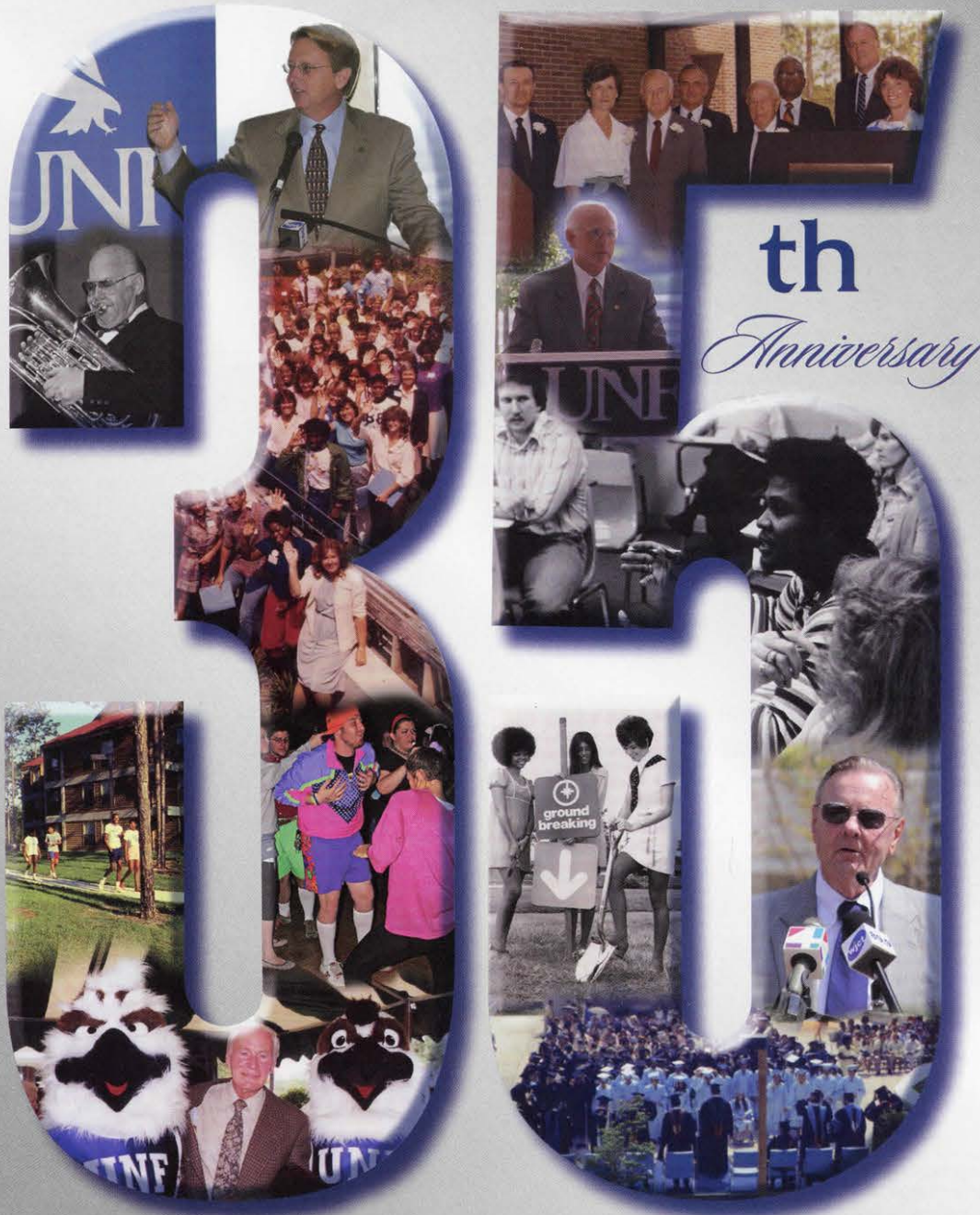


# Journal

of the UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

FALL 2007



th  
*Anniversary*

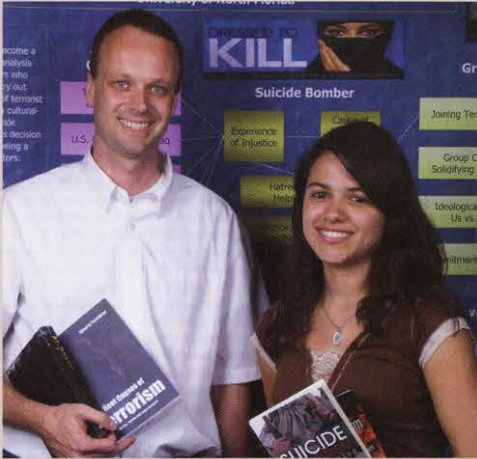
Engineering's new masters

Creative collaboration

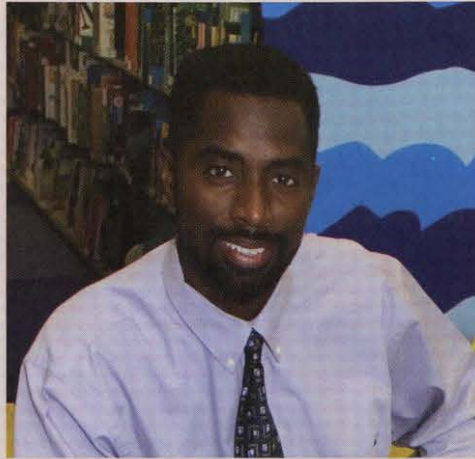
Founding faculty tell all

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COVER COLLAGE: KATERINA TURNER

# 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY UNF Journal

The alumni journal of the  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

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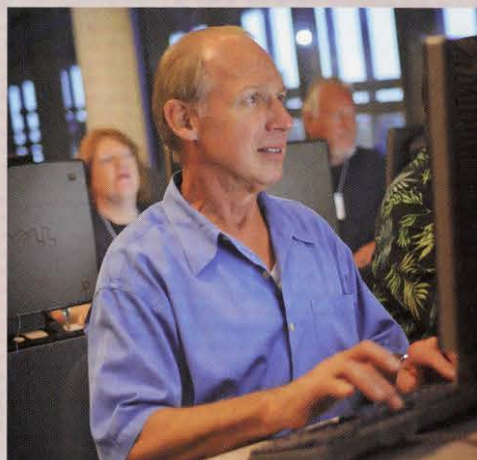
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# THE UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH FLORIDA

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## from the president

Dear Alumni and Friends of the University of North Florida,

This fall, we commemorate the University of North Florida's 35th anniversary. As is often the case with such milestones, this celebration gives us cause to reflect on UNF's growth and to examine whether we have remained true to the core values on which the University was founded.

Since 1972, UNF has become a larger and more complex institution, offering more educational options to increasing numbers of students. When UNF opened the doors of its original four buildings, 2,027 juniors, seniors and master's degree students enrolled in the University's 21 undergraduate and four graduate programs. The following June, 35 of these students graduated with baccalaureate or master's degrees, becoming UNF's first alums.

In contrast, 16,000 students – ranging from freshmen through doctoral candidates – enrolled this August in classes offered as part of UNF's 53 undergraduate, 25 master's and three doctoral degree programs. The campus now has 27 major buildings, with a handful more under construction. Over the course of this year, 3,000 students will receive degrees from our five academic colleges, joining the rolls of more than 55,000 UNF alums.

While we celebrate this growth, we are even more proud of our enduring commitment to provide each UNF student with a quality education as well as the steps we have taken to enrich the lives of the citizens in Northeast Florida. Since its inception, UNF has benefited from the goodwill and support of the local community. Thirty-five years later, many recognize UNF as the University that is addressing the issues and helping frame the future of this same community. There are now more UNF graduates in Northeast Florida than alums from any other university. And these members of the UNF family are using their professional expertise and leadership skills to foster the economic, civic and cultural development of this region. At the same time, UNF faculty-researchers are working with community members to improve early literacy, create a cleaner and greener environment, provide better health-care delivery and build the infrastructure required for sustainable economic growth.

But the impact of our graduates and our faculty-researchers doesn't stop at the borders of the First Coast. You can also find proud UNF alums throughout Florida and the rest of the 50 states and beyond. For example, as a result of ongoing relationships, more than 80 percent of the K-12 schools in Belize employ one or more UNF graduates.



As a further testament, research tells us that if you were to ask a 1973 alum and a recent 2007 graduate what they valued most about their UNF experience, you would likely hear the same answers – the quality of education and the personal attention from professors. The academic and student-life options we offer each student have expanded, but our core values are much the same today as they were when the first students walked on campus. We place a high priority on offering classes where students can work one-on-one with faculty mentors, and we value each and every student as a member of the UNF family.

As we consider our future, we know that over the next several years we are likely to continue measured growth in both our size and the complexity of our curriculum. But as we do, we are focused on maintaining and strengthening the quality of the experiences we offer students, exercising judicious stewardship over this incredible institution. Our students and you, our alums and benefactors, deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

John A. Delaney  
President

around campus

# New engineering master's programs gateway to the profession

BY JOANNA NORRIS  
Staff Writer

**A**s the job market expands, the need for professional and skilled engineers is becoming imperative not only on the First Coast, but across the nation. With engineers in high demand and the engineering field becoming more and more specialized, the UNF Board of Trustees recently approved adding three new engineering master's degree programs to the University's graduate course offerings. The Master of Science in Civil Engineering, Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering will all meet a need for advanced engineering education in the growing Northeast Florida economy.

"Based on a growing need for technical depth in the engineering profession and an expected growth in the job market, these new master's degree programs will allow UNF graduates to enhance their professional skills and increase their abilities to serve the Jacksonville community," said UNF President John A. Delaney.

All three master's programs are scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008.

"The new master's degree programs will offer professionals in Northeast Florida, and beyond, the opportunity to work with talented faculty in the classroom and in research," said Dr. Stephan Nix, director of UNF's School of Engineering. "As a result, they will be better prepared to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world and their own career goals."

These graduate programs are important to the engineering field because significant education beyond the undergraduate degree is being endorsed by engineering societies as a requirement for professional practice.

"Many national professional societies, including the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National

Academy of Engineering and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, are calling for post-baccalaureate education to become the gateway to the profession," said Dr. David Fenner, dean of UNF's Graduate School. "Some go so far as to favor this as a requirement for professional licensing."

Bruce Taylor, CEO and chairman of Taylor Engineering Inc., believes adding the new engineering master's degree programs is a significant step not only for the University but also the community. "These programs elevate the level of technology available in the community, which I think is a good thing," he said. "I also think it will help the overall long-term growth and intellectual vigor of the city."

Taylor, also chair of UNF's Board of Trustees, believes the master's degree programs will additionally be beneficial to the Taylor Engineering Research Institute. "It would be much more difficult to make the Institute successful without the graduate activity on campus," he noted. "We then can involve faculty and students more readily, which will help expand, accelerate and enrich research activities."

Last fall, Taylor Engineering donated \$1 million to UNF for coastal engineering research. The donation was matched by the state of Florida at 50 percent, bringing the total to \$1.5 million. The funds helped establish the Taylor Engineering Endowed Professorship, which will assist with the establishment and provide leadership for the Taylor Engineering Research Institute in the UNF College of Computing, Engineering and Construction. The Institute will operate for the advancement of collaborative research in the fields of coastal and water resource science and engineering.

