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## Spring 2005 Farquhar Forum

Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

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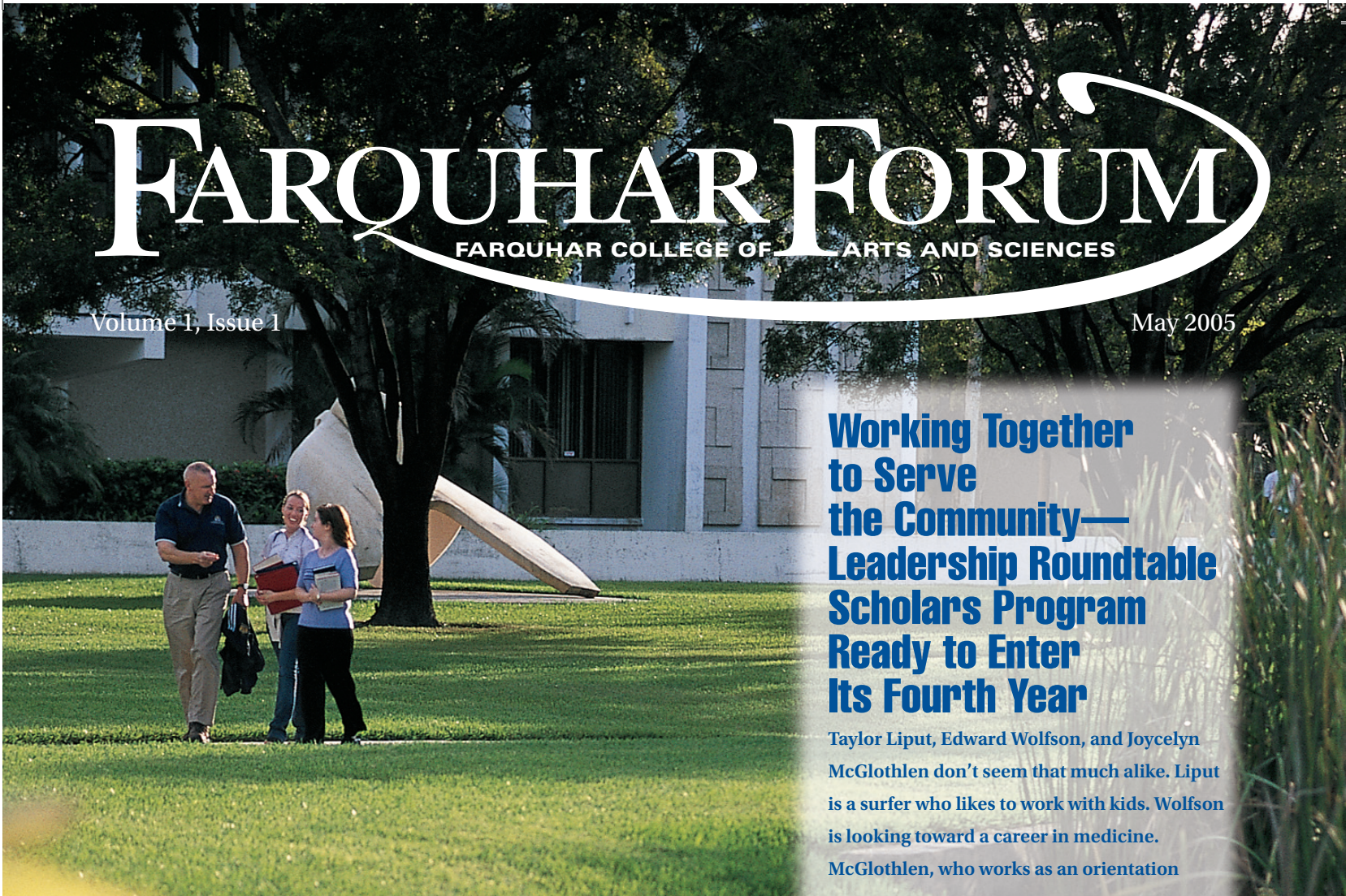
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# FAROUHAR FORUM

FAROUHAR COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2005



## Working Together to Serve the Community— Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program Ready to Enter Its Fourth Year

Taylor Liput, Edward Wolfson, and Joycelyn McGlothlen don't seem that much alike. Liput is a surfer who likes to work with kids. Wolfson is looking toward a career in medicine. McGlothlen, who works as an orientation



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leader for new undergraduates, is active in her sorority. Like most NSU students, they're following their own unique paths. What unites them, however, is their four-year commitment to the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program, which has placed them on the fast track to campus and community leadership. "It teaches you organization and motivates you to get involved in organizations and community service projects," says freshman Wolfson about his first year in the program. Next fall, the first class of students in the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program will enter their fourth year. To read more, turn to page 4.

## Dean's Message

Welcome to the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and the *Farquhar Forum*.

What an exciting year! We have expanded programs in every division—humanities; math, science, and technology; and social and behavioral sciences. This year we added majors in theatre, communication studies, and criminal justice. We proudly welcomed our largest student class in fall 2004. More than 1,000 students started the undergraduate program on our main campus, reflecting NSU's commitment to build its undergraduate community.

In the pages of the *Farquhar Forum*, you will meet some of our students, faculty members, and alumni, as well as other members of our community, as they explore their academic, career, and personal goals. You will go inside the classroom of one of our winter semester honors classes, where students studied "Gangs in America," and learned how lives for inner city gang members are, in some ways, similar to their own. You will hear from Kristen Decker, class of 2006, who is discovering new academic interests through lessons passed down by ancient philosophers. You will read about physics students working to study the universe and about students from all disciplines working together to lead their campus community.

