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Winter 2010 Farquhar Forum

Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

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FARQUHAR

WINTER 2010

FORUM

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



The Paper Doll Illustration (2009) Tennille Shuster, M.F.A.

Cover:

What Is Good and Evil?

The college explores its annual theme.

Inside:

New art majors paint a bright future for creative students.

President Obama recognizes the efforts of two of our own.

Partnerships and collaborations promote thinking outside the box.

FARQUHAR
FORUM
MAGAZINE

FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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THIS YEAR, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is examining the academic theme of “Good and Evil.” Members of the college community interpret and analyze the meaning of good and evil, drawing from personal experiences and study to teach and learn through these concepts. We are offering lectures, performances, panels, classes, reading groups, and presentations related to the theme, designed to challenge our students’ understanding of these terms.

The opportunities for dialogue, from a wide range of programs and events, echo an important commitment of this college and the university: community engagement. In this issue, we take a closer look at some of the connections, affiliations, and partnerships among the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, NSU, and the greater community—and how these benefit our students in many ways.

At the college, partnership becomes meaningful when we ask ourselves this question: Are students connecting with the larger world? It is simply not enough to go to class, get good grades, and earn a degree. Students’ academic experiences must become meaningful—to their careers, visions, goals, and senses of purpose—which ultimately indicates this education is being applied.

We work to get students out into the world, and that means finding opportunities for success that exist both within the walls of our college and institution and in the world outside of Nova Southeastern University.

Within the college, for instance, we encourage students to think outside of their own majors and personalize their curriculum through elective courses, a minor program of study, or a double major. We work hard to let students know that an extra literature, writing, or philosophy course will assist them not only with graduate admission entrance exams, but will also help them to become a better professional someday.

A college of arts and sciences, beyond any other program within a university, is about multidisciplinary thinking. We advocate opportunities for faculty members to work with each other, comment on each other’s curricular programs, and collaborate on research across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Our Dual Admission Program, Undergraduate Honors Program, and pre-professional programs connect students and faculty members to every part of this great university with formal and informal programs.

In addition, we maintain broader community partnerships, such as our artistic ties with The Promethean Theatre, Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, and the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale. Our students and faculty members benefit from these affiliations in many ways, including internship opportunities at the museum that allow student-interns to strengthen the relationship between their studies and their role in a professional environment.

Behind all of these partnerships is a single goal: to help students find a meaningful connection between what they are learning in the classroom and its relevance and role in helping them engage and succeed in the greater community.



Don Rosenblum, Ph.D.
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ARTISTS *in* Action



Quiver

(oil on canvas, 2009)

Barbara Ryan, M.F.A.

Assistant Professor in the Division of Performing and Visual Arts

“*Quiver* is about the ambiguity between good and evil, as well as vulnerability and power. Floating in an idyllic sky blue, the plastic orange toy Indian is either oblivious or poised to respond to the surrounding toy cowboys with their weapons at the ready. The viewer is left to question if this one Indian is trapped in an unwinnable, miniature scenario, or if he is just a faceless enemy ready to destroy the perceived ‘good guys.’

“Part of the Cowboy Theories series, this work brings the viewer to a place moments before an unknown doom and impending violence, masked in images of toys and peaceful surroundings. The messages of clear sides of an issue, belief, or cause are blurred and muted with the realization that the myths, legends, politics, and belief systems of Western society are just as jaded, myopic, and broken as those we consider our ardent adversaries, leaving all to question what is good and what is evil.”

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ON THE COVER

The Paper Doll Illustration (2009)

Tennille Shuster, M.F.A.

Assistant Professor in the Division of Performing and Visual Arts

“The illustration symbolizes NSU college students who are in a formative period of their lives. They have the opportunity to ‘try on’ different ideals. Will they choose good, or will they choose evil? Moreover, who defines what good and evil are, and what right do they have to impose those definitions on others? It is my hope that the paper doll illustration will inspire healthy debate about both the relativity and arbitrary nature of good and evil.”

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NO EASY ANSWERS

Exploring the Definitions
and Contradictions
of

Good and Evil

THIS YEAR, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is exploring the academic theme of “Good and Evil.” Faculty members, students, and the college community are examining the relationship of good and evil within social, scientific, legal, religious, historical, and artistic contexts.

To inspire the dialogue, the college is sponsoring unique performances, research projects, panel discussions, and year-long presentations such as the Distinguished Speakers Series and the Faculty Lecture Series. The college also uses the academic theme to frame co-curricular programs and experiences, unite the community in multidisciplinary exploration, and continue the college mission of preparing students for professional careers and engagement with the community.

“What we find with our year-long focus on a single theme is that our combined explorations become much more profound through sharing our individual perspectives, research, and experiences,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

Faculty members and students are tackling the subject in a variety of ways.

First-year students in the UNIV 1010 seminars, for instance, are studying how the concepts of good and evil present themselves in society and everyday life. These interactive seminars, designed for first-year students, feature discussion topics related to the college’s annual theme. Students work closely with faculty members while earning elective credit toward their degree requirements.

At this fall’s Convocation Ceremony, author Louise Murphy discussed her 2003 novel, *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel: A Novel of War and Survival*, as the first speaker of the college’s 2009–2010 Distinguished Speakers Series.

Faculty members are addressing the theme through the Faculty Lecture Series, with topics ranging from how good and evil are depicted in film music to the debate over the controversial practice of keeping marine mammals in captivity.

Further stimulating the discussion, the college’s performing and visual arts season features a light-hearted, satirical look at morality and fame in *Ruthless! The Musical* in addition to special performances, events, recitals, and exhibits.

In the classroom, the theme is being discussed in a variety of courses. Here are three examples from the UNIV 1010 seminars of how faculty members and students are working together.

(continued on next page)



Stephen Levitt, LL.M., explores the concept of good and evil with his students by examining Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia.

How Could You? Crimes Against Humanity

FOR STEPHEN LEVITT, LL.M., associate professor in the Division of Humanities, asking students to examine “The Most Evil States: Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s Russia,” is a powerful way to explore the historical resonance of good and evil. Using political, legal, and historical analysis, students in this seminar are discussing genocide, political repression, and mass murders in Germany from 1933 to 1945 and in Russia from 1922 to 1953.

