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2012-2013 Farquhar Forum

Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

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FARQUHAR

2012-2013

FORUM

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Field Work

The college promotes community outreach, supporting students' efforts with organizations such as the Special Olympics.



LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES BEGIN IN THE CLASSROOM

In many of the college's programs, students hone their skills by helping others. Service-learning experiences are being woven into the fabric of academic coursework, as students learn as much about themselves as they do about their fields of study.

Featured on the cover is Kyle Latham, a 2012 graduate of the exercise and sport science program. Using what he learned in the classroom, Latham has been giving back to his community. Where some see hurdles, he sees potential in the teens and young adults with intellectual disabilities who compete in the Broward County Special Olympics.

Through a practicum course, Latham volunteered to coach the Special Olympics' local Alpine Ski team. Along the way, he discovered that he relished the chance to apply his academic training and impact the lives of his 35 team members.

AS THE COLLEGE'S 2012–2013 ACADEMIC THEME, the subject of "life and death" can conjure as many images and meanings as the mind allows. And, each one of us at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences may interpret it differently.

In this issue, we speak to Kristoff Samm, a freshman biology major who arrived at NSU this fall from his native Trinidad and Tobago. To him, the equation is simple: Life begins anew in college. For Samm, that means leaving behind most of his familiar life as he embarks on new experiences in a new country, with opportunities on campus and beyond—a rebirth.

Students and faculty members in each of the academic divisions are experiencing and examining the theme from diverse viewpoints. Throughout the year, the topic influences the college's reading program, visiting distinguished speakers, faculty lectures, travel study courses, performances, and art exhibitions.

This fall, the college opened its exhibition series with the visual art gallery show *Women Outside Design³: Confessions of Life and Death*, which approached the theme of life and death from the unique perspectives of nine women graphic designers.

Avoiding the obvious visual depictions of birth, death, and the afterlife, some of the artists chose to illustrate the beginnings and endings of significant passages in their lives—the inner struggle of a difficult time, or the expiration dates of failed relationships. Students, such as art major Natalie Hernandez, helped install the exhibition and had the opportunity to meet the artists and discuss how they intertwined their personal journeys with this broad and multifaceted concept of life and death.

"I feel that each artist planted seeds in our minds to ponder the reasons for life, the truth in death, and better understand our journey from one to the other," said Hernandez, whose experience exemplifies the theme's purpose of provoking discussion and introspection.

Marking the beginning of a new academic year full of intellectual exploration, author Jamaica Kincaid delivered the keynote speech at our Convocation Ceremony in September. One of her novels was selected for the First-Year Reading Program, in which new students like Samm discussed the connections between the book and the theme.

"Life and death doesn't necessarily represent a physical occurrence," Samm concluded. "The academic theme could represent accomplishments, goals, and the development of a positive value system—whether it's trying to make the Dean's List, pursuing academic-related goals, [or] the birth of new friendships and relationships."

In this edition of the *Farquhar Forum*, we focus on new chapters for our students, faculty members, and recent graduates—from research in the labs to scholarly work in the arts—as the college continues to examine how our learning experiences shape our perceptions of life and death.



Don Rosenblum, Ph.D.

Dean, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

FARQUHAR

FORUM

MAGAZINE

FARQUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Farquhar Forum 2011: Winner of the Gold Communicator Award of Excellence for "Educational Institution Magazines," judged by the International Academy of the Visual Arts

Attention Alumni: Tell Us What You Are Up To

The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is interested in keeping in touch with our graduates. Please visit www.nova.edu/alumniupdate to update your contact information and tell us about your professional and personal accomplishments since graduation. Use the promo code "FCAS" to receive a thank-you gift from the NSU Alumni Association. We look forward to hearing from you.

A New Chapter for an Age-Old Story

Convocation and the Reading Program
Revive the Conversation on Life and Death



WHEN FRESHMAN Kristoff Samm arrived at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, straight from his hometown in Trinidad and Tobago, one of his first experiences as a college student was participating in the First-Year Reading Program.

Samm, a biology major, was drawn to the college's reading program, in part, because this year's selected novel, *Annie John*, was authored by Jamaica Kincaid—who, like Samm, has deep roots in the Caribbean.

"I felt like I could relate to Jamaica Kincaid's novel by sharing the similar experience of growing up in the Caribbean," said Samm, who also is a member of the college's Undergraduate Honors Program and the Dual Admission Program for dental medicine. "I grew up in the same school system and played the same games as [the character] Annie John.

"All of my college courses are either science or mathematics-based. However, I am a fan of literature and I truly appreciate it as an art form. Being in the reading program provided me with the platform and environment in which I could express my views to other people who share my passion for literature. It was a great opportunity to meet other students and faculty members."

Offered each fall, the First-Year Reading Program brings together new undergraduates who meet for small discussion groups led by faculty members. Through their studies, these students develop a correlation between the selected novel and the college's academic theme. The theme for the 2012–2013 school year is "life and death."

Life and death are familiar subjects to Kincaid, a native of Antigua, an award-winning author, a former columnist for *The New Yorker*, and a professor of literature at Claremont McKenna College. In addition to *Annie John*, her books include *At the Bottom of the River*, *A Small Place*, and *Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalayas*.

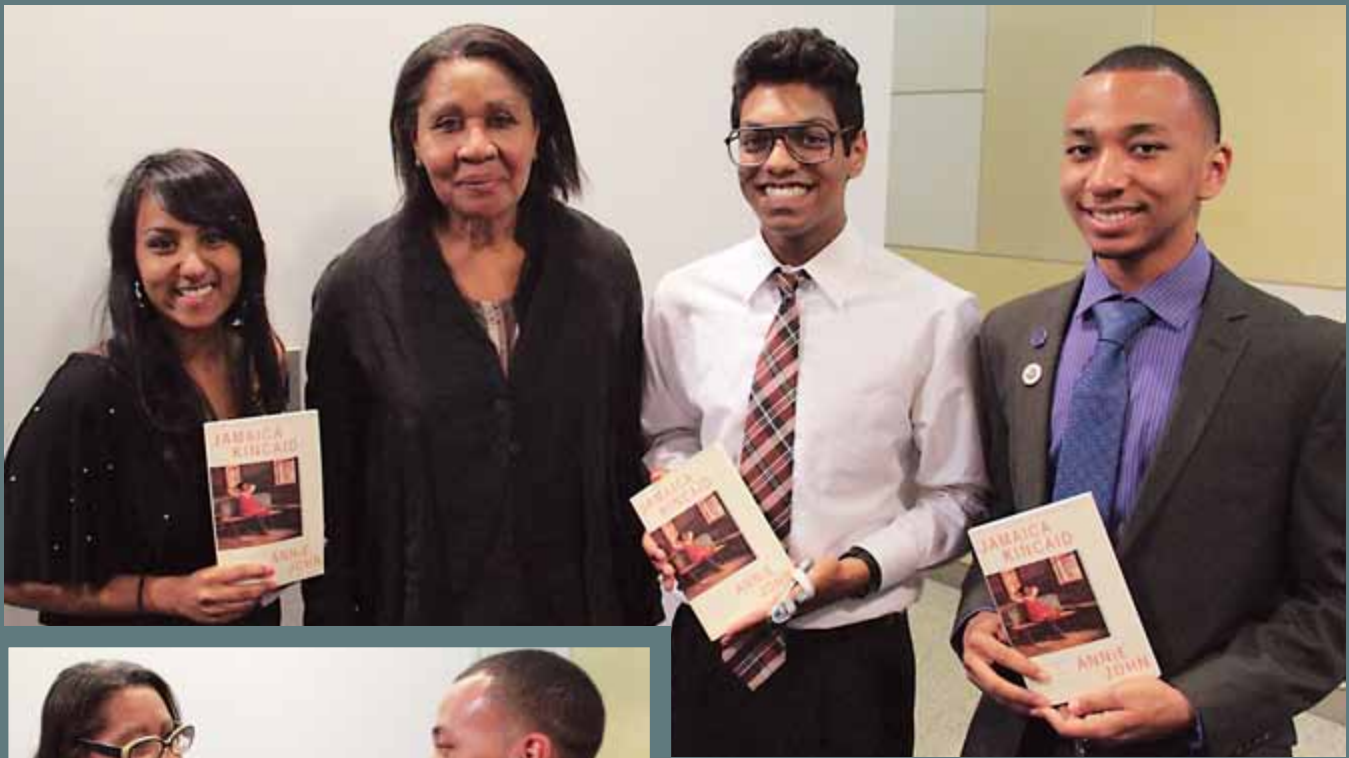
Delivering the keynote speech at this year's Convocation Ceremony, Kincaid read passages from *My Brother*, her 1997 account of the life and death of her brother, who died of AIDS at age 33.

"In his death, I came to understand his life—who he really was," Kincaid told students, adding that, "I was always obsessed with life and death. Even as a child, I felt that death is a standard that life interrupts."

Like Kincaid, the character Annie John, a girl growing up in Antigua, is fascinated by death at a young age. The novel portrays her internal struggle as she weathers a complex and troubled relationship with her mother and eventually leaves her parents and Caribbean-island home behind.

"For a short while during the year I was 10, I thought only people I did not know died. I was afraid of the dead, as was everyone I knew. We were afraid of the dead because we never could tell when they might show up again."

In discussion groups, students interpreted the novel's vivid imagery, symbolism, and concurrent themes of life and death. Following Convocation, they met privately for a dinner with Kincaid.