The College of Arts and Sciences connects our students with the world. In December, we hosted a conference that brought to campus international leaders in bioinformatics, a growing field at the intersection of biology and computer science. We also brought award-winning journalists, such as Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edwin Black, who shared insight about world events and practical lessons from their careers.

In February, as part of our Distinguished Speakers Series, we welcomed Paul Bremer, ambassador and former presidential envoy to Iraq, whose visit sparked a college-wide exploration of the literary, social, and scientific aspects of the Iraq War and terrorism. These experiences form bridges for our students between the classroom and the world. They inspire our students to learn more and reach farther. As part of our community, I invite you to read on to see just how far our community reaches, and to become an involved partner in the education of future generations of College of Arts and Sciences students.

Sincerely,

Don Rosenblum

Dean



## Communication Studies, Theatre, and Criminal Justice Majors Join Roster of Undergraduate Programs

In 2004–2005, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences added new major offerings to the college's growing diversity of undergraduate programs. Communication studies and theatre, both housed in the Division of Humanities, lead to a bachelor of arts, while criminal justice, housed in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, leads to a bachelor of science. The college also offers 24 minors.

### Majors

Applied Professional Studies	Environmental Science/Studies
Athletic Training	History
Biology (premedical)	Humanities
Communication Studies	Legal Studies
Computer Information Systems	Marine Biology
Computer Science	Paralegal Studies
Criminal Justice	Psychology
English	Theatre

## Grant Smith Becomes Chair of Board of Advisers

In August 2004, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences named Fort Lauderdale attorney Grant Smith to be the new chair of its Board of Advisers. Smith, who has served on the board since 2002, is director of operations and corporate compliance for the biotechnology transfer firm GMP Companies, Inc. Smith and his wife, Eliza Egan Smith, are active in the South Florida community, especially through leadership roles in child welfare organizations.



## The Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Don Rosenblum  
Dean

Naomi D'Alessio  
Associate Dean

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## University Center to Expand Facilities for Arts, Athletics, and Other Programs

NSU broke ground in the fall of 2004 on the University Center (seen below in an artistic rendering), a 366,000-square-foot recreation and athletic complex at the center of the main campus. It will become home to an athletic arena and sports venues; classrooms; food venues; conference and banquet rooms; and a performing arts wing that will house a black box theater, a music recital hall, rehearsal space, and other facilities that will support development of the theatre program. The University Center is scheduled for completion in 2006.



## Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Board of Advisers

The Board of Advisers provides assistance and counsel to the dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences for the overall development and progress of the college. The board fosters critical community relationships that help realize the college's goals. Current members are

Grant J. Smith—Chair	Ruchel Louis
Susan F. Delegal	Russ Naples
Marc A. Douthit	Sister John Norton Barrett
Peter Einheuser	George I. Platt
Gerald C. Grant	J. Michael Reisert
Paul C. Jacob	Carlos J. Reyes
Susie Levan	Mitchell E. Spero

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## General Education Spotlight

### Kristen Decker—Learning Humanities Lessons from the Fourth Century B.C.E.



The General Education Program in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences allows all NSU undergraduates to pursue broad studies and to explore majors and minors they may not have previously considered. One student who used humanities courses to explore new areas is Kristen Decker, class of 2006. In fall 2004, Decker took a new offering from the Division of Humanities—a three-week course on Aristotle's *Nichomachean Ethics*. The course, consisting of about ten students, was part of a series of one-credit humanities classes that use a single work of literature or philosophy as a lens for studying the historical and cultural period in which it was written. Since fall, the series has also explored the 14th century of Dante's *Inferno* and the Victorian England of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. Decker said that she had no previous experience with philosophy or Greek studies and found the material both challenging and fascinating. She also said the course made her think seriously about how to focus her studies.

"I changed my major from biology to humanities after attending the Aristotle class. It wasn't an easy decision to make. I've struggled with my choice of major since high school. At some point in the decision-making process, I lost sight of what I was passionate about and started choosing majors that fulfilled others' expectations of me. I elected to take two humanities classes last fall. I see, now, that maybe I was meant to take these classes so that I would come to the realization that I want more from my education than only science and math classes. The Aristotle class challenged me to think critically, explore new ideas, make connections between historic philosophies and my everyday life, and get more involved in classroom discussions."

### What is the general education program?

The 30-credit hour General Education Program of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences is shared by all NSU undergraduates, including those in the Fischler School of Education and Human Services, the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, and the College of Allied Health and Nursing. The program provides a common connection among all NSU undergraduates through a rigorous set of writing, mathematics, humanities, and social and physical sciences requirements.

## Cover Story

It can be a little intimidating to think about how students find time to fit everything into their schedules. Consider Taylor Liput, a junior psychology major. She is active on campus as a member of the Psychology Club, the Psi Chi Psychology Honor Society, the Spanish Club, and the Honors Student Association, for which she acts as secretary. Off campus, Liput volunteers as a Big Sister Ambassador. She is also a member of the rowing team. And in addition to all of this, she is the president and cofounder of the NSU Surf Club.

Liput started the Surf Club last year as part of her involvement with a community leadership program sponsored by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences and NSU's Office of Student Affairs. In the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program, students undertake

# Working Together to Serve the Community— Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program Ready to Enter Its Fourth Year

a four-year commitment to community and campus leadership. Each year, ten new students are accepted into the program. Throughout their academic careers, they develop leadership skills, working with faculty and staff members to design and tailor service activities to their talents, interests, and career goals.

Through the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program, the students are exposed to areas of volunteerism they may not have considered before. For example, they have participated in a senior prom for residents of local retirement communities and in a gingerbread house building party for Kids in Distress, a Fort Lauderdale-based nonprofit agency that helps abused children. Liput now volunteers for Kids in Distress on a regular basis.