Students are confronted with a basic question: How could civilized and educated people in Germany and the Soviet Union commit crimes of such magnitude in the name of state ideology?

“The students are very engaged,” Levitt said. “When they look at Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s Russia, they come to understand the significance of the American Bill of Rights and why it must be protected. Indeed, no one can truly appreciate the value of freedom if he or she does not consider other societies where constitutional liberty did not or does not exist.”

Students also examine the dictatorship of Joseph Stalin, who led the Soviet Union and Communist Party from 1922 until his death in 1953. In the 1930s, Stalin led a campaign of terror directed at people accused of sabotaging the economic plans, terrorism against the state, or political treason. “The students are looking at the two most terrible regimes in terms of human rights violations, perhaps of all time,” said Levitt. Nonetheless, even at the darkest moments there were citizens who resisted becoming accomplices to evil. “There were German citizens who were anti-Nazi, and many paid for this with their lives. In Hitler’s Germany, resistance often came from those people who had a belief in a superior law, namely, God’s law. That made them immune to the Nazi propaganda. There also was church-orchestrated resistance against Communist totalitarianism, particularly in Poland.”



Taboo or Not Taboo?

Every culture has behaviors and practices that are considered reprehensible by members of that society. Some are labeled as taboo. Although a few taboos are almost universal, others may be acceptable or even celebrated in some cultures.

“We’re talking about a lot of things that don’t have easy answers,” said **Eileen Smith-Cavros, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who connects to the theme in her seminar “Taboos.”

“I think it’s important for people to understand that while the concept of good and evil is incredibly important, so is asking questions about what both of those words mean. It’s important to question what the very concept of taboo means. I’m trying to get students to question why taboos exist, where they come from, and what they do to society. There are no easy answers.

“We look at taboos and consider them as items of usually great moral significance. But, we don’t define taboos that narrowly very often. Incest would be considered a fairly universal taboo in every culture. Cannibalism is another one, although there are some societies that historically practice it. Polygamy is taboo in our society and still accepted in some other societies. There’s really no one single definition of what’s taboo.

“The goal is for the students to have a better understanding of the differences between people and cultures, but also the similarities between people and cultures.”

Wrong Number: When Statistics Lie


Is life fair or really a game of chance? This is the central question presented to students by **Jason Gershman, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology.

In his seminar “Life’s Not Fair...Or Is It?,” Gershman connects the college theme to real life by showing students how statistics, data, and data analysis can be manipulated for purposes of both good and evil. This covers everything from political polling to sports rankings. His goal is for students to look critically at the methods of data collection and analysis so they will know how to discern bias, misreporting, or falsehoods used to bolster marketing or a profit-driven agenda.

“Data can be manipulated or massaged in a thousand different ways,” said Gershman, whose students examined biases and flaws in the political polling process of the 2008 presidential election.

Gershman encourages his students to look for “red flags” and examine the methodology behind data. How was it collected? How large was the sample? What do the numbers really say?

“We’re in a data-driven world. Numbers can be made to lie,” Gershman said. “Every day of their lives, these numbers affect them. It is important for students to know how to look at data and reach their own conclusions.

“My goal is to get them thinking. Look at the underlying background and procedure and the scientific method. If data is too good to be true, chances are it’s not true.” 



Good?

“I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT for people to understand that while the concept of good and evil is incredibly important, so is asking questions about what both of those words mean.”

—EILEEN SMITH-CAVROS, PH.D.

Evil?

Like Complementary Colors, New Majors Work Together for Art Students

AS A STUDENT DOUBLE MAJORING in art and arts administration at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, Diana Blanco took her first step into the art world this summer when she worked as an intern in the curatorial department at the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University. Her hard work paid off this fall when she was offered a part-time position as a curatorial assistant at the museum.

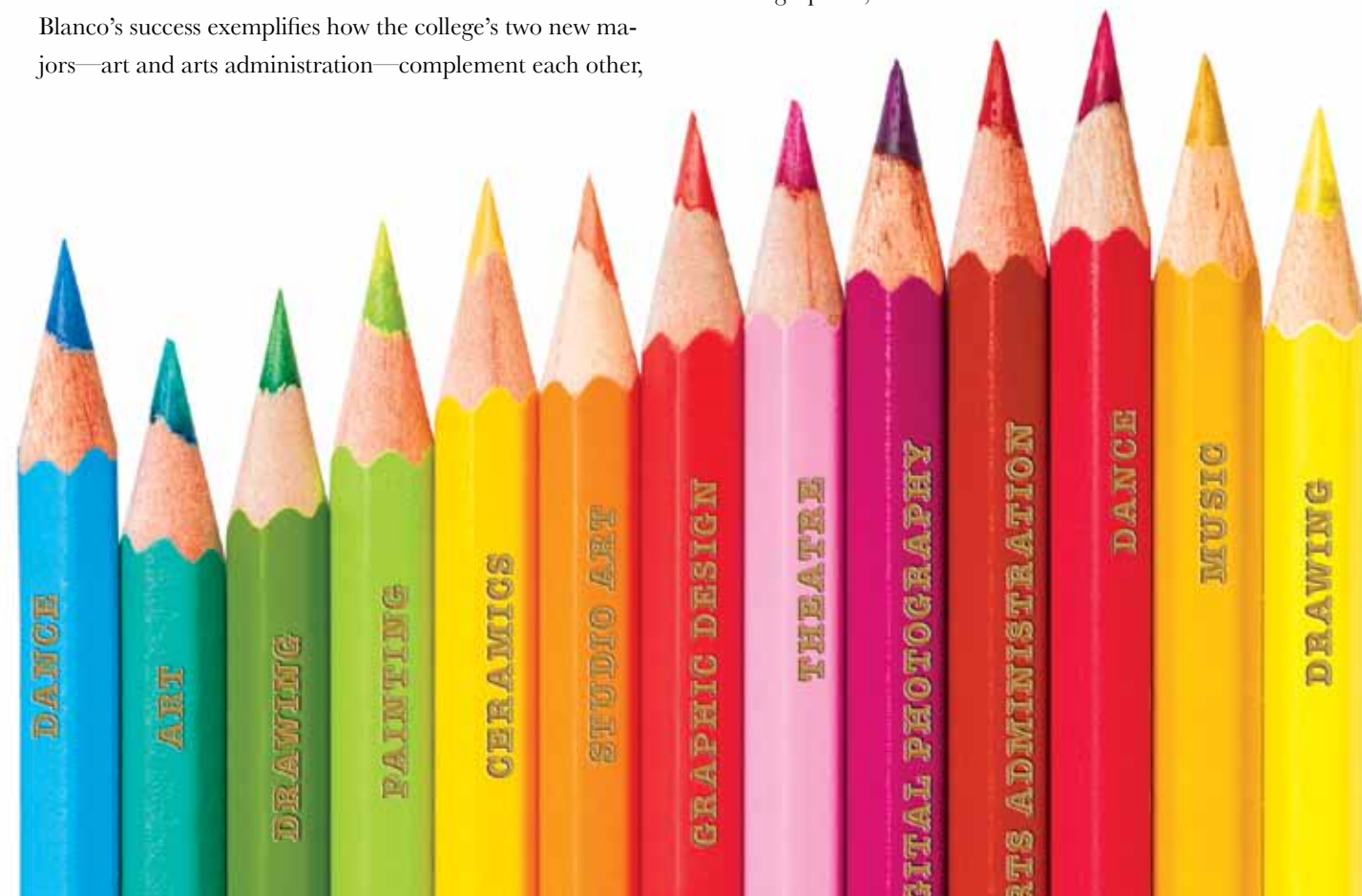
“Both majors have helped me at the museum. I get to learn so much more about both fields, and having that knowledge gave me an advantage going to work every day,” said Blanco, a junior who plans to pursue a career in museum administration. “The double major gives me a sense of the bigger picture, especially in arts administration, which mixes the two worlds of business and art.”