▲ Kincaid with First-Year Reading students



▲ Kincaid with Kristoff Samm, First-Year Reading student

“The reading program allows students to meet in very small groups with faculty members, underscoring the undergraduate program’s commitment to strong student-faculty interaction,” said Suzanne Ferriss, Ph.D., professor at the college and a faculty participant in the program.

“As a literature professor, I’m delighted to have a chance to introduce students to the challenges and pleasures of literary interpretation. Above all, the students learn that they are part of an intellectual community, reading and discussing a text alongside faculty members.”

David Patino, a freshman English major and member of the Honors Program, gleaned “a deeper understanding” of the academic theme and the novel by participating in the reading program and meeting with Kincaid.

“How can you explain light without knowing darkness or understand warmth without having felt the cold? You cannot adequately explain life without the contrast of death. *Annie John* does a very good job of expressing a life—and the death involved in life,” Patino said.

Moving to the U.S. to start college, leaving his family and homeland, Samm sees the academic theme as a metaphor for the new beginning in his own life.

“Coming to America, I have much more opportunity to develop as a person,” he said. “A lot of college kids have trouble transitioning from high school to college. For me, it’s the opposite. I was excited to launch my collegiate career.

“Life and death don’t necessarily represent a physical occurrence. In her book, Jamaica Kincaid makes use of metaphor and allusion to life and death. In the same way, the academic theme could represent accomplishments, goals, and the development of a positive value system—whether it’s trying to make the Dean’s List or pursuing academic-related goals.

“The birth of new friendships and relationships with fellow students and faculty members—that’s opening a new chapter of life,” said Samm. FF

Professor's Mentorship

Inspires a New Path for Biology Graduate

Inna Dumova knows just how much of a difference one professor can make in a student's life.

When Dumova enrolled at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, her goals were to work toward a spot in medical school and pursue a career in osteopathic medicine. Then her interest in fitness and sports nutrition developed from a pastime to a passion. She participated in related research, and soon her academic path and career goals took a different direction.

A 2012 graduate of the college, Dumova began graduate school this past fall and plans to earn a doctoral degree in physiology and nutrition with a focus on chronic-disease prevention—a decision influenced by what she learned in the classroom and under the mentorship of Jose Antonio, Ph.D., assistant professor at the college.

Dumova's growing curiosity and enthusiasm for sports nutrition led her to Antonio's classroom. Not long after, she volunteered to work as a teaching assistant in his anatomy and physiology classroom. He nominated Dumova for her current position as student representative on the board of the International Society of Sports Nutrition (ISSN), a professional organization founded by Antonio in 2003.

Antonio provided guidance and direction as Dumova, a former member of the college's Undergraduate Honors Program, conducted research and presented a poster at the 2011 Undergraduate Student Symposium. Her research project focused on the effects of traditional weight training versus a cross-training strength and conditioning program on various measures of physical performance.

"His mentorship has been tremendous," said Dumova, who was a member of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and NSU's Pre-Medical Society. "Dr. Antonio has given me great guidance in the direction of my career and about how to write and present research. He helped me understand the differences between the Ph.D. degree and the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree, which I was going to pursue before I knew much about the Ph.D. field."

For Antonio, mentoring students comes naturally. He is passionate about the discipline of sports nutrition and sees opportunities for students who share that enthusiasm. As a faculty member and an expert in the field, Antonio shares his knowledge with students as well as a vast network of professional contacts.

"Inna was an honors student and she's very driven and motivated," he said. "She is interested in improving people's health. To me, the most important thing is enthusiasm. When I have students who have enthusiasm, I mentor them without even thinking about it. It's just what I do. It's important to mentor students so that they avoid common and silly mistakes."

In addition to teaching at the college, Antonio is the author or editor of several books and the editor in chief of *Inside Fitness* magazine and the online magazine *Sports Nutrition Insider*. He also writes articles for academic and consumer-oriented publications.

Under his leadership, the ISSN hosted its ninth annual conference and expo in June 2012 in Clearwater Beach,

Florida. As the student representative until 2014, Dumova helped organize the conference.

“Dr. Antonio has really been great at encouraging me to do more things outside of the school, such as attending the ISSN conference, reviewing various publications, and writing about the topics that interest me,” she said.


“Through Dr. Antonio, I have met some of the greatest leaders in sports nutrition and physiology, including himself. I feel like I have become part of the fitness nutrition community.”

“The sky is the limit,” Antonio said of how far a student like Dumova can go in the field, with career paths that include teaching, research, or consulting work.

Dumova, who emigrated to the United States from Russia when she was 14 years old, is studying for her doctorate at Baylor University under the advisement of Darryn S. Willoughby, Ph.D., associate professor and director of the school’s Exercise and Biochemical Nutrition Laboratory.

“I want to focus on how nutrition affects pathology, primarily the chronic ailments and the neurophysiology that is affected by conditions such as chronic inflammation. I am interested in research to help prevent chronic degenerative illnesses, such as arthritis, diabetes, obesity, attention-deficit disorder, cardiac diseases, and many others,” Dumova said.

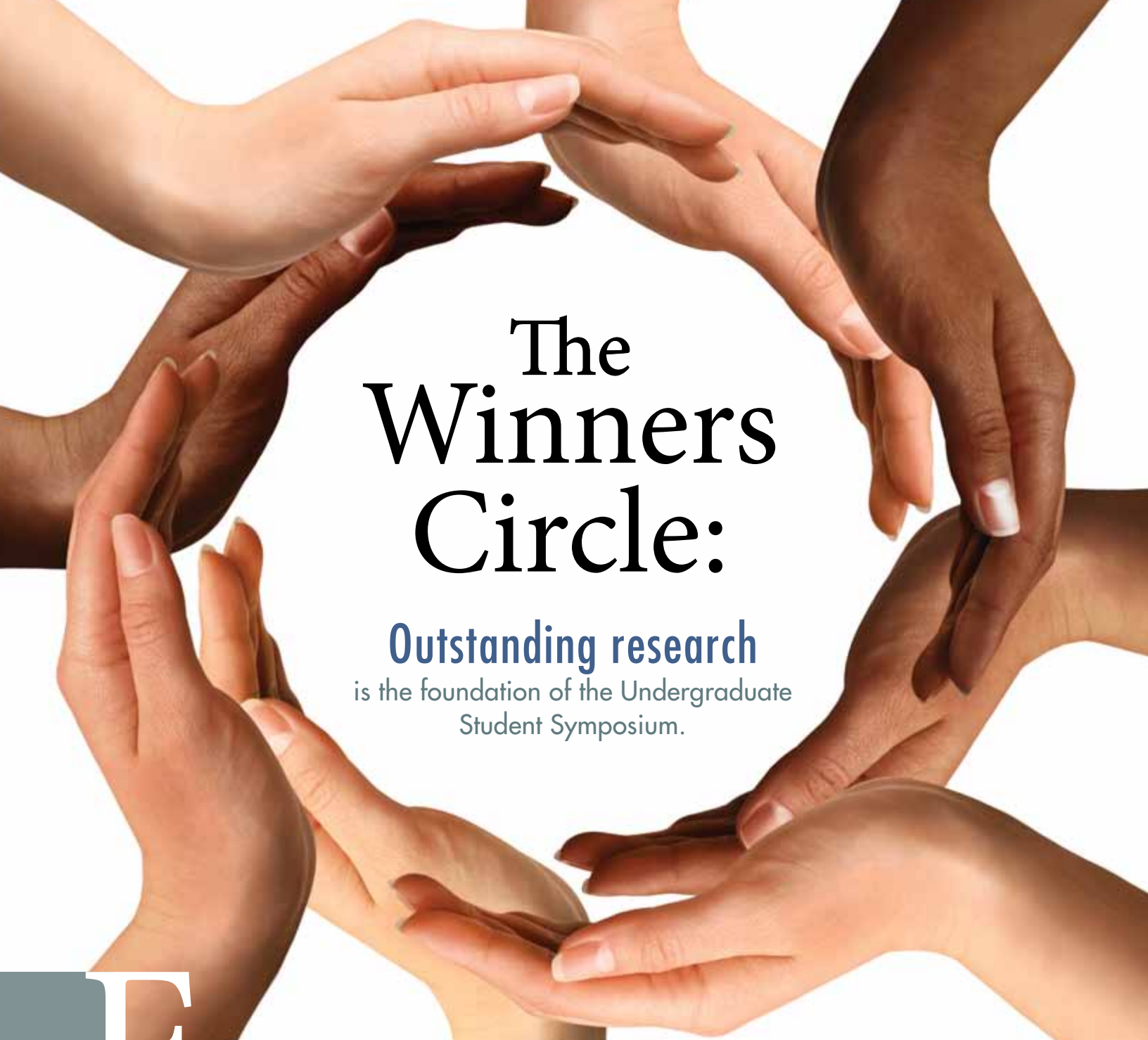
“I tell students to pursue what you love,” Antonio said. “Often, students will tell me they love one thing, but they are pursuing something else because they think that’s what they’re supposed to do, or that’s what their parents want them to do. Sometimes, I’ll see a light go off when they have a crazy interest in some subject. So maybe I can push them in that direction.”

“Inna had a Plan A,” Antonio said. “If you ask a student the right questions, it helps the student realize that sometimes Plan B should be the plan of action.” 



