

Student Accomplishments Board of Trustees Meeting March 20, 2007

Art:

Samantha Rich and **Tesa Burch** were selected in a statewide competition of both graduate and undergraduate art students to exhibit a body of their work at the Atlantic Center for the Arts last spring. This annual exhibition features the work of only five student artists each year. Nominations must come directly from the Art Departments of each Florida institution of higher learning. To garner two slots out of five in this annual competition is noteworthy, especially for an undergraduate program. To do so two years in a row, really sets UWF's art department and its students above the rest.

Joshua Thompson and **Dale Castellucci**, two BFA graduates, were awarded \$5000 scholarships and will attend the Master of Fine Arts Painting program at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. These students were also final candidates for the MFA program at the New York Studio School in Manhattan. Another BFA graduate, **Gary Batzloff**, is now attending the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where he received a \$10,000 scholarship in their Sculpture program.

Five art students received Undergraduate Research Awards from the University this year: **Tesa Burch, James Worsham, Katya Nossa, Blythe Marshall, and Susan Dunn.**

In June 2006, **Leah-Lani Griffin** was hired as the new Associate Curator at the Pensacola Museum of Art. Earlier in the year, Ms. Griffin was conducting research on the Russian artist, Kasmir Malevich at Rutgers University. Her study of their extensive Malevich collection of books and document was made possibly by the support of a UWF Graduate Research grant. Ms. Griffin is currently working on her MA in the Interdisciplinary Humanities program, with an emphasis in art history.

Athletics:

Argonauts starting pitcher **Taren Walton**, Women's Softball, threw a perfect game striking out a career high fourteen batters in West Florida's (17-11) 6-0 victory over Oakland City (6-5).

Facing their second top five team in as many days, top-ranked West Florida (**Men's Tennis**) dominated fourth-ranked Drury, 7-2, on Sunday. West Florida (15-2) won their second straight, while Drury (7-1) dropped to 1-5 all-time against West Florida.

Not only was the 2006 season a success athletically for the West Florida **men's and women's cross country teams**, it was also successful in the classroom. The United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association recently named both squads to the USTFCCCA Division II All-Academic Teams. **Brian Gowin** and **Lauren Brooks** also received 2006 NCAA Division II All-Academic honors.

Biology:

Bibiana Jackson has been accepted by the dental school of University of Florida, Gainesville; she will attend the school in fall 2007.

Christopher Kay received undergraduate research award from the campus this spring.

Nancy Glass successfully defended her M.S. thesis on November 2006.

Sarah Kell (BS, Dec. 2006) successfully completed a major lab study of predation rates on apple snails for a USFWS funded research contract.

Graduate student **Joseph Moss** published a paper from his thesis in Applied and Environmental Microbiology.

Christopher Main, MS Biology Thesis program, accepted a full time position with EPA at Sabine Island. He finished his research and is writing the thesis.

Shannon Elliott and **Michael White** passed the Ed.D. Comprehensive Exam in December 2006 and were Advanced to Candidacy. Currently, Shannon is working on writing her dissertation and Mike is working on dissertation research. These are the first 2 students from Biology to seek the EdD Science Specialty. Expected graduation is August and December 2007, respectively.

Mike Dance is a Master's student who has been working with me for the past couple years on a project examining fish community structure and the effect of fishing at artificial reefs off Pensacola. He has developed some very valuable skills here and has been offered a PhD research assistantship to begin this fall in the lab of Dr. Jay Rooker at Texas A&M. Jay is widely thought to be the top young (< 45) academic fisheries biologist in the Gulf and turns away many more students than he accepts. I am very pleased for Mike that he'll be able to work with Jay, and I am also very pleased with the product Mike is producing here. He will defend his thesis later this spring or early this summer.