Blanco’s success exemplifies how the college’s two new majors—art and arts administration—complement each other,

said Barbara Ryan, M.F.A., assistant professor in the college’s Division of Performing and Visual Arts. Both majors were added last year.

Enhancing the program is the collaboration between the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, whose expertise and local setting provide exciting co-curricular and internship opportunities for students.

“Arts administration offers a core mix of art, business, and marketing for students in any of the division’s disciplines, including art, theatre, music, and dance,” Ryan said. “In arts administration, we emphasize the importance of marketing what you do. There is an opportunity to bring in real-world people such as guest lecturers, artists, choreographers, and directors.”



Left: Students Ashley Cruz, Jonathan Sanz, and Lauren Butler work on scenic and lighting designs in the technical theatre studio. Right: Student Bailey Santucci works with Barbara Ryan, M.F.A., in the ARTS 1250 Life Drawing course.



Art majors have creative opportunities with professors who are practicing contemporary artists and designers. Students can earn a four-year degree with a concentration in studio art or graphic design. Both are designed to prepare students for careers as freelance artists or designers.


Studio art concentrates on traditional and contemporary media practices with courses offered in painting, drawing, ceramics, and digital photography. From experimenting with new media to creating site-specific installations, students are being prepared to be the next generation of visual artists.

In graphic design, students use industry-standard computer software programs to design posters, brochures, and other projects. They participate in competitions and create advertising campaigns with feedback from professionals in the field.

“There is a lot of real-world learning,” said Tennille Shuster, M.F.A., assistant professor in the college’s Division of Performing and Visual Arts. “They are getting feedback from professionals who tell them what works and what doesn’t work.”

“Research is where the artistic concepts come from,” Shuster said. “There has to be an in-depth knowledge of the subject. Creating art is not a spontaneous event. There are a lot of processes involved in the creative solution. Students are not just hopping on the computer. The computer is just another tool.”

Both majors offer opportunities for internships in the arts community with organizations including museums, theatres, and design firms. Art majors also have the chance to display their work at the Juried Student Exhibition, which features the work of students who have completed the college’s studio art courses. Small class sizes in both majors foster faculty mentoring and allow students and faculty members to work closely together.