▲▲ Jose Antonio, Ph.D., assistant professor at the college, is working with the lab’s BOD POD machine, which measures mass and body fat.

▲ Antonio and Inna Dumova conduct a submaximal cycling test at the exercise science lab.



The Winners Circle:

Outstanding research
is the foundation of the Undergraduate
Student Symposium.

F

ostering intellectual curiosity and creative exploration, the Undergraduate Student Symposium showcases student scholarship from across the disciplines through presentations, papers, and poster displays. The annual event, hosted by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, spotlights the quality of work being accomplished by NSU's undergraduate students—many of whom also get the opportunity to share their findings at national and international conferences or submit them for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

The following projects represent the 2012 symposium's award-winning research from each of the college's academic divisions: Performing and Visual Arts; Humanities; Math, Science, and Technology; and Social and Behavioral Sciences. This work exemplifies the innovative research topics, approaches, and ideas the college aims to inspire in all students.



Analyzing the Craft of Dance

Amy Nicole Peters

FOR AMY NICOLE PETERS, the project that earned her a first-place award at the Undergraduate Student Symposium was as much a personal journey about self discovery as it was an academic exercise that changed the way she looks at research.

The dance major and 2012 graduate of the college was awarded first place at the symposium for her oral presentation titled, “A Journey Brought to You in Part by: Improvisation.”

After taking a dance improvisation class and completing an independent study, Peters became intrigued with the idea of researching the subject and how it had made a difference in her life.

Using personal journals and outside sources, Peters detailed her “journey of dance improvisation” in a reflective essay. Although at first uncomfortable with dance improvisation, she found that focusing on her practice of this free-form dance

technique challenged her to look inward and become a more confident dancer.

“I believe this research helped me because it was personal,” said Peters. “I needed to look at myself in a lot of different ways.”

This personal approach led to “breaking old habits” and finding new ground; developing an awareness of self, space, and other people; taking risks and exploring new forms of movement; and navigating what she calls “organized versus unorganized improvisation.”

“This was not easy for her in the beginning,” said Elana Lanczi, M.F.A., assistant professor at the college. “But her ability to stay open to new ideas coupled with her desire to learn, pushed her forward to a place of real growth—both personally and creatively.”

Amy Nicole Peters plans to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in Dance.



Deconstructing a Love of Words

Dan Abella

DAN ABELLA isn’t sure what career path he will follow, but he is certain he will pursue a passion for writing that he developed as an English major at the college.

Abella, a recent graduate honored as one of the 2012 Outstanding Students, was awarded first place at the Undergraduate Student Symposium for his literary analysis and oral presentation titled, “You’re a Good Man...Right?: A Deconstructive Analysis of Flannery O’Connor’s *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*.”

“Presenting at the symposium provides an opportunity for students to teach each other about our research and fields of interest. It extends learning outside the classroom and cultivates a respect for knowledge and questioning,” said Abella. “Hopefully, it inspires young individuals to make the world a better place.”

His analysis of O’Connor’s work, “offers a sophisticated analysis of a story that, on the surface, appears to establish a simple dichotomy between good and evil,” said Suzanne

Ferriss, Ph.D., professor at the college. “In his essay, Dan submits the piece to a deconstructive analysis to demonstrate the complex dynamic in the text, demonstrating its essential moral ambiguity.”

Abella chose the story because O’Connor—known to write in a Southern Gothic style—is one of his favorite American authors. Within the context of the college’s 2011–2012 academic theme of “good and evil,” Abella found that O’Connor’s work explores complex topics of morality, as evident in *A Good Man Is Hard to Find*.

“I am struck by her simple yet profound prose—unyielding and humorous—although always concerned with serious subjects,” Abella said. “Presenting her work was not only an intellectual exercise but a pleasurable experience.”

Dan Abella’s plans include graduate school, where he can expand his study of the written word.





Yielding Clues About HIV's Impact on the Immune System

Adam Abdulhafid

ADAM ABDULHAFID'S immunology project began when he was a research assistant to a professor studying children perinatally infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus).

"The subject of my interest in mathematics came up, and [the professor] suggested that I make a model about this area of her research. This idea intrigued me," said Abdulhafid, a 2012 graduate of the college's biology (premedical) program.

At the time, Abdulhafid was completing an internship with Samita Andreansky, Ph.D., research assistant professor at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, as part of a collaborative effort with Abdulhafid's faculty adviser, Evan Haskell, Ph.D., associate professor at NSU.

Abdulhafid's subsequent research project led to a first-place award at the Undergraduate Student Symposium for his poster presentation titled, "A B Cell Driven Model of Antibody Response in an Immunocompromised System."

"What we wanted to determine in this model was how the body responded to infection," said Abdulhafid, who looked at how immunocompromised patients—such as pregnant women and HIV-infected children—would respond to new infections. In particular, Abdulhafid studied an infection of swine influenza on the system.

"We wanted to know what effects on the immune system these mechanisms, such as HIV and pregnancy, generate for a primary and future secondary infection," Abdulhafid said. "This research is all based on mathematical modeling. So we do all of the research with a computer program for simulation, or a pen and paper to develop the equations of the model.

"The most significant result so far is that when a person has an advanced case of HIV—meaning there is a lot of killing of [the body's] CD4 T cells by HIV—then the antibody response won't fight off the infection."

Haskell called the project "a multidisciplinary collaboration in immunology" between members of NSU and the University of Miami. "The work highlights the impact of scientific community-building in South Florida," he said.

"Adam developed and analyzed a mathematical model of memory formation in the immune system to better understand how to vaccinate or treat patients with immune systems compromised by HIV.

"It is exciting work in the first steps of understanding how perinatal HIV infection and other immune system suppressors, like pregnancy, impact the ability of the immune system to form a functioning antibody response, such as that gained by the vaccination of a normally functioning system. This is important for public health workers who seek to protect populations from epidemic disease outbreaks and doctors who treat infectious diseases," Haskell said.

Abdulhafid presented this research at the college's Mathematics Colloquium Series and at the BioTech 2012 Conference at Florida International University in Miami, Florida.

"From this project, I learned a lot about how modeling works in a real-world manner," he said. "It is very valuable to know how to work within the parameters of the model and how to present to a general audience with just a poster as a visual aid. Now I am more comfortable presenting a technical subject, which will give me an advantage."



Adam Abdulhafid is currently writing about his findings for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.



Exploring the Effects of Sleep Deprivation

Ramey Alfarra

WHEN BIOLOGY MAJOR RAMEY ALFARRA embarked upon a research project, he sought answers to “practical questions” surrounding a subject that affects millions of people, especially college students.

“The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Neurophysiological Measures of Emotion and Biochemical Measures of Stress” is the title of Alfarra’s award-winning research, the subject of his thesis, and a first-place winner at the Undergraduate Student Symposium.

“Every college student has to undergo total sleep deprivation at one point or another,” said Alfarra, a recent graduate who received the college’s Divisional Honors Program Citation after successfully defending his thesis in spring 2012.

“My research shows that a single night of sleep deprivation leads to a blunting in emotion cognitive processing without altering cortisol,” he explained. “In other words, if you were presented with emotional stimulus after staying up all night, you would interpret that stimulus as less emotional than you would if you interpreted the same stimulus after sleeping well.”

“His findings are exciting and clarify the effects of sleep loss on emotion processing,” said Jaime Tartar, Ph.D., associate professor and coordinator of psychology research at the college’s Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who served as Alfarra’s faculty adviser. “This is important for doctors, military personnel, and others who need to make emotionally laden decisions on little sleep.”

After recruiting NSU students as participants, Alfarra recorded their responses to a variety of photographs that were shown to them after a full night of sleep and after staying awake all night.


During the sleep-deprivation phase, Alfarra stayed up with the participants, who were given board and video games and movies to help them stay awake. The next morning, they were

shown positive, negative, and neutral pictures—such as a baby laughing, a car accident, and a fork—while an electroencephalograph (EEG) recorded the brain’s automatic response to the pictures. The subjects rated the pictures on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 being the most negative.

“By comparing their well-rested responses to their sleep-deprived responses, I could detect any changes that occurred in cognitive processing as a result of being sleep deprived,” Alfarra said. “I also recorded [both] salivary cortisol levels to detect a stress response and self-reported anxiety levels before and after seeing the pictures.”

Alfarra presented his research at the Society for Neuroscience International Conference and at the Biotech 2012 Conference at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. He hopes to publish his findings in a scientific peer-reviewed journal, such as *Sleep*.

He believes conducting research is important for all biology majors, regardless of their future career track.

“Biology is a field that rapidly expands as a result of continuous research,” he said. “It is important that biology students appreciate the process of conducting research and the findings that research provides. I believe that the only way to achieve this degree of appreciation is to do research ourselves. This appreciation is necessary to promote students’ understanding of biology, as well as allow them to be at the cutting edge of their respective fields.” 



Ramey Alfarra aims to spend a year in the postbaccalaureate research program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, followed by medical school.

The Write Way

When criminal justice major **Alyssa Corso** struggled with assignments in a first-year composition course, she was reluctant to seek help. “I was horrible at writing research papers,” she said. Then, Corso met one-on-one with a student attending the class as part of the COMP Fellows program.

“AT FIRST, I was stubborn about it,” she said. “I thought this would cut into my time for other courses. But, [the fellows] helped me so much. When we were working on an assignment about how to write a thesis statement, they brought in worksheets to help.”

