Florida Institute of Technology
High Tech with a Human Touch™

The Communicator

The Newsletter of the Department of Humanities and Communication

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Creative Writing Institute
Launches Second Installment

By Rory Allen

Florida Tech’s Creative Writing Institute (CWI), a one-week seminar dedicated to the creative side of writing, has once again give writers an outlet to channel and express their imaginations.

In 2009, the Humanities and Communications Department debuted the institute under the direction of Robert Taylor, department head.

Tasked with organizing the institute were assistant professors Jason Harris, Marcia Denius, and John Lavelle.

After securing the classroom space, 50 participants and published author Philip Deaver of Rollins College as the keynote speaker, the institute was a success!

This year, the team is back and employing similar advertising tactics used in 2009. Since the majority of the participants were from the adult writing community, word was spread through book clubs, book stores and local writing groups.

“The participants gave us positive feedback at the end of last year’s institute,” says Denius, who teaches creative writing and is excited about this summer's program. “We’ve ramped up to another level!” she exclaims.

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Music Program Flourishes

Florida Tech’s music program hits a high note with students

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The Big Kahunas: Perdigao and Ruane Catch a South Asian Wave

By Gordon Patterson

This spring Lisa Perdigao and Matthew Ruane were selected in a nationwide competition to participate in summer programs in Honolulu sponsored by the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP) at the East-West Center in Honolulu. Launched in 1990, the ASDP is an outreach of the federally funded East-West Center which is adjacent to the University of Hawaii in Manoa.

Perdigao and Ruane will join roughly two dozen participants in a three-week intensive, multidisciplinary program in July. The goal of the ASDP workshop is to explore ways in which Asian studies can be integrated into the teaching of the

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From the Chair

The coming of another hot Melbourne summer means that it’s time for a new edition of the Humanities and Communication Department’s Communicator. Editor Heidi Hatfield Edwards has compiled a great recap of a year of exciting growth and change. After reading it, one is tempted to ask “did we do all that in a year?”

The faculty remains very productive in their scholarship in a very wide range of subjects. They manage this in the face of heavy teaching loads, advising and award-winning service to the university and their disciplines. New initiatives like the Center for the Study of Critical Languages, the French Film Festival and the Creative Writing Institute flourish. The music program continues to astound with stunning concert performances by our students.

What will next year bring? Plans are in the works to evolve the Humanities Lecture Series into a Performing Arts Series for Florida Tech. Also the revised Strategic Communication and Humanities (Pre-Law Option) degrees will be launched. Stay tuned!

On a sad note, veteran communication professor Carol Shehadeh has retired after almost 35 years of service to the department. Carol is a real pioneer here at Florida Institute of Technology, and she will be missed.

“Communication professor Carol Shehadeh has retired after almost 35 years of service to the department. Carol is a real pioneer here at Florida Institute of Technology, and she will be missed.”

Bob Taylor

Carol Shehadeh
Jennifer Dubin

Jennifer Dubin, 23, graduated with her bachelor's degree in communication in May. Although Dubin is originally from Wilmette, Ill., she immediately felt at home at Florida Tech, where she began her university career three years ago.

Dubin chose Florida Tech because of its tropical location.

“It’s near the beach and the theme parks, what more could you want,” said the enthusiastic senior.

After graduation, Dubin plans to return to Chicago where she will take on a leading role in the family business.

Dubin remained a busy student throughout her four years at Florida Tech. When she was not attending classes, you could often find her cheering for the varsity sports teams as a member of the Florida Tech Cheerleading Squad.

Allison Glunt

Allison Glunt also graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in communication and a minor in business. After all the hard work and effort she has put into her degree, she is ready to move on to fulfilling her dream of working in the hospitality industry.

“I love people so I would like to do event planning and things of that nature,” says Glunt, who chose to attend Florida Tech because it was close to home.

“I also received scholarships, which helped with my decision-making process.”

When she was not busy with school work, Glunt enjoyed spending time with her sorority sisters.

“I have spent so much time with them, in fact, that there are too many amazing memories to count,” she says.

The senior from Deerfield Beach, Fla., plans on continuing her education by pursuing a master's degree in hospitality next spring. She is still searching for the right school.

Kimberly Fulks

Also graduating from the Humanities and Communication Department in May is Kimberly Fulks.