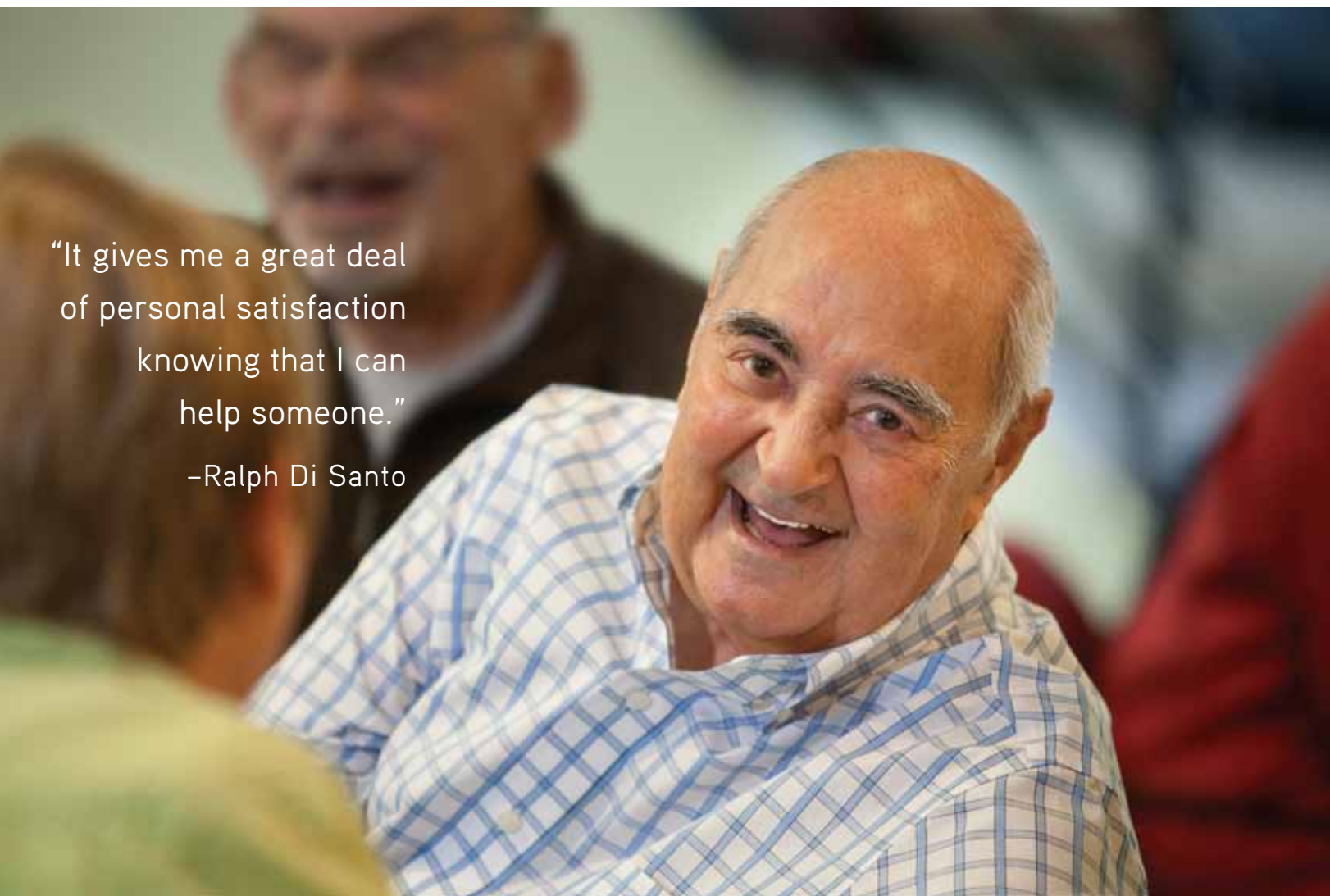
“The students are learning from the faculty and also from each other,” Ryan said. “It is a small community of people who are learning and creating things. As professors, we lead and facilitate this community of learning and direct students to individual success.” 

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT

Lifelong Learning Institute Volunteer Receives National Service Award

RALPH DI SANTO likes to say that he has had three careers: his military service, his professional career, and his post-retirement work as a counselor and community service volunteer. It is his volunteer work, however, that brings him the most opportunity to help other people by working with them one-on-one, something he truly enjoys.

“It gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction knowing that I can help someone.”
–Ralph Di Santo



Di Santo was recently honored with the 2009 President’s Volunteer Service Award and a personal letter of thanks from President Barack Obama. As a member of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), Di Santo was honored with the award by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. In his letter, Obama recognizes Di Santo’s commitment to “strengthening our nation” and “making a difference” through volunteer service.

“During my professional career, I dealt with programs and policies,” said Di Santo, who worked as an executive and financial development director at nonprofit institutions. “I didn’t have an opportunity to help people on a one-on-one basis. That’s what I enjoy as a volunteer. I have a social work background that gives me the skills, the knowledge, and the satisfaction of helping someone else help themselves.”


Di Santo volunteers as a counselor for the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Broward County (ADRC), which presented him with a Shining Star of Caring Constellation Award for counseling 112 Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) clients in 2008. SHINE is part of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

ADRC clients are often referred to Di Santo for assistance in navigating Medicare issues and veterans’ benefits. Di Santo also works as a volunteer resident counselor at LLI, which serves the educational interests of Broward County’s older adults and retirement community with activities, classes, special guests, and social gatherings.

During a typical visit, other LLI members informally approach Di Santo for his advice on everything from knowing how to choose an insurance plan to finding the lowest cost for prescription drugs.

A retired lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Army, Di Santo is a four-time Bronze Star Medal recipient. He is a World War II veteran who participated in the allied invasion of Normandy at Utah Beach in 1944. After the war, he continued his military service in the Army Reserves. Di Santo worked as an executive at Community Chest/United Way for 23 years and an additional 14 years as a financial development director at nonprofit institutions. He retired in 1989 as executive vice president of the Mercy Hospital Foundation in Miami.

Di Santo is the first LLI member to receive the President’s Volunteer Service Award. He received the award in June 2009, on his 87th birthday.

“[Di Santo] serves as an advocate for our members on issues such as health-care reform by writing to various members of Congress,” said Edward Aqua, D.Eng., LLI director. “He acts as a gatekeeper to make sure their ideas get before these members of Congress.” Said Di Santo, “It gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction knowing that I can help someone.” 

For more information about LLI programs, membership, or directions, visit www.fcas.nova.edu/lli or call (954) 262-8471.



Edward Aqua, D.Eng., LLI director

When History Books Read Like Today's Headlines

Great Depression Coursework and Mentorship Reveal Lessons on Our Economy

AS A HISTORY STUDENT studying the Great Depression, Patrick MacVittie was intrigued by the parallels between 1938 and 2008—when economic turmoil, failing financial institutions, and rising unemployment had a catastrophic impact on people's lives.

"Almost every day, Professor Kilroy would tell us, 'read this newspaper article,' and we would see how what was happening currently paralleled with what we were reading about in class. It was striking," MacVittie said of the Great Depression course taught last fall by David Kilroy, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Humanities at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. MacVittie and classmates Stefanie Sundberg and Ryan Nicol (who graduated this spring) pursued their interest in history by seeking faculty mentorship to help them develop and present scholarship and research, a valuable experience encouraged by the college.

The three history majors assisted Kilroy when he presented "South Florida and the WPA [Work Projects Administration] Oral History Project" during a historical exhibition this spring. The exhibition, organized by the Alvin Sherman Library, was held in conjunction with *Soul of a*

People: Writing America's Story, a new television documentary about the Federal Writers' Project, an outgrowth of the WPA.

At the exhibition, Kilroy discussed the vision of Benjamin A. Botkin, Ph.D., a pioneering American folklorist and scholar who served as national folklore editor and chairman of the Federal Writers' Project from 1938 to 1941. Under Kilroy's guidance, Sundberg, MacVittie, and Nicol read to the audience the stories of six South Floridians who lived during the Depression and who were interviewed 70 years ago by writers hired for the WPA project.