The program has opened up opportunities to volunteer and has broken down walls that might prevent students from taking the necessary steps to become leaders. Liput says she may not have

Taylor Liput



started the Surf Club if she hadn't become part of the program. "Before Leadership Roundtable, I may not have been motivated to start my own club," she says. "I now know a lot of people on campus. I have connections I can call if I need help with the club, and I feel I have a lot of resources that are going to help me out in the real world."

As much as the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program is about serving campus and community needs, it's also about students networking with each other. The scholars meet monthly to socialize, discuss books, and share ideas and experiences. It's a place to find out what works for other organizations. "In the group, there are so many different types of people," says junior business major Joycelyn McGlothlen, who is involved with Phi Sigma Sigma sorority and works as an orientation leader for new undergraduates, among her other activities. "I may not have known much about some other organizations. I get to network to help my own organization as well as help or join others."

Started in 2002, the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program is currently in its third year of existence. Each fall, prospective freshmen receive program information and applications. Interviews are then conducted during the winter. For new students, it can be a fast way to become involved on campus. "It teaches you organization," says freshman biology major Edward Wolfson, a member of the most recent group to be accepted into the program. "It motivates you to get involved in organizations and community service projects." Wolfson is involved in the Honors Student Association, Hillel, and the Prepharmacy Society. For volunteer work this year, he chose a stint at Broward General Hospital, arranged through NSU's Office of Volunteerism. Because of that experience, he is considering changing his career goals from pharmacy to medicine.



Joycelyn McGlothlen



Edward Wolfson

Each year of the program is different. During the freshman year, the program's students get to know the NSU campus and important social issues that affect their community. By sophomore year, they identify a campus or community organization to serve as a focus for leadership efforts. During the junior year, they define a new service project to meet campus or community needs. Finally, senior year is intended to allow them to develop a portfolio of past experiences and pursue community leadership activities related to their professional and career goals.

Next year, the Leadership Roundtable Scholars Program will see the results of its four-year process, as its first class of seniors, including Taylor Liput, graduate and start their careers. In the meantime, the students are gearing up for service activities. Liput is planning a project to take disadvantaged children surfing. "Surfing can be used to help children with attention deficit problems to focus," she says. "It can be calming. It's true for me. I use surfing as a kind of therapy."

## Bioinformatics Conference Explores Biology as Information Science

Biology is sometimes considered an observational science—one conducted through laboratory experiments or through painstaking field research in remote areas of the world. To the participants of December's International Conference on Bioinformatics and its Applications (ICBA), however, biology is more than this. It's also an information science, like computing, in which biological systems act surprisingly similar to computer software.

The conference, hosted on main campus by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, December 16–19, 2004, brought some of the world's top bioinformatics scientists to NSU to discuss the latest advances in their field, which combines biology, mathematics, and computer science. The goal of bioinformatics is to develop computerized databases, imaging, and communications tools that help analyze data pouring out of large biology enterprises—such as the Human Genome Project—that have grown exponentially in scale over the last few decades.

More than 120 researchers and more than 40 graduate and undergraduate students from 80 different universities in the United States and worldwide attended the conference. “The conference provided a solid platform for us to exchange ideas and future collaborations with many colleagues around the globe,” says Matthew He, ICBA's chair and the director of the Division of Math, Science, and Technology of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences.

For researchers—especially in the fields of molecular biology and genetics—the last three decades of rapid evolution in computing and database resources have ushered in the excitement, and challenge, of managing huge amounts of information. One of those researchers, conference speaker Donall Macdonnaill, a chemistry professor at Trinity College in Dublin, described the similarity between biology and computers with a simple metaphor. “Life is slimeware,” he said. “It's fundamentally computational, but embedded in a physical and chemical medium.” Understanding of the fundamentals of genetic coding, as a technological system, has made

possible new research pathways into understanding how life's processes develop.

Although bioinformatics is only about ten years old, in that time the field has grown quickly to respond to mountains of biological data, forming bridges between basic science and applications in biotechnology and medicine. This month, ICBA's conference proceedings were published by the World Scientific Publishing Company as *Advances in Bioinformatics and Its Applications*, volume 8 in its book series in Mathematical Biology and Medicine. The 623-page volume should prove to be an essential source of reference for researchers and graduate students in bioinformatics, computer science, mathematics, statistics, and biological sciences. The book editors are Matthew He, Giri Narasimhan (Florida International University), and Sergei Petoukhov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia).



*Steve Pechous, a molecular biologist from the National Center for Biotechnology Information, taught a workshop during the bioinformatics conference on the use of the center's databases and search engines, which are integral to researchers around the world. The Web site of the National Center for Biotechnology Information receives up to 35 million hits each day. “That's second only to the IRS,” Pechous joked. One of the driving forces in bioinformatics, nationally and internationally, the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) collects molecular biology and genome data and develops the computer software tools used to understand that data.*

## Environmental Science Students Travel to St. Lucia on Ecotour



Students from the College of Arts and Sciences traveled with professional travel photographers to the Caribbean island of St. Lucia in October 2004 for a week-long ecotour.

The students' trip was part of a special topics geography course taught by Barry Barker, professor of environmental science/studies in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology. Their goals were to document St. Lucia's environment, culture, and history while acquiring hands-on experience in applying sustainable solutions to ecological problems. More than 100 of the ecotour's photos will be on display at the Sherman Library until July 14 (including the one taken by Barker and pictured above showing two St. Lucian children).

## Journalist Discusses Failure of Media to Cover the Holocaust

Laurel Leff, journalist and Northeastern University professor, discussed her new book about the media and the Holocaust at a talk sponsored by the FCAS Division of Humanities on Thursday, April 7. *Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper* is an in-depth look at how *The New York Times* failed in its coverage of the fate of European Jews from 1939–1945. The book examines how decisions at the newspaper ultimately resulted in the minimizing and misunderstanding of the tragic genocide.