Sean Creekmore and **Steve Garner** are two undergraduate students who have been working in my lab since last year. Both have done directed studies with me. Steve also has worked with Dr. Bennett and Sean was a T.A. in our department last semester. Both worked as paid interns last summer on UWF research projects, Sean here and Steve at the National Marine Fisheries Service's Panama City Laboratory. Steve has been offered graduate research assistantships at both Louisiana State University (LSU), the top fisheries school in the southeast U.S., and Auburn, perhaps the top freshwater fish ecology program in the southeast. Sean has been offered a research assistantship to work with Dr. Kenny Rose at LSU. I have know Kenny since I was a graduate student as he and my PhD advisor, Jim Cowan, have done much groundbreaking work since the mid 1980s. He is a generous person who happens to be one of the top 5 fisheries modelers in the country. I am particularly pleased for Sean because he is a student with great potential who got off to a rough start at the University of Tennessee. He essentially started over at UWF but has been knocking it out of the park since he got here. With his solid performance here, including much hands-on research experience, and his high GRE scores, LSU accepting him was a no-brainer. I am glad for him that this validation of his hard work here might finally erase the memory of his shaky start at UT.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences:

Tiffany Peterson, a senior student in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, received a \$ 2500.00 scholarship (Emil von Behring Scholarship), through a national competition.

This scholarship is awarded by Dade-Behring Corporation , a global leader in Clinical Diagnostic instruments and reagents. The scholarship awards are administered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Tiffany is currently holding a GPA of 3.9, is on the Dean's honor list each semester , recent past president of CLS Students Association and an over all excellent student .

She is currently completing her clinical rotations at Sacred Heart Hospital and will graduate at the end of Summer 2007

Communication Arts:

Winners of the Pensacola Bay Area Advertising Federation's 2007 ADDY Awards competition, announced Feb. 3, included two gold awards and seven silver awards for UWF students.

Gold ADDYS Awards, in addition to \$250 scholarships for Judges Awards, went to **Jessica Bowie** and **Kristoffer Poore**.

Silver ADDY Awards went to **Kristoffer Poore** (3), **Stephanie Black** (2) and **Fernanda Burgel** (2).

Voyager staffer members who participated in a Southeast Journalism Conference competition in late January involving student journalists from 62 colleges and universities came home with four prizes: **Jessica Coleman**, first place in news writing; **Jamie Secola**, first place in copy editing; **Marcus Blakely**, first place in graphic design; **Austin Holt**, seventh place in feature writing.

A competitor on the forensics team, **Stephanie Wideman**, recently had her persuasive speech (presented at the 2006 Interstate Oratorical Association National Championship) published in the journal WINNING ORATIONS. The speech was entitled "Planning for Peak Oil: legislation and Conservation. This is the first time in nearly a decade that UWF student has earned this honor.

The UWF Forensics team won the state championship in Division I for the second year in row on Feb. 10. Leading the team's success was sophomore **Colossia Butts**, who won an individual state championship in Communication Analysis. Additionally, junior **LaPora Johnson** placed 2nd in Poetry Interpretation; **Wendy Wills** took 3rd place Communication Analysis; **Stephanie Wideman** placed 3rd in Persuasion; Freshman **Robert Bonacolta** placed 6th in Extemporaneous speaking ,with **Stephanie Wideman** taking 5th place and sophomore **Alison Anderson** placed 5th in After Dinner Speaking and 6th in Prose Interpretation. UWF team members **Alison Anderson**, **Kate Naud**, **Jean Paul Agustin**, **Karl Mereus**, and **LaPora Johnson** combined to place 3rd overall in Group Interpretation.

Criminal Justice and Legal Studies:

I would like to bring to your attention **Ms Lola Dean**. Loa attended UWF from 1981-1983. Her overall GPA was 1.68.

During those years Lola admits she was not a good student and didn't know what she wanted. In fall 2005 she wanted to re-enroll. By now she was a mother, wife and grandmother to several grandchildren.

Her overall GPA now is 3.10.

She always stops by the department office to tell us how she's doing, ask advice, share a joke, show off her grandbabies, etc. She's a super person and one that we at UWF should be proud of helping and taking a chance on. She is a role model.

English and Foreign Languages:

One of our undergraduate majors, **Laura Vittetoe**, is one of 7 accepted on full scholarship with a \$15,000 cost of living stipend to Rice's doctoral program.

One of our undergraduate majors, **Tommy Padgett**, under the mentorship of Professor Greg Tomso, has been awarded an undergraduate research award in the amount of \$1022.00 to fund his Honors thesis research on "The Discourses of Genetic Research on Alcoholism."