Originally from Plant City, Fla., Fulks will also earn a bachelor’s degree in communication. She decided to attend Florida Tech because of the small class sizes.

“It means a lot to me when a professor knows my name,” Fulks said.

After graduation, Fulks hopes to get a position in collegiate event planning. Her most memorable university experience was her summer internship with Florida Tech’s Conference Services Bureau.

“The internship gave me learning experiences and memories that I will never forget. I was given the opportunity to run the office and everything that goes along with it for a week while my boss was on vacation,” Fulks says.

Throughout the summer, she was directly responsible for coordinating the details for 23 summer youth camps. She also had the opportunity to supervise a staff of six students in their day-to-day activities.

“I believe that over the summer, I was given the best opportunity to get a real understanding of what the field is all about,” she says.

Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop

In addition, graduate student Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop received her master’s degree in technical and professional communication in May.

Hatcher-Gallop is currently teaching journalism and science technical communication classes at Florida Tech as an adjunct instructor.

Originally from Augusta, Ga., she has lived in Palm Bay for the last 14 years.

Her journey with Florida Tech started when she interviewed Judy Strother, chair of the graduate degree program in technical and professional communication, for a news story in the fall of 2006.

“After talking with her, and listening to how she described the program, I knew this was where I wanted to be,” Hatcher-Gallop said.

“I enrolled in the spring of 2007 and have loved being here ever since.”

Hatcher-Gallop earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism and English from the University of South Carolina–Aiken. An award-winning reporter and editor for 19 years, she has worked at such newspapers as The Augusta Chronicle and Florida Today, and appeared in national publications like Essence magazine.

Her husband, Jeff, also an accomplished journalist, is currently a second-year graduate student in the communications program.

With a master’s degree under her belt, Hatcher-Gallop plans to continue to pursue teaching—at least on a part-time basis—while also running her own media relations company, RoJè Communications, Inc.

“Pursuing this degree has opened my mind, allowed me to think critically and focused my ambitions,” she says.

“It has also expanded my professional horizons and better equipped me to pursue such endeavors as writing and presenting critical analysis papers at international conferences,” Hatcher-Gallop said.

While attending Florida Tech, Hatcher-Gallop has been fortunate to have many memorable experiences. Her most memorable, however, were representing the school as a speaker at the IEEE Professional Communication Society conferences in Montreal in 2008 and in Hawaii last year.

“I had a blast in both places and will always cherish the memories.”

December graduates

Dubin, Glunt, Fulks and Hatcher-Gallop join December graduates Jessica Marie Brown and Shaun Alf as the communication program’s most recent graduates.

Brown graduated in December with a bachelor’s degree in communication. Alf completed his master’s degree in technical and professional communication. He is a 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army and has been stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. He recently completed a military intelligence course at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Emily Densem is a communication major who wrote for The Communicator as part of the spring semester journalism class.
Buddha, Sartre and Kathryn Broderick: The 2010 Capstone Colloquium

By Gordon Patterson

On Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Kathryn Broderick presented her senior thesis at the Humanities Spring Capstone Colloquium. Launched in 2002, the Humanities Capstone represents the Humanities and Communication Department’s efforts to provide students with the opportunity to conduct original research on a topic of their choosing. In the past eight years, topics have ranged from a discussion of fascism in the 1930s in England (John McPhail), the Bataan Death March (Jennifer Triolo), to a history of the West Nile virus in Florida (James Almasi). Twenty-one students have completed the capstone project.

Professor Robert Shearer served as Kathryn Broderick’s Virgil in her year-long exploration of the role of the concept of the “transcendental ego” in the work of Jean Paul Sartre and within the Theravada Buddhist tradition. Kathryn’s 13,000-word thesis demonstrated her command of a difficult topic and her gift for writing lucid prose.

Robert Taylor, head of the Humanities and Communication Department, spoke for the audience when he declared, “Kathryn’s thesis is an outstanding example of the quality work that defines the character of the Humanities and Communication. She has set a new standard of excellence for future students.”

Three senior students are currently at work on their senior theses. Cole Rasmussen is writing a history of the athletic program at Florida Tech. Anna Vodopiyanova is at work on an analysis of Taoism and aesthetic theory. Patrick Harrigan is preparing a critical review of biographical treatments of General George Patton. These students’ work will be presented at the December 2010 Capstone Colloquium.