The WPA was a New Deal program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress in 1935 to put people back to work. During its existence, the program employed 8.5 million people to build public projects such as bridges, dams, and highways. Writers, too, were employed to create state guidebooks and interview local residents for folk life surveys, which recorded historical snapshots of their everyday life and struggles. Several of these writers would become literary notables, including Saul Bellow, Zora Neale Hurston, Studs Terkel, and Eudora Welty.



"The material gathered during the Federal Writers' Project is a great historical legacy," Kilroy said. "Historians have gone back, dusted off these documents, and found a treasure trove. You really get a sense of the human element of the Great Depression from this material. There is so much documentary evidence that we have a better sense of what life was like in the 1930s than almost any other decade in American history."

In preparation for the presentation, the students researched and edited the historical documents, prepared an introduction, and presented the oral histories as a supplement to Kilroy's presentation.

"The project helped them clarify how to interpret documents and how to use documents effectively," Kilroy said. "It exposed them to archival information. Part of the value of the project was to put the original documents in their hands and encourage them to think about the documents within the context of the Great Depression class."

"The material they encountered revealed a direct resonance to the economic crisis they were experiencing firsthand. In addition, the meeting exposed them to an audience that included a number of individuals who had lived through the Depression era," Kilroy said. 

Faculty Mentorship Widens the Spectrum of Learning

The opportunity to present at a university or public event is an exciting and challenging process that enables students to develop research and critical thinking skills; establish collaborative relationship with faculty members; and present their work at conferences, symposiums, and exhibits. The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences encourages this type of undergraduate scholarship, participation, and faculty mentoring in numerous ways.

"Student participation in this exhibition event clearly supports the university's stated mission of 'fostering intellectual inquiry, leadership, and commitment to community through engagement of students and faculty members in a dynamic, lifelong learning environment,'" said David Kilroy, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Humanities. "These students had an opportunity not just to

engage in intellectual inquiry directly with a faculty member, but to demonstrate leadership and engage the community (this was, after all, a public event) through their presentations."

The students discovered there was much to gain by learning outside the classroom.


"My participation enabled me to attend a lecture I likely would not have attended otherwise," said history major Stefanie Sundberg. "I found it to be enlightening. Aside from the material presented, it was really interesting to see the demographics of who attended. It was refreshing to see that history appeals to everyone."

Having the opportunity to present in front of an audience was important, she added.

"Being comfortable presenting is vital not only to a successful academic career,



(left to right) David Kilroy, Ph.D.; Nora Quinlan, librarian, NSU's Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center; and Gary R. Mormino, Ph.D., professor of history, University of South Florida

but also to your professional career," Sundberg said. "Regardless of major, chosen career paths, or anything else, speaking to an audience is an inevitable part of life. Practice makes perfect." 

History Repeats Itself

The student participants found the stories of Floridians living through hard times to be poignant—and relevant. The subjects included a Conch woman from Riviera Beach, a Cuban immigrant who saw the violence of the Ku Klux Klan in Key West, and a real-estate speculator who made a fortune in Florida land deals only to lose everything following the deadly hurricane of 1926.

"It was people talking about their experiences, how they survived, what they were doing," said history major Patrick MacVittie. "One was a gentleman who came down to Florida to invest, a man who made tons of money in banking up north. When the stock market crashed, he lost everything. Somebody who had been that successful in business all of a


sudden had nothing left and nothing for his children.

"We made comments about how familiar it was to what is happening now—and how these people must have felt losing everything."

"I would come into class every day with newspaper headlines: the stock market falling, banks closing. The students were stunned by the parallels," said David Kilroy, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Humanities. "It was eerie. No two time periods can be the same, but there are definitely lessons to be learned from the past."

Among those lessons, "History matters!" Kilroy said. "Our students are learning not just about what happened in the past



but, more importantly, how it is relevant to informing our behavior in the present and our planning for the future. By exposing students to primary source documents, such as the ones used in this presentation, they become more aware of universal themes in the human story and more appreciative of the role of previous generations in shaping the society they live in today." 

Thinking

Outside the Box



and the Classroom

At the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, education transcends the four walls of a classroom. Through community partnerships and collaborations, our students are learning the value of volunteer service—and so much more.

Mark Jaffe, D.P.M., coordinates and oversees the work of student volunteers, who provide free medical screenings at events such as A Day for Children.



WITHIN THE COLLEGE, students are encouraged to try diverse fields of study, enroll in courses outside of their own major, and connect to other parts of the university. “The concept of partnership really comes down to how students are connecting with their larger world,” said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. “I think it’s relevant to all of our students, whether they’re 18 or 80.

“It’s one thing to go to class and get good grades and get a degree. To have it be meaningful—whether to their careers, their visions and goals, or their senses of purpose—that usually requires a deeper commitment. We want to get students out into the world.”

To accomplish this, the college strives to build strong ties through meaningful partnerships and affiliations. Some of these include the Ars Flores Symphony Orchestra, NSU’s orchestra in residence, which consists of a variety of South Florida orchestral musicians and professional, conservatory, and gifted secondary school students performing side by side. Others include the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, part of the university’s extended campus, and The Promethean Theatre, NSU’s theatre company in residence.

“NSU has one of the few university theatre programs with a professional theatre company in residence,” said Mark Duncan, M.F.A., associate professor and coordinator of performing arts at the Division of

Performing and Visual Arts. “The Promethean Theatre gives us professional credibility in the theatre community. And, many of our students [who intern with the theatre company] learn the ropes from these actors. It also gives our faculty a chance for professional scholarship.”

(continued on next page)



CAMP KATINA

Anthony Reyes, a student in the Athletic Training Education Program in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, volunteered to work with kids at Camp Katina, a gymnastics camp for underprivileged children organized by the Jason Taylor Foundation.