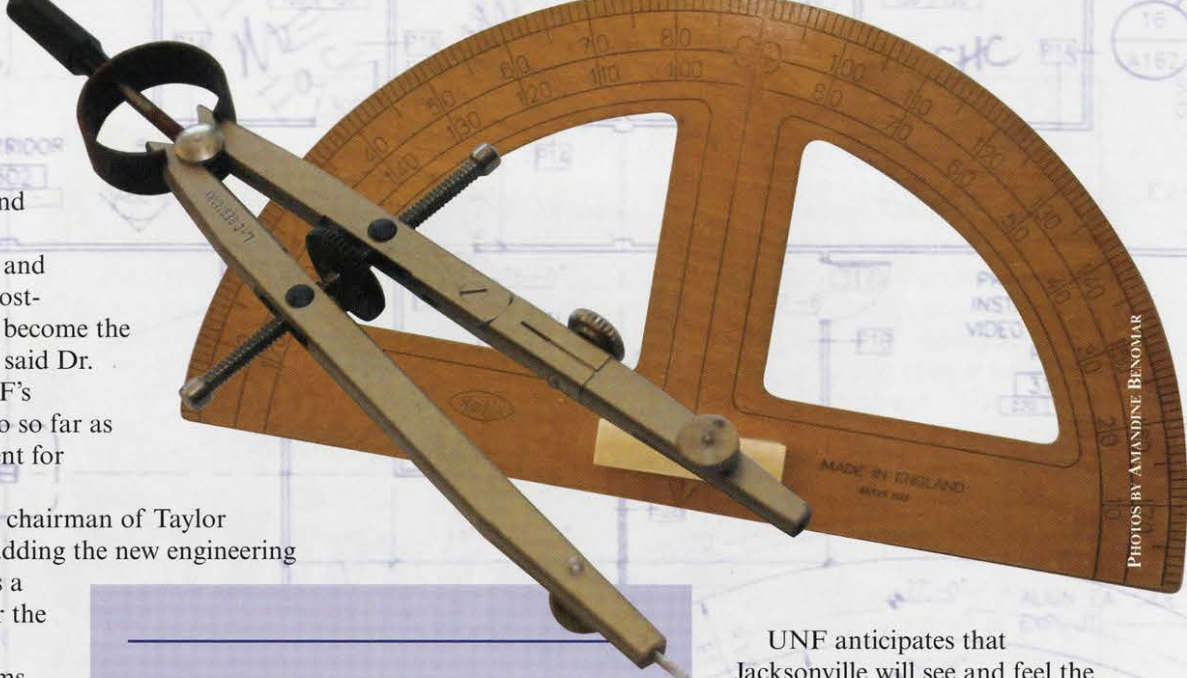
**"The new master's degree programs will offer professionals in Northeast Florida, and beyond, the opportunity to work with talented faculty in the classroom and in research."**

- Dr. Stephan Nix

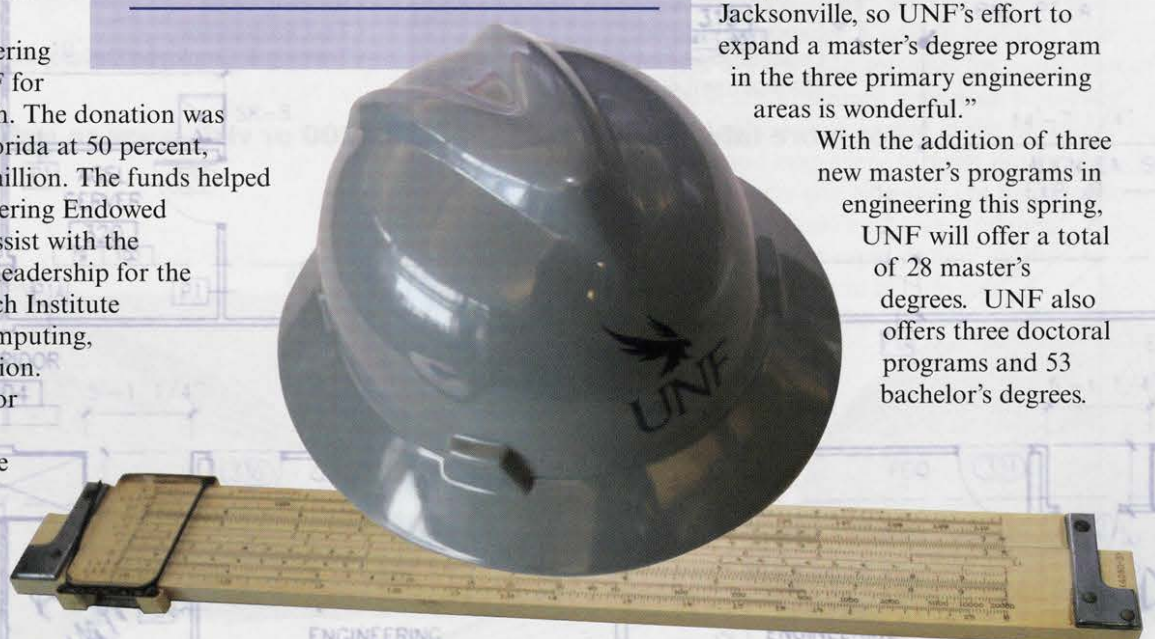
UNF anticipates that Jacksonville will see and feel the impact of these added professional degrees in a substantial way. The University's advanced degrees in engineering will help provide the intellectual talent needed for the important and growing technology sector of the Northeast Florida economy.

"We have a number of existing companies and a number of potential new companies that have a significant need for engineers," said Jerry Mallot, executive vice president of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Our ability to produce engineers in this region will determine how successful we are in seeing these companies grow and/or relocate to Jacksonville, so UNF's effort to expand a master's degree program in the three primary engineering areas is wonderful."

With the addition of three new master's programs in engineering this spring, UNF will offer a total of 28 master's degrees. UNF also offers three doctoral programs and 53 bachelor's degrees.



PHOTOS BY AMANDINE BENOVAR





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Natalie Cole

## Celebrating five years of class acts

The UNF Fine Arts Center will celebrate its fifth anniversary season with a lineup of events featuring superstar performers, an ice ballet, international dance, gospel music, a comic operetta and classic Shakespeare.

The season opens Oct. 20 with the sultry sound of Natalie Cole, followed by an evening of Mexico's premiere folkloric ballet company Nov. 8. Champion skaters from Russia's St. Petersburg Ice Ballet take the stage Dec. 13 to perform the storybook tale "Sleeping Beauty."

The spring season opens Feb. 2 with "Illusion of Flight" – an explosive fusion of modern dance and gymnastics performed by top Romanian gymnasts. On Feb. 21, the sweet sounds of the a capella group TAKE 6 will fill the Lazzara Performance Hall.

The highlight of the fifth anniversary season will be the March 8 performance by world-renowned violinists Itzhak Perlman. His appearance will serve as a benefit to help support Fine Arts Center

programs, such as The Kennedy Center Partners in Education Institute, the School Matinee Program for Northeast Florida's students, the presentation of new works and artist residencies.

"It is an honor to present an artist of Mr. Perlman's stature at UNF and a coup to have been able to retain his services since he is in such demand all over the world," said Sharon Papian, executive director of the Fine Arts Center.

On March 27, audiences will be captivated by the comic operetta, "HMS Pinafore," and don't be fooled on April 1 ... see how Shakespeare's last play "The Tempest" unfolds!

The season ends April 4 with the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet Company, a show dance enthusiasts will not want to miss.

For more information, visit [www.unf.edu/fineartscenter](http://www.unf.edu/fineartscenter).

## Tortoises take to the highway, leaving no shell behind

With the impending addition of the new Osprey Fountains student housing on the eastern ridge of campus, up to 1,000 UNF students will have a new place to call home, but so do 36 gopher tortoises that used to live in burrows on the site.

A team of staff, ecology students and volunteers spent three months tracking, trapping and transferring the tortoises to their new permanent home, the Nokuse Plantation research station in Walton County, Fla.

"Unlike snakes and other animals

that can easily move out of harm's way when they need to, gopher tortoises live in burrows and are sort of trapped in their environment," said Richard Crosby, chair of UNF's Environmental Advisory Council. "Without this kind of help, they don't have a fighting chance."

Crosby appointed UNF staffer Dona Kerlin as the University's tortoise relocation manager. Kerlin, a biologist who has worked with tortoises for more than 20 years, organized a team of biologists and others experienced in the field to find and map every tortoise burrow on the 76-acre site. She also got help from Dr. Tony Rossi's ecology students.

Due to the rapid decline in tortoise populations from habitat loss, protection for the species is to be classified as "threatened" in Florida this month.



## Federal workers can now give to UNF

Federal civilian, postal and military employees can now contribute to the University of North Florida through tax-deductible payroll deductions.

"This is a terrific opportunity for the University and for our alumni and friends in the federal government to fund scholarships and programs," UNF President John Delaney said. "In essence, the federal government has become our partner in philanthropy."

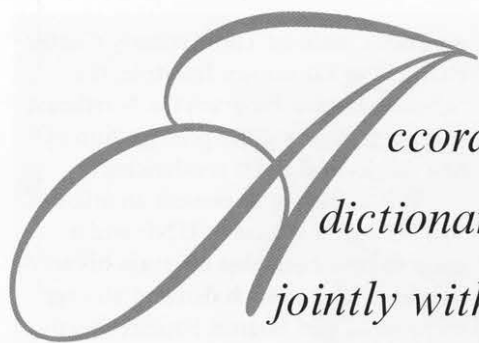
The U.S. Office of Personnel Management recently approved UNF for inclusion in the Northeast Florida-Southeast Georgia Regional Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for 2007. UNF has been assigned the

designation number 19586.

CFC is the largest workplace charity campaign in the nation and the only campaign authorized to collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

UNF will mail information to alumni and friends employed by the federal government to explain how they can make a difference at the University through designated payroll deductions.

For more information, contact Laura Porter, director of Annual Giving, at (904) 620-2112 or [laura.porter@unf.edu](mailto:laura.porter@unf.edu).



*According to Merriam-Webster's online dictionary, collaboration is defined as "working jointly with others or together, especially in an intellectual endeavor." As Alexander Graham Bell put it, "Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds."*

# COLLABORATION

## ... IT'S A TEAMWORK THING

Regardless of how it's defined, collaboration takes place every day in countless ways at the University of North Florida. There's plenty of collaboration going on, including student-to-student, faculty-to-faculty, and, of course, student-to-faculty.

At UNF, students are the first priority. Part of putting students first involves making sure they have opportunities to work directly with faculty on original projects, either in small groups or individually. Being part of that kind of focused interaction with the guidance and direction of experts in any

given field of study provides students real-world experiences that supplement and enhance their education.

The next five pages include a glimpse into the diverse ways students and faculty from UNF's College of Arts and Sciences, in particular, work together, interact and mutually learn in a variety of intellectual endeavors. In each case, both parties benefit from the collaboration, with each adding credentials to his or her resume while gaining knowledge, having fun and making worthwhile connections that will last a lifetime.

*M*ezzo-soprano Amanda Finch first met music professor Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki two years ago when she was assigned to his voice studio as a jazz vocalist. Given the choice to continue as jazz major or explore her voice from a classical perspective, Finch chose to study as a classical major under Biernacki's expert tutelage.

Since then, Finch made her operatic debut singing two lead roles in the UNF Opera Ensemble's production of Henry Purcell's "Dido & Aeneas," and she is well into preparing for a senior solo recital which will include selections from jazz, cabaret, art song, opera and oratorio repertoire. She plans to graduate in spring 2008 and pursue a master's degree.

