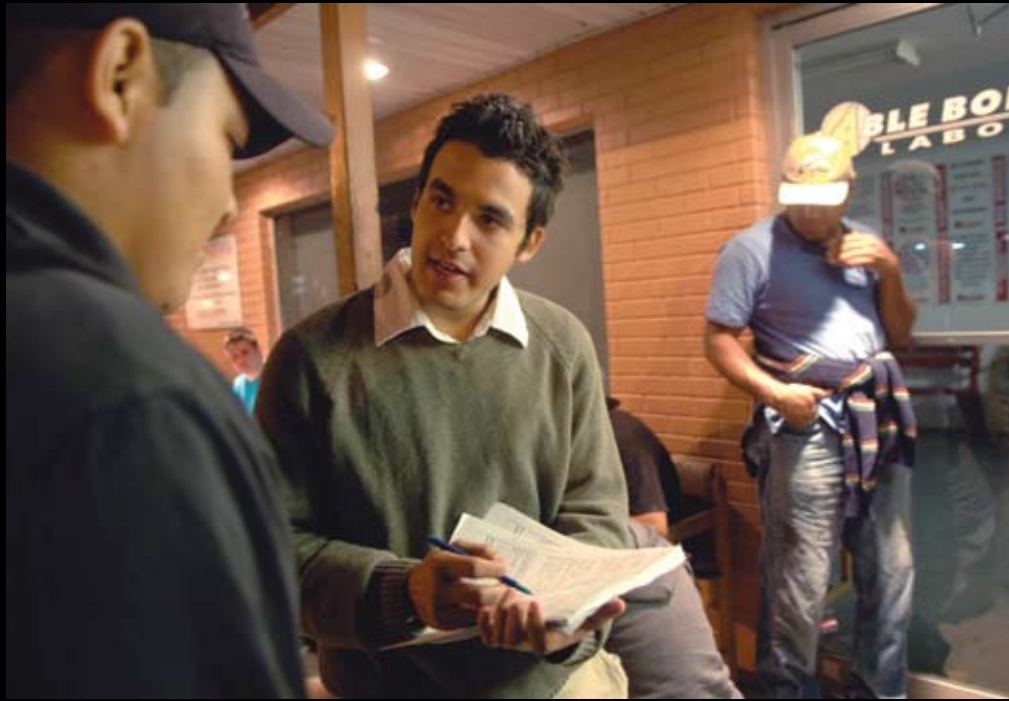
"Making a tasty pie is as important as writing a good story, I think," she writes, "and you can't eat a good story."

The FGCU collection of Aardema's works, however, is a feast for lovers of well-told tales.

FGCU Collections

This is the second in a series of stories that will appear in subsequent issues of Pinnacle about collections in the possession of the FGCU Archives. For more information about the University's collections, contact Rebecca Donlan, assistant director, at (239) 590-7641, or rdonlan@fgcu.edu.





Left: FGCU student Andres Boral, center, interviews a day laborer at Able Body Labor about his living conditions and needs.

FGCU invests expertise in plan to house all

Headed for home

Story by Karen Feldman/Photos by Garth Francis

It hardly seems possible that poverty and homelessness can exist in a vacation paradise like Lee County.

But with soaring unemployment and home foreclosure rates, the county's share of people in need is significant and growing. Lee County homelessness experts estimate there are 3,000 people in the county with no place to live.

"People's perception of the homeless is a transient sitting on a corner with a shopping cart who may be inebriated," says Karen Hawes, Lee County's director of human services. "Homelessness extends to a whole lot of people."

In Lee County, it encompasses veterans, young adults who have aged out of the foster-care system, men and women with chronic mental illnesses, single mothers and young

children, among others. And, increasingly, it includes whole families who have run out of money and luck.

For the first time, Lee County, its municipalities and several organizations have come together to eradicate homelessness with members of the Florida Gulf Coast University community at the forefront of the effort.

Lee County was the 300th community in the country to commit to creating a 10-year plan to end homelessness. The county, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel joined with area social service agencies, faith-based groups and business leaders to develop the plan, called Lee's Investment For Everyone (LIFE).

Heading the year-long process was Tina Gelpi, an assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and Community Health, which is part of FGCU's College of Health Professions. She partnered with Debra Lynne, executive director of Easter Seals Florida, Gulf Coast Region, to lead the effort and write the plan.

Also involved were Larry Hart, the FGCU Board of Trustees vice chairman, who persuaded local businesses and agencies to participate; Jo Anna Bradshaw, wife of President Wilson G. Bradshaw, who served on the education subcommittee; and several dozen students who conducted research and interviews.

The group presented its initial assessment in late February, then solicited community feedback that was incorporated into the document that will serve as the framework for building the programs and resources required to conquer this persistent problem over the next decade.

Among the many needs identified in the plan are:

- Expansion of job training, mentoring programs and educational opportunities.
- An increase in health-care outreach and access.
- Creation of a coordinated system of identifying and expanding low-income housing opportunities and connecting people with them.
- An increase in shelter units for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Upgrading coordination of support services among local, state and federal agencies.

It's an ambitious set of goals that will require continued cooperation among all the participants as well as substantial funding, some of which has already been pledged by the federal government.

"I'm very inspired by the leadership and commitment of FGCU in the 10-year plan's development," says Philip Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, which coordinates the federal response to homelessness and assists state and local governments in

creating and carrying out their 10-year plans. He's visited Lee County three times, meeting with the coalition as it developed the plan, and recently told the group that President Obama's recovery package will boost the county's emergency shelter grants from \$90,000 to \$881,000.

A federal housing bill passed last fall will direct another \$18 million to Lee County and \$2 million to Fort Myers in neighborhood stabilization funds, to purchase foreclosed properties.

"The county will purchase, rehabilitate them and put them up for resale," says Hawes. "It will give people who lost a house but are working the chance to get back into home ownership. We also have the opportunity with this money to increase supportive housing and low-income rentals for people with disabilities."

Mangano says FGCU plays a critical role in crafting the plan.

"It's apparent that FGCU understands its role as a community partner and stakeholder, bringing its set of skills, talents and expertise to the table to effect solutions," he says.

Hawes says the work Gelpi and others from FGCU have done has proven invaluable and will continue to be vital to the plan's success.

Gelpi worked with several dozen undergraduate and occupational therapy graduate students to conduct the initial research, studying other communities' 10-year plans and interviewing homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.



Tina Gelpi



"The role of the University is to support the interests and needs of the community," Gelpi says. "The plan also provides us with community-based service-learning opportunities for students with faculty mentors and service and scholarship opportunities for faculty."

Rachel Gore was one of those students, poring over the plans of 100 communities to see what might apply to Lee County.

She took part in the Lee County Coalition on Homelessness annual Homeless Service Day and Stand Down in November, when volunteers from an array of social service agencies gathered to provide food and clothing, medical screenings and referrals for assistance to 365 homeless people.

Gore worked with some of the homeless veterans who showed up.

"Some were Vietnam veterans but some were guys my age – 22 or 23," she says. "It was amazing to me that they're living out on the street."

The experience helped shape her career goals.

"I want to either work with veterans coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan or with older adults in a rehab setting," she says.

Dawn Whittaker, an occupational therapy graduate student from Melbourne, conducted interviews with homeless people and participated in the Stand Down, which she, too, found enlightening.

"The majority were men but there were some families, too," she says. "Some had college degrees, but with the economy the way it is they are unable to get a job. It



Philip Mangano and Jo Anna Bradshaw share ideas at the presentation of Lee County's plan to end homelessness.



FGCU student Dawn Whittaker fills out a survey with a day laborer at Able Body Labor.

“I have a passion for (solving) homelessness; I have a passion for eliminating hunger and promoting literacy for non-English speakers,” she says. “I played a minor part (in creating the plan).

really put things into perspective – that anyone can be homeless and that many are a paycheck away from being homeless.”

One morning this winter, Whittaker joined Gelpi and several other FGCU students on a visit to local temporary labor pools to assess the needs of people gathered there looking for work.

She volunteered even though it meant reporting to the Salvation Army at 5 a.m.

“I have plenty of time to sleep,” she says. “I usually get seven hours of sleep. How much do these people get?”

At Able Body Labor on Palm Beach Boulevard east of Fort Myers, the students spoke with the dozen or so weary men hoping to land a day’s work. They asked the men about their living situations, whether they have family members living with them, what social services they receive and which ones they need.

“Do you need food?” Whittaker asked a man wearing faded jeans, a backward baseball cap and a discouraged expression. He nodded. “What about education?” He nodded again.

The students filled out as many surveys as they could and gave out pocket guides listing agencies that offer emergency assistance.

Those surveys and many others completed over the past months form the backbone of the group’s research, which also included input from 10 sub-committees, each assessing one of the factors that contribute to homelessness, such as education, employment, health services, housing, public safety, special populations, supportive services and transportation.

Jo Anna Bradshaw worked with the education subcommittee, which identified what’s needed to reduce barriers to employment and self-sufficiency.

Participating in the plan’s development has meant a lot to her.

I was there to learn from Tina who lives, breathes, sleeps and walks” the plan and its goals.

She’s hopeful that with the unified local efforts and support from the federal government, the county will be able to carry out its plan.

“It has to succeed,” she says. “We have a population that’s so small compared to so many cities. We can solve this.”

Gelpi is keenly aware that the 10-year plans of some communities are gathering dust.

“In Lee County, the participating stakeholders in this effort do not want this plan to sit on a shelf,” she says.

Gelpi believes those involved are committed to its success and bringing others on board to help.

This effort has “brought the solution back to the community level. We’re looking out for each other in time of need, neighbors helping neighbors,” she says.

“Solutions have to be greater and longer lasting than a clothing drive or a food drive. We need resources to take care of needs over time so people can move out of the crisis stage.”

A group of FGCU professors is already at work on grant applications to procure funds to help with those long-term solutions.

Walter Rodriguez, a Lutgert College of Business professor, and faculty from various disciplines have been holding brainstorming sessions to come up with ways to win more grants for University projects. Some of those would help meet objectives outlined in the county’s 10-year plan.

Rodriguez, who is also the College’s director of grants and research, says, “Solutions in our society demand a variety of expertise to solve problems. With homeless-

ness, you have to tackle all the issues simultaneously.”

He’s working on a grant seeking \$655,000 from the Work Force Investment Act Youth Program, administered through the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The proposed project would involve 300 at-risk youths and match them with mentors, including upper-level business students, professors and community business people. They would each receive a computer with wireless Internet and media conferencing capabilities with which they would work with their mentors on literacy, math, computer and work skills, among other things.

Mentors would help them identify and build on their skills. This might include helping them gain certification in the computer or health-care fields to demonstrate they have valuable job skills. Or it could be that they’ll create their own jobs as entrepreneurs.

“I know from previous experience in Puerto Rico that kids from poor neighborhoods can come up with tremendous ideas no one thought about,” Rodriguez says. From those ideas can spring businesses and self-sufficiency.

The goal is to help people become self-sufficient, then have those people help others reach that state.

“The federal government is partnered with you to get the job done,” Mangano says. “We in Washington will put our resources, not just rhetoric, into partnership with you.”

Solving this problem, says Gelpi, will take resources and prolonged local involvement.

“It is a real test of our humanity,” she says. “I think our community has the potential to make all this happen.”



Tina Gelpi oversees FGCU students conducting interviews while Salvation Army workers prepare food outside Able Body Labor.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

Honors students learn what it takes to excel in real world

Story by Karen Feldman / Photos by Bob Klein

Students in Florida Gulf Coast University’s Honors Program are benefitting from lessons not found in textbooks.

Lessons in Leadership is a new seminar taught by FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw, featuring guest speakers who live in the area and who have achieved great professional success.

The 163 students enrolled in FGCU’s Honors Program – who represent the top 3 percent of their classes – are expected to have great aspirations, too.

“We set high goals in the Honors Program,” says Sean Kelly, the program director. “We tell them ‘You can get a Fulbright. You can get a Rhodes scholarship. You just have to prepare yourself.’”

The seminar draws people from the community who have long records of achievement to discuss their successes and interact with students. Bradshaw instructs students on proper business etiquette and attire, how to prepare for the lectures and how to conduct introductions. He also moderates each guest lecture.

“Teaching the Lessons in Leadership course is the highlight on my schedule this semester,” he says. “I was delighted to use this opportunity to bring together a cadre of outstanding individuals to share their experiences with our honors students. We in Southwest Florida are fortunate to have such a wealth of high achievers who live and winter here, and their willingness to give of their time and expertise provides a tremendous learning experience for our students.”

The speakers included:

- Francis Rooney, CEO of the investment firm Rooney Holdings Inc. and former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See under George W. Bush
- Robert Naegele, former owner of Rollerblade Inc. and the former majority owner and chairman of Minnesota Sports and Entertainment
- A.J. Scribante, the former chairman and CEO of MAJERS Corp. and current chairman of Vital Learning Corp.
- Mark Goebel, former managing partner of Accenture Ltd.
- Norman Augustine, retired chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corp. and former under-secretary of the Army



Each spoke about his experiences in the working world then took wide-ranging questions from the students.

Rooney, for example, discussed the skills required to serve as a U.S. ambassador, of the international leaders with whom he worked and his philosophy about choosing a job.

“Culture and values are what a company’s all about,” he says. “Look for one that attracts and retains good talent and allows people with good values to succeed. Pick a company that has a customer to satisfy and does something good for society.”

Kelly says the program exposes students to career paths they may not have considered, such as public service and the non-profit sector.

Anastasia Kostrubala, a senior from Cape Coral, transferred to FGCU from the U.S. Air Force Academy two years ago and hopes to go to medical school. She’s majoring in biology. She says the seminar illustrates what attracted her to FGCU.