The COMP Fellows program at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences provides course-based writing assistance to students enrolled in first-year composition courses. The fellows assist students throughout all stages of the writing process and with general writing skills, said Kevin Dvorak, Ph.D., associate professor at the college and coordinator of the writing center, who leads the COMP Fellows program.

“The program began because the college recognizes a need to provide much more individualized assistance to first-

year students,” Dvorak said. “Writing is better learned when you have one-on-one assistance, when you receive feedback, and when you explore the possibility of what else you can do.”

The fellows—both undergraduates and students from the college’s M.A. in Writing program—attend classes, meet with individual students, and discuss goals and student progress with faculty members.

The fellows are unique because they are embedded in the classroom, which enables them to understand the assignments and faculty member-student dynamics, Dvorak said. They also provide first-year students with an opportunity “to make another connection on campus.”

“The fellows are very much a part of the classroom’s fabric,” Dvorak said, adding that students practice multiple styles of writing—including narratives, thesis statements, and research papers.

“We prepare them to be strong writers and write for multiple audiences,” he said. “The fellows provide faculty members with assistance by making sure that every student can have a one-on-one conversation. When you are writing and you have a reader, the reader can serve as the ‘disconnected’ audience and provide feedback. In this case, the fellow is acting as the reader and the audience.”

The benefits are evident to the first-year student participants, many of whom struggle with research papers. They like that fellows are in the classroom with them.

“Research papers aren’t my strong point, but having the fellows here made it so much easier,” said biology major Brittany Bacallao. “They guided me through it and made sure I stayed on topic and stayed organized. They were here for us.”

“By having someone else to talk to, I could get feedback about my writing,” said biology major Naudia Khan, who also needed help with research papers. “They helped keep me on track and stay focused on trying to tell the story.”

Fellows help students focus and organize their ideas and write in a cohesive manner. They do not rewrite the students’ work, and their approach is different than those of writing tutors. The fellows describe their role as being strong listeners who ask pertinent questions.

“I’m here to offer an alternative perspective,” said fellow Liz Massy, a 2012 graduate of the college’s environmental science/studies program. “If they get stuck, I try to help them look at various options and bring them ideas.

“Being in the classroom, you get to know the students on a more intimate level,” Massy said. “The students feel a lot more comfortable in this atmosphere.”


“I’m more of a sounding board for them,” said fellow Amionne Jean, a computer information systems major. “I’m asking them a lot of questions, and they are getting their ideas out there. My role is to get them to consider their options on an assignment. By creating that foundation, they will become much better at doing it.”

Working as a fellow has even improved her own writing, Jean said.

“Our goal is to facilitate independent writing,” said fellow Cristine Busser, a student in the M.A. in Writing program. “At the same time, I think we have taken away the students’ fear of seeking feedback. A lot of students don’t understand their professors’ comments or the assignments, and they’re afraid to ask.

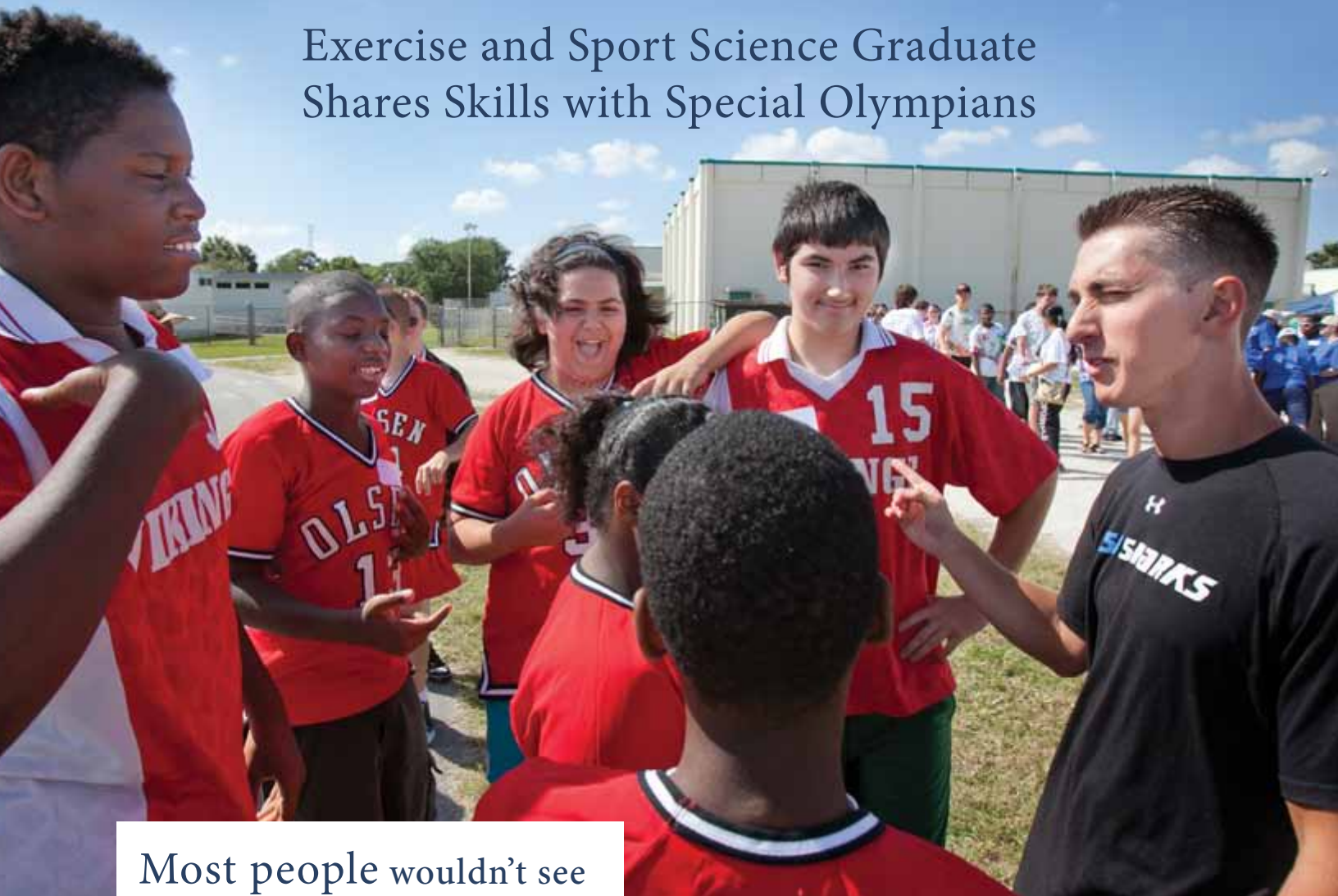


▲ *COMP Fellow Keren Moros works with biology major Dat Nguyen during a freshman writing class.*

“They open up to us. They’re excited about the opportunity to discuss their writing. A lot of them will start out with, ‘I’m not a good writer.’ I tell them, ‘if you have ideas, you can be a good writer. You just need to communicate them.’” 

FIELD WORK:

Exercise and Sport Science Graduate Shares Skills with Special Olympians



Most people wouldn't see the potential in skiing down a South Florida sand dune, but Kyle Latham isn't like most people.

By David Colodney

A 2012 GRADUATE of the exercise and sport science program at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, Kyle Latham was looking for an innovative way to use his newly acquired skills to help others. He did just that by volunteering with the local Special Olympics Alpine Ski Team, for which he helped develop the on-land ski program for 35 Broward County participants.

Latham became involved with the Special Olympics as part of the college's Practicum in Exercise Science capstone course. His role quickly evolved into head coach of the Alpine Ski Team, which provides sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

“PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE SKILLS WHILE HELPING THE COMMUNITY IMPROVES STUDENTS’ CONFIDENCE AND ALLOWS FOR GREATER LEARNING. SERVICE LEARNING INTEGRATES MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH INSTRUCTION.”

—Tobin Silver, Ph.D., assistant professor, Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Latham began training the team for competition on the snow-covered slopes of the Special Olympics Southeast Winter Games, held in February 2012 in North Carolina. His athletes ranged in age from 15 to 25.

There were challenges—starting with teaching the team how to properly wear and walk in the ski boots. “They freaked out the first time they put on the skis,” Latham said. “When you latch them in, there’s no movement. You have to re-learn to walk.”

Latham worked with the skiers, guiding them through obstacle courses and figure eights in the sand. Then it was time for his team to master the ski slope, which, in this case, was a sand dune. The dunes are about 15-foot high and steep enough to provide the feeling of skiing, Latham said, adding that the hardest part for him was teaching the athletes how to fall properly.

Latham quickly bonded with his team. “We’re not just there to teach them to ski. We’re there to teach them how to lead, [to teach] social skills, and [to promote] self-confidence,” he said. Two of his team members were so successful that they are expected to compete in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in South Korea in January and February 2013.

Working with the Special Olympics was a natural fit with Latham’s goals and academic experience. He taught the athletes everything from proper training techniques—such as doing a dynamic warm-up instead of a static stretch—to how to properly use the ski equipment and select the correct attire.


“The Practicum in Exercise Science course is designed for students like Kyle to take what they have learned in the classroom and put it into practice,” said Tobin Silver, Ph.D., assistant professor at the college. “Kyle did that with the Special Olympics. He took the knowledge gained from his classes and applied that to a real-world scenario.