Florida Tech Offers Intensive Summer Institute in Chinese

Florida Institute of Technology is offering its first Intensive Summer Institute in Chinese May 10–June 18. The institute was made possible through a grant from Project GO, funded by the Department of Defense and the ROTC Language & Culture Project.

The institute offers six hours a day of instruction in the Chinese language Monday through Thursday. On Tuesdays and Thursdays one hour will be spent each day on the capstone research project. On Fridays participants will engage in cultural activities. These include speakers, films, music and a field trip to the Epcot Center Chinese Pavilion.

Participating Florida Tech faculty include JoAnn Parla Palumbo, director, Center for the Study of Critical Languages; Alan Rosiene, director, Foreign Languages; and Robert Taylor, head, Department of Humanities and Communication. Also, Gordon Patterson, professor of humanities and communication, is directing the cultural activities.

For more information, visit http://cpla.fit.edu/hu-com/cscl/summer_institute.doc or contact JoAnn Parla Palumbo at jparlapalumbo@fit.edu or (321) 674-7491.

Bill Leach Earns Doctorate

After a seven-year journey that began in 2003, Bill Leach, an instructor in the Humanities and Communication Department, received his doctorate from the University of Central Florida on May 7, 2010. Leach earned his degree from the Texts and Technology program in the English department at UCF. His dissertation, “Prospects for Change: Creating a Blended Learning Program through a Culture of Support,” focused on the ethical and practical issues of integrating various technologies in the First Year Composition classroom.

Denius Participates in a Poets and Artists Collaboration

This spring Marcia Denius was one of 12 Florida poets asked to participate in a project of collaboration with 12 Florida visual artists. The ongoing project is the brainchild of Cindy Michaud, a nationally renowned painter. Edmund Skellings, Poet Laureate of Florida and a humanities professor at Florida Tech, is the honorary chairman, and the pairings include two Florida Tech students, Monica Ebert and Miles Wallo.

The project is inspired by a quote by Carl Jung: “The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.” The paired artists, unknown to one another, met for the first time last summer, and then, after more collaboration, worked separately to create a new work that was influenced by the other. “My poem, Divining the Clouds, was definitely influenced by the techniques and artistic beliefs of my artist collaborator, Ellen Lindner, and I am sure that my subsequent poems will be, too,” said Denius.

A full-color, 120-page book was published and was available for purchase at the opening. The exhibition is now on the road to other museums around Florida.

Marcia Denius (left) was one of a select number of poets who teamed with visual artists to create a multimedia exhibit now traveling to museums across Florida. She collaborated with artist Ellen Lindner (right). Photo by Kristina Denius.
Evolution of the Humanities Lecture Series
By Michael Salazar

After 25 years of a successful run, the current format of Florida Tech’s Humanities Lecture Series is ending, but the popular series is not going away. Instead, the series is “evolving,” according to Robert Taylor, head of the Humanities and Communication Department.

“The program focused on the lecture,” he said. “We took a close look at what we did and we decided that the lectures should offer more.”

Taylor said the series needs to reach out to a wider audience.

“What we’re looking at doing now is creating a Performing Arts Series that would involve notables from the music, dance and film industry,” he said.

The department is now formulating plans for a revamped series that reaches out to include the local community.

“There’s going to be a cross flow to the other departments like psychology to participate in this series,” Taylor said. “This school is exponentially expanding and we want to be there to help lead the way by providing relevant lecturers and performers to everyone that attends here.”

So, what was once a good idea that lasted for a quarter of a century is planning to become a better forum that can run for another 25 years.

But where did the program start, what was it about and what is its future?

Gordon Patterson was the innovator who saw a need for contemporary lecturers who could communicate directly to the Florida Tech student.

“The lecture series idea grew out of a talk I gave in November 1984 for Oxfam on world famine,” Patterson stated.

“Oxfam International is a confederation of 14 international NGOs working to end poverty and injustice. Then, in February 1985, my dean, Jim Stoms, and Jerry Keuper, the president of Florida Tech, encouraged the idea of launching a lecture series,” he added.

The first lecture of the series, “Sailing Down the Yangzi,” featured Dr. and Mrs. Oswald Holzer.

Dr. Holzer first met his wife, Ruth, in Shanghai during World War II. Later, he became one of the founding physicians of what became Holmes Regional Medical Center.