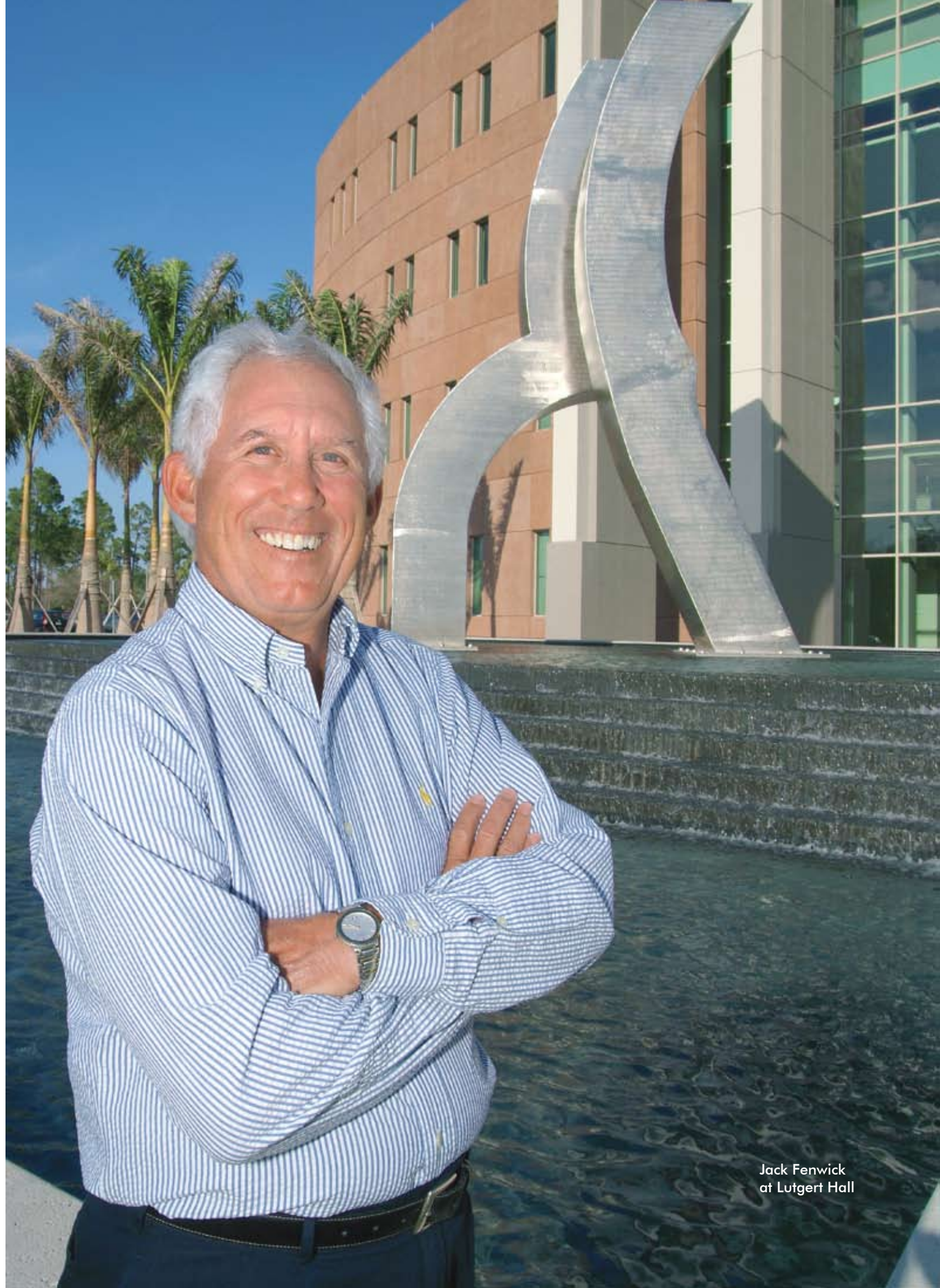
“The class is a clear example of the opportunities provided by FGCU and especially the Honors Program,” she says. “President Bradshaw is direct and instructive ... He has a sincere interest in teaching the students. At large universities, you may never see, meet or interact with the university’s president or highly successful community leaders. The class has enhanced my knowledge about the state of the world and the economy.”

Albanian-born Marlin Delvina is a sophomore majoring in biology who finds the guest lecturers inspiring.

“Listening to their stories one learns about true leadership, knowledge, morals and determination, qualities that make these people successful,” he says. “I feel these lessons will be very helpful in terms of my future as a professional and as a community member.”



Top: Guest speaker Robert Naegele, left, and FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw field questions from students. Bottom: Robert Naegele, right, explains his business philosophy to students while President Bradshaw moderates the seminar.



Jack Fenwick
at Lutgert Hall

Turning dreams into designs

Retiring facilities planning director covered a lot of ground on campus

Story by Karen Feldman/ Photo by Ed Clement

When Jack Fenwick signed on as Florida Gulf Coast University's director of Facilities Planning in 1994, the University didn't have a name and the campus didn't exist.

He was the ninth FGCU employee hired. At the time, the entire staff filled half a floor in an office building on U.S. 41.

As he retires 15 years later, he leaves behind a complex of 68 buildings that include 1 million square feet of academic and athletics space, 500,000 square feet of parking garages and more than 600,000 square feet of student residence halls. He's also been responsible for infrastructure – all the roads and utilities, as well as making sure the University's land use meets government standards. Most recently, he helped start the 16-acre solar farm project.

As he left in late February, Academic Buildings 7 and 8, the Fine Arts II Building and an expansion of the Student Union were in various stages of design.

"Jack has been the guiding force behind the architectural expression of the campus since FGCU's inception," says Curtis Bullock, executive director of the FGCU Financing Corporation and formerly the founding vice president for Administrative Services. "As you look around the campus, you see Jack Fenwick's fingerprints everywhere."

His years at FGCU cap a career that began as an architect, then private consultant and then facilities planning manager at large universities including

the University of Florida, Texas Tech and Georgia Tech.

Deciding to take the FGCU job was easy.

"It was the first new public university in the country for 20 years," he says. "The opportunity to literally build a university from the ground up is unique. That's what being an architect is all about."

He's grateful to FGCU founding President Roy McTarnaghan for hiring him. "I owe a lot to his confidence in me to get this job done," he says.

As for his biggest challenge: "Getting the campus open for August 1997," Fenwick says.

Negotiating state and federal regulatory hurdles took longer than anticipated so there was something of a time crunch as opening day approached.

Nonetheless, Griffin and Reed halls opened in time, with the Library following about three weeks later, then Howard and McTarnaghan halls a couple of weeks after that.

Since then, it's been a nonstop sprint to keep up with the rapidly growing student body.

Of the dozens of buildings he's worked on at FGCU, his favorites are Alico Arena, the Library, the Student Union and Lutgert Hall. When pressed, he'll concede Lutgert is number one.

"It is the signature building for the entrance to the campus," he says. "It will be the image of the campus for years to come. It sets the tone for what the campus will look like in the future."

As for his future, he plans to continue living in Fort Myers, play more golf and do some traveling. At 67, he thinks it's time he retired but, he says, "I think I'll miss working. Over the years I've made a lot of friends at the University and in the construction industry, people I'd see on the job. I'm going to miss them."

"As you look around the campus, you see Jack Fenwick's fingerprints everywhere."

— Curtis Bullock



EARTH MATTERS

Professor hopes, works for better world

Story by Roger Williams/Photos by Jason P. Smith

In an age when good cause exists to despair for humanity and its troubled planet, Peter Blaze Corcoran still has hope. “Although I am not an optimist about our future,” he says, “I believe in hope, in the power of hope. I am *hopeful*.”

Corcoran works hard to spark the hope he champions as a professor of environmental studies and environmental education and director of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University.

His inspiration arises from the Earth Charter, a 2,400-word document that lays out ethical principles to help governments, public and private institutions become both environmentally and socially sustainable.

In February, FGCU joined a growing number of affiliates to the Earth Charter.



Peter Blaze Corcoran

An international commission of men and women spent 13 years creating the Earth Charter, drawing on the wisdom and advice of representatives from the world’s major cultures and religions.

As a senior adviser to that commission, Corcoran has followed the charter’s progress and advanced its cause, both in his teaching and in his writings.

Inspired as a young man by Rachel Carson – who authored the grim and visionary treatise “Silent Spring” in 1962 – Corcoran says he’s shaped the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education to reflect both her legacy and the ethical principles of the Earth Charter through education, scholarship and action.

“Without the Earth Charter,” he says, “the future of the planet is less certain.”

Many agree with him.

“The Earth Charter says, ‘If you want to build something new and better, here are the guidelines – to gain a right relationship with yourself, with people, with cultures, with other species,’” says Stephen C. Rockefeller, scion of the famous political and philanthropic family, who visited FGCU the day University officials signed the charter in February.

A professor emeritus of religion at Middlebury College, Rockefeller chairs the Earth Charter International Council and directed its writing. The charter, he says, comprises 16 principles that insist on “ecological integrity,” “social and economic justice,” “respect and care for the community of life” and “democracy, nonviolence and peace.” (To read the Earth Charter, go to www.earthcharterinaction.org.)

Without advocates such as Corcoran, whom he describes as “a visionary, one of the great teachers,” the Earth Charter would fail, Rockefeller says.

Corcoran anchors his resistance to such failure with long runs on Sanibel Island, where he has lived for many years. The meditative discipline of distance running carries into his classrooms, he says, as well as his writing and publishing.



A February summit at FGCU and Sanibel Island attracted luminaries from the Earth Charter International Council including, from left, David Orr, Mary Evelyn Tucker and Stephen C. Rockefeller.

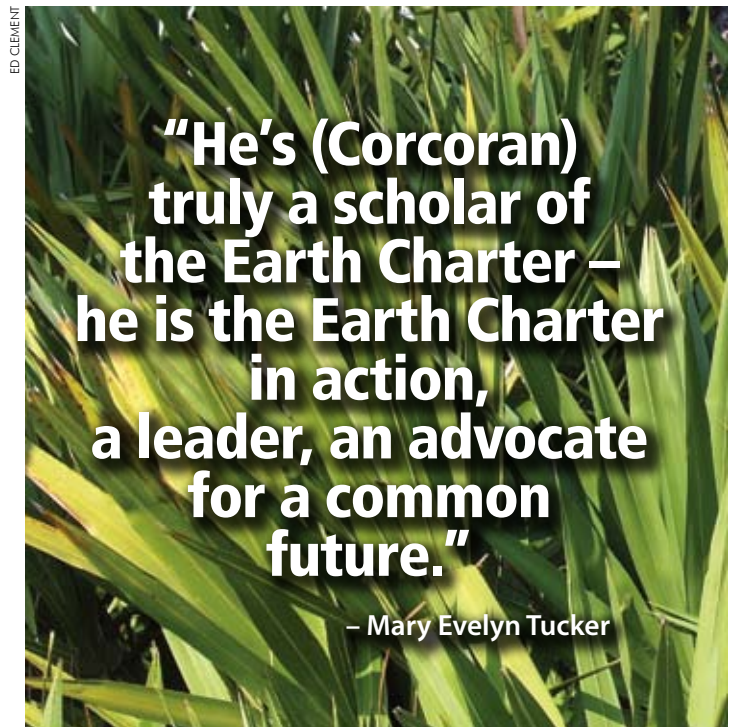
Left: Peter Blaze Corcoran speaks at a gathering of Earth Charter International Council members on Sanibel Island.



FGCU Associate Dean and Professor A. James Wohlpart and Jo Anna Bradshaw, wife of FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw, attend an Earth Charter gathering on Sanibel Island.

“As a teacher he is demanding,” says Donna Roberts, who earned her master’s degree under his tutelage, writing a thesis on Brazilian women environmentalists.

“He is entertaining. And he almost always brings some sort of vegetation to class. He’s known for this. You’ll see him walking around campus with all his journals and books, and on top a little vase with some native flora.”



“He’s (Corcoran) truly a scholar of the Earth Charter – he is the Earth Charter in action, a leader, an advocate for a common future.”

– Mary Evelyn Tucker

Corcoran has taught a range of classes in environmental education, but always teaches the University’s Colloquium for undergraduates. That class, which Corcoran helped design, is an interdisciplinary environmental education course that explores sustainability from ecological, social, ethical, historical, scientific, economic and political perspectives.

Working with Associate Dean and Professor A. James Wohlpart, Corcoran recently published a book of reflections on the Earth Charter by 15 renowned American environmentalists and writers: “A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter.” (See story on page 15.)

However, that doesn’t stop him from urging people to put down their books and embrace the natural world.

Books, Corcoran says, “are never as valuable as nature itself, which is the great teacher.” Before books, he explains, one must

“Without the Earth Charter the future of the planet is less certain.”

— Peter Blaze Corcoran

wonder at the nature of things that sustain us, then act accordingly to sustain that nature.

As such, the Earth Charter serves as the ultimate guide.

“Every principle in the Earth Charter has both a legal and a political basis and is consistent with the teachings of each major religion and cultural tradition,” he says. “It’s deeply grounded in a history of the best that humans have thought or said.”

Among many others, its crafters and signers include statesmen such as Mikhail Gorbachev of Russia, who spoke at FGCU in 2006, along with Rockefeller and American scholar Mary Evelyn Tucker of Yale University.

Corcoran gathered Rockefeller, Tucker and other Earth Charter International Council members from far-flung locales – including Australia, India, Europe and Mexico – for the University’s Earth Charter affiliate signing. The group then spent a week on Sanibel Island planning the scholarly agenda of the charter.

Corcoran’s charisma and knowledge help him draw such luminaries, say colleagues and students.

“He’s truly a scholar of the Earth Charter – he is the Earth Charter in action, a leader, an advocate for a common future,” says Tucker, a senior lecturer and research scholar in Yale’s School of Forestry, who specializes in world religions. “Peter is one of us, and we see ourselves as building an Earth community.”

Wohlpert, senior adviser of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, calls him an international star who prefers to hide his own light.

“He does work of an international scope that few people know of,” says Wohlpert. “He’s humble. He’s a master convener. He supports as much as he can the work of others, pulling amazing communities together, internationally renowned scholars in the fields of sustainability and ethics.”

Ethics have everything to do with Corcoran’s view of living and teaching. He was inculcated in nature’s ways as a child in coastal Maine, where he grew up and still maintains a summer cottage, near the summer home of Rachel Carson.

“My mother was a great lover of nature, so I had lots of time in the natural world,”



Peter Blaze Corcoran speaks at the Earth Charter event on Sanibel Island.

COURTESY OF PETER BLAZE CORCORAN



In keeping with his philosophy that nature is the best teacher, Corcoran holds a Colloquium: Sustainable Future session at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Corcoran says. “Significant experiences that shape people’s attitudes toward nature often come in childhood. Research shows that experiencing nature as a child helps. Children need both a mentor and lots of time alone. So I had some of the former and lots of the latter.”

He graduated from Antioch College, earned his master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Maine, then served as a public school principal for five years before entering higher education.

Later, he introduced environmental studies at Swarthmore College, and then at Bates College before seizing on the chance 12 years ago to become a founding faculty member of the environmentally focused FGCU.

He brings to his students a world view from having traveled



From left, Donna Price Henry, FGCU dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Ronald Toll, FGCU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; and Wilson G. Bradshaw, FGCU president, sign the Earth Charter during a February summit at the University.

the globe as a senior adviser to the Earth Charter council, and from studying cultures and environments such as the Fiji Islands of the South Pacific.

“He is an inspiration as a teacher and leader,” says Maria Roca, an associate professor of communication and interdisciplinary studies at the University who uses “A Voice for Earth” to teach her class, *Living with the Earth Charter*.

“This is a man who figured out what he wanted to do with his life early on, and has truly devoted himself to his work,” she says. “He is an environmental educator by trade – not strictly a scientist – and there is a strong environmental and spiritual component in his work. He is particularly concerned with youth cultures around the world. I would say because of him we’ve become one of the top five or 10 environmental universities in the nation.”

Roberts concurs.

“Peter’s environmental education course really changed my academic career and life,” she says. “I went into my graduate degree as a journalist and an environmentalist. Education, per se, never grabbed me, but the global perspective he exposed us to really opened my eyes. That made me want to be an environmental educator.”

Helping students achieve that sort of epiphany is part of what Corcoran views as his mission.