### **Amanda Finch:**

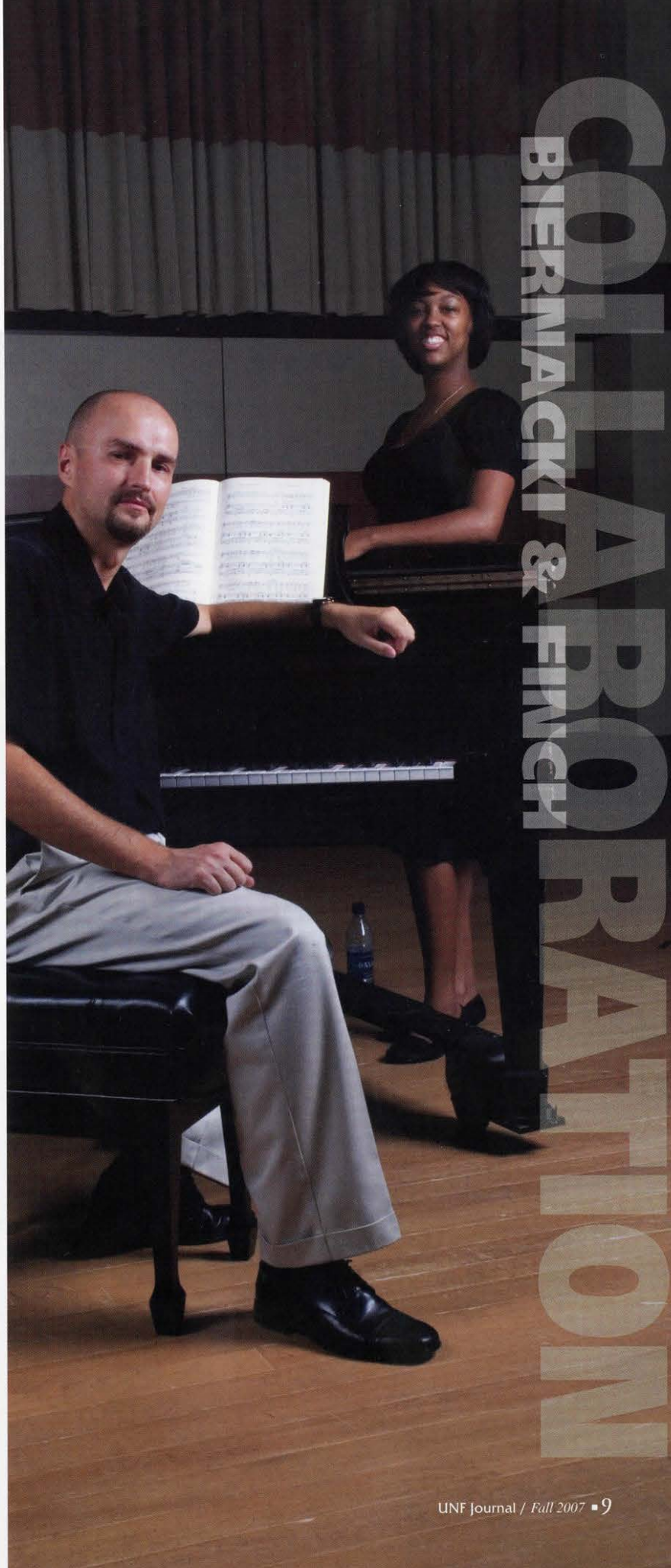
Dr. Biernacki came in and took the school by storm, making additions and changes that really began to bring the voice department into view. The only thing I did was recognize what a revolutionary he was becoming in the department and jump on the bandwagon. I was waiting for a challenge, and he brought it in.

This interaction has given me more confidence in my musical abilities and in myself. Dr. Biernacki is constantly challenging me and making me expect more from myself and from my voice. He has opened my mind and made me aware of my vocal potential and the possibilities that are out there. On a personal level, I believe that I have gained a life-long friend in him. This collaboration is going to carry well beyond graduate school ... his support is something I will treasure for a lifetime.

### **Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki:**

From the beginning I was quite impressed not only with the beauty and power of Amanda's voice, but also with her ambition, curious mind, and obvious talent as a natural musician and performer. Being able to work with young singers is a combination of real privilege and true responsibility. It is very rare to find a student who would willingly explore characteristics of their voice and personality beyond a well-known vocal landscape and take on a challenge of the seemingly opposite genre of music. Amanda not only had the right kind of voice, but also possessed that rare artistic curiosity which urges all of us to explore further and eventually face up to the challenge.

Amanda's unusual combination of jazz and classical training allows her to market herself as a truly versatile vocal artist.



Over the past decade, UNF history professor Dr. Michael Francis has worked with dozens of undergraduates on independent research projects. His recent collaboration with undergrad Kathleen Kole has resulted in the most sophisticated and significant project Francis has ever undertaken.

When Kole enrolled in Francis' Introduction to Spanish Paleography class to learn to read 16th-century hand-written Spanish documents, she emerged as one of the top students. Francis invited her to co-author his latest research project about a 1597 uprising in southern Georgia, in which Guale Indians murdered five Franciscan friars.

To conduct archival research and delve into the history of the Guale revolt, the duo traveled to Seville, Spain, where Kole remained to work throughout the summer. Their book proposal was accepted for publication, and the pair hopes their work will help reconstruct the history of the Guale revolt.

### **Kathleen Kole:**

Working with Dr. Francis has pushed me to seek the most out of every academic year. He is always looking ahead and making smaller goals in order to reach larger objectives. When I first met him, I didn't want to go past a four-year degree. Now, I've just started UNF's master's program in American history and I should graduate in spring 2009.

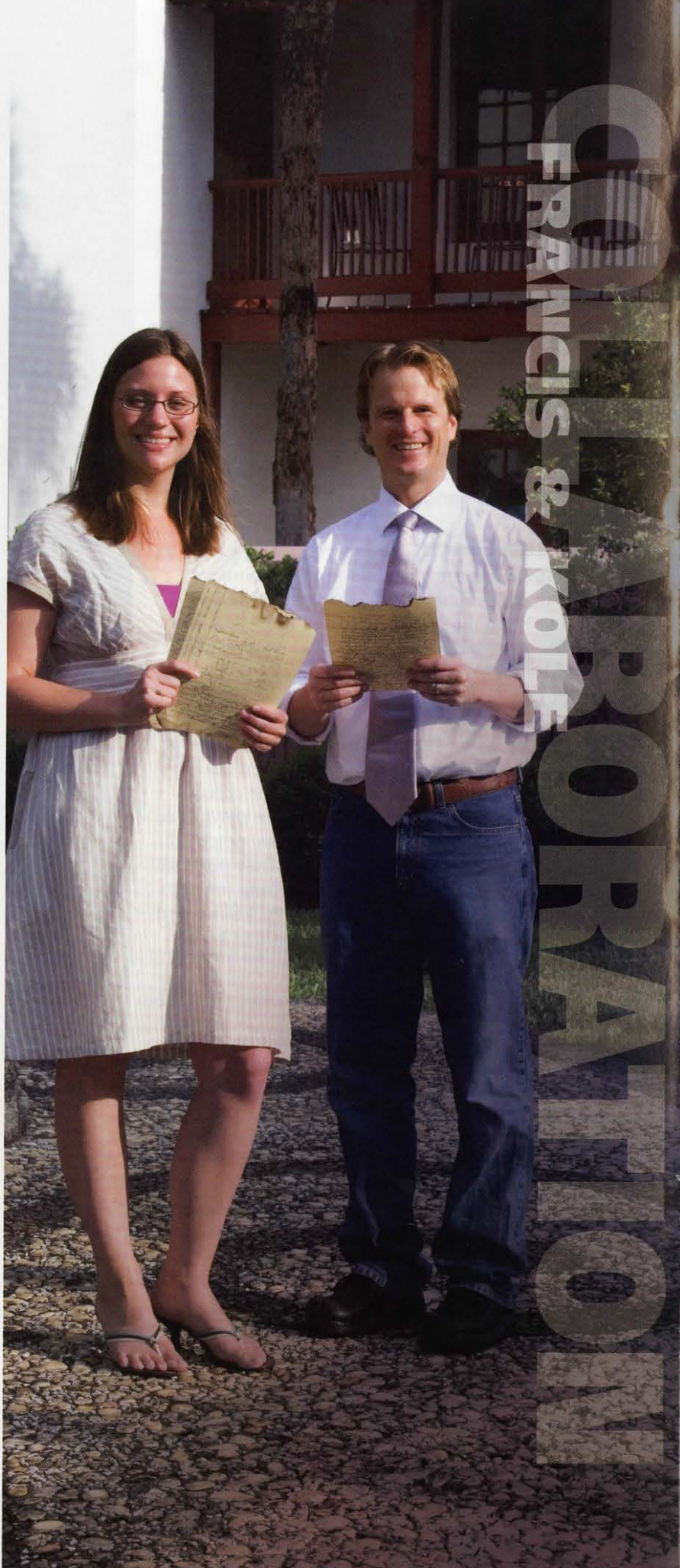
The research I completed on early Spanish Florida is a foundation for my Ph.D. I don't know any student anywhere who is starting a master's program with that sort of direction. This whole experience was extremely important for me. Now I see myself obtaining a Ph.D. and teaching at the university level.

### **Dr. Michael Francis:**

I first taught Kathleen as a freshman, before she enrolled in seven of my upper-division history courses, including three study-abroad courses. I also supervised two independent research projects that she presented at the prestigious National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

The most rewarding aspect of working with Kathleen has been watching her academic growth over four years. She has really emerged as an outstanding student who, when she came into the program, had almost no Spanish, but now is almost fluent in Spanish. And her paleography skills are near doctoral-level.

The American Museum of Natural History has awarded Kathleen a \$10,000 stipend to complete the research for the book. We're both eager to finally retell this largely forgotten tale in U.S. colonial history.



Eight years ago when English major Thelma Young had just begun her education at UNF, she was struck by an idea that would begin a longtime collaboration with English professor Dr. William Slaughter. The two also were colleagues in the College of Arts and Sciences, where Young is an administrative assistant.

Young's idea was to write a book about her family's Black-Creole roots in the Deep South, and she went to Slaughter for his advice and guidance. Over the next five years, Slaughter provided the support she needed until the publication in 2005 of her book, "Journey Down a Forgotten Path: The Stories My Foremothers Told Me."

Recently the duo collaborated on Young's next project, a book capturing the stories of children who survived Hurricane Katrina. In July, Young submitted the manuscript, "I'm Only Twelve Years Old and I'm Not Ready to Die Yet," to the University Press of Mississippi. By the time she graduates next summer with her B.A. in English, Young hopes to be the author of not one, but two published books.

### **Thelma Young:**

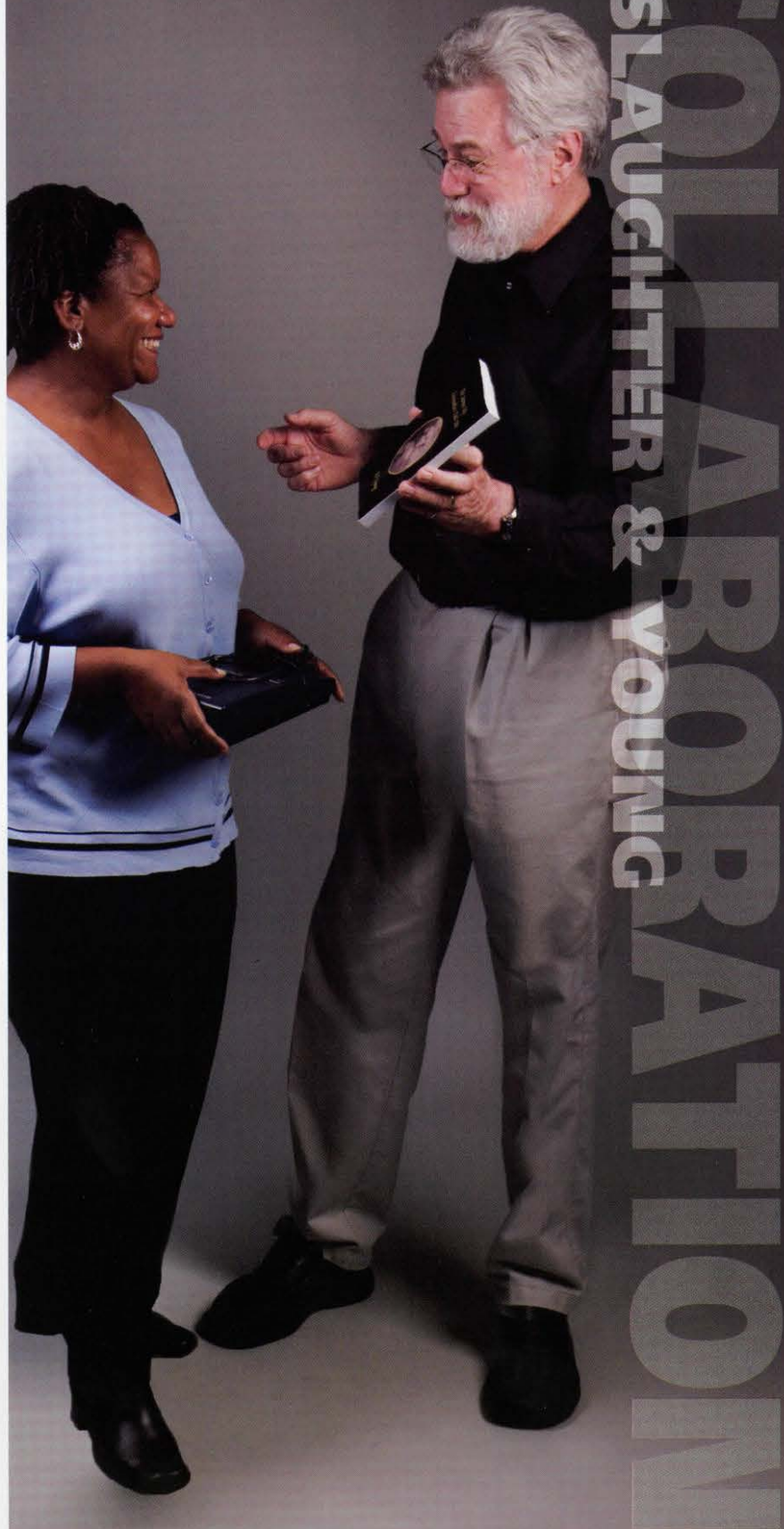
Professor Slaughter is the one who convinced me that I can write, and he always gives me the opportunity to speak in my own voice. He listens to me when I speak. He understands my position as an adult non-traditional student, and he appreciates the importance of combining life lessons with the lessons we learn in the classroom.