IN ADDITION to the college's formal ties, faculty members in each division connect with the community through their fields of expertise. For the past two years, faculty members in the Division of Performing and Visual Arts and the Division of Humanities have partnered with the Oscar Thomas Foundation to host Celebrating Our Differences, an arts competition that celebrates the creativity and vision of South Florida's high school students.

"While the Celebrating Our Differences competition provided a venue for the students to showcase their work and a chance to win prizes, the university also benefitted immensely from its involvement with the program," said Andrea Shaw, Ph.D., assistant professor and assistant director of the Division of Humanities. "Faculty members who hosted workshops for these students had the opportunity to engage some of South Florida's most pioneering and creative young minds, giving the faculty added insight into the interests and needs of students in the tricounty area.

"Furthermore, the college had the privilege of hosting the students on the campus for a day, exposing them to a brief taste of college life and providing scholarship funding for college to the winners," Shaw said.

Faculty members in the Division of Humanities also teach workshops for about 1,200 high school and middle school journalism students from Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties as part of the Florida Scholastic Press Association's District 7 Fall Workshop.

Students and faculty members from the Athletic Training Education Program in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology practice their skills at events such as the A1A Marathon in Fort Lauderdale; Camp Katina, a children's gymnastics camp run by the Jason Taylor Foundation; and Rugger Fest, an international rugby tournament. Faculty members and students also partner with NSU's Shark Shuffle, provide medical services to the university's 17 sports teams, and complete general medicine rotations through the clinics in NSU's Health Professions Divisions.

“IT’S ONE THING to go to class and get good grades and get a degree. To have it be meaningful—whether to their careers, their visions and goals, or their senses of purpose—that usually requires a deeper commitment. We want to get students out into the world.”

**—DON ROSENBLUM, PH.D.,
DEAN, FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

“OUR STUDENTS spend more time out of the classroom than in the classroom, applying their skills and knowledge,” said Elizabeth Swann, Ph.D., ATC, LAT, associate professor and program director of athletic training in the college's Division of Math, Science, and Technology. “My hope is that when they walk away from events like these, they will see there are so many opportunities in the community to give back. My goal is for the students to walk away from an event saying, ‘Wow, I can help someone else by more than just taping an ankle.’”

Pre-medical and pre-dental students volunteer under the supervision of Mark Jaffe, D.P.M., associate professor in the college's Division of Math, Science, and Technology, conducting medical and podiatry screenings at community health fairs and campus events such as A Day for Children, which draws about 10,000 children and families to the NSU campus.

“We are getting first-hand experience, and we are giving back to the community,” said Norberto Mancera, a biology major in the Divisional Honors Program and secretary of the NSU Pre-Medical Society. “Here, we're actually learning bedside manner, how to take a patient history, and how to check out a patient. It's important to make sure you're involved in the community. You want to make an impact. And, you want to make yourself available for every opportunity in your profession.”

In the fall 2009 semester, the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences began offering a new minor in applied behavior analysis. Students who complete the required hours of practicum at the Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies become qualified to be certified as applied behavior analysts.

“[The certification] is a very significant career boost,” Rosenblum said. “That's not possible without partnerships. We've been very fortunate to have the ability to create these opportunities. More students are picking up on these things, whether it's direct research, applied experience, or internships.”

Within NSU, collaborations exist that provide for the Undergraduate Honors Program, the Dual Admission Program, and the Clinic Exploration Program, which links undergraduate students to different clinic operations at the university. In the Dual Admission Program, students begin their education at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and complete their education six or seven years later in fields such as medicine, law, and dentistry.

Students have other opportunities through travel-study programs, as well as the Biology Summer Intercampus Student Internship, a collection of summer internships offered in conjunction with the Indiana University School of Medicine—Northwest and the Medical University of Graz, in Austria. In summer 2010, the program will include an internship in Thailand working under the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

These connections mirror the college's commitment to providing students with a comprehensive, stimulating educational experience, based on academic diversity. “There isn't a single part of this university with which we don't have formal programs,” Rosenblum said. “A college of arts and sciences is based on multidisciplinary thinking.”

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Professor's Underwater Junkyard Cleanup Continues, 10 Years Later

When Robin Sherman launched the Florida Artificial Tire Reef Cleanup project a decade ago, she never envisioned that military divers would continue the habitat restoration project years later or that her work would earn a Coastal America Partnership Award and recognition from President Obama.



Robin Sherman, Ph.D., (left) sees her early efforts to remove tires from an artificial reef continue with the help of U.S. military divers.

Robin Sherman, Ph.D., associate professor and associate director of the Division of Math, Science, and Technology at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, received the award on August 12, 2009, along with Richard Dodge, Ph.D., dean of the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center.

In 1999, Sherman applied for funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a pilot project to examine how to clean up a “junkyard” of tires that had been placed in the Atlantic Ocean off Fort Lauderdale in the 1970s in a failed attempt to create an artificial reef and enhance the fish populations.

After years of weathering currents and storms, the tires had become displaced and were damaging the natural reefs in the area. Some had made their way to shore. Others remained a threat to the fragile skeletal coral sculptures growing about the ocean floor.

“They were put in a shallow-water environment, only 70 feet deep, where currents and storm waves can move

these tires,” Sherman said. “They weren’t anchored down. It didn’t take long for the artificial reef to break up and for those tires to extend over a very large area. My project was designed to function as a pilot project to look at how to go about this cleanup.”

The pilot project, conducted by NSU’s Oceanographic Center and its National Coral Reef Institute, determined the Osborne Reef tire removal and disposal project was important to protect the reefs. In summer 2001, Sherman and volunteer divers spent eight days removing about 1,600 tires from the water.

“We cleared an area at the edge of the reef that was somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 by 50 feet,” Sherman said.

“Part of my project was to monitor the site every three months for the next year to determine how mobile the tires were and how fast they moved. I went diving three months later, and the area was completely covered again with tires.”

Sherman’s work helped convince the federal government in 2006 to continue

the tire-removal project as a training mission for divers in various branches of the U.S. military.

The U.S. Navy has been deploying divers to the site each summer for a limited period of time. Using a barge and crane, military divers jump into the water, tie the tires together, and raise them to the surface. The tires are then recycled.