“As teachers,” Corcoran says, “we must provide our students with hope – with the belief in unseen possibilities.”

— Roger Williams is a freelance writer who lives in Alva.

FGCU professors edit book exploring Earth Charter

Sometimes you can judge a book by its cover. A new one by Florida Gulf Coast University professors Peter Blaze Corcoran and A. James Wohlpert is precisely what the title suggests: “A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter” (University of Georgia Press, 2008).

As a meditation on sustainability, the book of poems, essays and stories offers ways of living and thinking aimed at sustaining all of mankind and the planet on which we live.

Corcoran, a professor of environmental studies and environmental education and director of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education, knew many of the book’s renowned contributors before he and Wohlpert began the project, having served as a senior adviser to the Earth Charter initiative.

Still, collecting the writings of the brilliant and the well-known isn’t easy.

“It took seven years to complete the book,” says Wohlpert, an English professor, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and senior adviser of FGCU’s Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. “The concept paper took a year. Contacting writers took another year, and another year was required to receive the drafts.”

Seeking the best that has been said and thought about the Earth Charter, Corcoran and Wohlpert worked closely as editors with some authors, and more distantly with others.

“The most frustrating thing about this was the time it took,” says Wohlpert. “But these people were paid nothing, they’re all renowned, all of them doing a high level of work, and they agreed to take time out of their lives to offer these pieces. A poem from Deming, for example? It’s just a huge gift.”

Alison Hawthorne Deming, a University of Arizona professor of creative writing, is one of the premier living American poets. Her 16-stanza contribution, “Owning the Imperatives: A Poem for the Earth Charter,” models the 16 principles in the charter, such as the first one: “Respect earth and life in all its diversity.”

Here is Deming’s first stanza: “Respect the doctrine of the sun-warm earth where Life lifts sweet and peppery into the sky reaching for something warmer until it stops and knows its home.”

Writers look ahead and behind to help readers understand what man’s course should be. An essay by Yale University’s Mary Evelyn Tucker is titled, “Learning to See the Stars: The Earth Charter as a Compass for the New Century.” And another, by Mohawk Chief Jake Swamp, is called “Remembering the Ancient Path: The Original Instructions and the Earth Charter.”

According to Corcoran, “The book is a compendium of stories about how people use the Earth Charter in their intellectual lives. From the first time I met these people, I knew I wanted to capture such stories.”

— Roger Williams



Weathering the storm

Lutgers College of Business experts offer advice for tough economic times

The nation is in the throes of its worst economic crisis in decades, with rising unemployment, declining retail sales, business failures and depressed housing markets. To help Southwest Floridians gain perspective on the region's economic state and how to weather the financial storm, members of Florida Gulf Coast University's Lutgers College of Business faculty and staff offer some insight and guidance.

Gary Jackson, assistant professor of economics and director of the Regional Economic Research Institute, lays the groundwork with an overview of the regional economic outlook.



Gary Jackson

Recession, recession, recession

The U.S. recession began in January 2008, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. It's the nation's 11th such downturn since 1945.

Recessions are reductions in economic spending and activity that result in lower production and output and higher unemployment rates. Southwest Florida experienced strong expansion from 2003 to 2006, with very low unemployment rates (See chart on page 17). The region's unemployment rates began to climb in 2007 as economic activity slowed. They rose significantly in 2008, and have

continued upward this year.

As of February, seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates hit 12 percent in Lee County, 11.8 percent in Charlotte County and 9.2 percent in Collier County: The national rate was 8.9 percent and Florida's rate stood at 9.4 percent.

The factors affecting housing and financial markets have a greater impact on Southwest Florida than on much of the rest of the nation. Population growth has fueled the region's economic engine, but the global recession has made consumers more cautious, causing many to delay the purchase of a new or second home, and postpone relocation or retirement.

National consumer confidence levels have plummeted from an 90.6 in December 2007, the peak of the latest business cycle, to 37.7 in January 2009, according to Conference Board survey data.

Consumers have slowed their spending as the economy has deteriorated, putting off buying big-ticket items such as houses, cars and appliances. As a result, many companies are cutting output and workers as demand for their goods and services declines.

Taxable sales fell by more than 25 percent for Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties from November 2007 to November 2008, according to the Florida Department of Revenue.

Many economists predict the recession will officially end later this year, but that 2010 will also be a slow growth year with substantial unemployment. Higher economic growth is not expected until 2011 since it will take time to work through the housing and financial market issues. Unemployment is anticipated to gradually fall in 2010 as the economy gains steam.

A review of Southwest Florida employment listings shows the greatest availability of positions in sales/retail, health care, accounting and finance,

customer service, and information technology and software (based on monster.com for the Fort Myers/Naples area). Given the few positions listed and the number of people seeking work, however, competition for those jobs will be fierce.

A study by economist William Goodman concluded that opportunities in private education, legal, health and social services, amusement and recreation tend to grow more during economic recessions than during expansions so people seeking careers less vulnerable to business cycles might want to consider these industries.

For a broader view, the Bureau of Labor Statistics offers an Occupational Outlook Handbook that lists hundreds of types of jobs, the prospect for employment, training and education needed, earnings, job duties, working conditions and job search tips. It also provides a forecast of the 30 fastest-growing occupations and educational requirements. It's available by visiting www.bls.gov/oco/.

The small business scene

While the news media focus primarily on national and global businesses when examining the economic crisis, small businesses are the primary creators of economic and job growth, and they are grappling with the crisis as well. Although it makes the news when one large firm lays off thousands of workers, the same number of jobs can be lost one at a time through less visible small business attrition and failures.

Dan Regelski, director of the Small Business Development Center in the Lutgers College of Business, offers tips for entrepreneurs to survive in these



Dan Regelski

turbulent economic waters.

Focus on cash flow: This is more important than ever. Historical experience and trends no longer apply; small business owners should forecast their expected cash flow needs for the next six and 12 months and make hard decisions now.

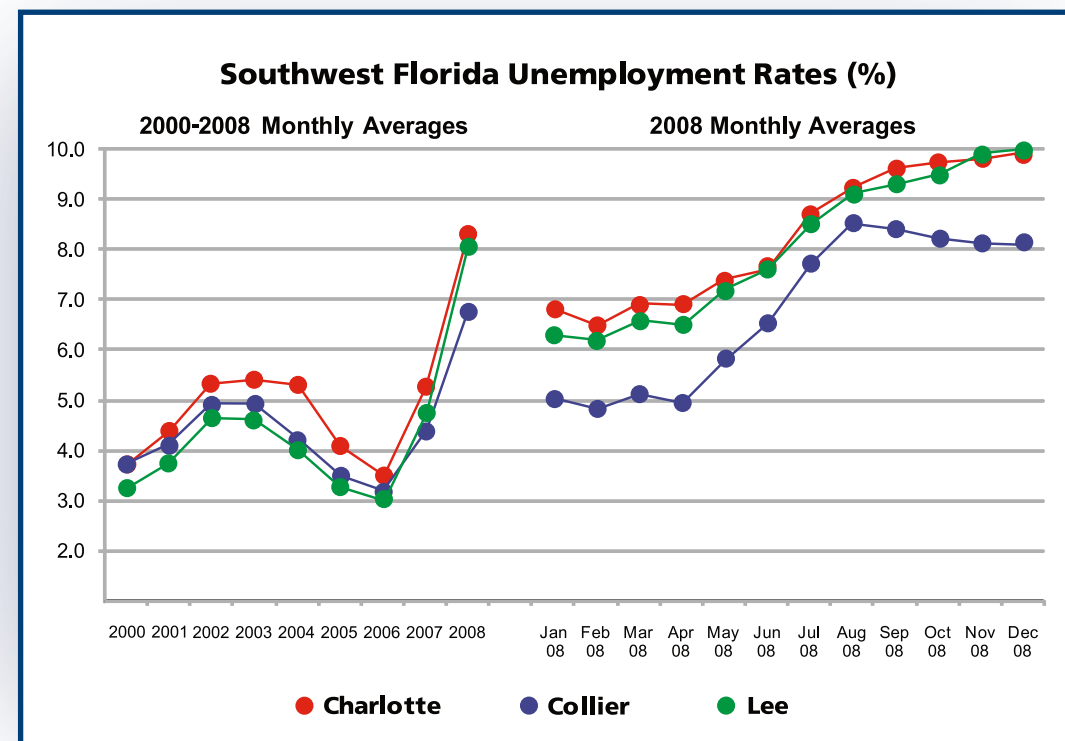
Consider changing terms on outstanding collectables: Some local firms have reduced their bills-due period from 30 to 20 days. Even a few days' decrease in average collection period can be beneficial from a cash standpoint. In considering this type of change, monitor outstanding receivables closely. Providing existing customers additional time for payment on outstanding receivables is tempting to keep their long-term business, yet risky from a cash flow standpoint.

Take a hard look at inventory and miscellaneous expenses: Consider liquidating unneeded inventory and reducing expenditures for new or additional inventory. Small firms need to operate leaner as sales and collections slow. Understanding the firm's profit and loss statement and focusing on controlling or eliminating unnecessary expenses such as telephones, cleaning services, labor and fringe benefits can improve monthly cash flow.

Assess human capital: There are many talented, experienced people who are now unemployed, giving small firms greater options in hiring and access to highly skilled workers looking for new opportunities.

Consult the experts: It is more important than ever to talk to the company's banker, accountant and lawyer. Seek advice on issues such as renegotiating or extending existing credit lines, tips for improving cash flow and minimizing taxes, and procedures and consequences involved in dealing with delinquent payments, defaulted contracts and leases, as well as bankruptcy options and costs.

Be proactive: Share the firm's current position with landlords, lenders and mortgage brokers. Now may be a great time to



re-negotiate existing terms. Landlords do not want empty offices or strip malls, and lenders want to be in the know regarding future business prospects.

Banks are still lending money to well-prepared start-ups and existing businesses. When seeking bank financing, applicants should specify exactly how much capital they seek, what it will be used for and how much personal equity they will contribute. They must demonstrate commitment to the venture, possess high personal credit scores and be able to detail how the business will generate the cash flow necessary to service the debt.

Remember customer service: Strong customer service programs are vital. Reconnect with former and current customers. The best way to survive, and ultimately grow, a business is to pay attention to customers, making sure they feel appreciated.

Investment for individuals

Steve Fraser and Travis Jones, Lutgers College of Business professors of finance, teach classes in investments and portfolio management. They offer the following advice for those looking to regroup and formulate new strategies.

The financial crisis and fall in stock markets have caused many investors to question the way forward. With substantially lower investment portfolios, a recurring question is: "What do I do now?"

The answer depends on the individual. Assuming the investor has followed the generally accepted approach of matching asset allocation with tolerance for risk, the portfolio should already be appropriately diversified, but that is an element that should be monitored on a regular basis. Regardless, it's a difficult time to make decisions about existing investments. Some historical perspective may be helpful.



Steve Fraser



Travis Jones



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Looking back

All financial markets have downward cycles. The difference in recent months has been that financial markets have experienced large declines in a fairly short period. Let's look at examples from the past few decades:

- From August 1987 to December 1987, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index dropped 33 percent.
- From March 2000 to October 2002, it dropped 49 percent;
- From October 2007 to November 2008, the S&P 500 dropped 51 percent.

These drops take quite a toll on investors' portfolios. However, financial markets also go up. It may take some time before markets move up, but history has shown that they eventually recover. Examples include:

- From December 1987 to October 1989, the S&P 500 rose 60 percent.
- From October 2002 to October 2007, it rose 101 percent.
- And from December 1987 to October 2007, it went up 599 percent.

A key insight for individual investors is that upward moves tend to take longer than downward ones. To illustrate the long-term impact of the market fall of 2008 on a portfolio, consider that if someone had invested \$1,000 in the stock market at the beginning of 2008, and experienced the subsequent market losses over the course of the year, it could take almost a decade of earning 5 percent a year before the portfolio returns to the original \$1,000 in value.

Assess needs

In general, investors should determine whether they have sufficient liquid assets (cash, certificates of deposit, government treasury notes, etc.) to cover their needs for the next four to seven years. If so, they are likely best served by maintaining their current portfolios in hopes the market will recover. Over the long term, equities generally yield higher returns than other asset classes, but they are riskier. This is one of those riskier periods. Over the next four to five years, equities should provide a higher return than other asset classes but, because the market has declined so drastically, they may not return to 2007 levels.

An investor's course of action depends largely on individual circumstance. Those who put all of their investment funds in insured savings accounts or certificates of deposit will have low risk but also low yield, a strategy not likely to keep pace with

inflation. Alternatively, buying equities at current levels might seem attractive and provide great rewards 20 to 30 years from now, but most investors would be better served with a portfolio diversified across the spectrum of investment alternatives.

Now vs. later

Investors need to make sure they do not risk funds that might be needed in the short or intermediate term. Those nearing retirement age, or who are younger and uncertain about their current employment outlook, should keep a larger percentage of their portfolios in cash and government securities, which will likely yield lower returns but allow for access to investment funds without worrying about market fluctuations.

Those who need to spend their accumulated wealth should consider protecting assets funding near-term needs from this volatile market and consider reducing their allocation to equities.

If they must take losses, they should attempt to capitalize on any tax advantages possible. Obviously, these decisions should be made after careful consideration and with input from a trusted and experienced adviser.

A young, recent college graduate with a long career ahead of earning and saving can probably afford to take more risk, while making sure to preserve access to funds that might be needed in the near term.

In general, all investors should:

Save. Continue to save and check asset allocation, making sure funds needed in the next four to seven years are in lower risk assets.

Diversify. Even a low-risk portfolio with high quality corporate or municipal bonds should hold a diversified mutual fund with low fees in lieu of individual bonds.

Continue to invest for the long-term. Some exposure to the equity markets will likely be necessary to grow a portfolio. Remember that seeking higher returns involves assuming higher risk, which, at times, includes risk such as that experienced in 2008 and 2009.

About the authors

Lutgert College of Business faculty and staff who contributed to this article are:

Howard Finch, associate dean and Alico Chair in financial management and planning

Steve Fraser, assistant professor of finance

Gary Jackson, assistant professor of economics and director of the Regional Economic Research Institute

Travis Jones, assistant professor of finance

Dan Regelski, director of the Small Business Development Center

Student rescues family from burning boat

Behzad Afshar-Naseri was getting ready for work on Dec. 19 when circumstances instead led him to a selfless act of heroism.

The Florida Gulf Coast University senior was in his Naples condo when "I heard the explosion," he says. "I could hear windows rattling and the condo vibrating. Then I heard screaming."

He threw on his flip flops and dashed outside and across the street. On the canal behind his neighbor's condominium, he saw a 24-foot Chaparral ablaze.

"There was smoke coming out of the back and kids screaming on the bow and a couple of adults," he says.

He raced to the dock and yelled to the passengers to throw him a rope. A man



Behzad Afshar-Naseri

attempted to do so, but it fell short.