Patterson said that Holzer was a great advocate of Florida Tech and donated what is now the Holzer Student Health Center.

“He and Mrs. Holzer went back to China after 40 years and the talk presented their impressions of how China had changed,” Patterson said.

More than 150 lectures followed in the next 25 years.

Some of the lecture’s highlights include:
- Historian Christopher Lasch, author of *Culture of Narcissism*;
- Jacob Druckman, composer and Pulitzer Prize winner for electronic music;
- Jacob Weizenbaum, MIT professor and pioneer in the development of computers;
- Linda Schele, Mayan iconography expert and author of *The Blood of Kings*;
- Father Ray Brown, the leading Roman Catholic scholar on the Christian Gospels;
- Jon Levenson, Harvard professor in Hebrew Studies spoke on the Exodus and Jewish Liberation;
- William Colby, former director of CIA; and
- Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*.

The final lecture was on Feb. 11 with writer and historian Robert Marx and author Davis Bunn.

“For the last five years, the HLS has received funding from the French American Cultural Exchange (FACE) to host The Tournées French Film Festival,” Patterson explained.

“This year will be our fifth film festival. The FACE grant allows for only five festivals. The response from the community (250–400 attendees for each film) has been so large that Professor Taylor and I decided to focus on the performing arts in the future.”

Taylor emphasized that it is the students who made the lecture series a success. He now wants students to add their ideas to the new program.

“The bottom line here is Florida Tech is changing and reshaping a good program to a super program because we are a world-class university, and the students deserve a world-class series,” Taylor said.

Michael Salazar is a communication major who wrote for The Communicator as part of the spring semester journalism class.
Jamie Younkin, the university’s assistant professor of music and music program director, has a long-term goal that includes a larger music program and a possible music minor.

“That’s something we’re working on,” Younkin says.

Younkin arrived at Florida Tech in the fall of 2007; a year after the music program began. Before then, she taught Introduction to Popular Music and Culture at Ryerson University in Toronto. Additionally, she finished her doctoral degree at the University of Toronto.

Currently, there are six ensembles and four classes that students can take under the music program.

The ensembles include concert choir, wind ensemble, string ensemble, jazz band, Latin percussion and Scholar Cantorum, an a capella chant and Renaissance choir. Classes include Music Appreciation: Introduction to Western Styles and Cultures, Introduction to Popular Music and Culture, Opera History and Music Theory: Fundamentals of Music.

The performance ensembles are offered in the fall and spring semesters, while specific music classes are offered in either the fall or spring semester.

Many students who have joined the performance ensembles seem to already be skilled musicians.

David Jarkey, a junior aerospace engineer major, played piano for 14 years before joining both the string and jazz ensembles. Keri Hoadley, a junior physics major, plays the trumpet and the violin.

“I like playing instruments. I had always wanted to play in an orchestra ever since I picked up the violin, and since there was a group on campus, I [had] to join that.” Hoadley is in jazz band.

Students also show great interest in the music classes. Younkin teaches Introduction to Popular Music & Culture and Music Theory: Fundamentals of Music.

The popular music and culture class is also known as “Rock and Pop” to students. It is a course Stephanie Zoutenbier enjoys because it provides a good overview on “the emergence of popular music and how styles in older music show up in popular music now.”

Casey Gardner, a junior in clinical psychology and a guitarist, took Fundamentals of Music in the fall of 2008.

“I was hooked and subsequently joined jazz band the next semester, the first semester of jazz band,” Gardner says. “She [Younkin] can be [tough] at times, but we’re always laughing and having fun, especially in jazz.”

Younkin has approached each ensemble with two goals in mind: (1) “players individually gain experience and feel good about themselves” and (2) “… get some piece of orchestral repertoire in their years.”

She accomplishes both missions by choosing music that suits that particular ensemble.

For example, the string ensemble is currently working on “The Planets, Op. 32 Mars, the Bringer of War” by Gustav Holst.

In choir, “I want to make sure they’ve sung in English, Italian, German and Latin!” she exclaims. “I take styles by major composers for choir like Gabrielle Foyer …”

Younkin has been an especially busy professor with a myriad of events this semester. Florida Tech’s Latin Percussion ensemble performed at the International Festival on Feb. 27. The choir, string and wind ensembles performed together on March 16. The jazz band had a concert the following week, and the string ensemble performed with the Brevard Symphony Orchestra on March 26.