Julio Valeriano, a native of Peru, is currently doing an internship with Cox Communications. In addition, he is taking 4 classes with plans to graduate this semester. He is very involved with the Spanish-language local newspaper and with the county. Through his PR class he is working on an integral PR program for Learn To Read of Northwest Florida (LTR) to address the 20% illiteracy rate in Escambia County. He has also become a certified basic literacy tutor.

Environmental Studies:

Mrs. Alison McDowell, a graduate student in the Department of Environmental Studies, has been doing environmental research in the Sylvania Heights Community in Destin. The community has been traditionally underserved in the area of basic services. In addition, they are an older community, built on a wetland, sited in an "undesirable" area near an industrial park, a debris- and sediment-choked creek (Gap Creek) and a military installation. In short, they have a lot of environmental concerns. When Mrs. McDowell got involved with the community, she thought that maybe she could begin to help them address their environmental issues. She didn't know a lot about grass roots efforts but realized that the community was embarking on one and wanted to help.

To date, **Mrs. McDowell** has:

--Written 3 grants to help fund environmental testing and stormwater relief (all pending)

--Sampled soils for heavy metals to address residents' environmental concerns

--Taken part in meetings that brought together partners and stakeholders to discuss possible solutions to the community's stormwater issues. These meetings began last year with just a few participants. This year, they had a walk down Gap Creek attended by 19 people from city, county, DEP, NFWFMD, 3 surrounding community's and Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance.

It has been exciting for her to be a part of this grassroots effort from the beginning. One of the most rewarding aspects for her is to be able to make science accessible through community meetings, informational talks (formal and informal) and community sampling efforts.

Together with **Brooke Saari**, another Environmental Studies graduate student, Mrs. McDowell performed water sampling in Choctawhatchee Bay for the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (which currently is Mrs. McDowell's employer). They collected basic water quality parameters and data for the UF Lakewatch program. Mrs. McDowell is involved in these efforts because she is a native of the area and wants to conserve our precious water resources, and because it is FUN science.

Graduate Studies:

Nicole Morris, a graduate student in Biology, will be defending her thesis (The artificial reef effect of World War II era shipwrecks in the northern Gulf of Mexico) on Feb 24th.

Nicole was awarded a Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship to work with NOAA's Ocean Explorer program. *She is the first UWF student to be awarded a Knauss Fellowship*, a prestigious honor that only 30 students attain each year among all the of the nation's Sea Grant programs.

Health Education:

Christine Black, a health education graduate (December 2006), credits UWF with helping her achieve her lifelong goal of finishing her college degree. As a non-traditional student, Black began pursuing her degree at age 48, and despite many personal obstacles and challenges, she remained committed to her dream.

Black attributes her accomplishments to personal diligence and the will to complete her goals, as well as the faculty, staff and fellow students in the UWF community who helped her when she was ready to give up.

"I can hardly believe I'm graduating," said Black. "There were times when life was overwhelming, but everyone here was so supportive and encouraging. I think this is the beginning of something very good for me."

History / Public History / Historical Archaeology:

Historic Organization Partners with Local Students to Revitalize the Colonial Archeology Trail

Amy Mitchell-Cook, Department of History, and Della Scott-Ireton, Florida Public Archaeology Network, are proud to announce that their project "Unearthing Pensacola's Heritage: Creating a District-Wide Educational Fieldtrip for Middle School Students" was chosen as a finalist for the Save Our History National Event. In mid May, four students and two adults will travel to Washington D.C. to participate in a two day event, which includes a student youth summit. Three of the ten finalists will receive a Community, Classroom and Preservation award of \$10,000.

Since September, students from Ferry Pass Middle School have worked with staff and faculty from the University of West Florida, Florida Public Archaeology Network, and West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. to revitalize the Colonial Archeology Trail in Pensacola through the

physical restoration of archeological sites, the creation of an associated pamphlet and activity book and the production of a "virtual field trip." **Tim Roberts**, Graduate Student in Historic Preservation helped coordinate the History Channel Grant and supervise the students from Ferry Pass Middle. The Colonial Archeology Trail consists of seven markers and covers an area where the British Fort of Pensacola was located. Students are working with the partnering organizations to create a series of educational units that follow the Trail as it intersects with Historic Pensacola Village. The final product will be an activity book that summarizes the area's history and provides an overview of the Trail's importance.