## Viewing the History of Conflict in Northern Ireland



Jim Doan, left, and Mark Durkan, right.

“Troubled Images: Posters and Images of the Northern Ireland Conflict,” a traveling poster exhibit, represented three decades of conflict in the region between nationalists who favor a united Ireland and loyalists who wish to remain part of the United Kingdom. The posters, from Belfast’s Linen Hall Library, were on display at the Sherman Library from February 5 to March 20. As part of the exhibit, Division of Humanities professor Jim Doan organized an opening day symposium and other special events. Doan, who teaches Irish History, is co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture*, published in 2004 by Macmillan Reference. For the exhibit’s capstone event on March 15, Mark Durkan, the leader of the main constitutional nationalist party in Northern Ireland—the Social Democratic and Labour Party—met with students and spoke about the country’s current and future political situation.

## Communication Studies Student Recognized at Oratory Competition

Cheryl Clayton, a communication studies major, won fourth place in the statewide Claude Pepper Foundation Oratory Competition held February at Florida State University. Clayton competed against other skilled public speakers on speech and debate teams from other Florida colleges and universities. For the competition, each university representative presented a ten-minute speech on, “Social Security: How do we make it secure now and for generations to come?”



## Faculty Members Spend Fall Semester Teaching in Germany



Suzanne Ferriss and Steven Alford, professors in the Division of Humanities, spent fall 2004 teaching at Germany’s University of Trier. Ferriss, who was awarded the International and Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Scholarship from the German state of Rhineland Palatinate, taught about fashion and “chick lit.” Steven Alford, who spent the semester as a visiting scholar in the university’s new American Studies program, taught writing seminars and workshops and lectured on motorcycle culture. What was their experience like?

Ferriss: “Teaching gender studies in Germany allowed me to explore the applicability and transferability of American ideas to Europe. I found that the German students were as interested as our students in the role of gender in popular culture. My workshop on Jane Austen and Bridget Jones was overflowing! At conferences in Germany and Luxembourg, I also found a receptive audience for ideas about women and motorcycling. Gender studies is a thriving area of inquiry there as well as here.”

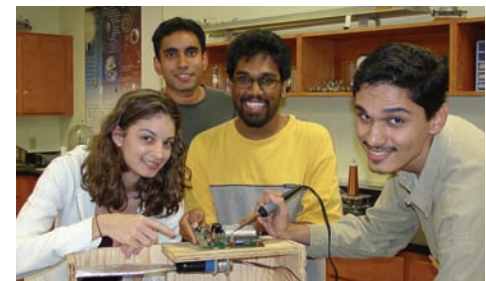
Alford: “While detective fiction originated in the Anglophone countries of England and America, German writers and readers have found the mystery novel a fertile ground for exploring ideas of morality and mortality.”

## Stem Cell Research: Medical Miracle/Ethical Dilemma



A January panel in the Sherman Library addressed the medical promise and ethical questions surrounding stem cell research. The panel, sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, was moderated by Robert Seltzer, professor in the Division of Humanities. Panelists included Lois Waldman, American Jewish Congress; Juan Dominguez Bendala, University of Miami; Kevin B. Quinn, Georgetown University Law Center; and Paul Plotkin, rabbi of Temple Beth Am.

## Physics Professor and Students Build Cosmic Ray Telescope



David Simon, associate professor in the Division of Math, Science, and Technology, and some of his fall 2004 students built a detector to monitor cosmic rays—high-energy charged particles that reach the earth from space. Cosmic rays originate from a variety of astronomical sources. When they reach Earth, they collide with molecules in the atmosphere and produce a cascade of new particles. The new particles are made up mostly of electrons and heavier, negatively charged particles known as muons. Using the detector, Simon, along with MST students Adriana Ardeljan, Rez Alam, Andrew Barry, Fahd Sattar (pictured, l. to r.), and Moataz Behairy, Sally Gaertner, and Shweta Shah (not pictured) will indirectly monitor incoming cosmic rays by counting the number of muons produced and the direction from which they arrive.



## Transfer Student Receives Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship



Biology major Marcia M. Donovan-Demers, above with Don Rosenblum, FCAS dean, is a 2004 recipient of a Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Donovan-Demers, who transferred to NSU from Honolulu Community College in Hawaii in fall 2004, was one of 27 undergraduate scholarship recipients selected from among 863 students nominated by community and two-year colleges across the United States.

## Panel of Journalists and Photographers Discuss Role of Media Icons



Photo: Barbara McCormick

In conjunction with the Museum of Art/Fort Lauderdale's exhibit, "Princess Diana: A Celebration," a January 10 panel of journalists and photographers organized by the Division of Humanities discussed the public lives and the public's perceptions of Princess Diana, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, and others who have gained iconic status in the modern media. Panelists and organizers for "Female Icons in the Media" included (pictured) Sharon Waxman (*New York Times*), Kate Waites (moderator, Division of Humanities), Bill Hoffman (*New York Times*), Sharon May Tell (*New York Post*), Irvin Lippman (director of the Museum of Art/Fort Lauderdale), and Joan Rosen (*Times-Herald Record*). Prior to

the evening panel, Rosen spent the day on campus with students discussing photojournalism. She also shared stories about her career as a photo editor for newspapers and the Associated Press, including the experience of covering the September 11, 2001, World Trade Center attacks.