“Kyle’s hands-on experience helped in multiple ways. He provided improved structure for the Special Olympics programs. He learned how to work with special populations to promote health...and to see if this is the type of career he wants to pursue. And he made an impact on the lives of many families.”

Latham hopes to combine his exercise and sport science training with a Master of Business Administration degree and work in product development for companies specializing in health and wellness.

He’s also looking forward to coaching the Alpine Ski Team again in 2013.

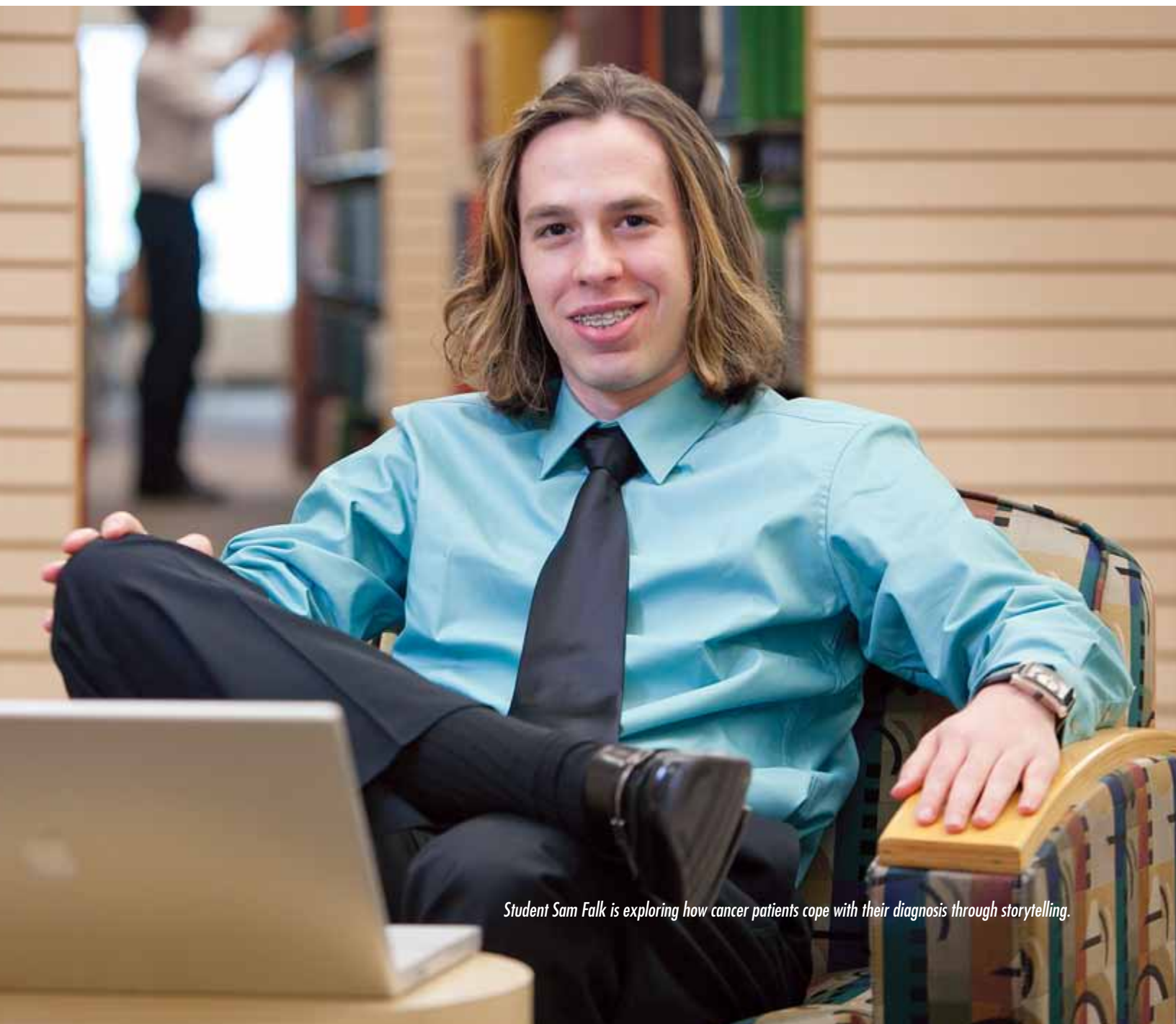
“The smile the athletes have on their faces coming down the sand dunes is indescribable. It’s something I will never forget,” Latham said. 



David Colodney is a student in the college’s Master of Arts in Writing degree program.

The Healing Power of Storytelling:

Examining the Value of Communication
Among Cancer Patients



Student Sam Falk is exploring how cancer patients cope with their diagnosis through storytelling.

AS A COMMUNICATION STUDIES MAJOR, Sam Falk is intrigued by how people express themselves through the written word. His interest took a surprising turn when he learned how cancer patients are using the Internet to share their stories of living with a rare, aggressive form of the disease.

Eager to learn more, Falk, a junior at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, began pursuing an honors thesis on medical pathography, which is the study of an illness presented in a narrative form. He focused his research on how these stories—published in print and online—have become a pivotal part of the lives of those facing serious illness, in this case, leiomyosarcoma (LMS).

“Because the disease is not well understood, some LMS patients write their stories (or ‘pathographies’) to communicate their fears, share new findings, provide a sense of hope for others, and converse about alternative approaches for treatment,” said Falk, a member of the Undergraduate Honors Program. The program offers high-achieving students opportunities for academic excellence, leadership, and engagement—including the completion of a divisional honors thesis.

“My thesis will help demonstrate how patients with LMS and other rare diseases communicate and make sense of their illnesses through various media, including blogs, support Web sites, books, poetry, journals, email, and videos,” Falk said.

He became interested in the topic after enrolling in an Honors course called *The Pathography: Patients’ Stories of Illness*, taught by his thesis adviser, Edwin Stieve, Ph.D., associate professor at the college. In that class, Falk read the work of Anne Hunsaker Hawkins, the author of *Reconstructing Illness: Studies in Pathography*. Credited with coining the term “pathography,” Hawkins helped to define this genre by examining case studies that illustrate the diversity of each patient’s experience.

Much of Falk’s thesis research comes from his own interviews with LMS patients, exploring how they use pathographies to cope with their diagnoses, assist with everyday living, acquire information, and share their experiences.

Pathographies may help narrow the gap between medical protocol and personal experience.

“Medicine is not just medical terms and technology,” Stieve said. “It is transactions between doctors and patients. It’s interpreting and understanding patients’ stories. A pathography is a tool that allows a physician to understand the whole story...and it will help in writing a patient’s history.”


“An undergraduate thesis is a unique and significant commitment,” said Marlisa Santos, Ph.D., professor and director of the college’s Division of Humanities. “Such an achievement gives a student invaluable preparation for graduate school or career demands involving research and writing.”

For Falk, it was an opportunity he couldn’t pass up.

“No matter what a student plans to do in life, a thesis is always pertinent,” Falk said. “You can tailor it to your niche or make it as broad or narrow as you like.”

“And this topic was very meaningful for me. My research discovers content often overshadowed by the more objective physical sciences, empirical research, and clinical trials. It explores the notion that medicine involves more than orthodox scientific practices and standard treatment options.”

Because honors theses like Falk’s are comparable to those conducted at the master’s degree-level, honors students aim to share their work at conferences and in peer-reviewed journals. Falk and Stieve hope to jointly present research on patient narratives at the 2013 national conference of the Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association.

The thesis and other learning opportunities exclusive to those in the Honors Program offer students like Falk a competitive advantage when applying to graduate school. As a member of the Dual Admission Program in law, Falk plans to attend the NSU Law Center and use his communications and legal education to help others in a health-related capacity. 

A LEGACY^{IN} EDUCATION



T

Recent graduate **Catalina Rodriguez** is moving on to medical school with hands-on experience after assisting a surgical transplant team in Austria. Biology major **Stephanie Gereffi** is pursuing her goal of becoming a dentist and opening a practice to patients in need. English major **Alison Parente** is chasing her dream of becoming a literature professor and helping other women realize their dreams through education.

THESE STUDENTS from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences were among those recognized in 2012 as recipients of several memorial and recognition scholarships. These diverse scholarships were established by university and college donors to honor their family members while supporting students from multiple disciplines in pursuit of their academic goals.

The Stolzenberg-Doan Scholarship supports students, such as Rodriguez, who expand the scope of their academics through the college-sponsored Travel Study program. The Ellen Dix Thompson Living Legacy Scholarship assists high-achieving English majors, such as Parente, who are selected by college faculty members to receive the award for up to two years. The Madden Family Changing Lives Scholarship is intended for students, such as Gereffi, who excel in the college's Division of Math, Science, and Technology and submit an essay on the anticipated impact of their college education.

Rodriguez, a 2012 graduate of the college's Bachelor of Science in Biology program, spent seven weeks as an intern at a hospital in Graz, Austria, where she shadowed a team of transplant surgeons.

As an undergraduate, Rodriguez was a member of the college's Undergraduate Honors Program and past president of NSU's Pre-Student Osteopathic Medical Association. Her

travel study experience in summer 2011 gave her a new perspective on medicine and her goal of becoming a surgeon in osteopathic medicine.

In the operating room, Rodriguez assisted in organ transplant surgeries as well as orthopedic procedures, heart pacemaker insertions, and the Caesarean delivery of a baby. At the hospital, her routine included daily rounds during which she learned to draw blood, change bandages, and start IVs on patients, most of whom spoke German and communicated with her by smiling or hand gestures.