The History Channel awarded the West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. in Pensacola, FL. with a \$8,668 Save Our History grant to partner with local students to revitalize the Colonial Archeology Trail in Pensacola. The West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. is one of 27 history organizations that received Save Our History community preservation grants. These fund innovative, educational projects designed to bring communities together, actively engage children in the preservation of their local history and communicate the importance of saving local history for future generations.

Housing and Residence Life:

Quentin Baker has been offered and accepted an ACUHO-I Summer Internship at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh, North Carolina! He will gain invaluable knowledge from their institution as well as be able to share all the wonderful things we do here at UWF! Just to give you an idea, this is a very competitive program, this year there were 379 candidates, 148 Host sites and 274 positions available.

UWF had a great delegation that attended Florida Resident Assistant Seminar this weekend at UCF. They performed a roll call, presented four programs and won the "Most Spirit" award. Our delegates were **Amanda Starr, Natalia Padro, Mark Williams, Daniel Bell, Jesse Lopez, Travis Ten Brink, Lindsay Onjukka, Ronnie Rentz, Shawn Cooley, Benjamin Kost, Keith Quinones.**

INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES:

Amanda Blum and **Ashley Tillery**, seniors in Interdisciplinary Humanities in Niceville, received the Honors Undergraduate Research Award for \$1,000.00 each for the Spring 2007 semester. Their research is an interdisciplinary project that involves the work of the Tuskegee Institute photographer, Prentice Herman Polk. They hope to write about, Saving Prentice: Black History and Biography Research through the Arts, based on the research from the project. The award program is in its second year and it is intended to allow students who do good work to finance their projects.

Library:

Shannon Shell is a student worker at the Circulation Desk. Shannon is a wonderful young lady with a lot of potential and a great heart. She never misses work, is always on time and has a very positive disposition. She is very helpful towards all library patrons and we have all witnessed her going out of her way to help others. We are all very pleased to have her as member of our department.

Shannon was selected as a judge to proctor and moderate sessions towards the finals of the UWF Forensic Tournament, held on February 9-11, 2007. She approached this task, as she does her work, with full dedication.

A former Library student, **Sunny Gorman**, who graduated in Dec., was asked to submit art work for the Exhibition- Paperworks: On and Of Paper . This Exhibition is currently being displayed in the Art Gallery (Feb. 16-Mar. 14). Sunny worked for the Library for almost 2 years.

Marketing:

The University of West Florida Emerald Coast has announced that the student marketing team, Nautical Promotions, received first place for its work in the Chevrolet Marketing Scholastic Achievement Award Competition. The competition was a unique opportunity for students to gain industry insight by applying their classroom work in a "real world" situation.

The team, comprised of UWF students enrolled in the "Integrated Marketing Communications" class on the Fort Walton Beach campus, developed a marketing campaign and recommendations for Chevrolet's new HHR and Cobalt vehicles. Working with Preston Hood Chevrolet, the students conducted research, held a special campaign event on the Okaloosa-Walton College Niceville campus and designed advertising and public relations tools to promote the vehicles.

"We at Chevrolet are extremely impressed by the professionalism of the (Nautical Promotions) students and the original creative ideas they presented," said David Borchelt, Chevrolet's Regional general manager in his congratulatory letter to the students. "Placing first out of 11 participating colleges is a huge accomplishment."

Four members of the 10 student team traveled to Atlanta Dec. 13, 2006 with their instructor, Susan Shaw, to meet with executives from Chevrolet and General Motors to present their campaign and recommendations. In addition to the award, the students received a \$1,500 check that will be used to create a marketing and public relations student organization at the UWF Emerald Coast campus.

Four University of West Florida marketing students traveled to Denver Jan. 25 through 27 to compete in the national supply chain and logistics case competition, "Operation Stimulus," hosted by the Denver Transportation Club. Undergraduate students **Joshua Kennedy, Kristen Justus, Michael McGee** and **Christopher Knuth** analyzed a graduate-level supply chain management and logistics case and presented their analysis and recommendations to more than 70 industry professionals and academics.