## Forensics Conference Connects Scientists, Students, and Community Law Enforcement

The 2005 Forensic Sciences Symposium, held February 4–5 at NSU's Health Professions Division, offered a varied lineup of topics in its two-day series of workshops and lectures—from teaching about how criminal investigators profile suspects to how insects are used in crime scene investigations and how police drug-detector dogs are trained. The symposium was organized by a committee of NSU faculty members and community law enforcement officials: Venkatesh (Vic) Shanbhag and Skip Pomeroy of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Math, Science, and Technology; Ron Block and Kevin Tu of NSU's Health Professions Division; and George Duncan of the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

## Institute for Learning in Retirement Focuses Curriculum on Broward's Diverse Cultures

The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) focused its curriculum during the 2004–2005 academic year on understanding Broward County's diverse cultures. The curriculum's new African American Cultural Studies program included a short course, "African American Culture through Literature," created by Sherman Library research librarian Paula Adams. In the course's monthly meetings, which began in June 2004, ILR members have studied the short stories, plays, and novels of representative authors, including Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, August Wilson, and Zora Neale Hurston. The ILR, housed in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, offers programs—lecture courses, workshops, discussion groups, and field trips—that showcase NSU faculty members and visiting experts in the humanities, sciences, health care fields, and government.

## Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Leads Master Journalism Class

In November 2004, NSU hosted Edwin Black, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *IBM and the Holocaust* and *Banking on Baghdad*. As part of his visit, Black discussed his career in investigative writing with a journalism master class organized by the Division of Humanities for the college's English and writing students.



## Visiting Speaker Tackles Victims' Rights

In October 2004, the Division of Humanities welcomed Dave Boersema, Douglas C. Strain Professor of Natural Philosophy at Pacific University (Forest Grove, Oregon), to campus as part of the division's annual speakers' series. Boersema's talk, "What's Wrong with Victims' Rights," examined the history and philosophical issues related to the victims' rights movement in the United States.

## Dalai Lama's Sister Visits NSU—Scholarships Created for Tibetan Students

At a January luncheon with students and faculty members from the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Honors Program, Jetsun Pema, the younger sister of the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet, talked about her life of service to the Tibetan Children's Village, a community for exiled Tibetans founded more than forty years ago in Dharamsala, India. Pema's visit followed a fall 2004 visit to campus by the Dalai Lama. During her visit, she met with the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences to establish scholarships for two Tibetan students to study at NSU beginning fall 2005.



## Farquhar Reaches into the Community



\* **Mark Duncan**, theatre professor in the Division of Humanities, directed *Romeo and Juliet* for the Fourth Annual Hollywood Shakespeare Festival, January 21–February 13 at the Hollywood Playhouse. Duncan joined Farquhar College this year as part of its new theatre program.

\* **Marlisa Santos**, Division of Humanities English professor, began a writer's group in fall 2004. The Second Monday Writer's Group is a place for members of the NSU community to meet with other writers to discuss their work, style, and techniques.

\* On April 2, 25 South Florida high school students tested their skills in precalculus math in the inaugural NSU MathOlympics, sponsored by the FCAS Division of Math, Science, and Technology and coordinated by **Jerry Bartolomeo**, MST professor. The top three finishers were Cypress Bay High School students Gabor Debreczeni, Gustavo Gordillo, and Aneesh Raghunandan.

\* More than 100 computer programmers attended Code Camp, a day-long series of computer programming workshops held in February at the Sherman Library. The event was sponsored by the *Florida.Net* Developer User Group and coordinated by **Matthew He**, director of the Division of Math, Science, and Technology.



\* **Gary Gershman** and **Tim Dixon**, history professors in the Division of Humanities, explored 1960s America through "The Sixties: America's Decade of Crisis and Change," a six-evening public discussion series from September to November 2004 at the Southwest Regional Library in Pembroke Pines.

\* Athletic training students from the Division of Math, Science, and Technology in November 2004 volunteered first-aid services for the South Broward Wheelers 20th Annual Century bike race. **Neil Starr**, coordinator for off-campus tutoring in the college's Office of Academic Services, coordinated the event.

\* **Lynn Wolf** and **Christine Jackson**, professors in the Division of Humanities, hosted literary events in October 2004 at the Plantation Barnes & Noble. Wolf hosted a classics book group for Somerset Maugham's novel *The Razor's Edge* and Jackson hosted a mystery lover's book group for author and Hollywood resident Elaine Viets' *Dying to Call You*.

## Professors Offer Insight into the 2004 Presidential Election

On November 4, 2004, an evening two days after the polls closed for the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election, John Anderson, Shepard Broad Law Center Distinguished



Visiting Law Professor and third party candidate in the 1980 U.S. Presidential Election, joined constitutional scholar Charles Zelden in a postelection panel about the presidential race.



In August, Zelden, a history professor in the Division of Humanities, published *The Battle for the Black Ballot: Smith v. Allwright and the Defeat of the Texas All-White Primary* (University Press of Kansas), which focuses on civil rights and voting issues in the mid-20th century.

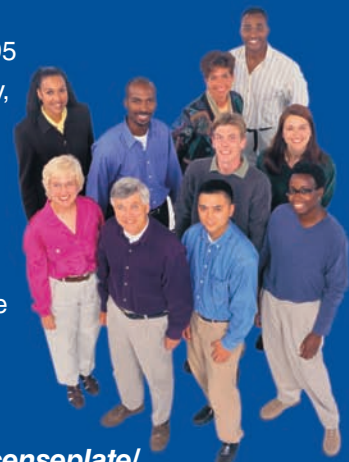
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# Former Iraq Envoy Shares Experiences in NSU Campus Talk on War and Terrorism

Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, former U.S. Presidential Envoy to Iraq, visited NSU on February 17 as part of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Annual Distinguished Speakers Series.