“There is an inherent value in cleaning up the junkyard,” she said. “The reefs are an integral part of our community. Any damage to the environment has other environmental, biological, ethical, and economic aspects to it.”

Sherman is no longer active in the project, but she is pleased that the cleanup continues.

“It’s incredibly exciting,” she said. “It wasn’t something I thought I’d hear anything about when I finished my part of the project. I was so pleased to find out that it was moving forward and that the federal government was interested. That really feels good.”

Linear Algebra Professor Challenges Students with New Book

Fuzhen Zhang, Ph.D., has seen many college math students both daunted by and bored with the subject’s concepts and skills. “A lot of students in this country struggle with math,” he said. “They fear math. They always say, ‘Math is not my subject. I don’t like math.’”

But, Zhang believes that focusing on problem solving can enable motivated students to find the subject more meaningful, gratifying, and even fun.

Zhang, a professor in the college’s Division of Math, Science, and Technology, is promoting this effort in mathematics education with the second edition of his book *Linear Algebra: Challenging Problems for Students* (The Johns Hopkins University Press).

Released in April 2009, the new edition features more than 425 sample math problems and solutions. Questions range in difficulty to include problems sure to challenge even the most seasoned mathematicians. The book is directed toward graduate-level students and math instructors, while designed to aid students in their understanding of linear algebra, a common prerequisite for collegiate math majors. Each chapter includes highlights of key concepts and hints for solving the problems.

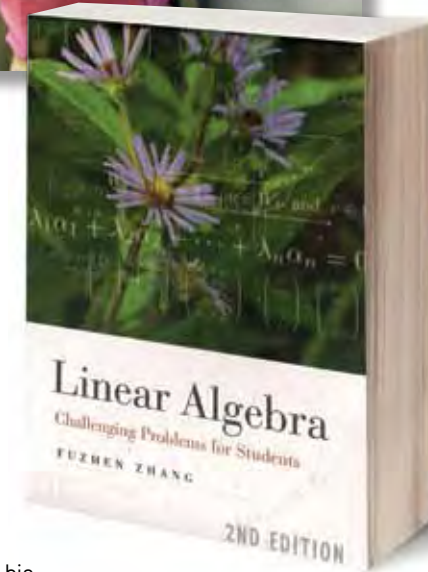
Zhang, who teaches algebra and calculus classes at the college, has been researching algebra for more than two decades. Before arriving at what was then Nova University in 1993, he taught mathematics at the University of California—Santa Barbara; College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia; and Beijing Normal University in China.

“Math is fun for me,” he said. “It’s something I can concentrate on and forget about everything else. I really enjoy working on the problems and making new problems.”

The book has been well received internationally, said Zhang, who is also a collaborating editor at *The American Mathematical Monthly Magazine* and an editor at the journal for the International Linear Algebra Society.



Fuzhen Zhang, Ph.D., challenges students to solve complex math problems.



He collected the problems featured in the new book based on research, brainstorming, interesting problems from other sources, and his

experiences in the classroom. “When you’re talking to students and you’re explaining the basic concepts, sometimes you come up with good ideas yourself,” said Zhang, who is also a volunteer math teacher for a small group of students who participate in a Chinese-language program in the town of Davie.

“These students are motivated, but they are bored with math in school,” he said. “They like more challenging problems.” For students interested in the book, “they need to like mathematics and like problem solving. Otherwise, it will be difficult,” Zhang said. “A student must have the basic skills and the background before they can use this book. I purposely chose challenging problems.”



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HUMANITIES

Barbara Brodman, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Humanities, presented research papers at two international conferences in July 2009. She presented “The Mexican Cult of Death as Native American Gothic” at the Ninth Biennial Conference of the International Gothic Association at Lancaster University in England, July 21–24. At the Fourth International Conference on the Arts in Society, at the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti in Venice, Italy, July 29–August 1, Brodman presented “The Life and Art of Frida Kahlo: Exposing the Mexican Psyche to the World.”

Tim Dixon, J.D., associate professor in the Division of Humanities, participated in a panel discussion featuring Rafael Giraldo at Nova Southeastern University on October 8, 2009. Giraldo is a South Florida middle school history teacher who made national headlines for his Tour of Discovery, an 86-day cycling tour across the country completed in the summer of 2009.

Jim Doan, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Humanities, was named one of the top 100 Irish-American educators in the United States, as recognized by *Irish Voice's* “Irish Education 100.” Doan was featured in the October 7–13, 2009, edition of the weekly newspaper. He received the honor in part because of his collaborative efforts in establishing the college’s Irish studies minor program, his affiliation (president and founder) with the South Florida Irish Studies Consortium, and his activeness in the South Florida Irish community.

Chetachi Egwu, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Humanities, presented a research paper at the Ethnic Studies 40th Anniversary Conference, October 6–8, 2009, at San Francisco State University. The paper, titled “Beyond Kingdoms, Kwashiorkor, Conflict and Corruption: The Role of the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* in Reshaping Images of Africa and Africans,” examines the first season of the HBO series (*No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*). The research juxtaposes the show against the images of Africa that currently exist in the media.

Yvette Fuentes, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Humanities, presented a paper and moderated a panel at the 19th annual conference of the Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (AILCFH) organization, September 30–October 4, 2009, in Quito, Ecuador. The paper, “Growing up in Socialist Cuba: Writing as Agency in the Works of Karla Suárez and Wendy Guerra,” describes the use of autobiography as a form of agency in the novels of these young writers. The paper is part of Fuentes’s current research project on contemporary Cuban women writers. The related panel discussion was titled “Memorias y Autobiografía.” AILCFH is dedicated to fomenting the culture and literature of Hispanic women.

Charles Zelden, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Humanities, published a book, *The Supreme Court and Elections: Into the Political Thicket* (Washington, D.C.: CQ

Press), on September 30. Zelden also spoke on issues plaguing the American voting process at Rhodes College in Memphis, and at the San Francisco State University Rights Conference in San Francisco, presenting “Voting Rights and Wrongs: Vote Denial in the 2000 Presidential Election and Beyond.” On November 1, Zelden’s article, “‘In No Event Shall a Negro be Eligible’: The NAACP takes on the Texas All-White Primary, 1923–1944,” was published as a chapter in *Long Is the Way and Hard: One Hundred Years of the NAACP*.