Fearing the boat might explode, Afshar-Naseri leaped into the water and grabbed the rope. He began pulling the boat, but it was heavy and the canal was at low tide. Instead, he urged everyone off the boat, then helped them wade to the side of the canal and climb a barnacle-laden ladder back to land, where firefighters and emergency medical staff took over.

The boat's owner, William Nice, and

his wife, Maria, suffered burns, but their two daughters and five grandchildren were unhurt. Afshar-Naseri was treated for barnacle cuts on his foot.

Concerned about the couple, he visited William Nice at Naples Community Hospital and was invited to their home after Maria Nice, who was more seriously burned, was well enough to return home from a Tampa hospital.

The Nices were lucky he was there. Afshar-Naseri, 31, graduates in May with a degree in English (and minor in philosophy), but his college education followed four years in the Navy and summers in Minnesota working as a boat captain.

He never questioned his decision to get involved that morning.

"I didn't have to think about it a lot before jumping in," he says. "I knew what the dangers were. I knew I could possibly be doing something stupid to myself, but those people needed to get off that boat."

New program teaches teen-aged girls ABCs of breast cancer prevention

By Karen Feldman

Most teen-aged girls don't give a thought to the dangers of breast cancer, but health educators from Florida Gulf Coast University are working to change that.

FGCU health educators Pam St. Laurent and Renee McFarland are visiting high schools in Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties to teach teens how to protect themselves, their mothers and other women they love from breast cancer, the second most common cancer to strike women after melanoma.

The program is a cooperative effort between FGCU's Kleist Health Education Center and Susan G. Komen for the Cure of Southwest Florida, which supplied the \$30,000 grant.

The 45-minute course, Better Start Early, teaches girls in grades 9 through 12 about breast cancer, its signs and symptoms, ways to lessen the risk of getting it and treatments available.

When the program began in October, students filled out a survey before and after attending the program. The results clearly illustrated that students gained considerable knowledge, says St. Laurent.

After establishing that, they eliminated the survey and cut the program from an hour to 45 minutes, allowing more schools to fit it into their schedules.

The teens learn how to do breast self-exams, see a video and

get questions answered. They take home breast self-examination cards and informational pamphlets.

"We tell them that breast cancer is going to affect everybody's life," says St. Laurent. "Early detection saves lives."

Because of the Susan G. Komen grant, the program is free to schools.

Tiffany Merchant is a health teacher at Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples. She previously taught math for 21 years.

"The effect it had on the kids was incredible," Merchant says. "A big plus was Pam's presentation. It touched every kid who went in there. Hundreds of teen-aged girls – everyone in a physical education class – went through the program in two days. To hear them talking about things other than the gossip of the day in the locker room just doesn't happen."

"I've never seen a single program make such an impact on a group of high-school girls," she says. "After the program, the locker room talk was all about the program."

They spoke with their mothers, too. And it paid off.

"A freshman in one of my classes had been trying to get her 40-something mother to get a mammogram," Merchant says.

"After the course, the daughter convinced her mom to go and she found out she had breast cancer. It was caught early and the prognosis is good. I wonder if she would have taken that step if Pam and Renee hadn't been there."

For more information

To schedule Better Start Early or any other program offered by the Kleist Health Education Center, contact Renee McFarland at (239) 590-7502. For a list of programs, visit www.fgcu.edu/khec.



Flying high

Changes in lineups don't slow Eagles teams

Story by Carl Bleich/Photos by Dennis Snyder

While Florida Gulf Coast University searches for a new athletics director, the process hasn't slowed down the University's spirited teams in their second year of Division I competition.

For the second consecutive year, the women's basketball team made it to the second round of the Women's National Invitation Tournament, falling to the University of South Florida Bulls 88-81 in overtime play. (See story on page 21.)

Meanwhile, competition was steep for the job of athletics director as well, with more than 80 applicants vying for the position. A 10-person search committee pared the list to 15 and then to six finalists in late March.

FGCU officials hope to have a new director in place by July 1.

Meanwhile, Jo-Ann Nestor serves as interim director and is among the finalists for the permanent position.

"One of the best things about being an athletic director is getting to support the student athletes at their games," Nestor says. "That is something I have really enjoyed about the position. All in all, we are doing a great job right now and have a lot to be proud of."

Here's a look at how FGCU teams have fared this winter and into the spring.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Eagles freshman point guard Reggie Chambers emerged as a key player during Atlantic Sun Conference play. He was named Atlantic Sun Player of the Week for the second week of January, the first freshman in the conference to garner that honor this season.

The Eagles racked up an eight-game home winning streak that lasted from Dec. 1 to Jan. 23. FGCU upset East Tennessee State



Reggie Chambers

64-61 on Jan. 12, behind 18 points from senior Delvin Franklin. Chambers tied the game with less than a minute remaining on a lay-up after a steal, and hit the free throw that put FGCU up 62-61. Sophomore guard Reed Baker also had 12 points and seven steals in that contest.

The Eagles finished the season with an 11-20 record overall and a 7-13 A-Sun conference record. FGCU did not shy away from taking on tough teams this season. The team has played defending national champ Kansas, as well as Florida, Michigan and Butler. All four teams have been ranked in the top 25 at some point during the year.

"We have made it a priority to schedule the highest competition possible," FGCU coach Dave Balza says. "We feel that playing against such a high level of competition will serve to make us a better team in the long run."



Delvin Franklin

WOMEN'S TENNIS

FGCU women's tennis coach Jennifer Magley Gabou says her team is giving its all and that effort will pay off over time.

"I know that we have one of the hardest-working teams in the country," Gabou says. "In the next couple years, I see FGCU tennis becoming competitive with our in-state rivals including Florida International University, University of South Florida, Florida State University and the University of Florida."

The women's tennis team opened the season with matches against four Florida teams. They fell 7-0 to the University of

(continued on page 22)

Lady Eagles make it to second round in post-season play

Coach Karl Smesko's Lady Eagles soared in Division II and have continued to do so in Division I, despite the departure of most of the upperclassmen.

A lack of seniors didn't hold back the 2008-2009 basketball team, which had a record of 26-5 (17-3 in the A-Sun), good enough to win the Atlantic Sun Conference championship and an invitation to play in the Women's National Invitational Tournament for the second straight year.

"We have made some positive strides this season," Smesko says. "Our freshmen have come in and done a really good job. The Atlantic Sun is stronger than it has ever been and we were able to remain competitive."

Smesko was named the A-Sun Coach of the Year while junior forwards Adrienne McNally and Chelsea Lyles were named to the All-Conference first team and guard Kelsey Jacobson earned Freshman of the Year honors.

The team racked up a 17-game winning streak, defeating George Washington at home in a thrilling first round game, pulling out a 97-94 win in double overtime.

The second-round tournament game played March 21 against USF in Tampa's Sun Dome went into overtime, too, with the Eagles falling to the Bulls, 88-81.

"I just think they out-toughed us in the second half," Smesko said after the game.

Still, he's upbeat about the past season and optimistic about next year, when the team is expected to return intact since this year's team included five freshmen and no seniors.

"I think the capabilities for building something special are there," Smesko told the Naples Daily News after the game. "But at the same time, you have to be hungry."

The Eagles began their 17-game winning streak Jan. 10, and carried it through the electrifying game against GW.

Juniors Lyles and McNally have emerged as the team's main scoring threats, each averaging 14 points and six rebounds per game.

FGCU's closest win of the season came Feb. 21, when the team topped Jacksonville 68-67. Jacobson drilled a 3-pointer with less than two seconds remaining for the victory.

In the 2006-2007 season, the Lady Eagles played for the Division II National Championship. The 2007-2008 team, which featured six seniors, made it to the second round of the WNIT in the program's first year in Division I. The team must complete four Division I seasons before it is eligible to compete in A-Sun or NCAA tournaments.



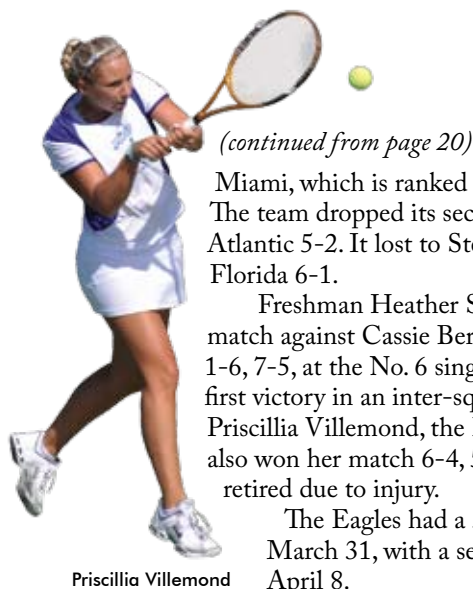
Adrienne McNally



Coach Karl Smesko



From left, Kristine Herman, Kelsey Jacobson, Emma Beddome and team celebrate winning the first WNIT game.



(continued from page 20)

Miami, which is ranked No.13 in the nation. The team dropped its second contest to Florida Atlantic 5-2. It lost to Stetson 7-0 and to Central Florida 6-1.

Freshman Heather St. John won a three-set match against Cassie Bergeson of FAU 6-1, 1-6, 7-5, at the No. 6 singles spot to earn her first victory in an inter-squad match as an Eagle. Priscillia Villemond, the Eagles' No. 2 player, also won her match 6-4, 5-5, when her opponent retired due to injury.

The Eagles had a 5-11 record as of March 31, with a season that runs through April 8.

MEN'S TENNIS

FGCU coach J. Webb Horton traveled the globe to bring in players for his squad this season. FGCU's roster boasts six players from other countries, three from Brazil and one each from Singapore, Ecuador and Australia.

Horton is excited about the way the top of his lineup looks with junior Thibaud Aime and senior Brenton Bacon.

"We are very dangerous at the top of our lineup," Horton says. "The doubles play of Thibaud and Brenton has been outstanding."

The Eagles fought hard in three consecutive matches against in-state opponents in mid-February. They fell 7-0 to Central Florida, Stetson and Florida A&M. As of March 31, the Eagles had a 5-9 record. Their last meet is April 15.



Brenton Bacon

MEN'S GOLF

March 10 marked a big day for the Eagles men's golf program when it finished first out of 12 teams at the North South Intercollegiate Tournament in Jacksonville. The Eagles shot 544 over two days as a team, 10 strokes better than second place Jacksonville University.

FGCU's Kyle Hammond and Daniel Mazziotta both finished tied for third place with 36-hole totals of 134 (six under par) to lead the Eagles. Hammond shot 65-69, and Mazziotta shot 67-67.

The win was Jim Suttie's team's second team title of the season.

"With Dr. Suttie at the team's head position, this particular team has the opportunity to learn the greatest game under one of the most knowledgeable golf minds of their time," FGCU assistant coach Brent Jensen says. "Not everyone has that luxury for four years."

The Eagles also scored back-to-back wins over Villanova on March 5 and 6. Mazziotta and Mike Hart led the Eagles by each firing a 36-hole total of 147.

WOMEN'S GOLF

FGCU finished second in the Northern Illinois University Springlake Invitational in Sebring on March 6. The team was led by Kastania Toomalatai's 36-hole total of 152. The team finished with 617, 18 strokes behind champion Lynn University.

Amber Peterson led FGCU to a seventh-place finish in the Eastern Kentucky University El Diablo Spring Invitational in Citrus Springs on March 12. Peterson finished with a 54-hole total of 231.

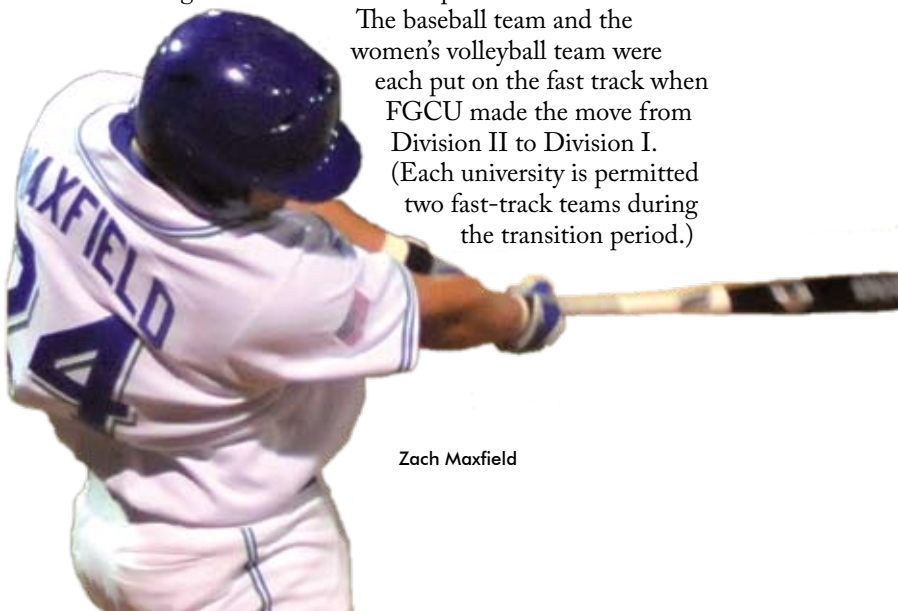
The future is bright for the Eagles women as the team has no seniors on the roster. The program is guided by former players Brittany Bertilson and Heather Hagerman, both in their first year of coaching the team.

"Taking over such a young team in my first year of college coaching I knew there were going to be some challenges that I as a coach and the team would have to overcome to be competitive throughout our tournament schedule," Bertilson says. "Look for the FGCU women's golf team to be a top contender in the A-Sun Conference next season."

BASEBALL

Unlike every other Eagles male athletic program, the baseball team will be eligible for the 2009-2010 postseason.

The baseball team and the women's volleyball team were each put on the fast track when FGCU made the move from Division II to Division I. (Each university is permitted two fast-track teams during the transition period.)



Zach Maxfield



Chris Sale



Mikel Alvarez

The Eagles are also the defending Atlantic Sun Conference champions.

"We hope to gain experience for next year's run to the postseason," FGCU coach Dave Tollett says. "We are hoping this team gets better as we go to get experience for next year."

As of March 31, the Eagles had a 14-12 record and an 8-4 record in conference play. FGCU earned an 8-3 victory over rival University of South Florida on Feb. 28 at Swanson Stadium. Shortstop Steven Wickens, second baseman Mikel Alvarez and catcher Robert Greene each had two RBI in the game.



Eagles coach Dave Deiros gives Jessica Paez a hug while Lauran Ziegler and other team members congratulate her after she scored the winning run over Michigan State.

SOFTBALL

The Eagles softball team has had a stellar season, ranking No. 19 in the nation as of March 31, with a 37-5 record that included a 24-game winning streak. One major reason for that success is senior third baseman Cheyenne Jenks, named one of 25 finalists for the 2009 USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year Award.

"Our softball team has played very well so far," FGCU coach Dave Deiros says. "I believe we have one of the most potent offenses in the country and that gives us the luxury of experimenting with our pitching staff and defensive rotations so that we can find the right matches and strategies."

One of the team's sweetest wins came Feb. 21, when it topped No.13 DePaul 5-4 at home. Over spring break, the team compiled a 6-0 record at the Malihini Tournament in Hawaii.