The music program is continuing to grow, with approximately 30 students in the program now, not including musical classes.

Winston Scott, dean of the College of Aeronautics, has started a student jazz combo group that will be performing April 9 at the Scott Center fundraiser. The group focuses on big band and swing.

Students in the performance ensembles seem to share the same sentiment in seeing the music program expand. Some students say they would even like to see Florida Tech add a music minor to the catalog.

“I would really like to see a music minor added. I feel that after all that I’ve been a

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part of, I should be able to get minor out of it,” says Gardner.

Hoadley added that it would be nice to have more music teachers and practice rooms, or some sort of facility that is just for the music program.

“More scholarships for musicians. More advertisements for the music program so that more people will join,” she exclaims. “A minor in music and money for extra instruments and equipment!”

At the end of the semester, at least, one of those goals was implemented.

Younkin had auditions for various ensembles and is offering 25 scholarships to singers and instrumentalists.

Jackie McGriff is a communication minor/meteorology major who wrote for The Communicator as part of the spring semester journalism class.

Join Together With The Band!

Florida Tech has six music ensembles. If you are interested in joining one of the ensembles listed below, contact the Humanities and Communication Department at (321) 674-8082.

For-credit Ensembles: Winds and Percussion  |  Concert Choir  |  String Ensemble  |  Jazz Ensemble
Non-credit Groups: Latin Percussion  |  Schola Cantorum (chant and Renaissance choir)

Humanities Professor Wins Faculty Excellence Award for Service

On April 22, 2010, University President Anthony Catanese and Provost Dwayne McCay awarded Professor Jamie Younkin the Faculty Excellence Award for Service at the university’s annual honors convocation. Professor Younkin, who joined the Humanities and Communication Department in 2007, was recognized for her work in launching the university’s music program.

Younkin was praised for her tireless efforts to improve the university. Three years ago there was no music program at Florida Tech. Today there is a Florida Tech orchestra, multiple ensembles and choral groups. There are now frequent musical presentations on a campus in which in the past there were few if any musical performances. Her accomplishments are even more remarkable in that what she has done received minimal financial support.

The Faculty Excellence Award for Service is a tribute to Professor Younkin’s vision and determination.

Time to clean out the attic!!!

Have any old music-related items you would like to donate to the music program??

Bring any old instruments, sheet music and more to the department for donation today!!!
Faculty Profile: Keturah Mazo
By Tamara Gray

Keturah Mazo just can’t stay away from Florida Tech.

“I truly enjoy the company of my peers in the Humanities and Communication Department. I feel at home here,” says Mazo, who taught at the university until 2004.

She returned in 2008 on a part-time basis and became a full-time visiting instructor last fall after working as an independent consultant.

She earned her master’s degree in computer education instructional technology for communication from Florida Tech and a bachelor’s degree in English language arts education from the University of Central Florida.

Bringing 19 years of teaching experience to the department, Mazo currently teaches speech and scientific and technical communication, and has taught professional communication for executives.

Her favorite subject to teach is speech.

“You see a bigger difference in students from the beginning of the semester to the end in their confidence. (The class offers) more room for individual growth,” she said.

Her students think she is a fair teacher who offers constructive criticism, guidance and is someone who always has a positive attitude.

“I enjoyed the fact that she enjoyed teaching despite the fact she had her medical issues to deal with. Also, that she was willing to work with us and help on any of the tasks she made us perform,” said Luis Venegas, a former student.

Lytysia Dupont, who had Mazo for two semesters, said she liked that “what she taught is exactly what she tests you on.

“A lot of professors give you so much material and only half of it ends up on the exam. As a person, she’s very approachable and has a great sense of humor, so if you need help, she’s not too intimidating,” Dupont added.

Mazo’s expertise is in gender studies in communication—how men and women differ in the work force—and teaching technical communication. She is interested in the research of gender stereotypes in mass media and computer-assisted instruction as it relates to communication.

Her current research is on computers and Internet usage in the language classroom.

Mazo’s teaching experience includes having taught middle grades language arts and serving as a peer leader for Brevard County Public Schools, training new teachers and college interns.

She is also a published author with her first book, Pet Tails: One Woman’s Four-legged Family, published in 2006.