MATH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Jose Antonio, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, received the 2009 NSCA Educator of the Year Award at the National Strength and Conditioning Association’s 32nd annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 10, 2009. Antonio received the prestigious award because of his academic work, which includes 12 books and 45 published scientific papers; his volunteer work for the NSCA as the association’s former vice president; and for his efforts in promoting the NSCA’s mission and certifications through a variety of media.

Joshua Feingold, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, presented research at the scientific meeting V Congreso Mexicano de Arrecifes de Coral, June 24–26, 2009,



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in Veracruz, Mexico. The paper, titled “Coral Cover of *Diaseris Distorta* and *Porites Sverdrupi*,” was co-authored by undergraduate marine biology student Mary Crider. It details data collected on these two species of coral and examines their varying populations within the Eastern Pacific.

Matthew He, Ph.D., director and professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, published and presented multiple works during the summer of 2009. He co-authored a research paper, “On the Universal Zero Attractor of the Tribonacci-Related Polynomials,” which was published in *Calcolo*, volume 46, issue 2, on June 17. In May, He presented a keynote lecture at the Fourth International Workshop on Advanced Special Functions and Solution of PDEs (partial differential equations) in Italy. In July, He also presented a published keynote lecture at the 2009 International Conference on Information Engineering in China. July 31–August 5, he presented two co-authored research papers at the Symmetry Festival 2009 in Budapest, Hungary.

Robin Sherman, Ph.D., associate director and associate professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, received a Coastal America Partnership Award, as well as a thank-you letter from President Obama, at a ceremony in Hollywood, Florida, on August 12, 2009. Sherman received the award for her role as a team

member responsible for implementing the Florida Artificial Tire Reef Cleanup project, which began in 2001. On hand at the ceremony were Florida Congressman Rob Klein and Samuel D. Kleinman, Ph.D., Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, who presented Sherman with an engraved plaque and letter on behalf of the President.

PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

Jennifer Donelson, D.M.A., assistant professor in the Division of Performing and Visual Arts, presented a workshop at the Florida State Music Teachers Association’s 75th Annual Conference, June 10–13, 2009, in Tallahassee. Donelson presented “From Experience to Expressivity: Building Connections Between Daily Life and Budding Musical Skills in Elementary Piano Students.” By suggesting techniques to link natural expressivity to a child’s developing musicianship, Donelson’s interactive session provided movement, language, and other creative activities for building expressive playing from a child’s very first music lesson.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Mindy Ma, Ph.D., assistant professor and coordinator of psychology in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, co-presented collaborative

research at the 117th American Psychological Association Convention in Toronto, August 6–9, 2009. The poster presentation, “Religiosity and Health Among HIV-Seropositive African American Substance Users,” was a joint effort among faculty members and students. Joining Ma in Toronto were Lydia Malcolm, a Ph.D. student in NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies (CPS); Maria Marcoulli, an undergraduate psychology major in the college; and Jeffrey Kibler, Ph.D., associate professor from CPS.

Eileen Smith-Cavros, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, contributed a chapter in the sociology text *Churches and Charity in the Immigrant City: Religion, Immigration, and Civic Engagement in Miami* (Rutgers University Press), published in spring 2009. The chapter, “Black Churches and the Environment in Miami” covers her research at Virginia Key Beach in Miami. During the time of segregation, Virginia Key was the local historic African American beach where church picnics and baptisms were held. Smith-Cavros studied how modern African Americans and other groups in Miami led an effort to preserve the beach and how the group felt about the beach from social and environmental perspectives.



Liberal Arts Alumnus Inducted into NSU Athletics Hall of Fame

When **Craig H. Smith** graduated from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences in 1992, he had no idea that he would be returning to campus 17 years later as an inductee into NSU's Athletics Hall of Fame with a flourishing career in law. However, for those who knew him as a student in the college, his success has come as no surprise.

Arriving at NSU on a full scholarship, Smith majored in liberal arts and played shortstop and second baseman for the then-fledgling baseball team, earning a spot as an NAIA Academic All-American and NSU Athlete of the Year. His versatility and talent in academics and athletics earned him honors such as the prestigious James Farquhar Award and the NSU Scholar-Athlete Award.

Looking back, Smith said his decision to attend the college made a significant difference in his life. He recognizes that the close interaction with faculty members, the opportunities for engagement, and the education he received as an undergraduate helped him succeed in law school and in his professional career.

"After talking to my friends at larger schools, I very quickly realized that students here had a really unique opportunity. If you wanted to be engaged and make a difference here, you could—unlike at bigger schools, where you were just a number," said Smith. Mark Cavanaugh, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who met Smith on his first day of classes in 1988, said Smith excelled at everything.

"From the very beginning, Craig was a standout in class, in the residence halls, and on the athletic fields." He wrote (and still writes) beautifully and is keenly, intellectually engaged in a wide variety of topics. Over the years, we have had many interesting



discussions. And, to this day, we share books, thoughts, and ideas. Craig was going to be successful no matter where he wound up—but I have always been delighted that so much of the groundwork for his success, in addition to that provided by his family, began at NSU."

As a student-athlete, Smith helped lead the university's baseball team to the NAIA District 25 Championships in 1991.

"Playing at NSU was incredible," Smith said. "We even made it to the district championships one year, which was impressive for a new program playing against established teams."

After graduating from the college, Smith's academic talent led him toward a career in law rather than a less certain future in professional baseball. He completed an internship at the Florida House of Representatives in Tallahassee and then enrolled at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where he finished near the top of his class.

Upon graduating from law school, Smith came home to Broward County to work in private practice. In 2007, he returned to Tallahassee to serve for almost two years as general counsel to Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration. The following year, he settled into private law practice. Today, Smith is a partner with the firm Hogan and Hartson in Tallahassee. He and his wife, Joy, have two children, Emma and Michael.