The top 10 finalists for player of the year will be named May 6, with the field narrowing to three May 20. The winner will be announced before the 2009 BCAA Women's College World Series.

— Carl Bleich is a freelance writer and FGCU student.



Dana Frantz



Cheyenne Jenks

Sports Calendar

Tuesday, April 21

Women's Softball vs. Stetson* (DH)
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Thursday, April 23

Women's Softball vs. Belmont* (DH)
5 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Friday, April 24

Men's Baseball vs. USC Upstate*
6 p.m., Swanson Stadium

Saturday, April 25

Men's Baseball vs. USC Upstate* (DH)
1 p.m., Swanson Stadium

Women's Softball vs. Lipscomb* (DH)
2 p.m., FGCU Softball Complex

Tuesday, April 28

Men's Baseball vs. Florida International
6 p.m., Swanson Stadium

Tuesday, May 5

Men's Baseball vs. Florida Atlantic
6 p.m., Swanson Stadium

Thursday, May 14

Men's Baseball vs. Stetson*
7 p.m., Swanson Stadium

Friday, May 15

Men's Baseball vs. Stetson*
7 p.m., Swanson Stadium

Saturday, May 16

Men's Baseball vs. Stetson*
1 p.m., Swanson Stadium

*A-Sun Conference game

FIRM FOUNDATION



With new building, engineering program comes of age

Story by Karen Feldman/Photos by Ed Clement

Like the structures its graduates will one day build, the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering has grown from a modest foundation to a grand edifice.

The \$24.4-million Holmes Hall, which officially opened in January, has provided the University's engineering faculty and students with a state-of-the-art home of their own for the first time since the program began in fall 2005.

Less than four years later, the school's enrollment totals 500 students – 80 percent in engineering (divided among civil, environmental and bioengineering) and 20 percent in computer science.

And, in yet another sign that the

program has come of age, the first 20 engineering majors graduate May 3.

"We developed our engineering programs based on the latest pedagogical research that supports the benefits of active and collaborative learning and on recommendations from the National Academy of Engineering for what it takes to be a 21st-century engineer," says Susan Blanchard, founding director of the school. "Our goal is to graduate engineers who will contribute to Southwest Florida by being entrepreneurial as well as technically competent and who will become community leaders."

That's become logistically easier to do with the completion of the 70,000-square-foot Holmes Hall.

Prior to its opening, faculty had offices in modular units on one end of campus while classes and labs met in the

Library, Academic Building 3, Lutgert, Griffin, Reed and Whitaker halls. The school now has a four-story structure dedicated to, and specifically designed for, its programs and projects.

"I didn't have much contact with the students before," says Blanchard. "Now I see them all the time. It's much more personal."

Students think the new facility is a perfect fit.

"It means so much to the faculty and students to finally have a building we can call our own," says Jessica Sharpe, a senior majoring in environmental engineering. "Before, anytime we wanted to talk to the professors, we had to make that long trek. Now they are right down the hall."

Highlights of the new building include:



Susan Blanchard, founding director of the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering

- A two-story laboratory, known as a high bay, with a bridge crane that enables students to move heavy equipment and materials such as concrete and steel, in order to build tall test structures indoors.
- Thirty-six offices for engineering faculty, staff and academic advisers as well as 10 carrels for graduate students
- Fourteen teaching spaces containing studio lab classrooms, teaching labs, computer labs and design studios
- A walkway from the Ginn Clubs & Resorts Atrium connects it to Lutgert Hall, home of the

Lutgert College of Business, a tangible symbol of the University's commitment to an interdisciplinary approach to both the engineering and business curricula

It's a building with facilities designed for the exacting and highly technical work engineering and computer science require as well as study areas tailored to collaborating and lounges that encourage socializing.

"We tried very hard to think about where students were going to be when they're not in class," says Blanchard, who was intimately involved in every phase of the building's development.

Where possible, the designers used green technology, such as motion-sensitive lights in common areas that shut off when there's no one there. Clerestory windows bring natural light into areas that would otherwise be lit solely by electrical sources. Labs are built one on top of the next on each floor, allowing for the stacking of fume hoods and installation of a more efficient air handling system.

FGCU's engineering program was launched with a \$5-million lead gift from The Whitaker Foundation to build Holmes Hall. It is named in honor of G. Burr Holmes, chair of the foundation, and his wife, Ruth Whitaker Holmes, daughter of U.A. Whitaker.

Through their life's work and affiliation with The Whitaker Foundation, the Holmeses have made substantial philanthropic contributions to FGCU and other institutions throughout the nation in support of scientific research and education. Those funds were matched by the state and other capital funding.

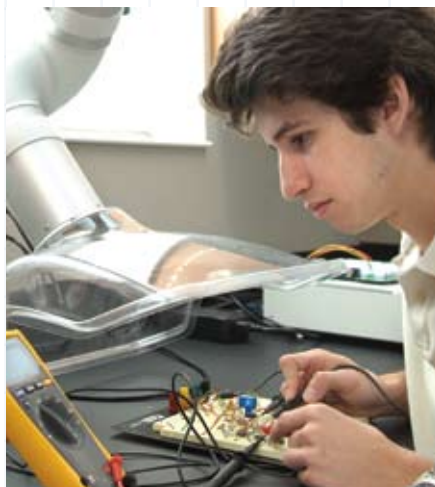
"Support from generous donors and the state made it possible to design and build Holmes Hall with all of the features needed to help the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering move toward achieving its vision of being internationally recognized for excellence in interdisciplinary engineering and computing education," Blanchard says.

The building architects were Schwab, Twitty & Hanser (STH Architectural Group). The builder was Kraft Construction Company.

The goal of the school is to educate the next generation of engineers who will be able to tackle the many aspects of construction, technological advancement and environmental protection a developing area like Southwest Florida requires.

Bioengineering major Stephanie Mooney of Fort Myers enjoys being one of the program's pioneers.

"Being the first class makes it a whole different world," she says. "At many universities, you have classes with a hundred people in them. We have



Bioengineering junior Arley Perez troubleshoots a circuit design in a lab in Holmes Hall.



Students Robby Donnelly, left, Jacqueline Hardy and Joshua Johnson work with Associate Professor Kristine Cavanaugh on the Home Lift, Position and Rehabilitation chair, a prototype on loan from the National Institute of Standards and Technology.



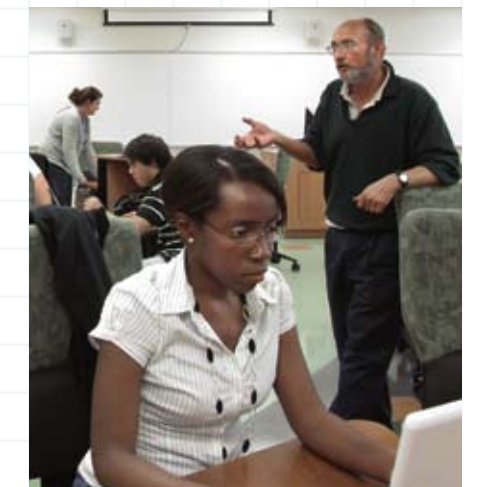
Seniors Jessica Sharpe, left, Grable Walls and Jennifer Thomas work on a sustainable water treatment system design using solar power.



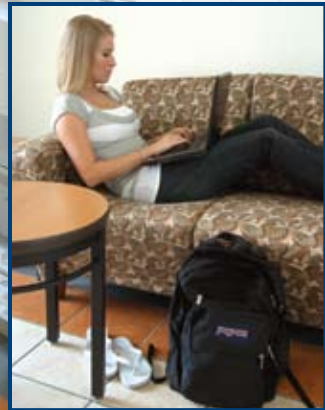
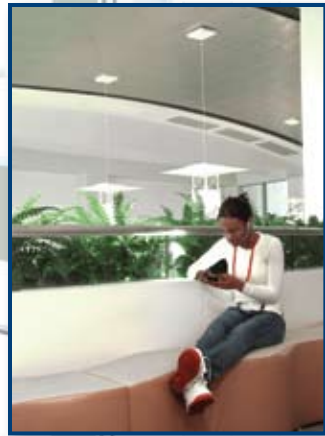
Assistant Professor Tanya Kunberger explains the process of compaction testing to student Travis Pender during a soil mechanics class.



Professor James Sweeney, center, observes bioengineering seniors Stephanie Mooney and Thomas Sweeney perform a blood pressure measurement experiment.



Associate Professor Simeon Komisar, right, guides Tricha Louis and other students in the Senior Design II class, in which they tackle design problems, factoring in constraints such as cost, societal and environmental impact.



Holmes Hall offers students a variety of areas in which to collaborate, study and relax between classes.

classes of five. You really have a personal relationship with each one of your professors.”

She plans to pursue a graduate degree in biomechanics.

Jessica Sharpe had a bachelor’s degree in environmental health and was working for a local engineering firm when she decided to return to school to obtain a degree in environmental engineering. She earned her first degree 10 years ago and went back to school with the goal of obtaining her Professional Engineer credentials.

“I fell in love with the educational practices. It was really surprising for me,” she says. “I had a rebirth. I regained that creativity you can lose after working in the same field for so long. I owe that

to the faculty at FGCU.”

She believes being part of the first graduating class benefitted her, too.

“In larger engineering schools, there’s so much research going on, much of the faculty is dedicated to research with teaching assistants running the classes,” she says. “For students, it’s so beneficial to have professors in the room delivering lectures, helping you with homework and research projects.

“The faculty are so dedicated to growing the program. They have a different energy level. They have the ability to pave the program in whatever directions they want to.”

Wendi Gohl of Lehigh Acres transferred from FGCU’s biotechnology program to civil engineering. Consid-

ering her background, it was a natural move.

“I’ve wanted to be an engineer since I was little,” she says. “It runs in my family. I’ll be engineer number six” – joining her father, uncle, great uncle, two cousins and a brother-in-law in the profession.

“I’ve always liked buildings and structures,” she says. “My favorite is bridge engineering.”

While she’s now applying to graduate school, her longer-term goals are to work in the private sector and volunteer her time and expertise.

“I want to work for a religious organization and help build churches and other buildings in poor countries,” she says.

Blanchard expects the program and its technologically sophisticated building to attract growing numbers of engineering majors seeking to build successful careers and a better world.

“Being a part of developing a new school of engineering has been one of the most exciting things I have ever done,” says Blanchard. “It has been a team effort from the arrival of the first faculty, who helped design the educational programs and the building to house them, until now when we have moved into Holmes Hall and are graduating the first class, a truly transformative event for the region.

“We could not have done this without the support of The Whitaker Foundation, Drs. Burt and Ruth Holmes, everyone at FGCU, and the community at large, but, most importantly, we could not have done this without the students who came to be a part of our first graduating class – and the parents who supported their decision. They were courageous and trusted us to provide them with a quality education. I want to thank them for putting that trust in us. We have high hopes for the contributions they will make to the region as 21st-century engineers.”



Why donors gave

U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering/Holmes Hall: “Engineering is so important. We live in a global society, an age of speed and technology. The University was ready for an engineering school, but needed a way to get there. Our gift was a catalyst, an investment in the University and an enhancement for the community. It’s attracting intelligent, creative students who will hopefully graduate and stay here. The stage is set for the program to blossom. There’s an opportunity now to support scholarships, equipment purchases, research and eminent scholars. This is a difficult time, but it’s also an exciting time. We hope the community now will join us in supporting this important program.”

– G. Burt and Ruth W. Holmes, former chairs, The Whitaker Foundation

Hole Montes Lecture Hall: “It’s important for our community to establish a resource for young professionals in the engineering field. The University is such a valuable resource for our community and we felt compelled to provide support in a significant way.”

– Tom Taylor, president, Hole Montes, Inc.

Johnson Engineering Lobby: “Johnson Engineering looks to local graduates to continue our tradition of excellence in the community. The Johnson Engineering Lobby is our latest effort to help create and attract the leaders of tomorrow.”

– Steven Morrison, president, Johnson Engineering, Inc.

Arthrex Biomechatronic Research Lab: “We recognize the benefits that collaboration provides to Arthrex, FGCU, the students and the community. The company plans to leverage FGCU’s research facilities and personnel as an adjunct to our own resources in the development of new and innovative medical devices. Arthrex is proud to sponsor one of the main research labs at FGCU dedicated to this important research.”

– Frank Maas, vice president for engineering and RA/QA, Arthrex, Inc.

Johnson-Prewitt & Associates High Bay: “Johnson-Prewitt & Associates recognizes that Southwest Florida needs engineers with good technical training and FGCU’s new engineering curriculum can fill this need. Johnson-Prewitt & Associates looks forward to someday having an FGCU graduate working in our Clewiston office.”

– Tommy Perry, president, Johnson-Prewitt & Associates, Inc.

GRAEF Conference Room: “By supporting the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering, GRAEF is making an investment in our future engineers – our future employees, dedicated individuals who’ll meet the challenges of tomorrow by providing the critical infrastructure that will help Southwest Florida prosper and grow.”

– Chad Luttrell, vice president, GRAEF

Owen-Ames-Kimball Student Lounge: “With engineering being a large part of the substructure that makes up the construction industry, we are extremely proud of FGCU, our local University, for developing an engineering program. We feel it will pay large dividends to our industry, our community and the students.”

– David J. Dale, president, Owen-Ames-Kimball Company

Davidson Engineering Student Club Room: “We made a donation to the FGCU U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering because we are a local civil engineering firm with deep roots in the Southwest Florida area and are very excited about having this top-notch resource in our community. We want to do our part to help make it the best and see it succeed.”

– Jeff Davidson, president, Davidson Engineering, Inc.

Florida Engineering Society Calusa Chapter Student Club Room: “One of our society’s primary missions is to support engineering education and provide opportunities to future generations of engineers. This donation allowed for the members of our local chapter to give directly to FGCU’s engineering students and help further the growth of the U.A. Whitaker School of Engineering.”

– Dan Waters, president, Florida Engineering Society Calusa Chapter



To donate

For more information on Holmes Hall and opportunities for named spaces, contact Susan Blanchard at (239) 590-7390 or Linda Lehtomaa at (239) 590-1071.

FGCU Foundation investments built on sound principles

By Donald (Chip) Lesch

On behalf of the Foundation Board and its finance committee, I would like to share some thoughts with you regarding the University's endowment as we navigate our way through these extraordinarily challenging times.

It now seems standard procedure to wake up each day to sobering headlines. It's clear we are in the midst of the worst global economic downturn in decades. Uncertainty sometimes seems to be our only certainty.

What has become clear is that we are living through much more than a bump in the road. Our entire economic landscape has fundamentally changed, and we are being forced to adapt to those changes every day. Tough as it seems, it is our collective obligation to face this situation with a proper balance of short-term insights and well-focused long-term goals.

Let me briefly share the University Foundation's approach to managing the endowment during this time of extreme economic uncertainty and highlight the status and performance of the Foundation's investments to date.