As presidential envoy to Iraq from May 2003 until he handed over power to an interim government in June 2004, Bremer served as administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority and spearheaded the coalition's efforts to rebuild the nation's infrastructure. His visit to NSU took place three weeks after Iraq's January national assembly elections. The visit catalyzed a week-long series of events focusing the college's academic expertise on issues related to the Iraq War and global terrorism. "We were excited to

welcome Ambassador Bremer to NSU," says Don Rosenblum, dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences. "Regardless of political beliefs, we are all deeply concerned about the war in Iraq and the current global situation. His

## Ambassador's Visit

visit formed a direct connection with crucial world events and sparked energetic campus discussion."

The visit provided a real-world connection for many of the courses taught in the college. During the afternoon of his visit, Bremer met with honors and legal studies students for a discussion about his experiences. "Meeting with Ambassador Bremer gave me a better idea of what is going on over there and what it is our troops are doing," says sophomore biology major Alisha VanHoose. He later joined community leaders and NSU faculty and staff members for a dinner and reception prior to his evening presentation at the Miniaci Performing Arts Center. At the presentation, he shared his perspectives on the Iraq War and global terrorism and his experiences in the Authority's rebuilding efforts.

### Ambassador Bremer on leading the effort to rebuild Iraq

In his Distinguished Speakers presentation, Paul Bremer described the activities of the Coalition Provisional Authority, which for more than a year worked to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure and economy. The ambassador said he was proud of his role in leading a diverse and dedicated staff that eventually grew 3,000 strong.

"I had citizens from 25 different countries working for me among those 3,000. Every one of them, by the way, was a volunteer. They were a remarkable group of people working 18-20 hours a day in very dangerous circumstances for no particular reason other than wanting to help the Iraqis get their country back. They were wonderful people."



Paul Bremer, ambassador, with Don Rosenblum, FCAS dean (above), and Ray Ferrero, Jr., NSU president (left)

# Connects Campus with Global Affairs



## Divisions Focus Expertise on Issues Related to War and Terrorism

### What Saves Us

Poetry, Poets, and War



#### Division of Humanities

February 14, 2005

Through reading and analysis, David McNaron, poet and Division of Humanities philosophy professor, explored poems written about war, as well as the public and sometimes controversial role that poetry and poets have played in responding to the September 11, 2001, attacks and the Iraq War. At a Sherman Library reception for Paul Bremer (pictured above), McNaron joined the ambassador, along with invited guest Francine Mason, vice president for communications for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and Division of Humanities professor Stephen Levitt.



### Forensic Science, Biometric Security, and Cyber Terrorism

Division of Math, Science, and Technology

February 15, 2005

Following an airing of "Cyberwar," a PBS *Frontline* documentary, senior biology majors Marimer Gonzalez and Marta Hubert (pictured above) reviewed central points in the history of biological weapons. Their presentation was followed by a panel that discussed biological weapons and technology-related



aspects of terrorism. The panel included (l. to r.) George Morton, president, Madison Solutions, Inc., Fort Lauderdale; Diuto Esiobu, associate professor of microbiology, Florida Atlantic University; Raisa Szabo, Division of

Math, Science, and Technology; George Duncan, DNA Unit Manager, Broward Sheriff's Office, Broward County Crime Lab. The panel was moderated by Ed Keith (not pictured), Division of Math, Science, and Technology.

### Aggression and the Effects of Terror



#### Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

February 16, 2005

A Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences panel of psychologists, anthropologists, and experts in conflict analysis discussed the origins of aggression—at both individual and societal levels. Panelists discussed the role of violence at the individual level, in the context of the family, and from a broad anthropological perspective. The Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences panel included (l. to r.) Mark Davidheiser, Alexandru Cuc, and Mark Cavanaugh. Cuc and Cavanaugh are

faculty members in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Davidheiser is a professor in NSU's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Also on the panel (not pictured) were Tom Crum; Michael Reiter; Cheryl Luis (moderator), Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences; and John Linstroth, NSU Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## Dual admission students honored

Students from NSU's dual admission programs were recognized for their achievements at a March 31 reception held in the Carl DeSantis Building atrium. Dual admission programs allow students to be accepted at the same time into both an undergraduate program and the NSU professional or graduate school of their choice. The reception, sponsored by the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, was an opportunity for undergraduates to meet dual admission students who are now succeeding in the graduate school component of their programs. Dual admission is now available in 21 programs, ranging from the medical sciences to psychology, law, business, education, and conflict analysis and resolution. Each year, more new undergraduates in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences are taking advantage of dual admission programs with partnering NSU graduate schools, including almost 100 students who entered the college in fall 2004.



*Don Rosenblum, dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences; pharmacy student Leigh Demarco; osteopathic medicine student Olga Martinez; and Frederick Lippman, chancellor of the Health Professions Division (HPD)*



*Undergraduate dual admission students join HPD pharmacy student Leigh Demarco. Back row: Saleem Sheikh (biology/osteopathic), Damion Black (biology/dental), Avinash Persad (biology/osteopathic) Front Row: Leigh Demarco, Anand Adatia (biology/dental), Ann Hoang (biology/pharmacy)*

Undergraduates in the dual admission program have already been accepted into their graduate program. That means they can spend less time during their college careers competing for spots in graduate school and more time building longstanding relationships in their field. "It allows you the opportunity not just to focus on studies, but to focus on the community and go out to experience your future career path," says Olga Martinez, who graduated with a biology degree in 2002 and is now studying in NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## Psychology Professor Highlights Trends and Career Opportunities in Neuropsychology



Neuropsychologists like Cheryl Luis use interactive tests to help diagnose neuropsychological problems like impaired memory, visual acuity, and motor function. Luis, a visiting psychology professor in the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences who conducts research on Alzheimer's disease, spoke at a December event sponsored by Psi Chi, the undergraduate psychology honor society. She encouraged students to explore the research and community service opportunities of a neuropsychology career.