Completing this project has allowed me to apply all that I have learned at UNF about writing. In recording these stories, I hope to provide a permanent place in history for the children who survived Hurricane Katrina so that their courage and resilience will not be forgotten by future generations.

### **Dr. William Slaughter:**

Thelma Young, everything she is and everything she represents, is why I came to UNF and why I stayed. The chance to teach, and learn from, students like Thelma – adult students, students who have lived more than I have and different than I have, students who have had experiences I have only read about – is a chance I'm always ready to take. And UNF, it seems, just keeps giving me that chance, this time, and once again, in the person of Thelma Young. I am enormously grateful for it.

Having played a small part in teaching Thelma how to be her own first reader, I have relegated myself, happily, to being her second reader ... and second guesser. Every writer needs one.



Vanessa Teixeira and psychology professor Dr. Dominik Guss immediately connected when they first met at UNF.

Discovering Teixeira was from Brazil, Guss began speaking to her in Brazilian Portuguese, which he learned after having spent time in her country. It wasn't long before the psychology major became part of Guss' cognition lab team and the two began working together on various research projects.

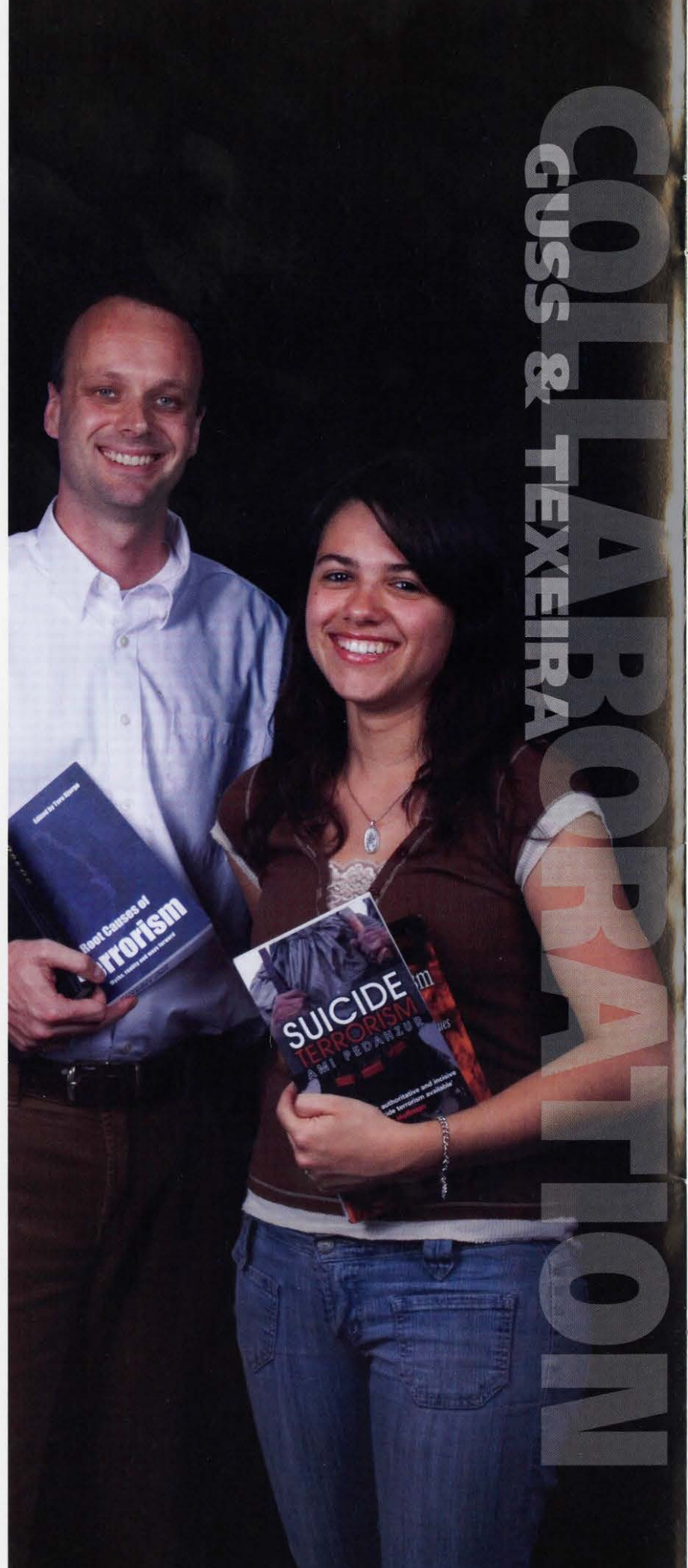
As part of a supervised research course and an extension of Guss' research on terrorism, they collaborated last year on suicide terrorism, studying the psychology behind those who volunteer to kill themselves and others in order to affect political change. They studied interviews and speeches to try to get inside the mind of a suicide bomber. After being selected as one of 60 from a pool of 400 applicants nationwide, the duo presented their research to senators in Washington, D.C., as part of the "Posters on the Hill" event last April. In addition, they submitted their work for publication in the *Journal of the Theory of Social Behaviour* and were invited to write a book chapter on the topic.

### **Vanessa Teixeira:**

I knew when I first met Dr. Guss that we could do a lot together in terms of cross-cultural psychology. He has been incredibly supportive in terms of poster presentations and publications. This is extremely important for me as a student trying to be accepted into graduate school, as well as a person searching for more knowledge. Traveling to Washington, D.C., to present the poster and being congratulated by Senator Hillary Clinton for my achievements are experiences that will enhance my resume and make me more competitive for the degree I am seeking.

### **Dr. Dominik Guss:**

I have enjoyed working with Vanessa, a student who is genuinely interested in research, often helped others on our team, volunteered to take on tasks, and exceeded my expectations. I think the "Posters on the Hill" experience was a really transformational experience for her. I had always encouraged Vanessa to apply for graduate school because I could see the enormous potential she has. But it wasn't until she went to Washington, D.C., and realized how valuable her undergraduate research is that she became motivated to pursue graduate school. Going to the senators' offices, talking to their staff and listening to a hearing of politicians making decisions about the educational future of the country was all very impressive.



Each semester, UNF chemistry and physics professor Dr. Robert Vergenz selects eight to 10 students to conduct research in computational chemistry. One of those students for the past several semesters has been Jim Vickers, who will earn his B.S. in chemistry this spring before heading off to grad school.

The project they have been working on “proposes a possible pathway for the origins of life which involves oscillating, autocatalytic chemical reactions which can act as a simple computer,” according to Vickers. “This is to say that the chemical system can read, write, store and scroll through data just as a computer would.”

They use a customized computer program to test their innovative idea about the origins of life and the origins of primitive genetic information.

Vergenz believes this research, which will debut at an American Chemical Society meeting this year, will revolutionize the way people think about the origins of life.

### **Jim Vickers:**

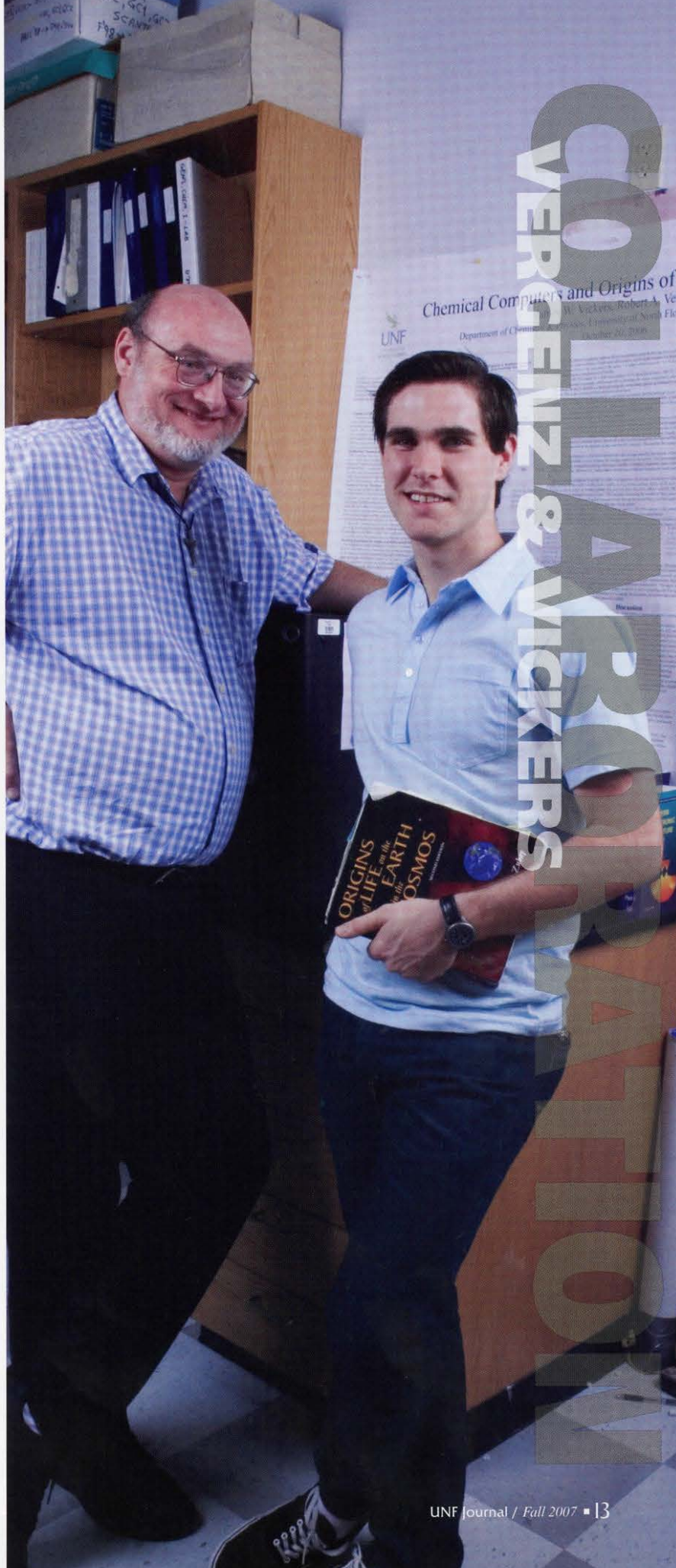
Dr. Vergenz has taught me everything I know about being a scientist, from applying for funding to how to publish results and most importantly how to incorporate science into your daily life. I didn't know anything about Dr. V when I applied to do research with him. I only knew that I was interested in the topic he was working on. However, looking back, I see that I could not have made a better choice. He has made it clear that his first priority is my growth as a student and scientist.