Overall, I believe the Foundation's endowment is well positioned to navigate through these difficult times. With the guidance of our investment consultant, Hammond and Associates, the commitment of our staff and the oversight of our finance committee, I feel we are adhering to a set of investment principles that have stood the test of time and will continue to do so. These cornerstone principles are:

1. A commitment to a long-term investment horizon.
2. Broad diversification of asset classes. Our portfolio has 58 percent in equities, 31 percent in fixed income, 9 percent in real assets and 2 percent in private equity.
3. Selecting investment managers based on long-term track records of superior performance and management tenure. We currently have 12 investment managers. Over the past five years, nine of our managers were in the top quartile, two were in the second quartile and one was in the third quartile. None finished in the bottom quartile.
4. A focus on risk as much as return.
5. A desire for full transparency and disclosure, independence in reporting results, third-party oversight and reasonable liquidity. We choose not to invest in any type of hedge fund.

In terms of performance, for the year ending Dec. 31, the endowment portfolio was down 27.8 percent (net of management fees). This placed the portfolio in the 60 percent range, based on the National Association of College and University Business Officers 2008 endowment performance results. This means our performance exceeded that of 60 percent of the institutions assessed by the association.

Going forward we plan to adhere to the cornerstone investment principles mentioned above, and to continually challenge our asset allocations and investment manager selections to ensure we always have the best ideas on the table. Times of uncertainty often breed panic and short-term reactions that may not prove beneficial in the long term. We must continually remind ourselves of the long journey ahead.

I hope and expect when people look back at this period in Florida Gulf Coast University's history, they will characterize it as a time when prudent action and deliberate planning saw this University through perilous times and allowed it to flourish for years to come.

— Donald (Chip) Lesch is treasurer for the University Foundation Board of Directors and vice chairman and president of The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company.



Donald (Chip) Lesch

“Overall, I believe the University Foundation's endowment is well positioned to navigate through these difficult times.”

— Donald (Chip) Lesch

Brazilian dinner showcases new Vester field station

With a luminous full moon shining down upon them, Florida Gulf Coast University friends and faculty gathered Jan. 9 for a festive evening at the Norm and Nancy Vester Marine and Environmental Science Research Field Station in Bonita Springs.

FGCU benefactors Norm and Nancy Vester hosted a Brazilian barbecue during which guests were able to speak with members of the University's marine and environmental science faculty who shared their expertise and special environmental passions.

Guests were also able to get acquainted with the University's new waterfront laboratory and marina, where faculty and students conduct research into the effects of red tide on marine organisms, ways to restore mangroves and sea grasses and the effects of rising sea levels on coastlines and ecosystems, among many other projects.

The field station serves as a primary center for vital marine research that advances the University's green initiatives.



From left, Connie McIntosh; Steve McIntosh, FGCU Foundation vice chairperson; Barbara DuFrane, FGCU Foundation board member; Adele Waddell and Bob Waddell



From left, Darlene McCloud, FGCU Foundation director of Major Gifts; Edward Andrew; Aswani Voley, FGCU Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences chairman; and Edith Andrew

Bear market creates attractive opportunities for donors

By Kimberly Leach Johnson



Kimberly Leach Johnson

The current gloomy state of the economy presents some advantageous opportunities for donors.

Planned gifts, such as bequests in wills, have long been staples of estate giving. Testamentary gifts are the final opportunity for donors to make investments in causes in which they believe. These gifts also protect the interest of families because they provide flexibility and revocability in times of need. Bequests can specify a fixed or residual amount or a percentage that would be donated to Florida Gulf Coast University. That designation can be modified as family circumstances change.

In addition to bequests, there are two life-income gifts that are recession-proof: charitable gift annuities and charitable lead trusts.

Charitable gift annuities are often described as win-win gifts. These are simple contracts between donors and the FGCU Foundation whereby donors give the University a set amount

of money and in return receive guaranteed income for life at a fixed interest rate, along with several tax benefits. The charitable remainder value for the University can be assigned to a donor's favorite academic program, scholarship, research initiative, sports team or other area of interest. The annuity rate varies according to the age of the donor. The fixed rate for a 73-year-old donor, for example, is an attractive 6 percent.

Charitable lead trusts allow affluent donors with taxable estates of \$3.5 million or more to remove a portion of their assets, distribute fixed or variable charitable payments to Florida Gulf Coast University for a specified number of years, and then pass those assets on to their heirs.

These trusts are particularly advantageous now because the IRS uses a special rate to calculate the trust's growth. The IRS rate for February was at an historic low of 2 percent. The lower the IRS rate, the lower the projected remainder value of the trust. If the trust grows faster than 2 percent over the life of the trust, those gains can pass to heirs tax free. The lower IRS rate also results in a lower gift tax, if any.

The charitable bequest is a flexible means of investing social capital, the charitable gift annuity is a smart way to create an attractive fixed interest rate annuity and the charitable lead trust is a great option for wealthy donors who wish to remove a portion of their assets from their taxable estates, support FGCU, then pass the assets on to their heirs.

For more information, see your trust and estate attorney.

— Kimberly Leach Johnson practices trust and estate administration for Quarles & Brady LLP in Naples and serves on the Planned Giving Advisory Committee at the FGCU Foundation.

Golfers raise funds for FGCU

Golfers and sponsors contributed more than \$60,000 during the 17th annual Florida Gulf Coast University Founder's Cup Golf Tournament last fall.

The event, held on The Club at Mediterra's two Tom Fazio-designed courses, raises funds for the FGCU Foundation. This tournament brings the total raised through the annual event to more than \$850,000.

"We are fortunate to have such a hardworking and generous business community," says FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw. "The funds raised from the tournament on the amazing Mediterra courses will be used in Southwest Florida to enhance our programs in the sciences, education and athletics."

Along with Bonita Bay Group, other major sponsors of the 2008 tournament included: Estero Bay Chevrolet, AJAX Building Corp., Five County Insurance, Johnson Controls, Kraft Construction, Service Painting, Wayne Wiles Floor Coverings, University Housing Service and GRAEF.

"Bonita Bay Group has supported this tournament since 1991, and we are proud to be a part of this successful event," says Brian Lucas, Bonita Bay Group vice chairman.

Low gross winner on Mediterra's North Course was the Coleman Hazzard foursome. Bonita Bay Group's team was the low gross winner on Mediterra's South Course.

The 18th annual Founder's Cup is set for Oct. 12 at Mediterra.

For details

For information about the 2009 FGCU Founder's Cup or to request an invitation, contact the FGCU Foundation at (239) 590-1074 or visit www.fgcu.edu/foundation/events.html.



From left: Jim Hahn, Bill Hazzard, John Callis and Michael Coleman, all of Coleman Hazzard, were the low gross winners in the 17th Annual FGCU Founder's Cup Golf Tournament at Mediterra's North Course.



From left: Trey Brady, David Lucas, Brian Lucas and Joey Garon, of the Bonita Bay Group team, were the low gross winners in the Founder's Cup Golf Tournament at Mediterra's South Course.

Good-natured dare pays off with endowed scholarship

When it comes to raising money for Florida Gulf Coast University, Steve McIntosh is willing to dress up – literally.

The FGCU Foundation vice chairperson proved it last fall, bringing in a \$10,000 scholarship for his efforts.

It began with a Halloween party at which McIntosh and his wife, Connie, dressed as members of the Addams Family. During the party, Bill and Marilyn Lightner of Bonita Springs struck a deal with McIntosh: If he would wear his Wednesday Addams costume the following day to an event at Pelican's Nest Golf Course, they would endow a scholarship.



Marilyn and Bill Lightner

The next morning, McIntosh showed up at the golf course sporting the requisite black dress, black tights and the trademark pigtails of Gomez and Morticia Addams' only daughter.

He gamely stepped up to the tee and took the agreed upon number of swings, after which the Lightners presented him with a \$10,000 check to endow the M. William and Marilyn Lightner Scholarship Fund. It will be awarded to deserving students majoring in accounting.



Steve McIntosh as Wednesday Addams

In explaining their motivation, the Lightners say, "During the 10 years we have lived in Southwest Florida, we have been very impressed with the astonishing growth of FGCU and wanted to offer an accounting scholarship so that we could feel attached in some small way to the school's success."

McIntosh is grateful to the Lightners for their generous gift.

"At times like these," he says, "it takes extraordinary acts by extraordinary people to keep the spirit of generosity alive."



From left: Richard Pegnetter, dean, Lutgert College of Business; Wilson G. Bradshaw, FGCU president; Carol Burnette, former associate dean for enrollment management, Lutgert College of Business; and Jim Burnette

Burnettes endow scholarship for part-time MBA students

Carol and Jim Burnette donated \$10,000 to establish the Carol and Jim Burnette Endowed Graduate Scholarship Fund. Scholarships will go to graduate students in the Lutgert College of Business Master of Business Administration program.

"We feel very fortunate to have received scholarship assistance while completing our graduate degrees from the Florida system of higher education, and to have enjoyed successful careers within this system for more than 30 years," says Carol Burnette, who retired recently as Lutgert College of Business associate dean for enrollment management. "We realized scholarships for part-time graduate students are limited. Therefore we focused on helping graduate students within the MBA program, which traditionally has the largest enrollment of part-time students."



From left: Earle and Barbara Borman, Rick and Lori Borman

Naples couple pay tribute to parents with scholarship

Rick and Lori Borman of Naples have donated \$10,000 to establish the Naples Town Hall Scholarship in Honor of Barbara and Earle Borman Endowed Fund to benefit FGCU students with financial need.

Rick and Lori Borman own and co-produce Naples Town Hall Distinguished Speakers, which sponsors an annual series of four lectures by prominent individuals.

Barbara and Earle Borman, Rick's parents, previously owned the series, passing it to their son and daughter-in-law last May.

"Earle and Barbara have always supported education and the arts. This seemed like a fitting way for Lori and me to say thank you and create a gift that will endure," says Rick Borman.

Alumna gives back to FGCU

Helping students who are the first among their siblings to attend college is the goal of the Cynthia A. Bennett Scholarship Endowed Fund. Cynthia Bennett, '99, earned a bachelor's degree in finance at FGCU and has served as president of FGCU's Alumni Association. She donated \$10,000 to establish the fund.



Cynthia A. Bennett

"It is with great pleasure that I am able to give back to my alma mater," she says. "FGCU has provided me with a wonderful education that has enabled me to benefit my employer and the larger community of Southwest Florida. I believe all young women and men deserve the opportunity to receive a higher education. This endowed scholarship fund is a way to give back to FGCU and make a meaningful investment in the future of young women and men."

Daughter honors father with fund

Elissa Manna of Cape Coral established The Elissa Manna Fund for Mechanical Engineering – In Memory of Anthony F. Manna.

Elissa's father, Anthony, asked that she leave part of her estate to FGCU's engineering students.

Anthony Manna dropped out of college during the Great Depression to work. He later resumed his education by taking evening classes, eventually becoming a mechanical engineer. After a successful career, he, his wife and daughter moved to North Fort Myers. He died in April 2008. Elissa Manna retired 5 years ago after 30 years with the Lee County Tax Collector's Office.

She urges recipients not to fear hard work and "in the engineering field, do not be afraid to think outside the box."



Anthony Manna



Doug Bladich

Sweet success

Alumnus grows business from senior thesis

Story and photos by Lindsey Touchette

The sweet life means something different to almost everyone. Doug Bladich, '03, and his wife, Heather, define it as running their own hair salon, which they call Dolce Vita – Italian for “sweet life.”

The young entrepreneurs opened Dolce Vita Hair Salon in Naples in 2006, using the research Bladich, 36, did during his final year at Florida Gulf Coast University.

A communication major, Bladich attributes the salon's success to his FGCU education, a variety of career and life experiences and his wife's creativity.

Knowing he wanted to open a salon with Heather, a talented stylist, Bladich used his senior thesis to apply his education to real-life business endeavors, creating both a communication and business model as part of Associate Professor Maria Roca's senior capstone class.

The business plan focused on what was possible to accomplish with the money and resources he had available. The communication plan defined the salon's philosophy, mission and training program.

After he graduated, Bladich spent three years working as a substitute teacher, legal assistant and park ranger while also meeting with bankers, real estate agents and lawyers as he prepared to launch Dolce Vita.

The research he did for his senior thesis helped familiarize him with the legal, logistical and physical requirements of operating a business, knowledge that soon proved invaluable in making sound decisions as he started his venture.

“What I learned from my time at FGCU has helped me excel in the business world,” Bladich says.

Roca, an associate professor of communication, isn't surprised by her former student's success.

“He was a wonderful student who took his senior project very seriously and used it to create a very successful business,” she says. “It is very gratifying to know that work students do for a class has real-world application. Doug always brought a blend of intellectual curiosity, pragmatism and humor to the classroom. He was one of those students who you knew would succeed.”

While operating a hair salon may seem an unlikely pursuit for a communication major, it makes use of both his education and life experiences.

His first exposure to the business world came before he entered college, when he and his brother, Jim ('00, Master's, Business Management), took over the family's pool maintenance company. After growing the business, they sold it in 1998 in order to further their educations.

Bladich was drawn to study communication as a result of having traveled extensively with his family. Those experiences

instilled in him a fascination with different cultures and how they communicate.

His studies equipped him with more tools with which to promote his salon and deal successfully with the wide range of personalities he encounters as he handles the business operations, freeing his wife to concentrate on satisfying customers and training the other stylists.

“Our business philosophy is simple,” Bladich says. “We strive to create a culture of cooperation and collaborative growth with cutting-edge techniques, top-of-the-line products and brilliant stylists.”

That strategy, along with an emphasis on quality and consistency, has apparently worked, as the staff at the Park Shore Plaza salon has grown from two to seven employees.

While they put in long hours at the salon, the Bladichs manage to enjoy themselves, too, spending time with their three-year-old son, Ryan, and soaking up Florida sunshine whenever they can. They also give of their time and services to organizations such as the March of Dimes, the FGCU Alumni Association and the Lorenzo Walker Technical Institute of Technology and Technical High School.

To students considering launching their own businesses, Bladich says: “Start small and lay a foundation of quality. Ask as many questions as possible of your professors and learn from them; they are a great resource to you as a student and as alumni. The concepts and systems created while I was at FGCU have been key in setting my business apart from other area salons. The growth of the salon has only reaffirmed to me the quality and value of my FGCU degree.”

– Lindsey Touchette is the director of Alumni Relations at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Facts of life

- **Last book read:** “From Siberia to America: A Story of Survival and Success” by Boruch B. Frusztajer
- **Last movie seen:** “You Don't Mess With the Zohan”
- **Favorite place:** “Amsterdam. In my opinion, you will find the best food in the world there, especially the traditional Dutch breakfast with apple pancakes and sausage – with lots of syrup, of course.”
- **Best FGCU memory:** “I spent much of my service learning component volunteering at Florida Repertory Theatre. One evening, I volunteered with several students to assist with their celebrity fund-raiser. We spent the evening acting as if we were paparazzi as each guest arrived. To top off the evening, I was able to meet members of the band AC/DC.”