"This experience allowed me to feel what it would be like to be a third- or fourth-year medical student," said Rodriguez, who was on call for the emergency transplant surgeries. During her first assistance, "I remember holding a kidney in my hand, and it was gray. When they connected it with the [patient's] arteries and veins, it immediately turned pink.

"You learn how delicate and important life is," she said. This experience, supported by the Stolzenberg-Doan Scholarship, "helped me make a better decision about what I would like to do," Rodriguez said.

James Doan, Ph.D., professor at the college, said the scholarship was founded in honor of his mother and grandparents "who supported me in my own study abroad in college and graduate school. I'm very happy this has been so successful

“EDUCATION IS A GIFT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME...THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO INVEST SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT AND REAP SUCH A LARGE RETURN.”

—H. Dan Madden III

and that the recipients have found this to be a life-changing experience.”

As a recipient of the Ellen Dix Thompson Living Legacy Scholarship, Parente is excited about continuing her English studies and lifelong love of literature. A junior and a member of the Undergraduate Honors Program, Parente is majoring in both English and psychology, and she plans to complete a minor in gender studies.

“I chose to be an English major because I love literature, and I always have,” Parente said. “During my first two years at NSU, I was a biology major, attempting to become a doctor per my parents’ request. My heart wasn’t in the work. I missed reading, and I missed writing about my reaction to pieces. I was no longer moved or inspired by what I was learning,” she said.

So, Parente changed her major to English. “I could think of nothing that would make me happier than to be a professor of literature. I instantly felt revived,” she said, crediting the scholarship, in part, for her renewed interest in her education.

“I believe that this scholarship is incredibly important because it provides recipients with an avenue of opportunity that might not otherwise be available,” Parente said. “Author Mary Wollstonecraft asserted the importance of improving the lives of women through access to education, and that is precisely what this scholarship does.

“The Ellen Dix Thompson scholarship helps women realize their full potential, so that they, in turn, may aid others in doing so.”



Catalina Rodriguez



Alison Parente



Stephanie Gereffi

Biology major and junior Gereffi believes the Madden Family Changing Lives Scholarship gave her the extra push she needed to pursue a career in dental medicine and offer health care to those most in need.


“I chose dentistry because I want to reach out to the community and help provide good health to those who aren’t always given a chance,” Gereffi said.

She hopes to pay tribute to the Madden family and scholarship donors by making a difference in the community.

“I feel my NSU degree will change my life and the lives of others,” she said. “Scholarships take away some of the financial stress and allow students, like myself, to put their full heart into their dreams and goals. The Madden Family Scholarship helped give me the extra push that I needed to continue my journey at NSU.

“It is exceptional to know that there are still people who help dreams come true.”

“Education is a gift that will last a lifetime,” said H. Dan Madden III, who founded the scholarship with his wife, Penny, to “return something to the community.” He explained, “We have such appreciation for all the wonderful teachers our son had in school and for all the dedicated and conscientious teachers who helped me as I went back to school at NSU.

“There is no better way to invest such a small amount and reap such a large return,” Madden said. “We are only too happy to give Stephanie the chance to achieve her goals.” 

RESEARCH COMES TO LIFE ON STAGE: Q & A WITH CHOREOGRAPHER, PROFESSOR, DANCER

For Augusto Soledade, M.F.A., research doesn't begin in a laboratory, or a remote village, or the pages of a great book. Instead, it starts with a single idea, follows an internal and creative process, and develops into a dance production that comes to life on stage.

"When we talk about choreography as research, it has to do with the actual creative process," said Soledade, assistant professor at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. "It has to do with the methods you choose to generate an idea and create material that you're going to construct into choreography until you get to the final product."

Soledade, a former Guggenheim Fellow who teaches a variety of dance courses, is in his second year of teaching at the college. His areas of expertise include choreography, Afro-fusion dance technique, and dances of the African Diaspora.

In addition, he serves as the founding artistic director at the Brazz Dance Theater in Miami, Florida, a place he describes as his "laboratory... that allows me to be free and creative."

A native of Brazil, Soledade has received multiple grants to develop choreographic and research-based projects, including the creation of his latest dance production, *Cordel*, which reflects on the history and social implications of three art forms: Argentine tango, American hip-hop, and Brazil's Cordel literature.

Forum: *Can you describe how your work as a choreographer and dance performer reflects research and scholarship?*

Soledade: The scholarship is really in the process of how to create a dance. It isn't just putting movement together and saying, "here is the dance." There is so much cognitive work. You have to create a

system of development, creating and analyzing everything and deciding what you're going to choose, and then put it together so that it will reflect your original idea.

Going from an idea in your mind to actually seeing a dance as a piece of art moving in space and time, that is really a very long road. That long road needs all kinds of methods and procedures in order to take place. It's not just a random act. It's not as easy as people may think when they see dancers on the stage.

Forum: *How is this process different from, or similar to, conventional means of academic research?*

Soledade: If you look at the more traditional method of research, such as creating a thesis, it ultimately requires that you try to prove whether or not something is true. It's the same with dance. You have an idea. You have to find an approach, a method, and ways to develop that idea into something you can present as concrete data.

When you see the dancers moving to music, your idea comes to life. Creating something is just as hard as it would be for any scientist to prove a hypothesis. One of the reasons it's more difficult is that we're working with intuition and so many things that are not easily measured; whereas, the scientist can create tools with which to measure.

Forum: *Can you describe your creative process?*

Soledade: When it comes to dance, an idea really goes through a lot of personal experiences—your

“Dance is an art form that is intrinsic to every human being.”

family, your culture—and it keeps developing. I grew up in Brazil, and I’ve been here [in the United States] for 17 years. So, I have an expanded understanding of what “home” feels like.

In my creative process, I go through a negotiation of two concepts of “home,” and they’re not in conflict. They help me create a certain understanding of myself and an understanding of the world and how I interact with the world. I’ve realized that the entire process of negotiating these concepts really fuels my creative process.


For instance, I looked at tango because I live in Miami. I’m so exposed to Hispanic culture, and that makes me look for ways to connect with it. I’m not Argentinean, but I can relate to the origins of that dance form and how it was created.

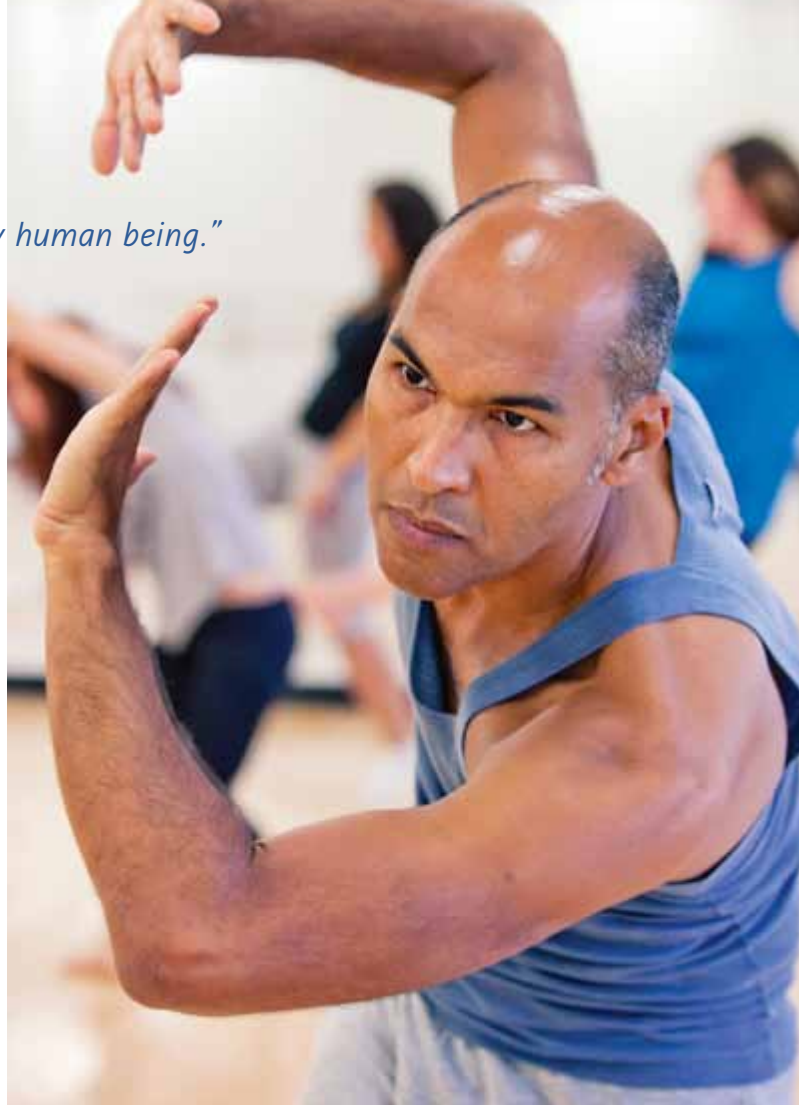
Forum: *How do you incorporate this creative process in the classroom?*

Soledade: Dance is an art form that is intrinsic to every human being. To be a beautiful performer, just having the talent is not enough. You have to develop methods of analyzing your own performance.

Along that path, you develop knowledge of yourself and how to produce your specific art. You have to rely on that instinct...to accomplish your ultimate goal, which is to know yourself better and be a much better performer.