A true Floridian, Mazo was born and raised in Florida. She lives with her husband, Richard, her two very active children and a houseful of pets.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading romance novels, writing, writing poetry, creative memoirs and scholarly papers.

What most people don’t know about Mazo is that she is a recent breast cancer survivor.

Dedicated to her students, she delayed her surgery until the end of the fall semester so that she could teach her students without interruption.

When asked what she enjoys most about teaching, Mazo said, “The students. That’s what keeps me motivated.”

Tamara Gray is a communication major who wrote for The Communicator as part of the spring semester journalism class.

Creative Writing Institute Launches Second Installment
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The new CWI kicked off Sunday, June 6, with published author John Dufresne as the guest speaker.

A week full of classes on everything from advanced fiction and novel writing to beginning playwriting followed. The courses were offered at various times throughout the week to provide flexibility with scheduling.

“Ramping” to another level is the amount of visiting writers scheduled to teach throughout the week. The increase enabled the new institute to offer courses in journalism and writing military thrillers.

Annette Clifford, a columnist with Florida Today, instructed students on how to craft a personal essay suitable for newspaper or magazine publication. Michael Salazar, a Florida Tech student who also is a published military thriller author and writer in residence, shed light on navigating safely through the story writing process.

The anticipation of repeating last year’s success was motivating for the organizers.

“We’re very excited about what we have to offer to writers of all ages in the community,” Denius says.

She witnessed the success of the first institute and says she is confident that this year’s itinerary will achieve and surpass last summer’s accomplishment.

The CWI is open to everyone. For more information about the institute and opportunities for next year, visit the CWI website at http://411.fit.edu/cwi.

Rory Allen is a communication major who wrote for The Communicator as part of the spring semester journalism class.
Faculty Profile: Gabriella Baika
By Kimberli Trader

Gabriella Baika, an assistant professor of romance languages in the Humanities and Communication Department, says becoming a college professor was not in her plans. “It just happened,” says Baika, who developed a love for language at an early age. She joined the department in August 2009. “My years of study have brought me to this point. I like to teach and, for now, I would not trade this for anything else,” she says.

Baika was born and raised in a bilingual family. Her father is Hungarian and her mother is Romanian. She spoke both languages at home.

In elementary school, Baika was required to learn both French and German. She was learning Latin by age 14.

Because of her linguistic background, Baika easily learned Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Old Provençal.

In 1997, Baika was a Ph.D. candidate in the field of historical syntax of the romance languages at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania.

Prior to becoming a professor at Florida Tech, Baika taught various linguistic levels of French and Italian for six years at the University of Pittsburgh, and two years at Auburn University in Alabama.

Robert Taylor, department head, finds Baika’s expertise in both Italian and French to be quite amazing. “She is able to wear two foreign hats,” he says.

Alan Rosiene, assistant department head, says Baika’s enthusiasm has attracted many students to the foreign language program.

“Dr. Baika has revitalized our language courses by bringing our methods of instruction up to date. She is helping us expand foreign language offerings to serve students at all levels of proficiency,” he says.

Baika finds it a joy to see how enthusiastic and passionate her students are about foreign languages at a technological institution.

Peter Robinson, 21, a senior majoring in aerospace engineering, took French 1 and 2 with Baika and would recommend her to anyone interested in studying foreign languages.

“On top of all the languages she knows, she has a very thorough knowledge of each language and their respective cultures, which are well instituted into each course,” he says.

Faculty Profile: YJ Sohn
By Brandon Lindquist

Youngju “YJ” Sohn, Ph.D., is in her second semester as an assistant professor at Florida Tech, teaching subjects such as Layout and Design and Intro to Visual Communication in the Humanities and Communication Department.

Originally an art major, Sohn is a graduate of EWHA Womans University in her hometown of Seoul, South Korea, with a bachelor’s degree in journalism broadcasting.

She then began her career as an event planner, business consultant and journalist while in South Korea.

Sohn also worked her way up to become associate editor of a Korean publication company, where she also managed the visual design aspects of a monthly business magazine.

After moving to the U.S., Sohn attended Florida State University, where she earned her master’s degree in integrated marketing management communication.

In 2001, she learned English and moved to the U.S.

Three years later, Baika earned a graduate certificate in West European Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

She then received a graduate certificate in medieval and renaissance studies from the university in 2007, going on to earn a Ph.D. in French with a concentration in romance languages that same year.