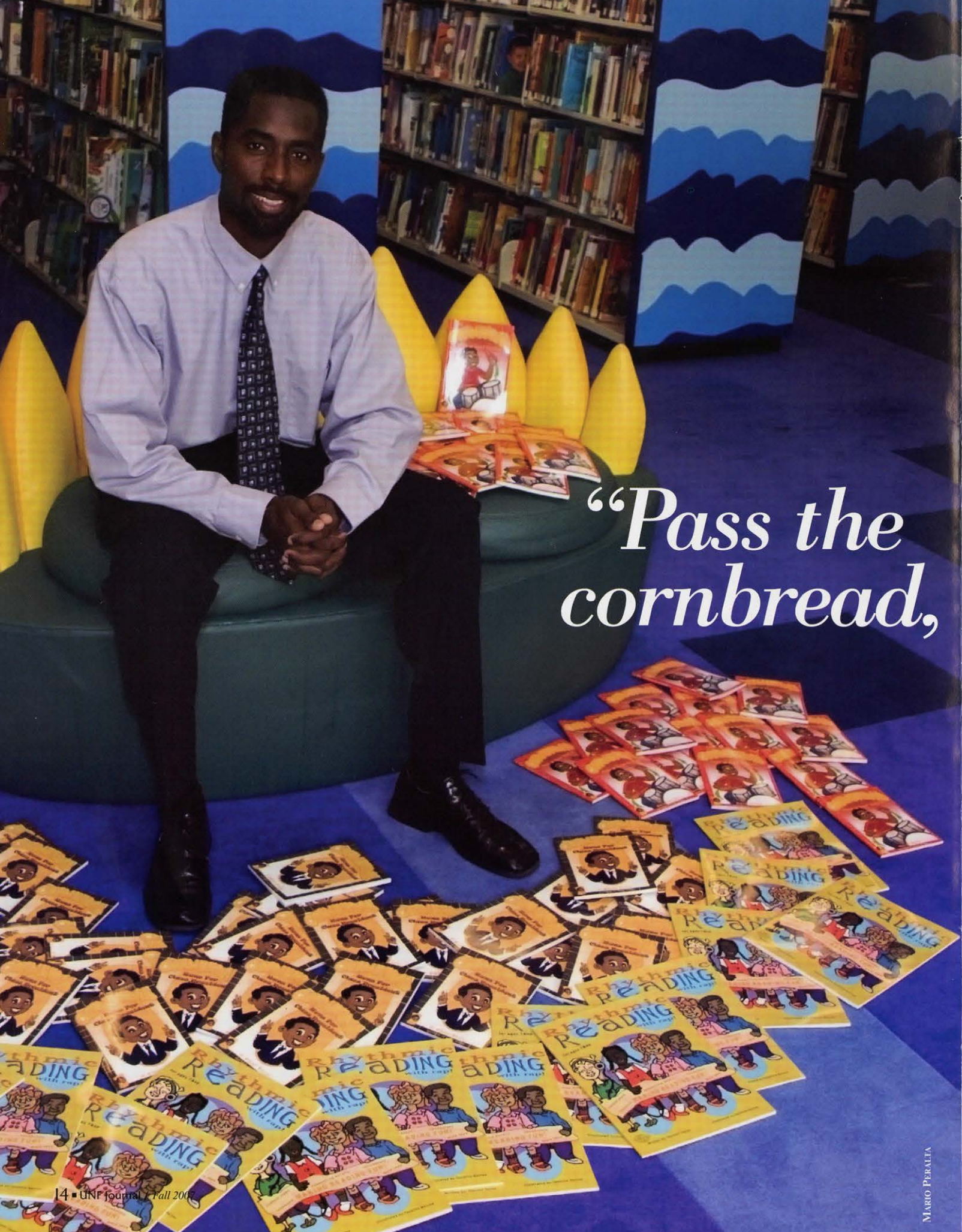
This research opportunity has provided me with real chemistry research experience, which, aside from being a valuable learning experience, will help me gain entrance to the graduate school of my choice. This job also let me see what it is like to be a scientist and the importance of science in contributing to our understanding of the world. I have learned that it is really possible to make a positive impact on society through science.

### **Dr. Robert Vergenz:**

Jim's passion for science is reflected in long hours of hard and intellectually grueling work. He has the ability and persistence to shake up the world in whatever area of chemistry he decides to specialize his research in.

We're hoping Jim will be able to present his work at the International Society for the Study of Origins of Life in Florence, Italy, in late 2008. It's difficult to get funding for such far-flung travel, yet his work is of a caliber that demands an audience of that level.





*“Pass the  
cornbread,*



**N**othing says “family” more than Sunday dinner, especially in the South. The fixins may vary - butter beans, mashed potatoes, turnip greens, fried chicken, okra, corn on the cob - but there’s one item always on the table: cornbread.

That’s what UNF alum Vincent Taylor thought about when he chose a name for the lead character in his first children’s book, “Cornbread Runs for Class President.”

“I’m very family-oriented, and I thought about all the Sunday dinners that we had as a family growing up,” he said. “It was always that cornbread that was so special.”

Isaiah Walker is the book’s 9-year-old protagonist, but everyone knows him as Cornbread. He earned the nickname as a toddler when his grandmother discovered he’d been tossing his cornbread under the table instead of eating it.

*please.”*

Cornbread is an average kid who hangs out with his buddies, takes karate, plays video games, asks lots of questions and loves music. He’s a pretty good guy who means well but occasionally gets himself in trouble, as he does in Taylor’s second Cornbread book, “Cornbread Has a Bad Habit.”

Taylor loosely based the character on himself, including Cornbread’s admiration for his father. “When I was a kid, there was no one on television who I really wanted to be like. It was always my dad,” Taylor said. “He instilled so many things in me as far as what I should value and what it is to be a man.”

Taylor took what he learned from his childhood to create the first two Cornbread books, which he published in 2004 and 2007. He’s just begun working on the third, which will address bullying in school.

School plays an important role in Taylor’s books because it’s the environment he knows best after earning a B.A.

in elementary education from UNF in 1996. He’s been a 4th- and 5th-grade teacher for Duval County Public Schools for 12 years and now teaches 5th-grade social studies, science and math at John Love Elementary.

Taylor intended to use his teaching degree to go into counseling, but once he began student teaching, his career plans changed.

“When I got into the classroom, it hit me,” he said. “I fell in love with teaching and seeing kids just blossom through things we would share, through the curriculum and through interaction. From that point on, there was no going back.”

Several years into his career, Taylor started thinking about ways to help students learn while having fun, so he developed a program integrating music with reading. In 2000 he published “Rhythmic Reading with Rap,” a 36-page activity book and 20-minute recording of hip-hop songs he wrote to help students grasp reading benchmarks and standards through music.

“Kids of all demographics love hip-hop music, so I wanted to tap into something that kids had an affinity for (music) and tie that into a necessity, which is reading comprehension,” Taylor said. “We learn in different ways, so let’s show kids some of the more fun ways to learn through music, visuals and body movements.”

He also presents “Reading, Rapping and Having Fun” workshops to educators – more than 50,000 so far - to demonstrate non-linguistic ways to reach kids. He shares different ways he’s had success getting kids to pay attention and have fun while learning.

In addition, Taylor uses the same strategies to teach math, with impressive results. “In my class alone this past year, 96 percent of my students made gains on their FCAT test scores in math,” he said.

“If it’s not fun, I’m not teaching it right,” he said. “If my students aren’t walking out of my class excited, I’m probably not doing what I’m supposed to do as a teacher.”

He must be doing something right, because in 2006 Taylor was chosen as his school’s Teacher of the Year.

“It’s very rewarding to see Vincent accomplish so much,” said Dr. Paul Eggen, one of Taylor’s former professors at UNF. “He was a bright, professional student, and I could see in working with him that he had a lot of potential. You can never predict with total confidence what a student will do in his or her future, but Vincent’s success is not surprising. His potential was clear.”

To learn more about Vincent Taylor or to order his books, visit [www.vincenttaylor.net](http://www.vincenttaylor.net).

## About Vincent Taylor

**Degree:** B.A. in elementary education, 1996

**Hometown:** Jacksonville

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** author, presenter, 5th-grade teacher at John Love Elementary School

**Family:** Wife, Dina, and daughters, Ja’Mone, 9, and Ja’Niya, 5

**Books:** “Rhythmic Reading with Rap,” “The Abstract Art of a Poet,” “Cornbread Runs for Class President” and “Cornbread Has a Bad Habit.”

**Motto:** “If it’s not fun, I’m not teaching it right.”



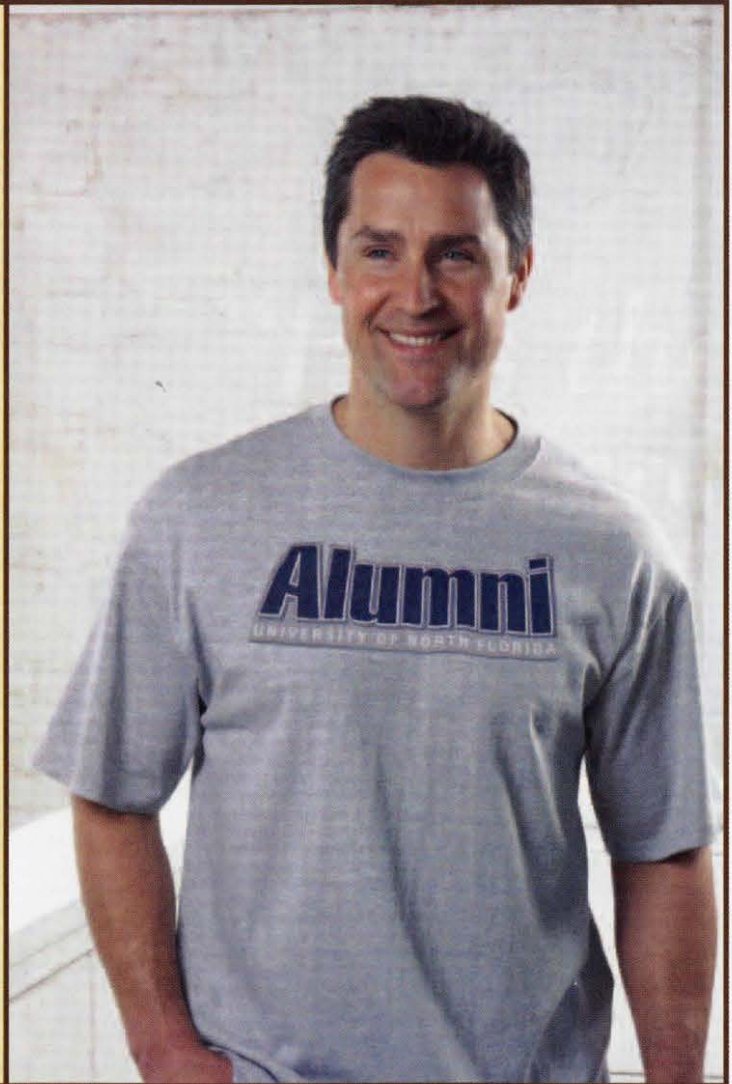
AARON MERVIN, HEAD SHOTS STUDIO



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# Alum dedicated her life to helping others

*Tucked away in his Jacksonville home is a \$5 bill Marshall Gunn has hung onto for 33 years. That \$5 is worth the world to Gunn because it reminds him of a long-ago dance contest and his first date with a girl named Linda, his future wife and posthumous winner of a UNF Outstanding Alumni Award.*

“She was a beautiful girl,” said Gunn. “That \$5 has meaning to me,” he said softly during an interview.

Gunn’s two sons, Trey, 23, and Chris, 20, were there, sharing memories of their mother. Trey graduated last year from UNF with bachelor’s degrees in accounting and financial services and is currently enrolled in the MBA program. Chris attends the University of South Florida.