When I teach choreography or composition, we discuss approach, method, data, structuring, and the process itself. The data you collect by studying a certain way of, say, moving your hips or getting up from the floor becomes a tool for you.

The knowledge you build or explore is not easy to measure. Scientists might not see how that can be research. But, the process itself is what generates knowledge for me, and that is enough to call it research. 



▲▲ Augusto Soledade, M.F.A., in the college’s dance studio

▲ Providing feedback to students on their form and posture

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE EXPERIENCE IS A “PROCESS OF DISCOVERY” FOR STUDENTS

When the 1960s comedy *Boeing-Boeing* premiered at NSU’s Black Box Theatre in 2012, it offered far more than a few laughs.

For one of its stars, Monica Lynne Herrera, the production will be remembered as her debut as a professional actress. At the time, Herrera was a senior theatre major at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

For her costar Lauren Butler, a 2010 alumna of the college’s theatre program, the experience served as a character study and the basis of her graduate thesis.

Boeing-Boeing was one of the final efforts of The Promethean Theatre, which served as NSU’s professional theatre company in residence for six years until it closed its doors in March 2012. But the production lives on as an example of scholarly work in the arts supported by the college.

“For actors, designers, and directors, the productions created or re-imaged represent research and scholarship in the field of theatre,” said Mark Duncan, M.F.A., associate professor and assistant director of the college’s Division of Performing and Visual Arts, who performed alongside his students in *Boeing-Boeing*.

“The creation of a production is a process of discovery, similar to how a scientist does experiments and learns by that process. The final product is presented and reviewed by the public and peers in the field,” he comments.

Butler is using this stage experience and its “process of discovery” to inform her thesis, part of her graduate work toward a Master of Fine Arts degree at the

University of Central Florida. Her research came, in part, from rehearsals and live performances that required her to, as she put it, “get inside the character’s head.”

“Every time I did, I figured out something else about her,” Butler said. “Every moment you are playing a character is a new opportunity to explore, to consider how she would react to a situation and why.”

“Performances on stage allow you to test your character on an audience. Of course, you’ve tested it on your director hundreds of times. But getting the audience reaction and feeding off an audience’s response can really [assist] how you develop and perfect your character throughout the run of the show.”

Butler’s thesis, “Act Like A Lady: Creating a Non-Stereotypical Gloria in Marc Camoletti’s *Boeing Boeing*,” is about the creation and development of Gloria Hawkins, the tough, beautiful Southern woman Butler portrayed in the production.

“My thesis is about going beyond stereotype to create a more realistic, yet still very funny, character,” Butler explains. “It’s a chronicle of how [*Boeing-Boeing* director] Margaret Ledford and I created this woman and honed in on every facet of her being. I am exploring how my research aided my character development. I used specific acting and character analysis techniques based on a feminist perspective.”

“For actors, designers, and directors, the productions created or re-imaged represent research and scholarship in the field of theatre.”

—Mark Duncan, M.F.A., associate professor and assistant director of the college’s Division of Performing and Visual Arts


Both Butler and her costar Herrera continue to pursue opportunities on stage, following their graduation from the college’s theatre program.

Butler is performing at the Orlando Shakespeare Theatre throughout the 2012–2013 season, beginning with her role in *The Exit Interview* by William Missouri Downs. She spent the summer working as a teaching artist and director at the Orlando Repertory Theatre. She expects to complete her thesis in May 2013.

Herrera recently performed in *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre, a production directed by Duncan. She is a managing partner at a public relations firm and continues to train, act, dance, and audition.

“There’s so much I want to do,” said Herrera, who graduated in May 2012 with bachelor’s degrees in theatre, dance, and communication studies. “I will continue being part of the active theatre audience and studying theatre with a focus on physical forms such as movement, stage combat, clowning, and dance theatre.”

Herrera’s last performance as a theatre student was at The Promethean Theatre—a recipient of the Carbonell Award and the Silver Palm Award—which entered into a partnership with the college in 2006 as a collaborative effort to benefit students and attract patrons to theatre productions at NSU’s campus.

“NSU theatre productions and The Promethean Theatre gave me the ability to practice my skills in an environment that was both nurturing and professional. It prepared me for what to expect in a real-world setting,” Herrera said. 



▲▲
Monica Lynne Herrera graduated with bachelor’s degrees in theatre, dance, and communication studies.

▲
Lauren Butler’s passion for theatre turned into a thesis on acting analysis from a feminist perspective.

WHY DO WE BEHAVE THE WAY WE DO?

New Graduate Program Seeks Answers



“On the first day of orientation, all of the professors introduced themselves and described the type of research they were doing. They are so excited about what they are doing, and they make you feel excited too.”

—Brittney Tomayo, student

WHEN IT COMES TO RESEARCH, Brittney Tamayo believes enthusiasm is contagious.

“I’ve never been so excited to learn,” said Tamayo, a 2011 alumna of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, who is now enrolled in the college’s new Master of Science in Experimental Psychology program.

“On the first day of orientation, all of the professors introduced themselves and described the type of research they were doing. They are so excited about what they are doing, and they make you feel excited too. The foundation of a good graduate program is the connection with the faculty. We have such diverse faculty members, and they are willing to work with us. They tailor the program to your area of interest.”

With a strong emphasis on original research, the new master’s degree program began in fall 2011 with six students, including three college alumni and an international student from India. The goal of the two-year program is to add about 10 new students each year, said Thomas Fagan, Ph.D., professor and director of the college’s Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, which houses the program.

Faculty members with advanced training, research experience, and versatile areas of expertise guide students in developing skills in research methodology. That, in turn, helps prepare students for careers or doctoral programs in psychology.

“Experimental psychology is really about research,” Fagan said. “The program seeks to answer the question of why we behave the way we do—and how we operate on different levels. It looks at how the brain develops and how various brain activities can translate into behavior.”

“I feel that the experimental psychology program will serve as an exceptional preparatory course for



Brittney Tamayo is excited by the research she has observed during her coursework.



Benita Benny is interested in cognitive neuroscience.

my Ph.D. and a career in research,” said student Benita Benny, who earned a bachelor’s degree and two master’s degrees from the University of Mumbai in India and whose interest lies in cognitive neuroscience.

“If research is your area of interest, this is the place for you,” Benny said. “The professors have great expertise in their areas of research, and they are always willing to advise and guide us in our research endeavors. They always support and encourage us to develop and work on new ideas.

“Even the coursework is designed around research, and the assessment pushes you to look beyond your textbooks. Small classes and individualized attention are a big plus.”

Outside of classes, students in this program spend several days a week in the lab.


“When we’re not in the lab, we’re collecting data, writing, or recruiting participants,” said Tamayo, who spent more than a year of her undergraduate psychology studies observing clinical research at an outpatient mental-health clinic. During her senior year, she presented her research and was awarded honorable mention at the 2011 Undergraduate Student Symposium.

“Even the coursework is designed around research, and the assessment pushes you to look beyond your textbooks. Small classes and individualized attention are a big plus.”

—Benita Benny, student

In January 2012, Tamayo and Benny presented at the Psychology Graduate Research Series, co-hosted by the college and NSU’s Center for Psychological Studies. Their discussion and area of research focused on how working memory is affected by physical and psychological stress.

Both Tamayo and Benny plan to pursue doctoral degrees in the field of psychology. Career opportunities for graduates of this program include teaching, consulting, and conducting research for government or private industries such as insurance, pharmaceutical, or marketing companies.

“This program gives you a base and core knowledge of psychology and research methodology,” Fagan said. “We are training people to think in an experimental way. When you leave here, you can seek a career capitalizing on your research skills and your knowledge of human behavior.” 