## Workshops and Courses Help Prepare Students for Graduate School

Each year, the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences organizes workshops, classes, and special events on career and graduate school planning. Events from 2004–2005 included

- \* Division of Humanities history professors Tim Dixon and Gary Gershman held a free, extracurricular course in August and September 2004 to help with applying to law school and facing the challenges once there.
- \* The Division of Math, Science, and Technology held its Fourth Annual Graduate Schools Planning Day on February 17. Representatives attended from NSU's graduate schools and other Florida institutions, including Florida State University, the University of South Florida, and Barry University.
- \* A winter semester course offered through the Undergraduate Honors Program provided an overview of distinguished fellowships, such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, and Fulbright. The class, taught by Don Rosenblum, Farquhar dean, encouraged students to learn more about, and plan ahead for, scholarships and fellowships.

## Dual Admission Now Available in 21 Programs

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Audiology                             | Law   |
| Business Administration               | Marine Biology                              |
| Computer Information Systems          | Mental Health Counseling                    |
| Computer Science                      | Nursing                                     |
| Conflict Analysis and Resolution      | Occupational Therapy                        |
| Dental Medicine                       | Optometry                                   |
| Education                             | Osteopathic Medicine                        |
| Family Therapy                        | Pharmacy                                    |
| International Business Administration | Physical Therapy                            |
|                                       | Physician Assistant                         |
|                                       | Psychology                                  |
|                                       | Speech-Language and Communication Disorders |

*“Today’s class really brought some reality to the aspects of gangs that relate to me. The same psychological theory that applies to the choices I have made also applies to why individuals choose to be in a gang. For example, I am in a sorority, aka a ‘social gang.’ Within it, I feel comfort and security.”*

**Deirdre Foisy,**  
Athletic Training, Class of 2007

*“It is indeed hard to imagine how an environment one is exposed to during childhood can totally dictate perception for the rest of one’s life. If a youngster lives in a neighborhood where shooting is common, he will take killing as a norm. So killing to join a gang is no big deal for him at all if he really wants to be accepted.”*

**Vien Tran,**  
Biology, Class of 2007

*“I notice that gang members feel a lack of love in their families and that they feel loved by their fellow gang members. Maybe this is a major root of the problem?”*

**Saleem Sheikh,**  
Biology, Class of 2007

## Gangs in America

### Winter Semester, Class 2

January 11, 2005

**Alicia Jackson**, a criminal justice professor in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences, taught the honors course “Gangs in America” (HONR 1000F) during winter semester 2005. Jackson’s goals for the class included teaching the sociology of gangs (Jackson brought in guest speakers, including former gang members) and teaching how to design effective gang prevention programs (each student designed his or her own model community program). But Jackson also had a third goal. She wanted to teach why people join gangs—or sororities, fraternities, or other clubs. The students were asked to keep class journals. Here are excerpts volunteered about their second class on January 11, 2005.

*“The thought of killing someone to be part of a gang seemed initially absurd and ridiculous to me. What would ever motivate any rational human to take the life of another person to belong? Certainly nothing would ever drive me to do anything of that nature. But after our class discussion I quickly began to understand. The study of gangs is also the study of the culture which surrounds these members, which is rooted in human behavior. I began to realize that, within every environment, there is an existing social norm. For these gang members, violence and destructive behavior most likely is a norm in their environment.”*

**Amy Eichelberg,**  
Psychology, Class of 2007

*“I think it is crazy the things people will do to be part of a group, especially a gang. I know that we all want to belong, but there is a difference between being in a club at school and a gang.”*

**Jahmila Williams,**  
Business Administration, Class of 2006

## Undergraduate Honors Program Offers Students Innovative Courses

More than 140 students participated in the college’s Undergraduate Honors Program during the 2004–2005 academic year. The honors program fosters intellectual community both within and across academic disciplines by offering special coursework, reading groups, and workshops to help students prepare for graduate school, advanced research, study abroad, and postbaccalaureate fellowships. The Honors Program is divided into General Honors and Divisional Honors. The General Honors Program of intensive seminars and honors-level general education classes is designed for freshmen and sophomores. The Divisional Honors Program of directed study, geared toward juniors and seniors, allows them to pursue independent research with faculty mentors.

Honors courses taught this year have ranged from the historical to the cinematic.

***Future History*** used reflection on the past to contemplate what the future will be like.

***The Ever-Changing Family*** traced the evolution of the concept of family over the last 100 years.

***The History of Economic Development*** covered issues of economic growth and development, with a focus on sustainable development issues.

***Philosophy and Politics in Film*** examined how philosophical and political issues manifest themselves in popular film.

***Utopias and Dystopias*** looked at the role of ideal and nightmare societies in philosophy and literature.

***Gangs in America*** examined the nature of gang participation and prevention.

“The honors program provides a rare opportunity for students and faculty members

to probe provocative issues together, realizing that some questions don’t have clear answers. It’s the process of asking questions that is the important and fruitful part.”

**Marlisa Santos,**  
Assistant Director, Division of Humanities



### Meeting the Challenges of Public Life: Sheila Alu, Class of 2001, Deputy Mayor of Sunrise, Florida

**Sheila Alu** graduated from NSU in May 2001 with a bachelor's degree in legal studies. She is currently pursuing a law degree at NSU's Shepard Broad



Law Center. In March 2001, Alu was elected to the Sunrise City Commission. She served two back-to-back terms as assistant deputy mayor in 2001 and 2002 and recently completed her first term as the city's deputy mayor. A Sunrise resident since 1992, Alu has volunteered for local nonprofit child welfare organizations and has served on the Broward League of Cities' Education Committee; the Florida League of Cities' Criminal Justice, Ethics and Personnel Committee; and the National League of Cities' Human Development Policy Committee.