Gunn’s memory is uncanny when it comes to recalling Linda, that first date in 1974 at a company Christmas dance, and the \$5 first place prize. Ever the gentleman, he split the prize with Linda, giving her \$2.50 out of his own pocket. He held onto the \$5 bill.

After the dance, Gunn and Linda sat on the couch at her home and talked until 5:30 a.m. about how neither of them wanted to get serious about anyone. Less than a year later, they were married. Once they were wed, Linda earned her bachelor’s and

master’s degrees in education from UNF.

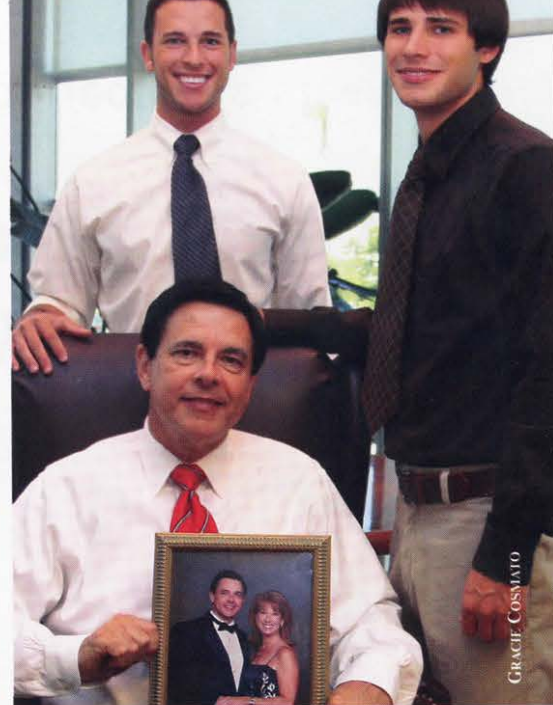
But in 2005, the couple faced horrible news: ovarian cancer. It was very important to Linda to get out of the hospital to attend Chris’ high school graduation at the UNF Arena that May. “The green dress she wore to my graduation was the dress she was buried in,” Chris said.

But Linda’s memory lives on, not because of her courageous battle with cancer, but because of how she lived her life. “She always had a heart for the underdog,” Gunn said. “It didn’t matter your station in life. Linda treated everyone the same way, with care and with the impression she was trying to do something to make your life better.”

Among those whose lives Linda made better was a 4-year-old boy named Daniel whom she met on a trip to Kenya with a philanthropic organization. Unable to care for him, his mother threw Daniel into a garbage pit, where he suffered severe bites from wild dogs.

Linda made arrangements for a plastic surgeon in Jacksonville to repair the boy’s face free of charge. Gunn said Daniel is now living in Oklahoma and doing “unbelievably well.”

Linda’s volunteer work at the City Rescue Mission earned her the nickname “Birthday Lady” after organizing a monthly birthday bash, complete with cakes, balloons and gift bags, for people at the mission.



“They loved it,” Gunn said. “Someone was doing something for them and asking nothing in return.”

One Sunday of each month, Gunn can be found in his kitchen, baking four birthday cakes for clients at the City Rescue Mission to carry on a family tradition. “Linda took me and her friends to another level,” Gunn said.

Linda taught fourth and fifth grade for eight years, 1976-1984, at Beauclerc Elementary School. She was also heavily involved in music throughout her life. In 2002, she was named the Gospel Music Association Amateur Songwriter of the Year. Gunn recalls waking up several times at night to find Linda downstairs at the keyboard, writing contemporary Christian music.

“We are very proud to have Linda Gunn as an Outstanding Alumna from the College of Education and Human Services,” Dean Larry Daniel said. “While she spent eight years officially as an elementary teacher, she was a teacher at heart who positively affected the learning and growth of everyone with whom she came in contact. As a person of great personal faith, outstanding musical talent and a big heart, she dedicated her life to serving others.”

When it came to helping those in need, Gunn said Linda was a doer, a hands-on person. “People talk about helping the homeless and disadvantaged; Linda did it.”



Left: Linda Gunn and Daniel at the Feed the Children Abandoned Baby Center in Nairobi, Kenya. Above: Marshall Gunn (seated) with his sons Trey (left) and Chris.

# *From snack-sniffing bears to campus-wide wi-fi*



*Take a trip down memory lane to 1972. Bell-bottoms and polyester shirts are all the rage, as are mood rings, suede-fringed vests, platform shoes and pork-chop sideburns.*

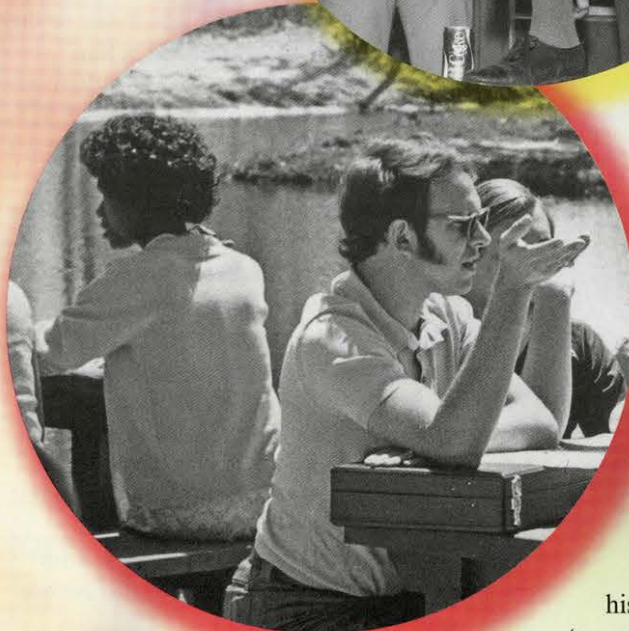
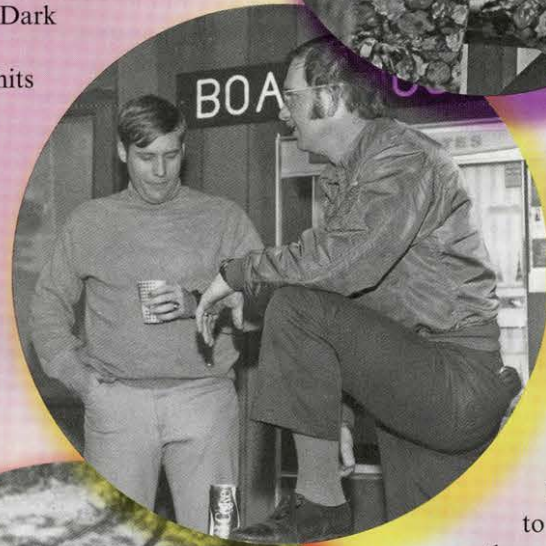
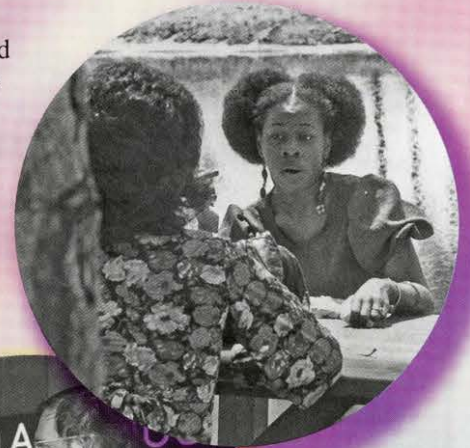


Also in 1972, the U.S. median household income is \$9,697, and the average cost of a new home is \$30,500. A first-class stamp costs eight cents, while a gallon of gas goes for 36 cents. The recently invented handheld calculator sells for \$395.

Nixon is president, the Watergate scandal begins, and the Vietnam War is in full swing.

In the music world, Pink Floyd debuts their "Dark Side of the Moon" album, and Top-40 hits include "American Pie" and "Heart of Gold."

"M\*A\*S\*H," "All in the Family," "Sanford and Son" and "Hawaii-Five-O" dominate America's television sets.



1972 also brings an end to more than three years of lunar landings with the Apollo 17 mission.

It's also a year for many firsts. The CAT scan is developed, the first e-mail program is invented and Atari introduces Pong, the first video game.

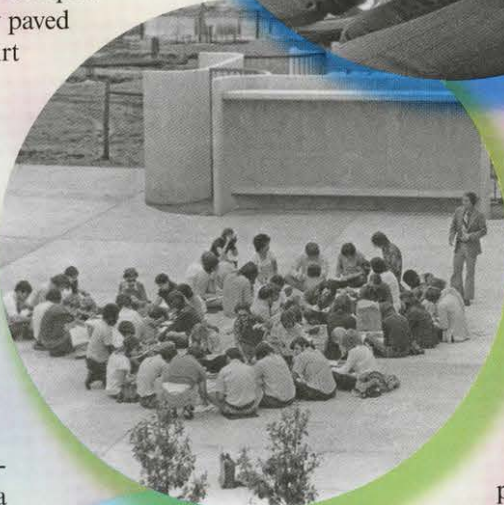
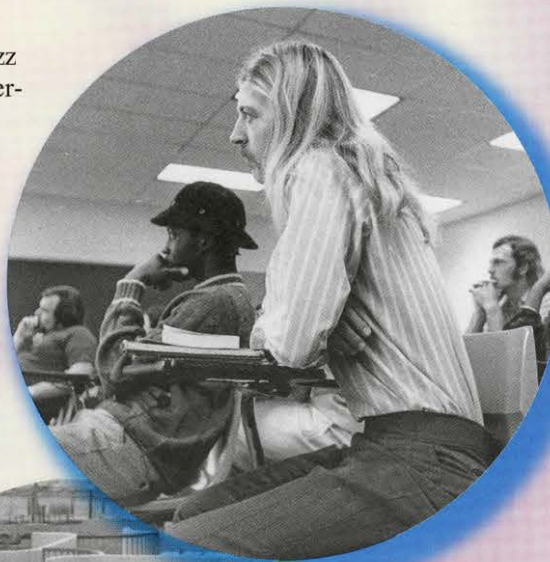
A lot is happening in Jacksonville in 1972 as well with the re-election of Hans Tanzler as mayor. Elvis is also very much alive, decked out in his trademark white jumpsuit to perform in Jacksonville.

And Northeast Florida is abuzz with the formation of a new upper-level state university in Jacksonville. After three years of planning, recruiting and hiring 117 faculty and more than 150 staff who work around the clock to prepare for opening day, the University of North Florida opens for classes at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 2.

The campus is situated in the middle of a dense forest of palmettos, scrub oaks and pine trees, with recently paved streets replacing dirt roads navigable only by four-wheelers. Pine-bark pathways connect the University's two parking lots to its four major buildings - a classroom building, a laboratory building, an administration building and a library stocked with 100,000 cataloged volumes.

Vending machines are placed between Buildings 3 and 4 the night before classes begin, but the next day they're inoperable because bears apparently had come in overnight from the woods and tore off all the machines' knobs while trying to get at the sweet-smelling snacks.

On the way from the parking lot to teach her first-ever criminology class, UNF's Dr. Christine Rasche accidentally loses her keys and is drenched by a downpour of rain. Fortunately, one of



her students is a surfer who comes to class in his bathing suit (with surfboard in tow), and he volunteers to go out into the pouring rain to retrieve the professor's keys.

But the wild animals and heavy rains don't stop UNF's eager students from beginning classes at their brand-new University. In all, 2,027 juniors, seniors and graduate students attend classes the first semester, enrolled in arts and sciences, education and business administration courses.

The average age of students is 31, primarily because many have delayed their education to raise families or enter the workforce. Most are grateful to finally have an opportunity to attend a local state university and are serious about learning. And the faculty, averaging 29 years old, are also excited to be at UNF, to be an integral part of establishing the University and providing a quality education to tomorrow's leaders.

## Now, fast-forward 35 years to present day.

UNF has come a long way. Naturally, the campus has grown over the years. UNF's 1,300-acre site has transformed from a handful of buildings into a sprawling campus including 28 major buildings and five residence halls. And according to a recent study, UNF has an annual economic impact of nearly \$1 billion on the region.