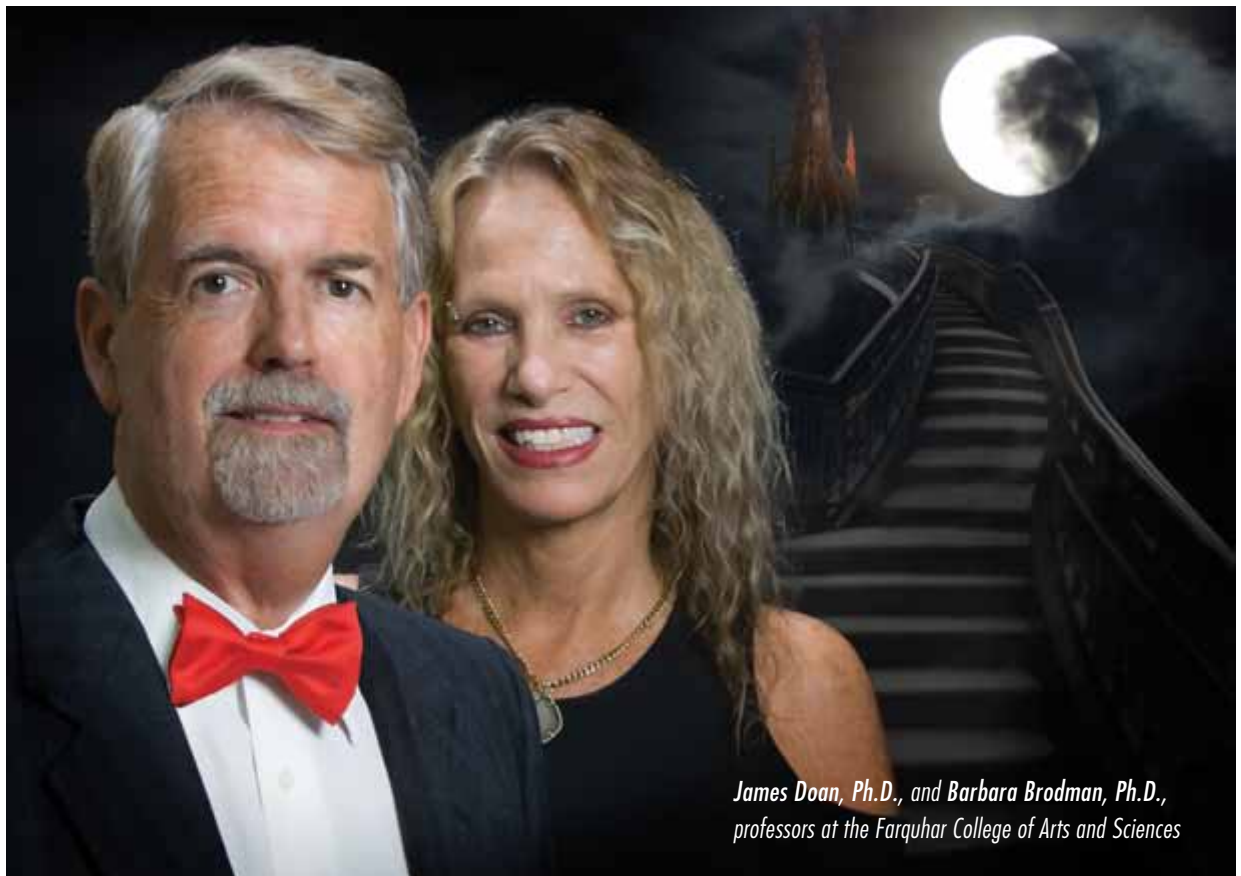
To learn more about the M.S. in Experimental Psychology program, visit www.fcas.nova.edu/go/graduate.

FROM *DRACULA* TO *TWILIGHT*:

Professors Shed Light on Vampires in New Books and the Classroom

The darkness of vampires will soon be illuminated in *The Universal Vampire*, a two-volume book series co-edited by James Doan, Ph.D., and Barbara Brodman, Ph.D., professors at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. Scheduled to be published in the summer and fall of 2013 (Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group), the series traces the origin and evolutionary paths of the vampire through folklore, literature, and film.

By Veronica Isidron



James Doan, Ph.D., and Barbara Brodman, Ph.D., professors at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

The professors are writing the introductions for both volumes, each containing 16 scholarly essays written by authors from across the world. In addition, Doan is writing a chapter for the first volume titled, “The Vampire in Native American and Mesoamerican Lore,” while Brodman is writing a chapter titled, “Unlikely Bedfellows? Don Juan and Dracula, Re-examined,” for volume two.

The idea for the series was derived from a paper that Brodman and Doan co-authored and presented at a 2008 conference. The paper, “From the Sensual to the Damned: Legends of Don Juan and the Vampire,” was sparked after discussions of Wolfgang Mozart’s opera, *Don Giovanni*, Doan said.

The first volume, *Origins of a Legend: Early Mythic Images of the Vampire*, notes key developments of



the literary figure, including Bram Stoker’s 1897 novel, *Dracula*. Doan points out that the character of Count Dracula had a seductive, mesmerizing nature, while vampires were previously thought not to intimately interact with each other or with humans. Other pieces of literature are also examined, including J. Sheridan Le Fanu’s *Carmilla* (1872), as well as the films *Interview with the Vampire* and *Let the Right One In*.

The second volume, *A Tradition Takes Form: the Imprint of the Romantic Vampire*, explores modern incarnations of the vampire and the figure’s mutations throughout the years. This analysis references the popular book and movie series *The Twilight Saga* and the television series *True Blood*. In their essays, the book’s authors explore portrayals of the vampire from different cultures.

The subject of supernatural creatures has intrigued audiences around the world for generations—but why? Doan and Brodman believe that the timeless allure of immortality, which the vampire represents, is one reason this figure continues to capture our imagination.

“My interest goes back to the 1960s, when I would watch *Dark Shadows* on television and actually wrote plays based on the series,” said Doan, who teaches a popular undergraduate course called The Vampire. The last class session is held in Hollywood, Florida, at the Transylvania Restaurant, which features traditional Romanian cuisine.

“There’s even a statue of Vlad,” Doan said, referring to Vlad Dracula or Vlad the Impaler, a 15th-century ruler whose infamy may have inspired Stoker’s character. It is believed that Vlad’s tyranny included horrific tortures, such as executing people by placing them on stakes, then watching them writhe in agony. During Doan’s class at the Romanian restaurant, “students eat, drink, and read their final papers” while exchanging glances with Vlad’s statue. “Ironically, Vlad is considered a hero in Romanian tradition,” he said.

“While most courses simply survey the creatures of human mythology, it was much more enjoyable to delve

deep into the respective and well-built lore surrounding the vampire that has amassed over centuries,” said Tyler Conti, a junior with a double major in English and history, who took The Vampire course.


“Having long studied [vampire] folklore throughout the world, I could not pass up the opportunity to approach the subject from an academic standpoint,” said Kimberly Beachem, a senior English major also in the class.

“The vampire appeals because it is the ultimate rebel, outside of society and not at all subject to its rules. That kind of unbridled power is hard to resist. The vampire in literature has proven to be endlessly flexible. There is a vampire out there for you—in literature and movies at least—whether you prefer to be scared or you’re looking for the ultimate ‘dark lover’ or Prince Charming with a twist.”

Doan and Brodman plan to travel to Eastern Europe next summer to conduct research on the development of the vampire tradition.

“One of the wonderful things about being an academic is that we are constantly expanding our knowledge bases, and when we can combine intellectual exploration with having fun, we are truly fulfilled,” Brodman said.

Doan said the book series is part of what he calls “the vampire project,” or scholarly works about this topic that include his play, *The Irish Dracula: a Melodrama in Five Acts*. Set in 1888 London and County Sligo, Ireland, the play authored by Doan is “a sort of prequel” to Stoker’s novel.

Doan and Brodman led a discussion and read selected scenes from the play at the 2012 meeting of The American Conference on Irish Studies (ACIS) Western Regional in Park City, Utah, in October. 



Veronica Isidron is a student in the college's Master of Arts in Writing degree program.

Hosted by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

To learn more and reserve seats, visit www.fcas.nova.edu/arts.

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by students

THE FACULTY SERIES



Joint Faculty Recital

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Featuring a wide repertoire from the
college's talented music faculty members

Love Letters

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

An evening of French and British
serenades by soprano Susan Chastain,
adjunct professor at the college, and
pianist Jennifer Donelson, D.M.A.,
assistant professor at the college

THE EXHIBITION SERIES

Women Outside Design³: Confessions of Life and Death

September 11–October 9, 2012

An invitational exhibition showcasing
female designers' work created outside
the scope of commercial design

Fifth Annual Faculty Exhibition

October 30–November 30, 2012

Featuring works in various media from
the college's visual arts faculty members

Martin Eduardo Casuso

January 29–March 1, 2013

Featuring the work of contemporary fiber
and mixed-media artist Martin Casuso



Fifth Annual Juried Student Exhibition

April 2–30, 2013

Art and design students compete for top
honors in this annual juried exhibition
featuring works of various media

Each year, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences brings to campus a series of prominent leaders in their fields through the Distinguished Speakers Series. These events are free and open to the public.

For the latest details and profiles of each speaker, visit www.fcas.nova.edu and click on **Arts, Culture, News**.



Maziar Bahari

Journalist, Documentary Filmmaker

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Newsweek correspondent Bahari was arrested and held captive for his coverage of elections in Iran in 2009. His story was featured on *60 Minutes*.



Brian Greene

Theoretical Physicist

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Noted string theorist and author of *The Elegant Universe*, Greene is known for his entertaining explanations of cutting-edge scientific concepts.



Kathy Reichs

Forensic Anthropologist, Novelist

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Reichs is known for her crime novels and producing the TV show *Bones*. Both the show and her books are based on her career as a forensic anthropologist. Her work has included identifying human remains from World War II and the 9/11 attacks.



Edward Albee

Acclaimed Playwright

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Best known for writing the Tony Award-winning Broadway classic *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?*, Albee is considered a master of modern American drama.



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IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD O.
KEITH, PH.D.



AS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, Edward O. Keith, Ph.D., shared with students his lifelong passion for marine mammals and manatee preservation. His valuable biological research included almost a decade of field studies in Veracruz, Mexico, where his expeditions often included colleagues and students.

Keith, 60, who taught as a joint faculty member at the college and NSU's Oceanographic Center, died of cancer on September 14, 2012, in Miami, Florida, as he prepared to begin chemotherapy treatment.

"Ed has had a profound impact on many people and much of our community," said Don Rosenblum, Ph.D., dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. "He has been with NSU since 1986 and was an esteemed and valued member of our faculty. He will be dearly missed."

Keith's principal interests included conservation, ecology, evolution, and the physiology of marine mammals such as whales, dolphins, and manatees. His research of marine mammals and vertebrate ecology focused on long-term studies of Florida's manatees, including efforts to find a technological solution to prevent boating-related manatee deaths. He also collaborated on conservation projects for Antillean manatees in Mexico and Panama.