Prior to becoming a professor at Florida Tech, Baika taught various linguistic levels of French and Italian for six years at the University of Pittsburgh, and two years at Auburn University in Alabama.

She claims that styles in design are ever changing, and as new students enter her classroom, they bring with them new ideas.

Sohn’s students return the compliment, saying that she is a very interactive, engaging professor.

“She isn’t afraid to show you your project’s strengths and weaknesses, and help you correct them accordingly, but still allow you the freedom of making each design your own and really showcase the students’ creative minds,” said Chanae Jameson, a former student of Sohn’s.

Her students believe that it is her engaging teaching style that really makes a difference in the classroom.

“I feel like instead of lecturing about the material, she has a conversation with me and the rest of the class. That really engages me day in and day out,” said Gus Fernandez, who is a student in Sohn’s classroom for his second straight semester.

When asked where she wants to go next with her education, Sohn quoted her idol, famous writer Peter Drucker: “Learning is an endless path.”

With that in mind, she hopes to further her studies in cognitive psychology and sociology.

Brandon Lindquist is a communication major who wrote for The Communicator as part of the spring semester journalism class.
French Film Festival Turns Five

In March and April 2010, the Department of Humanities and Communication presented the Tournées French Film Festival in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. The department launched the Tournées French Film Festival in 2006, as a showcase of critically acclaimed French cinema.

The Tournées Festival was made possible through a grant from the French American Cultural Exchange and by the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture. The films were shown in French with English subtitles. Post-screening discussions of the films were led by Lisa Perdigao, Matthew Ruane, Chris Frongillo, Annie Caza and Andrew Aberdein. Gordon Patterson served as the series moderator.
Florida Tech Professor Earns Presidential Citation Award, Delivers Keynote Address

Gordon Patterson, Florida Institute of Technology professor of history, has received the Presidential Citation Award from the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) at its annual convention in Lexington, Ky. He also delivered the keynote address to an audience of approximately 750 medical entomologists and public health workers. His address was “Acting Well Our Parts: Mosquitoes, Humans and the Environment.”

“The Presidential Citation is presented to individuals who are eminently deserving of special recognition by the AMCA,” said Doug Carlson, AMCA president. Patterson’s plaque reads: “For outstanding service to the American Mosquito Control Association in documenting the history of our profession.”

Patterson has written two books documenting the history of mosquito control. The first, The Mosquito Wars: A History of Mosquito Control in Florida, covered the history of mosquito control in Florida and earned the 2005 Presidential Book Award of the Florida Historical Society. His second book was the highly praised The Mosquito Crusades: A History of the American Anti-Mosquito Movement from the Reed Commission to the First Earth Day. It was published in 2009.

Professor Patterson’s most recent effort, AMCA: The 75 Year History, was published in March. It was distributed to the participants at the American Mosquito Control Association’s meeting in Lexington, Ky.

Robert Taylor, head of the Florida Tech Department of Humanities and Communication, said, “Dr. Patterson is the national authority on the history of this important topic. This recognition is well-deserved.”

The Big Kahunas: Perdigao and Ruane Catch a South Asian Wave

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humanities, social sciences and fine arts. Arindam Chakrabarti, director of the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii, will lead the institute. The 2010 Institute on Infusing Asian South Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum will focus on the cultures and peoples of south Asia.

Since 1999, when Florida Tech hosted a regional conference entitled “Riding the Chinese Dragon: Culture, Technology, and Society,” the Humanities and Communication Department has sought to increase the course offerings for undergraduates in Asian studies. Today, the department offers Japanese and Chinese history and culture courses as well as Chinese language courses.

Professors Perdigao and Ruane plan to use their experiences at the East-West Center to increase the opportunities for Florida Tech students to broaden their perspective on Asia.

Professor Ruane will spend an additional week in Honolulu as part of a Landmarks of American History and Culture College Teacher Workshop. The workshop will examine World War II in the Pacific.

This program is a collaborative effort of the National Park Service, the Arizona Memorial Museum Association, the East-West Center and the National Endowment for the Humanities. During the week-long program, Professor Ruane will visit numerous Pearl Harbor historic sites, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort De Russy and the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii. Professor Ruane regularly teaches courses examining World War II as portrayed in film.
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