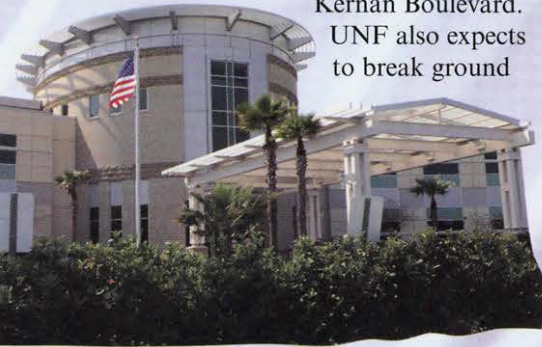
The Carpenter Library received a major facelift in 2005, with a 79,000-square-foot addition and remodeling of the existing building. The library now houses more than 800,000 volumes and 59,000 electronic books and journals, close to 1.5 million microform units, and scads of other reference items, including audio units, videos, subscriptions, maps and government documents. As is the majority of campus now, the entire building is equipped with wireless Internet access — and to the delight of coffee-lovers campus-wide — there's even a Starbucks on the ground floor.

Last fall, UNF opened the new Social Sciences Building, the first "green" building on campus and one of the first facilities in Jacksonville registered by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). In an effort to do its part to preserve the environment, UNF is committed to ensuring that all new construction



from this point on consists of eco-friendly buildings that reduce energy use and cause less environmental damage.

With the acquisition of UNF Hall (the old AOL Building) this spring, the campus has expanded eastward beyond Kernan Boulevard. UNF also expects to break ground



this year on an \$86 million student residence hall on the eastern ridge of campus, a \$50 million Student Union and a \$27 million College of Education and Human Services Building and has already broken ground on an \$11 million addition to the Brooks College of Health Building.

The newly opened North-South Road connects the outer portions of campus to the main core of campus. The campus is now so expansive that new shuttle busses traverse UNF's roadways to provide transportation from one point to another.

But enough about the physical aspects of the University. At UNF, students are the first priority, and far more important than bricks and mortar is the quality of education its students continue to receive – and the individualized attention UNF has been known to provide students since Day 1.

UNF now has more than 16,000 students enrolled in 53

undergraduate programs, 26 graduate programs, and three doctoral programs, two of which just began this fall. UNF has also begun to garner national attention for its four flagship programs: community nursing, international business, transportation and logistics, and coastal biology.

Despite its growth, UNF remains committed to keeping class sizes small, offering students one-on-one attention and an opportunity to participate in life-changing experiences, such as internships, study-abroad and other off-campus programs and dynamic research projects.

"We take great satisfaction in knowing that we have maintained a reputation for excellence," UNF President John Delaney said. "We're not just bigger. We're better. And increasingly we are recognized for that by publications like

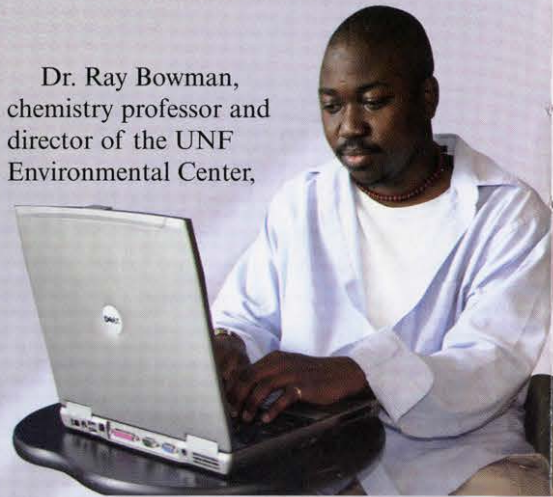
The Princeton Review." In 2006, the Princeton Review identified UNF as one of the nation's best educational values among public universities.



Nobody knows better how UNF has changed over the years than the faculty and staff who were on campus to welcome students that rainy day in October of '72. Although they're retiring and leaving UNF one by one, the University is lucky to have retained more than a dozen founding members still working to inspire students each day.

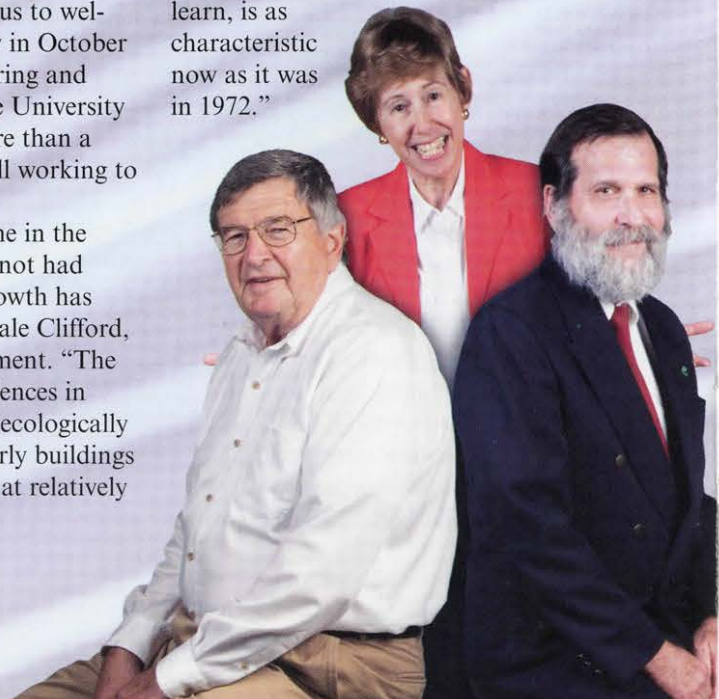
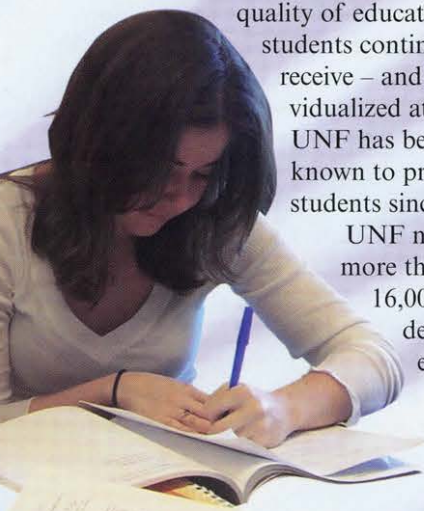
"I cannot remember a time in the whole 35 years that we have not had construction on campus. Growth has been a constant," said Dr. Dale Clifford, chair of the History Department. "The newest buildings – Social Sciences in particular – are much better ecologically and aesthetically than the early buildings which had to go up fast and at relatively low cost."

Dr. Ray Bowman, chemistry professor and director of the UNF Environmental Center,



believes that UNF's best students today are among the best the University has ever had. "UNF is attracting more of the very best students who could attend older institutions with more established reputations," he said. "The students we graduate who attend post-baccalaureate programs report that they are as well-prepared for their post-baccalaureate studies as students who graduated from some of the most prestigious universities in the U.S."

Perhaps history professor Dr. Dan Schafer sums it up the best. "I don't think students have changed over the years," he said. "Of course, hairstyles and clothing trends changed – and changed back – and technology has altered habits and possibilities in amazing ways, but the courteous and kind nature of most UNF students, and the strong desire to learn, is as characteristic now as it was in 1972."



## Founders Month events

**Monday, Oct. 1 –**

**Saturday, Oct. 6**

### Peace Awareness Week

Conflict Transformation Symposium: lectures, panels, festival on the Green, performing art presentations, and Peace Mural interactive exhibition by Houng. For more information, visit [www.unf.edu/thefloridacenter/CTSymposium](http://www.unf.edu/thefloridacenter/CTSymposium).



**Wednesday, Oct. 3**

7:30 p.m. – **Alphonso Lingis**

Inquiry & Insight Lecture

Lingis is professor emeritus of philosophy at Penn State University and is considered to be one of America's most influential philosophers.

• University Center - **Free**

E-tickets are required and will be available four weeks prior to the event.

Visit [www.unf.edu](http://www.unf.edu)

**Friday, Oct. 5**

7 p.m. - **UNF vs. Kennesaw State**

**Women's Soccer**

Visit [www.unfospreys.com](http://www.unfospreys.com)

• Hodges Stadium - **Free**

**Friday, Oct. 12**

7 p.m. - **UNF Volleyball vs. Lipscomb**  
**Volleyball**

Visit [www.unfospreys.com](http://www.unfospreys.com)

• UNF Arena - **Free**

**Friday, Oct. 12**

9 p.m. - **"Swoop Madness!" Basketball**  
**Celebration**

The men's and women's basketball teams open practice for the 2007-08 season with a celebration that promises plenty of fun.

Visit [www.unfospreys.com](http://www.unfospreys.com)

• UNF Arena - **Free**

**Saturday, Oct. 13**

3 p.m. - **UNF Volleyball vs. Belmont**

Visit [www.unfospreys.com](http://www.unfospreys.com)

• UNF Arena - **Free**

**Tuesday, Oct. 16**

7:30 p.m. - **Ken Burns**

The American documentary filmmaker will speak on the "Implications of World War II" as part of the Presidential Lecture Series. The event is co-hosted by UNF and the World Affairs Council of Jacksonville's Global Issues Forum.

• UNF Arena - **Free**

E-tickets are required and will be available four weeks prior to the event.

Visit [www.unf.edu](http://www.unf.edu)

**Thursday, Oct. 18**

7:30 p.m. - **Christopher Smith**

Irish Studies Lecture

Dr. Smith is an associate professor of musicology and director, Vernacular Music Center at Texas Tech University.

"Come West Along the Road:

Constructing Ireland's Electronic Identity" is a multi-media lecture, suitable for all ages and groups.

• Fine Arts Center—Recital Hall

**Free**

**Friday, Oct. 19**

7:30 p.m. - **"Ireland in America: A**  
**Seisiún of Traditional Irish Music"**

In concert are Christopher Smith and Angela Mariani, assistant professor of music history and literature at Texas Tech University School of Music.

• Robinson Theater - **Free**

**Saturday, Oct. 20**

7:30 p.m. - **Natalie Cole**

Eight-time Grammy winner Natalie Cole kicks off the Fine Arts Center's fifth anniversary season. A VIP after party ticket is available and includes a premium orchestra seat. Call (904) 620-1921 for more information.

Visit [www.unf.edu/fineartscenter](http://www.unf.edu/fineartscenter)

• Fine Arts Center — Lazzara

Performance Hall

**Tickets** - \$58, \$52, \$46, students: \$10

**Sunday, Oct 21**

3 p.m. - **"An Upbeat Pink – On the Run"**

This concert is in support of the National Marathon to Fight Breast Cancer. It features the UNF Wind Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Gordon Brock.

Visit [www.unf.edu/coas/music](http://www.unf.edu/coas/music)

• Fine Arts Center — Lazzara

Performance Hall - **Free**

**Tuesday, Oct. 23**

6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. program - **Buster Browning Roast**  
The UNF Athletics Department will hold its annual fund raiser roasting longtime supporter and former Osprey Club President Dr. Buster Browning.

• TPC in Sawgrass

**Tickets** may be purchased through the UNF Athletics Development Office at (904) 620-1506.

**Wednesday, Oct. 24**

10:30 a.m. - **Groundbreaking for Osprey**

**Fountains**, UNF's newest residence halls

• Eastern Ridge

For more information, call

(904) 620-2117.

**Thursday, Oct. 25**

7:30 p.m. - **Great American Jazz Series**

The UNF Music Department kicks off the 20th Anniversary of the Great American Jazz Series showcasing the talented Jazz Studies faculty.