The team placed second, beating nine other teams from Michigan State University, Syracuse University, University of Arkansas, Texas Christian University, Colorado State University, University of Houston, University of Denver (two teams) and Georgia Southern University and coming within one percent of Ohio State University and first place.

"Michigan State University and several other of the participating universities have top-rated programs in logistics, so our students' performance in this national competition confirms that UWF business students can compete successfully with the very best students," said Ed Ranelli, dean of the UWF College of Business.

Music:

Pensacola Music Teachers Association Competition – Piano:
College Level Sonata - **Jonathan Ziegler** – First Place
Christina Kwon, Third Place

Samuel Park, Junior, Violin Performance:

October 2006 – 1st prize, MTNA Young Artist Competition, Florida State
October 2006 – 1st prize, North Florida Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition
January 2007 – 1st prize, MTNA Young Artist Competition, Southern Division, National Finalist
February 2007 – two successful solo performances of the Paganini Violin Concerto with the North Florida Symphony Orchestra
February 2007 – violinist with the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, soloist – Itzhak Perlman

Molly Hodges, Freshman, Violin Performance:

February 2007 – violinist with the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, *Le nozze di Figaro*

Nicole Thietje, Senior, Voice/Teaching:

Soloist – Pensacola Opera – Lunch and Learn Presentation, *Le nozze di Figaro*

Physics:

J.D. Olitzky, Chris Clanton, and Dr. Lazslo Ujj received the award for Best Undergraduate Research Presentation (for the poster session) at the Society of Physics Students Zone 6 Meeting hosted at Florida Institute of Technology on February 17. The project, titled Development of Coherent anti-Stokes Raman Spectroscopy, won the R.S. Jin Award Certificate of Excellence. The group competed against 40 research projects, of which 20 were posters, from schools in Alabama, Florida, and Puerto Rico; including University of Central Florida, University of Alabama Huntsville, University of Florida, Florida Institute of Technology, University of Puerto Rico, and Stetson University.

Political Science:

The following Political Science students are/will be presenting papers at professional political science conferences:

Doug Mock, Graduate Student -- American Religious Freedom Conference at the University of Portland, Oregon; Florida Political Science Association (FPSA) Conference.

Travis Braidwood, undergraduate – Florida Political Science Association Conference.

Holly Griffin, undergraduate – Florida Political Science Association Conference.

Jacob Brennan, graduate student – Florida Political Science Association Conference.

Ryan Cunningham, graduate student – Florida Political Science Association Conference.

Olivia Lagergren, graduate student – Midwest Political Science Association conference; Southwest Political Science Association conference; American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning conference; and Florida Political Science Association Conference.

Ryan Smallen, graduate student – Southwest Political Science Conference; Florida Political Science Association Conference.

Psychology:

Mary Storts, Psychology major, fits the definition of a nontraditional student to a T. For the past two semesters Mary has been a single parent to her twin daughters while her military husband has been gone for a year long deployment. Mary has maintained a 4.0 GPA as a full time student while serving in a leadership capacity for the Extended Campus Activity Board and the Emerald Coast SGA and is currently also serving as President of the Emerald Coast Student Psychology Association. Moreover, Mary has planned and conducted an independent research project investigating presentation anxiety, a project which was accepted as a poster presentation at the upcoming meetings of the Southeastern Psychological Association. Mary represents the best and the brightest of UWF-Emerald Coast.

Travis Whitney, Psychology major and Religious Studies minor, has maintained a 3.4 GPA while attending UWF-Emerald Coast as a full time student. In addition, Travis works full time in a Destin area business he owns. Travis has been very involved with many student activities and student organizations, including the Extended Campus Activity Board. Travis is the current Senate President of the Emerald Coast SGA and worked hard to re-establish an SGA structure at Emerald Coast that effectively meets the needs of students at UWF-EC. Travis also recently starred in an independent film, entitled Flawed Proposal, which is being submitted to several film festivals showcasing independent films, including the Sundance Film Festival.