**FF:** How did you become a community leader in Sunrise? Was it a natural transition from activities in college, the result of interest about specific community issues, or some other evolution?

**Sheila Alu:** Actually, I became committed to completing my college degree and taking a more active role in my community through a personal crisis, and then success. In 1995, my husband was critically injured in a house explosion while attempting to save three children held hostage. While he was in intensive care fighting for his life, I learned that if he were unable to return to the police force due to the injuries he sustained in the line of duty, we would lose our health care insurance. I had no choice but to fight this injustice for the sake of my family. I was successful in getting the law changed so it now provides for continuing health care coverage for public safety officers catastrophically injured in the line of

duty. It was during this process of education, combined with activism, that I developed a respect for public service, which then led to my decision to run for public office.

**FF:** What are some of the activities and accomplishments that have made you most proud of your decision to become involved in government?

**Alu:** My proudest moment was when President Clinton signed the Alu/O'Hara Public Safety Benefits Act into law. But with that battle won, I turned my attention to my true passion—educational issues and increasing the protection of our children in the state foster care system. I now mark my accomplishments more modestly, with daily successes in the fight against special interests and lobbyists on behalf of my constituents.

**FF:** What significant challenges have you faced in becoming an effective leader?

**Alu:** Every day in public life is a challenge. That is what makes public office so rewarding to me.

**FF:** Who are some of the people you look to for inspiration?

**Alu:** My greatest inspiration is my 13-year-old daughter, Christina. Anytime I get somewhat discouraged by the political process, it is the look of promise in her eyes that inspires me to continue to work toward being the most effective leader I can be.

**FF:** What advice would you give to students entering college about getting involved on campus or in their community?

**Alu:** First and foremost, register to VOTE!! There are numerous worthy political and nonprofit organizations. Find those things that are closest to your heart and get involved.

### West Palm Beach Physician Wins Distinguished Alumni Award

West Palm Beach physician **Lorne Shane Stitsky** won the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences



Distinguished Alumni Award for 2004–2005, presented by Don Rosenblum, FCAS dean, at NSU's Celebration of Excellence alumni award ceremony in February. After Stitsky graduated from Nova University in 1993, he went on to medical school at Southeastern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a board-certified family doctor and owner of Personal Choice Family Practice in West Palm Beach.

**Thomas Ayala**, Legal Studies, Class of 2001, was editor of the *Villanova Law Review* for Villanova University Law School in 2003–2004, where he graduated at the top of his class in 2004.

**Stephen Berkowitz**, Biology and Computer Information Systems, Class of 2004, is currently pursuing his Pharm.D. degree at NSU's College of Pharmacy. He was voted class president by the pharmacy class of 2008 student body.

**Casey Boscoe**, Paralegal Studies, Class of 2002, is completing her final year in law school at NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center, where she remains in the top 10 percent of her class. "The paralegal program prepared me for the trials and the intensity of law school," she says.

**Tamara Chase**, Legal Studies, Class of 2004, recently took the LSAT and is applying to law schools for August admission. During her senior year at NSU, she interned with Braverman & Rossi, a Fort Lauderdale law firm specializing in criminal and family law. The internship lasted for a 16-week period from January–April 2004. During that time, she assisted the firm's attorneys in labor law

## Are you an alumnus or alumna of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences?

What year did you graduate? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your major? \_\_\_\_\_

Campus or site? \_\_\_\_\_

Current email address? \_\_\_\_\_

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Would you be interested in becoming more involved in Farquhar and NSU activities? (Please check all that apply.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Events                |   |

### Share your news. We would like to hear from you!

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<http://undergrad.nova.edu/farquharforum>,  
 or email [OIS@nsu.nova.edu](mailto:OIS@nsu.nova.edu).

and criminal law cases. She says the internship served as an excellent link between her education and her law career.

**Noah Gintis**, Computer Science, Class of 2002, is working as a systems analyst in Jupiter, Florida, with an over-the-Internet backup company. His work area covers the distributed systems/algorithms that allow backups to be stored on multiple servers across the country, but that are transparent to users uploading data.

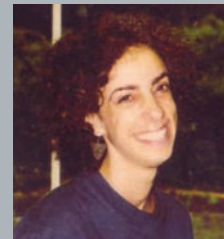
**Olga Martinez**, Biology, Class of 2002, is completing NSU's osteopathic medicine program. She is active in DOCARE International, a nonprofit volunteer association of doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health care professionals who provide medical care in remote areas of the Western Hemisphere. Since 2001, Martinez has participated in five DOCARE International missions to Guatemala and in 2003-2004, held the position of president. Currently, she is completing her rotation in Miami at Palmetto General Hospital.

**Lisa Saldarriaga**, Biology, Class of 2003, is studying at NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

**Edwin Torres**, Legal Studies, Class of 1988, was formerly a partner at the law firm of Steel Hector & Davis. In 2003, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Florida, sitting in Fort Lauderdale.

**Victor Totfalusi**, APS Natural Science, Class of 2004, went back to school to complete his degree and go to medical school, while maintaining his career as a firefighter paramedic. In fall 2004, he began graduate studies at NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Sheila Zolnoor**, Legal Studies, Class of 2004, entered the University of Florida Law School in the fall of 2004.



### In Memoriam Linda Gordon

Linda Gordon, a longtime member of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences faculty, passed away on December 16, 2004, at the age of 48. Gordon was a popular professor in the Division of Humanities for 12 years. She was a brilliant educator and a fearless, enthusiastic adventurer. She will be deeply missed.





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