Above: Heather Bladich cuts a customer's hair.

Left: Doug and Heather Bladich

EAGLE EXTRA: Dolce Vita Hair Salon belongs to the FGCUAA Eagle Extras network. Members receive a 10 percent discount on salon services and Bumble & bumble products with presentation of a current membership card.



Showing their true colors

From left, Marie Billon, Fernand Billon, '04 (Elementary Education), FGCU President Wilson G. Bradshaw and Jeff Billon turned out to cheer on the FGCU men's basketball team at Alico Arena. The Eagles beat the University of North Florida Ospreys, 50-44.



Eagles in D.C.

FGCU graduates gathered at the Penn Quarter Sports Restaurant in Washington D.C. to watch the televised men's basketball game against University of North Florida. From left: Jeff Faramo, '04 (Marketing), Rachel DiSalvo, '05 (Communication), and Matt Hall, '06 (Political Science).



Reunion draws basketball alumni

Former FGCU basketball players and friends reunited at the Eagle FANatics Spirit Celebration after the alumni basketball game. From left: Leon Woodstock, '08 (Criminal Justice), Darrin Wallace, '05 (Liberal Studies), Kelvin Coggins, Roman Brown, '04 (Criminal Justice), Andrew Miller, '04 (Marketing), Scot Wilson, '04 (Criminal Justice), and Ryan Hopkins, '07 (Criminal Justice).



An evening of culture

Thomas DeBenedetto, '02 (Master's, Business Management), and Irma Rivera attend the opening reception for an exhibit of works by artist Carl Schwartz, an adjunct art instructor at FGCU, as well as a performance of "Exit the King" in FGCU's Black Box Theatre.

Alumni Association Happenings

April 20-22: Senior Send-off Celebration 9-11 a.m., Student Union
Graduating seniors are invited to visit the Alumni table in the Student Union during finals week to celebrate their last week on campus. Enjoy complimentary bagels and coffee and receive information on life after graduation as an Eagle.

April 21: Seats and Eats 5:30 p.m., Tailgate, Hammond Stadium, Fort Myers
7:30 p.m., FGCU vs. University of Florida baseball
Alumni are invited to cheer on the FGCU baseball team as it takes on the Florida Gators.

May 22: Alumni Art Show Opening Reception 5-8 p.m., Art Gallery, main campus

The alumni association holds an opening reception for the 2009 alumni art show, "The Formers," featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. Come out and view the impressive work of alumni who are pursuing careers in art. Free admission.

June 9: Webinar Series - Dynamic Letter Writing Noon, Virtual
Join fellow Eagles online for a free presentation by FGCU alumnus and career adviser Reid Lennertz, who will provide tips on writing effective cover and prospective letters.

Sept. 26: Dollars for Scholars 6 p.m., Beacon Bowl, 5400 Tamiami Trail, Naples
Have a ball bowling for a good cause with fellow Eagles during this fund- and friend-raiser.

Register a team of five or sign up as an individual for an evening of glow bowling to benefit the FGCU Alumni Scholarship fund. The evening will include fun, food and Eagle giveaways.

For more listings, visit www.fgcu.edu/alumni

For event details contact: Lindsey Touchette, director of Alumni Relations, at alumnirelations@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-1016.

Class Notes

■ Weddings, engagements and births

Stephanie Andrews, '06 (Liberal Arts), and Daniel Miller have announced their engagement. A May wedding is planned in Naples. Stephanie is employed by Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Daniel is a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Randall and Nick Goblirsch

Randall D. Auvil, '08 (Master's, Public Administration), and Nick Goblirsch were married Nov. 8 in Sarasota. They live in St. Louis, MO.

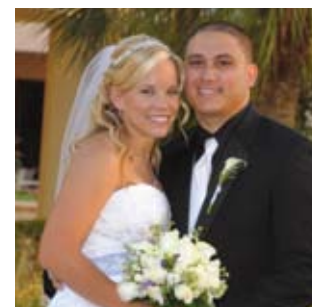


Justin and Isabel Burton

Justin Burton, '08 (Master's, Social Work), and **Isabel Vargas, '08** (Communication), were married in July. Justin is an academic coordinator for the Office of Undergraduate Advising at Florida International University. Isabel is pursuing her master's degree in mass

communications at FIU. They live in Miami.

Deidre Evans, '07 (Master's, English), and Todd Garriott recently announced their engagement. Deidre is pursuing a doctoral degree in English with a primary emphasis in rhetoric and minor in medieval literature at the University of Tennessee. They live in Knoxville, TN.



Amy and Jason Garcia

Jason Garcia, '06 (Biology), and Amy Van Atta were married Nov. 15. Jason is employed by Nestle Waters of North America-Zephyrhills Spring Water Division. He has been promoted twice since he started with the company. He began as a quality control technician then became lead microbiologist and now is the quality systems coordinator.

Sarah Griffin-Schilke, '07 (Communication), and Raymond Schilke III celebrated the birth of their first daughter, Meadow Elizabeth Schilke, on Nov. 7.



Meadow Elizabeth Schilke

Jared Holes, '08 (Accounting), and Paloma Huerta announced their engagement to family and friends.



Jared Holes and Paloma Huerta

A January 2010 wedding is planned. Jared is a staff accounting associate at Hill, Barth & King LLC.

Nicole McConnell, '06 (Biology), and Alec Monies announced their engagement to family and friends. Nicole is employed as an environmental scientist for Southwest Florida Water Management District. A spring wedding is planned at Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven.



Nicole McConnell and Alec Monies

Tommy Mooney, '06 (Management), and Heather Acton are engaged. A June wedding is planned in Fort Myers.



Tommy Mooney and Heather Acton

Tommy is in sales at Universal Pipe and Steel Supply. Heather will graduate from FGCU in May with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. She is employed by Sports Specialty and Rehab Center.

April Rogers, '07 (Nursing) and Raymond Rhodes, a computer information systems major at FGCU, were married June 7 at the Pointe Royale riverfront in Fort Myers. April is a nurse at FGCU's Wellness Center and Raymond works as a computer support specialist with the Sanibel Island Police Department. They live in Fort Myers.



April and Raymond Rhodes

Scott Stryker, '07 (Philosophy), and **Rachel Frieder, '08** (Communication), are engaged to be married in November. They live in Estero.



Rachel Frieder and Scott Stryker



Julie and Levi Pancake

Julie Swanson, '08 (Nursing), and **Levi Pancake, '07** (Communication), were married May 17, in Sarasota. Levi is the children's/college pastor at Summit Church. He is pursuing his master's degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

■ Newsmakers

'00 Jeffrey Berry,

(Master's, Business Administration), recently moved his practice to UBS Financial Services Inc. in Fort Myers. He is the first vice president and specializes in comprehensive wealth management.

Nicole Casteel, (Art), is a national board certified teacher. Certification is granted by the National Board for Professional Teacher Standards, an independent organization. Nicole is an art teacher at Gulf Coast High School in Naples.

Pam Scardina, (Accounting), is the finance manager for Lee Memorial



Jeffrey Berry

Health System in Fort Myers. She started as a bookkeeper and was promoted to financial analyst, senior financial analyst, then to finance manager in 2006. She is responsible for the external financial audit, investment portfolio and debt and treasury management area. Pam earned her master's degree in accounting from Nova Southeastern University in July 2006.

'01 Gaye Chrobak, (Nursing), received her National and Florida Health Care Administrator's license in 2008. She is currently the administrator for Heartland of Jacksonville, a 120-bed skilled nursing facility.

'02 Deborah Elias, (Master's, Public Administration), has started her own business as a hairstylist. She rents a space at Salon Fusion in Naples, specializing in fashion cutting and coloring. She is a former color educator and has attended classes in many cities including London, Amsterdam and Paris. Deborah is also an artist in her spare time.

Tina Kaestner, (Psychology), has earned her doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Nova Southeastern University. She completed an internship at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and a postdoctoral residency at the Renfrew Center. Tina recently relocated to Naples. She works in a group private practice providing therapy and testing in English and German to children, teenagers and adults.

Russell Rieder, (Management), has joined the Independence for the Blind of West Florida organization as the executive director. He formerly worked at Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers.

'03 Jerry Elliott, (Executive, Master's Business Administration), has been appointed as the chairman of the board of directors for Community Cooperative Ministries, Inc. (CCMI). Jerry is the director of the Personal Insurance Division of Oswald Trippe and Company. He also serves on the United Way of Lee County board of directors and is a member of the Business Network of Southwest Florida, an affiliated member of the Women's Council of Realtors in Fort Myers and of The Real Estate Investment Society.



Jerry Elliott



Heidi Franz-Hoyt, Eugene Hoyt and daughter Sara

Heidi Franz-Hoyt, (Communication), is working for Ave Maria University as a library associate for administration and in the marketing department as special projects coordinator. She also teaches a weekly class for the Rhodora J. Donahue Academy of Ave Maria teaching rhetoric to high school sophomores and juniors. She is working on a master's degree in communication from Marist College. Her husband, **Eugene Hoyt**, (Computer Information Systems), is an adjunct professor for FGCU teaching computer science.

Kris Koch, (History), was recently promoted to assistant general manager for the Fort Myers Miracle. He started his career as an intern for the

baseball team, then was promoted to food and beverage director in 2006.

'04 Lauren Parzynski, (Marketing), has made the dean's list at The Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, MI.

Angela Schivinski, (Marketing), is in charge of membership development for the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce. Since starting in 2007, she has implemented several successful programs including Advancing Business Leaders, a club for area businesspeople who have completed the chamber's Emerging Leaders program. Her efforts have led to more than 230 new members.



Angela Schivinski



Marc Devisse and Chris Verbeeck

'05 Marc Devisse (Marketing) and **Chris Verbeeck** (Management) from Tri-Town Construction, LLC have announced plans for the first Tri-Town Classic, a charity fishing tournament. The event, set for June 6 in Estero, will benefit Liberty Youth Ranch, which helps provide displaced children with a safe place to live and prosper. All are welcome to enter the tournament or simply support the cause by participating in the afternoon's activities. For information, contact Verbeeck at chris@tri-townconstruction.com.

'06 Tanner Fritz, (Management), and **Brett Fritz**, (Master's, Business Management), won the University of North Carolina Research Institute's seventh annual Five-Ventures Business Competition. Tanner earned his master's degree in business administration from UNC Charlotte. He is an analyst with a private investment and advisory service firm, Fern Templeton, in Charlotte, NC.

Danny Hibshman, (Management), is the lead generator/Internet research specialist with Bullseye Local Marketing, Inc. in South Florida.

Joshua Johnson, (Marketing), has accepted a position with Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance as a premier agent/adviser. The company specializes in auto, home/condo, business, farm and life insurance coverage. He lives in Michigan City, IN.

Braxton Rhone, (Management), and **Jill Rhone**, '08 (Master's, Social Work), graduated from the Growing Associates in Naples (GAIN) program in December. GAIN is designed for emerging leaders and professionals in Collier County.



Antoinette Savino-Biffar and John Biffar

Antoinette Savino-Biffar (Athletic Training), and John Biffar were married on September 8, 2007, in Fort Myers and recently purchased their first home in Cape Coral. Antoinette is pursuing her second bachelor's degree in finance at FGCU. In

2002-2006, she was a member of FGCU women's cross country team. In the fall of 2008, she was a volunteer assistant coach for FGCU's men's and women's cross country team.

Kris Scheppe, (Environmental Studies), started his own computer consulting business in February 2008. He specializes in web development, networking and computer repair projects. Kris is also founder and chairman of the board of Blind Sailing Unlimited, Inc. a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to teach sailing to blind and visually impaired people. He lives on his 29-foot sailboat in North Fort Myers and is planning an expedition to become the first legally blind person to sail around the world.



Kris Scheppe

'07 Tyler Hamilton, (Management), has enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and is stationed in New Mexico. He has traveled



Tyler Hamilton, center, with parents John and Deborah Hamilton

the country for training and plans to serve as a medic.

Christopher Charles Lee, (Communication), has joined Christopher J. Lee Architects Inc. in Fort Myers as an architectural draftsman.

Janice Monteagudo, (Management), has been promoted to human resources generalist at Apollo Information Services in Fort Myers. She is also in the process of obtaining a master's degree in business administration at FGCU.

Courtney Dwyer Satkoski, (Master's, Public Administration), has been an adjunct professor at FGCU since August 2008. She teaches Integrated Core Senior Seminar and Foundations of Civic Engagement. Courtney also works in the



Courtney Dwyer Satkoski

Lee County School District as an environmental education resource teacher.

Riku Ylipelkonen, (Master's, Business Management), is the director of technical services for Polyfoam Products, Inc. a 3M Company based in the Fort Lauderdale area.

'08 Kamla-Kay McKenzie, (Master's, Business Management), is an account executive for Parr Media, an advertising agency. She works with various Harley-Davidson clients and is also a part-time model.



Kamla-Kay McKenzie

Andrew Schmid, (English), has received the Case New Holland Scholarship in Journalism from The National Italian American Foundation. Scholarship winners are selected based on academic merit and are academically outstanding, with an average GPA of 3.95. Andrew is attending Columbia University

Graduate School of Journalism and is majoring in investigative journalism.

In memoriam

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

Thomas Chuderski, '02 (Elementary Education), has lost his battle with cancer. He is survived by Kathy, his wife of 34 years, his daughter, Christina, and son, Michael. He was a teacher in Lee County.

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.

Paving the way to tradition Brick by Brick



Join your alumni association as a **lifetime member** and receive a **FREE** brick paver on the Alumni Patio (a \$175 value)! Find out more by visiting: www.fgcu.edu/alumni or by calling (239) 590-1087



Entries to 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://www.fgcu.edu/CRM/form1.asp>

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Issues 3-5

Awards or Recognitions

Douglas Harrison, College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., 2008 Excellence in the Academy, National Education Association, Dec. 23.

Carl Pacini, College of Business, Finance and Accounting, Ph.D., J.D., certified in financial forensics, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Dec. 8.

Jan Piscitelli, Family Resource Center, Eco-Healthy Child Care Endorsement, Oregon Environmental Council, Oct. 13.

Irvin D.S. Winsboro, College of Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ph.D., appointed by Florida Secretary of State Kurt Browning to the Florida Historical Marker Council in Tallahassee for a three-year term, Sept. 11.

Janusz Zalewski, College of Business, School of Engineering, Ph.D., Session Leadership at CCLI 2008 PI Conference: Enhancement of Classroom Instruction in Computer Science Using Technology, National Science Foundation, Aug. 15.

Book Publications

Jerome Jackson, William E. Davis, College of Arts and Sciences, Ecological Studies, Ph.D., "Bird Banding in North America: The First Hundred Years," Nuttall Ornithological Club Memoir No. 15, Cambridge, MA, pp. 280.

Jerome Jackson, William E. Davis, Jr., Harry F. Recher, Walter E. Boles, College of Arts and Sciences, Ecological Studies, Ph.D., "Contributions to the History of Australasian Ornithology," Nuttall Ornithological Society Memoir No. 14, Cambridge, MA, pp. 481.