Recreation and Sports Services:

NIRSA 2007 William Wasson Leadership and Academic Awards Winners:

Region II

Undergraduate Students - **April Moore** – University of West Florida

Graduate Students - **Sonja Toth** – University of West Florida

These students will be recognized at the upcoming NIRSA Conference.

Letter from Richard Romero, Associate Director - Department of Campus Recreation,
University of Arizona

I trust your new year is going well. Once again it was my pleasure to work with you and your magnificent staff this past year at the 28th ACIS Flag Football National Championships. From start to finish your student and professional staff worked extremely well and were very instrumental in hosting the best tournament that I have been involved in. As we transition back to New Orleans I would like to request that you simply send them all to help us out next year.

I especially would like to recognize a few people who made my specific responsibilities very easy. First up is Amy Robinson who helped to coordinate air travel and ground transportation for me. She was very helpful and patient as I could have been considered a high maintenance traveler. Next there was Shaun Boren who just seemed to appear every time we had a need and fortunately was not called upon to un-secure any buildings. Finally, **Jackie Mathews** and **Adam Morgan** responded every time a request was made and provided valuable input to remedy or improve the situation. They both worked very hard and maintained an upbeat attitude in spite of stormy weather.

While I look forward to returning to New Orleans, I will always remember our two years in Pensacola as a highlight of the twenty-five tournaments that I have been involved in. Thanks again to you and your staff and I look forward to working with you and your staff in the future.

Student Council for Exceptional Children:

Our student chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) has been active all year. In the fall these pre-service teachers (special education majors) worked in various capacities at the new Miracle League Ball park.

1. They volunteered as “buddies” to help children and young adults with disabilities bat and run the bases. They also volunteered in the ticket and concession booths. (I have attached a picture of our chapter president – Sherian Mattingly with one of the Miracle League participants)
2. Many of the SCEC officers have volunteered at the Leaning Post Ranch with helping children with disabilities participate in horseback riding. I will try to get a picture of this if you want it. **Krystal Rhodes** is one of our officers who has spear-headed this activity. She has completed training at the ranch to be a side walker with the child and horse. She also conducted a study at the ranch and was the main presenter of the study at the State SCEC conference.
3. The SCEC officers have been involved in helping to get the MOVE Program established in Northwest Florida. MOVE stand for Mobility Opportunities Via Education and is a mobility program to help individuals with physical disabilities to sit, stand and walk in order to increase their participation in life. They have volunteered in Betty Whitaker’s class at T.R. Jackson Pre-K classroom in Santa Rosa Co.
4. As part of SCEC support of MOVE, they planned and held a fund raising event in November. The event had two goals: to raise awareness of MOVE, and to raise funds for mobility instructional equipment for Ms. Whitaker’s MOVE class. The students enlisted the help of a local chef and the event raised over \$6,000.00. (I have attached a picture of the SCEC officers, the Drs. Whinnery, and Chef Andrew Selz presenting the check for MOVE equipment to Betty Whitaker, the teacher, at the Santa Rosa Co. School Board meeting in January.) The officers are **Sherian Mattingly, Krystal Rhodes, Staci Lawson, and Stephanie Jackson**. (I have also attached a collage of the equipment purchased and used at T.R. Jackson).
5. Last October the SCEC presented a poster session related to their work at the Leaning Post Ranch at the CEC state conference held in Panama City.

At the recent Teacher of the Year Recruiting Event held by the Division of Teacher Education, the SCEC officers set up a demonstration room of the activities that they had conducted this last year.

Teacher Education:

LTJG Deirdra Ponds, teacher education, has given 17 years of active and reserve duty to the military. In January 2006 she was recalled to active duty due to the back log of work caused by Hurricane Katrina and the lack of active duty service members to do it. She was assigned to Naval Air Logistics Office, New Orleans, LA where she serves as the Force Protection Officer which means that she researches and analyzes intelligence data for aircrews flying missions into areas where there is a high terrorist threat. She has a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Business Management.

Rebecca Grass is a student in Teacher Education and volunteers tirelessly for the Audubon Society and the Roy Hyatt Environmental Center. Becky has been instrumental in coordinating service learning projects with the Roy Hyatt Center via tutoring, conducting field trips and learning about the local environment by partnering with our local Audubon chapter.