Thomas Roberts, Sanders, G., Sharp, W., Research and Sponsored Programs, Ed.D., "NCURA: The Second Twenty-Five Years," National Council of University Research Administrators, Washington, DC, pp. 25.

Irvin D. S. Winsboro, College of Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ph.D., "Florida's Civil War: Explorations into Conflict, Interpretations, and Memory," Florida Historical Society Gold Series, Cocoa, FL, pp. 229.

Professional Presentations

Kevin Aho, Charles Guignon, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., "Phenomenological Reflections on Work and Leisure in America," Blue Cross/Blue Shield Ethics Center Symposium on Public Philosophy: Work, Leisure and the Quality of Life, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, Nov. 13-15.

Kevin Aho, Elena Ruiz-Aho, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., "Dostoevsky on Rage and Resentment: Counseling the Underground Man," American Philosophical Association, Philadelphia, PA, Dec. 28-31.

Anjana Bhatt, Library Services, M.A., M.L.I.S., M.S.I.R.M., "Management of Electronic/Digital Resources Workshop," Department of Library Science, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, Aug. 3.



Sheila Bolduc-Simpson

Sheila Bolduc-Simpson, Mark W. Simpson, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, M.A., "Voki and Video (Student) Production: The Hidden Agenda," 2008 ANGEL Southeast Region User Online Conference, Angel, virtual, Nov. 6.

Mark Bradshaw Busbee, College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., "The Love Engendering Letter in the Old English Apollonius of Tyre," 80th annual SAMLA Convention, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Louisville, KY, Nov. 8.

David W. Ceilley, Jason Lauritsen, Brad Cornell, College of Arts and Sciences, Ecological Studies, "Wetlands: NO NET LOSS," 2008 Audubon Assembly, Audubon of Florida, Crystal River, FL, Oct. 24-25.

Patricia Cocomma, Amanda Evans, College of Professional Studies, Social Work, Ed.D., M.S.W., "Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice," American Psychotherapy Association National Conference, San Diego, CA, July 4.

Susan Cooper, College of Education, Development - Athletic Gifts, Ed.D., "Integrating Reading and Inquiry in Secondary Science and Mathematics Classrooms," School Science and Mathematics Association Annual Convention, Raleigh, NC, Nov. 13-15.

Bob Diotalevi, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, J.D., "Copyright Dot Com: Teaching Old Dogs New Clicks," ANGEL Southeast User Group Virtual Conference, ANGEL Learning, Fort Myers, Nov. 6; "A Copyright Law Seminar," Connecting Online C009, Wiki Educator, online, Feb. 7.

Cathy Duff, Sheila Bolduc-Simpson, Curriculum and Instruction, Ed.D., "Making Your Case: Using Argumentation Strategies and the 5Cs to Develop Successful Accreditation Reports," 2008 Annual Meeting, Commission on Colleges, SACS, San Antonio, TX, Dec. 6-9.

Nicola Foote, College of Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ph.D., "Creating the Model Indian: Representations of Highland and Amazonian Indians in Ecuadorian Nationalist Discourse 1900-1950," American Historical Association Annual Conference, New York, Jan. 2-5.

Carolynne Gischel, Lynn K. Wilder, College of Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Ed.D., "Five evidence-based strategies for students with EBD in the general education classroom," Florida Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference, Sarasota, FL, Oct. 23-25.

Douglas Harrison, College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., "I Once Was Gay But Now Am Straight": Conversion Narratives and Gospel Music in the Plays of Del Shores," Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 13-16.

Melih Madanoglu, Umut Avci, Fevzi Okumus, College of Professional Studies, Resort & Hospitality Management, Ph.D., "Strategic Orientation and Firm Performance in Hospitality and Tourism in the Context of Developing Countries," 2008 Southern Management Association Meeting, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

Melih Madanoglu, Ersem Karadag, College of Professional Studies, Resort & Hospitality Management, Ph.D., "The Beauty of Going Private: The Case of the U.S. Restaurant Industry," 2008 Southern Management Association Meeting, St. Petersburg Beach, FL, Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

Charlie Mesloh, Tony Barringer and Ross Wolf, College of Professional Studies, Justice Studies, Ph.D., "Is There an Effect of Race on Police Use of Force Decisions?" annual meeting, American Society of Criminology, St. Louis, MO, Nov. 12-15.

Angela Osterman Meyer, Miller, H.; Marshall, K.; Ryle, W.; Aller, M.; Aller, H.; Balonek, T., College of Arts and Sciences, Ecological Studies, Ph.D. (Astronomy), "Optical Microvariability

and Simultaneous Multiwavelength Observations of CTA 102 (PKS J2232+1143)," Meeting #213 of the American Astronomical Society, Long Beach, CA, Jan. 4-8.

Thomas Roberts, Research and Sponsored Programs, Ed.D., "TOOLS: Office Conflict Resolution: Communication Tips for a Healthy Workplace," National Council of University Research Administrators 50th anniversary meeting, Washington, DC, Nov. 4.

Walter Rodriguez, S. Fiore (UCF), D. Carstens, D (FIT), College of Business, Computer Information Systems and Decision Sciences, Ph.D., "uCol-laborator: 3-D Simulated Platform for Collaborating Visually with Geographically-Dispersed Design Teams," Proceedings of the ASEE-EDGD Mid-Year Conference, American Society for Engineering Education, Berkeley, CA, Jan. 4-7.

Pamella Seay, Justice Studies, J.D., L.L.M., "Sun Tzu and the Art of Distance Education," E-Learn 2008 World Conference on E-Learning, Association for Advancement of Computing in Education, Las Vegas, NV, Nov. 17-21; "Hazards of Outsourcing/Off-Shoring: New Dilemmas in Florida Legal Ethics," Lunchtime Learning Continuing Legal Education Series, US Bank, Fort Myers, Dec. 4.

Jaffar Ali Shahul Hameed, Ken Brown and Ratnasingham Shivaji, College of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics and Science, Ph.D., "Positive Solutions for nXn Elliptic Systems with Combined Nonlinear Effects," American Mathematical Society Sectional Meetings, Florida Gulf Coast University, Huntsville, AL, Oct. 24-26.

Sue Slick, Dr. Dayle Upham, College of Education, Curriculum and Instruction, Ph.D., "Praise, Question, Polish, PQP: From Discussion to Peer Response," Angel South East Users Group Online Conference, Fort Myers online, Nov. 6.

Jennifer Sparrow, AMTS Dean's Office, Ed.D., "Digital Field Trips for Digital Natives: Google Earth in Higher Ed," Educause 2008 Annual Conference, Orlando, Oct. 27-31.

Dean Stansel, College of Business, Marketing and Economics, Ph.D., Economics, "Interjurisdictional Competition and Economic Growth in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," annual meeting, Southern Economic Association, Washington, DC, Nov. 20-23.

Dean Stansel, Brad Hobbs and Stephan Gohmann, College of Business, Marketing and Economics, Ph.D., Economics, "Local Government Finance and Entrepreneurial Activity in

Education professor believes in the power of play

Elizabeth Elliott doesn't tolerate play in the classroom – she encourages it. The Florida Gulf Coast University associate professor of education teaches her students how to incorporate play into the lessons they will give when they become teachers.

That's where puppets come in. "They engage a lot of people," Elliott says. "I've created a program called the Shoe Project. We often ask kids to bring things to school they can't afford, but everybody has an old pair of shoes."

Children make puppets from their worn-out footwear. They work in teams to make them, then create a story or lesson for the puppets to act out.

She's had a group that turned shoes into the Three Little Pigs. A high heel gained new life as a giraffe. One group hung flip-flops on a rope and painted vocabulary words on them. They called it "Flipping through Literacy."

She's guided students to craft hand puppets from paper bags and other materials as well. Elliott recently spoke about teaching and learning through puppetry at a conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Dallas.

She draws on her experiences as a former elementary school teacher, the years she spent as director of the FGCU Family Resource Center and elementary education classes she's taught since joining the FGCU faculty in 2001.

This isn't a frivolous activity that takes time away from the overriding concern of Florida schools these days: making sure students pass the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test – known as FCAT. The test is given to children in grades 3-11 to measure their progress in reading, writing, mathematics and science.

"Children will learn best when they have a vehicle that they have self created," Elliott says. "FCAT is a fact of life. We're not going to get away from it. However, the skills they need to learn to be successful on FCAT can be skills used to create a puppet show or a bulletin board with flip-flops."

The FCAT requires students to not just read but to understand a story line, identify characters and plot lines. Those are skills they learn when they read a story, make puppets and act out the story.

While it might seem that this method would only work with very young children, Elliott says she and her students have discovered that even middle schoolers enjoy it.

"When we allow them to play a little bit they learn a lot more," she says. "We don't have enough of that in school."

Considering how structured most children's lives are, many don't get much play time outside of school either and that can have detrimental effects later in life, Elliott says.

"Children learn through exploration and through play and social interactions," she says. "When we try to make everything a structured focus, children tend to lose that ability to socially interact appropriately, and, later on, they don't have the ability to form typical friendships."

Classroom play builds social skills, reinforces lessons and changes the atmosphere.

"When children are in a relaxed and non-threatening environment in the classroom, learning occurs," she says. "Sometimes that's just making the activity less stressful."

In the end, she finds, it pays to play.



Elizabeth Elliott

U.S. Metropolitan Areas," annual meeting, Southern Economic Association, Washington, DC, Nov. 20-23.

Halcyon St. Hill, College of Health Professions Dean's Office, Ed.D., M.S., M.T. (A.S.C.P.), "Senior Seminar: Bridging Service Learning, Community, Education and Practice," 2008 Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools & Commission on Colleges, San Antonio, TX, Dec. 6-9.

Mary Wisnom, Dr. Patricia L. Janes, College of Professional Studies, Resort & Hospitality Management, Ph.D., "Expectations and Their Role in the Service Industry," Resort and Commercial Recreation Association Annual Conference, New Paltz, NY, Nov. 11.

Julie H. Yazici, College of Business, Computer Information Systems and Decision Sciences, Ph.D., "Role of explicit and tacit knowledge transfer in buyer and supplier collaboration," Decision Sciences Institute Annual 2008 Meeting, Baltimore, MD, Nov. 22-24.

Julie H. Yazici, Lee Kirche, College of Business, Computer Information Systems and Decision Sciences, Ph.D., "A Model for e-Collaboration in the Supply Chain," Decision Sciences Institute 2008 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, Nov. 22-24.

Janusz Zalewski, College of Business, School of Engineering, Ph.D., "Poster – Web-based Real-Time Software Engineering Lab," CCLI 2008 Principal Investigators Conference, National Science

Foundation, Washington, DC, Aug. 13-15.

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Rosemary Boisvert, Linda Martin, Maria Grosek and Anna June Schug (alumni), College of Health Professions, Occupational Therapy, Ph.D., "Effectiveness of a peer-support community in addiction recovery: Participation as intervention," Occupational Therapy International, quarterly, pp. 205-220.

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Myra Mendible, College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Ph.D., "Post Vietnam Syndrome: National Identity, War and the Politics of Humiliation," Radical Psychology, quarterly, <http://radicalpsychology.org/vol7-1/index.html>; "The New Sexual Aesthetic," American Sexuality Magazine (National Sexuality Research Center, San Francisco State University), monthly, pp. <http://nsrc.sfsu.edu>.

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PROFESSIONAL BRIEFS

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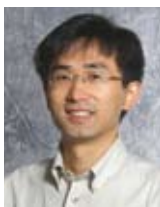
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Yinghong Sheng

IN BRIEF



University surpasses United Way goal
FGCU raised \$38,475.50 for United Way this year. The campus leadership committee is pictured above. From left: Audrea Anderson, Sara Mayo, Veronica Forsyth, Wanda Smith, Dewie Robinson, Eliane Smith, Kathy McElroy, Annette Kemler, Tim Clark, Lynn O'Hare, Lourdes Castro, Ruth Rodrigues, Donna Vazquez, Michele Kenny, Laureen Meyer and Lindsay McGrath

FGCU wins recognition from Carnegie Foundation

Florida Gulf Coast University has been recognized by The Carnegie Foundation for its high level of commitment to community engagement and forming community partnerships.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named FGCU among 111 U.S. educational institutions that meet its criteria for Community Engagement as well as Outreach and Partnerships, a voluntary dual classification.

FGCU submitted an extensive application and underwent a rigorous peer review by The Carnegie Foundation to win its classification. Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1906, the independent policy and research center is devoted to promoting excellence in education.

The Carnegie Foundation defines Community Engagement as "the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity."

Among the institutions to earn this dual designation were Georgetown University, University of Central Florida and Eckerd College.

"Until recently there was no way to designate schools and universities that excelled in these areas," says Linda Summers, FGCU director of Civic Engagement. "Now our students are recognized for learning in classrooms and applying that learning in the community."

FGCU undergraduates complete as much as 80 hours of service learning in order to graduate. In 2007-08, students performed 112,600 hours of service.

Summers believes students with extensive community service experience in high school may want to continue during their college careers and now can find institutions that provide that opportunity.



Linda Summers

Work begins on Naples botanical education center

Florida Gulf Coast University and Naples Botanical Garden broke ground Feb. 25 on the Harvey Kapnick Education and Research Center at Naples Botanical Garden.

The 15,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility jointly developed by FGCU and Naples Botanical Garden will serve as a laboratory for classes for FGCU students and the community, in areas such as landscape design, native flora, plant ecology and physiology and environmental biology.

The center will be the nexus of all garden programming, serving as the base of school and lifelong-learning courses while also providing space for garden club and plant society events.

ARTS CALENDAR

Black Box Theatre

"Orphan Bunko"

Written by Sarah Bond
Directed by Barry Cavin
June 24-28
8 p.m. Wednesday – Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday
\$10 general admission; \$5 FGCU faculty, staff and students
What in the world is bunko? Find out in this dark comedy, which probes beneath the perfectly coiled surface of a suburban neighborhood and its bored but stylish inhabitants. When a neighborhood girl disappears, the ladies in newcomer Janet's bunko group band together to find her. The secrets they reveal shatter the facades they have created for one another and force the women to redefine themselves and their relationships.

Art Exhibits

Artistic Discovery: 14th Congressional Art District Competition

May 9-15
Opening reception: 10 a.m. May 9
Main Gallery A

The Formers: Current Works from FGCU Art Graduates

May 22-July 31
Opening reception: 5-8 p.m. May 22
Main Gallery

The Formers: Representative Works

Sister exhibition to the Main Gallery exhibition
May 22-July 31
Library Gallery



"Autumn Shimmer – Rob at 12" by Megan Kissing



"Tension" by Lindsey Wollard

ED CLEMENT



CRIMINAL FORENSIC STUDIES (M.S.)

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- The faculty are nationally recognized.

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Details at www.fgcu.edu/cj or contact Dr. Duane Dobbert at 239-590-7816 or ddobbert@fgcu.edu to learn more.





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MIKE HILL

The FGCU 2008-2009 women's basketball team muscled its way to the second round of post-season play. Story on page 21.