Visit [www.unf.edu/coas/music](http://www.unf.edu/coas/music)

• Robinson Theater

**Tickets** - \$20, \$12, students: \$8

**Monday, Oct. 29**

7:30 p.m. - **Music of Our Time**  
**UNF Faculty Woodwind Quintet**

Visit [www.unf.edu/coas/music](http://www.unf.edu/coas/music)

• Fine Arts Center — Recital Hall

**Free**

**Tuesday, Oct. 30**

7 p.m. - **UNF Men's Soccer vs.**

**University of Central Florida**

• Hodges Stadium - **Free**

**Wednesday, Oct. 31**

7 p.m. - **UNF Women's Soccer vs.**

**Jacksonville University**

Visit [www.unfospreys.com](http://www.unfospreys.com)

• Hodges Stadium - **Free**



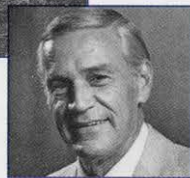
# UNF Timeline illustrates 35 years of Soaring



## The Beginning

**1969**

The Board of Regents selects a 1,000-acre campus site midway between downtown Jacksonville and the beaches and names Thomas G. Carpenter as UNF's first president.



## 1970s

**1970**

UNF moves its offices from the Florida National Bank Building in downtown Jacksonville to the Florida Chamber of Commerce Building on Arlington Expressway.



**1971**

UNF Foundation is established. 650 guests attend UNF's groundbreaking, including Gov. Reubin Askew and local Regent J.J. Daniel.



**1972**

UNF opens for its first quarter with 2,027 upper division and master's-level students attending classes. Campus consists of only four major buildings and three colleges: Arts and Sciences, Education and Business Administration.

The average age of the faculty is two years younger than the average age of students.

The Library opens with 100,000 volumes on its shelves.

**1973**

The UNF Nature Trails open. 35 students receive degrees June 10 at UNF's first graduation.



**1974**

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools grants UNF full academic accreditation.



Three additional buildings open, nearly doubling the amount of available classroom and office space. 685 students in UNF's charter class graduate.

**1976**

The University establishes the UNF Alumni Association. The Small Business Development Center opens.

**1978**

Fire destroys UNF's original Boathouse.



U.S. Dept. of the Interior recognizes UNF Nature Trails as a National Recreational Trail.

**1979**

The Osprey becomes UNF's official mascot by write-in vote, beating out the armadillo, seagull, manatee and shark in a campus-wide election.



## 1980s

**1980**

The new Library opens.



**1981**

UNF renames the library the Thomas G. Carpenter Library.

The UNF theater, which eventually will be named the Robinson Theater in honor of Interim President Andrew A. Robinson Jr., opens for its first production, "A Raisin in the Sun."

**1982**

Student enrollment tops 5,500.

Curtis L. McCray becomes UNF's second president.



**1983**

UNF's intercollegiate athletics program begins competing in men's and women's cross country/track.

**1984**

UNF admits freshmen and sophomores for the first time.



**1985**

Osprey Village, UNF's first on-campus housing, opens with space for 435 students.

**1986**

Women's tennis team wins NAIA National Championship. The library's online catalog replaces card catalog.



**1992**

The Aquatic Center with an Olympic-size pool opens.

**1988**

University establishes the College of Health. Monique French becomes the first four-year student to graduate with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Baseball becomes part of UNF's intercollegiate athletics program.



The 1,000-seat baseball stadium is completed and named Harmon Stadium in honor of longtime boosters Linda and Doug Harmon.

The John E. Mathews Jr. Computer Science Building opens and is named in honor of the former state lawmaker who was instrumental in gaining authorization and funding to build UNF.



**1989**

Adam W. Herbert becomes UNF's third president.



UNF establishes its fifth college, known as the College of Computer and Information Sciences.

Andrew A. Robinson Jr. Student Life Center opens and is named in honor of UNF's first interim president.

Osprey Hall, a three-story, lakeside residence hall, opens with housing for 250 undergraduates.

## 1990s

**1990**

The first doctoral degree program begins in College of Education and Human Services.

**1991**

The golf team wins the NAIA national championship.



Building 1, the UNF administration building, officially becomes J.J. Daniel Hall in honor of the former newspaper publisher and chairman of the Board of Regents.

The Athletics Department adds five varsity sports: men's soccer, women's softball, women's volleyball and men's and women's basketball.

**1992**

The College of Education and Human Services Building officially becomes Frederick H. Schultz Hall in honor of the former Federal Reserve vice chairman and state lawmaker.



**1993**

The UNF Arena opens, with seating for 5,800.

The golf team wins second NAIA national championship. UNF joins NCAA Division II.

**1994**

Enrollment tops 10,000 during fall registration.

Osprey Landing opens in the fall with housing for 150 students.

The women's tennis team wins NCAA Division II National Championship.



**1995**

The new College of Health Building opens.



The Osprey Fitness Center undergoes a \$100,000 renovation and becomes the Dottie Dorion Fitness Center in honor of the first female president of the Osprey Club.

Research grants awarded to UNF through the Division of Sponsored Research top \$5 million, bringing 10-year total to \$47.4 million.

Osprey Landing Phase II opens with housing for an additional 300 students.

**1996**

New College of Business Administration Building opens.

A Board of Regents study concludes UNF has \$188 million economic impact on the region.

The College of Education and Human Services initiates master's degree program in Belize.

**1997**

The College of Health Building becomes J. Brooks Brown Hall in honor of the retired physician and University benefactor.

**1998**

UNF President Adam W. Herbert leaves to become chancellor of State University System.

Osprey Cove opens with housing for 450 students.

**1999**

Anne H. Hopkins takes office as UNF's first female president and fourth overall.



The University Center opens as a state-of-the-art conference and meeting facility.

## 2000s

**2000**

More than 1,000 students graduate during spring commencement ceremonies.



UNF launches a \$65 million capital campaign, the largest philanthropic drive in Jacksonville history.

**2001**

The Fine Arts Center, with seating for 1,300 in the Lazzara Performance Hall, opens.



Gov. Jeb Bush appoints members of the first UNF Board of Trustees.

Osprey Crossings opens with housing for 470 students.



**2002**

Hayt Golf Learning Center, named in honor of benefactors John T. and Geraldine Hayt, opens.

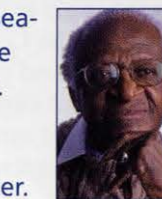
The College of Business Administration becomes Coggin College of Business in honor of Luther and Blanche Coggin, who donate \$5 million to the college.



**2003**

John A. Delaney becomes UNF's fifth president.

The Fine Arts Center begins its inaugural season with a performance by Kathleen Battle with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.



Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu arrives on campus to teach for one semester.

Lady Ospreys capture the South Atlantic Region basketball championship, giving them a spot in the Elite Eight.

The Access to Excellence capital campaign ends, raising more than \$100 million.

The Division of Sponsored Research sets record with more than \$15 million in research grants.

**2004**

The Science and Engineering Building opens.



**2005**

The School of Nursing becomes UNF's first flagship program, which focuses resources to help transform existing excellence into academic programs with national prominence.

The University adopts a new logo and student-centered brand.



The Thomas G. Carpenter Library renovation and addition is completed.

**2006**

The Social Sciences Building opens, setting standard for future environmentally green campus buildings.



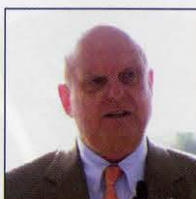
The College of Health officially becomes Brooks College of Health after Brooks Rehabilitation donates \$5 million to the college.

The Princeton Review ranks UNF as one of nation's five best buys in public higher education.



George and Kernan Hodges donate \$2 million to upgrade what is now Hodges Soccer and Track Stadium.

The Taylor Engineering Research Institute is established with \$1 million endowment.



Two Coggin College of Business programs – International Business and Transportation and Logistics – become UNF flagship programs.

Coastal Biology becomes UNF's fourth flagship program.

**2007**

UNF celebrates its 35th anniversary.



# Student Successes highlight year

Although still relatively young, the University of North Florida is making its mark. UNF students are too. Stacked against their counterparts at other universities, UNF students continue to gain regional, national and even international recognition for their achievements in everything from academics and research to the arts and industry. Here are some highlights of UNF students' achievements throughout the 2006-2007 academic year.

**Incoming freshmen** achieved an average 1166 SAT score last fall, 41 points higher than incoming freshmen five years earlier.

**UNF nursing students** received the Platinum Award at the National Student Nurses Association for their Community Health project "Homebasing: A Creative Approach to Community Nursing." It was the highest award presented at the association's 2007 national convention.

**UNF's educational leadership doctoral** students have won one regional and four national awards for their doctoral dissertations within the past year.

**Catherine Bauer**, a writing tutor with UNF's Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), won the College Tutor-of-the-Year Award at the 2007 annual conference of the National Tutoring Association.



**Stacey Kitano-Enriquez** was selected to participate in the International Scholar Laureate Program. The UNF junior was one of 56 nursing students from around the world chosen to be a delegate to South Africa, where she spent two weeks studying HIV/AIDS. Enriquez is the first student from Northeast Florida to receive that honor.



**The UNF Wind Ensemble** has been selected to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2008. The performance will feature the Wind Ensemble and a guest faculty soloist performing works by prominent American composers.



**Graduate student Zachary Champane**, a Roddenberry Fellow in the College of Education and

Human Services, received the 2007 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to classroom teachers of math and science. He was one of 93 teachers nationwide to receive the honor.



**Osprey athletes** earned the most academic all-conference honors in the Atlantic Sun Conference for the second year in a row. Of 279 eligible Osprey athletes, 163 earned academic all-conference honors.

The UNF chapter of **Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE)** has won its regional competition for 12 consecutive years, through 2007, and has placed in the top 16 in the nation for each of the last three years.



**Civil engineering students** placed third regionally in a competition to design and build a steel bridge in UNF's third year of entering the competition.



**Women's volleyball** players recorded the University's highest team GPA at 3.44.

**Graduating seniors** in the Coggin College of Business scored higher on the Educational Testing Service's Major Field Test in Business than seniors graduating from 85 percent of participating institutions.

**UNF nursing students** obtained a 94-percent pass rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing licensing exam, beating the national average of 90 percent.



**UNF nurse practitioner students** obtained a 100-percent pass rate on their national certification exam.

**UNF's Jazz Ensemble 1** performed last fall at the Monterey Jazz Festival.



All of **UNF's teacher education graduates** successfully completed all portions of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination prior to graduation.

**Music major Scott Dickinson** finished second in a national trumpet competition and was co-winner of the Downbeat Student Arrangement Award.

The Ministry of Education in Belize has recognized two College of Education and Human Services alumni and one currently enrolled master's student as Outstanding Teachers of the Year in Belize. That student, **Dacia Tillett**, is currently enrolled in the Educational Leadership program and will graduate in 2008.

**Todd Uhlman**, a junior nursing student, served as president of the National Student Nurses Association.

A **UNF jazz** trio was invited to perform at the prestigious Festival Les Rendez-vous de l'Erdre, Jazz et Belle Plaisance in Nantes, France in September.



The **interdisciplinary team** of Tarek Chammeh (Computing), Jay Weatherstone (Computing), and Karim El Ghalbzouri (Business) won at the 2007 Enterprise North Florida Corporation Regional Business Plan Competition in April.

**Graduating MBAs** from the Coggin College of Business recorded higher average scores on the Educational Testing Service's Major Field Test for the MBA than their counterparts graduating from at least 90 percent of participating institutions.

Music major **Tzu Yin Liu** won the 2006 state solo string competition from the American String Teachers Association solo string competitions

Honors student **Jacquelyn Simmons** was recognized as a 2006 Excellence in Service Award winner by Florida Campus Compact, an organization that promotes service-learning, civic engagement and collegiate volunteerism.



**Shane Horn** received the Pi Lambda Theta 2007 Distinguished Student Scholar award and was appointed to serve on the Pi Lambda Theta international board of directors as the undergraduate student vice president for the 2007-2009 term.

**Jeanne Richards**, an educational leadership doctoral student, won the Deans Award for Outstanding Research at the 2007 meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association.

100 percent of UNF **physical therapy graduates** passed the national licensure exam.



# In their own words

What was it like to be at UNF on the first day of classes in 1972 and how have students and the University evolved over the years? We went to 13 of the University's founding faculty who are still full-time employees at UNF to find out. Read the highlights here, or visit [www.unf.edu](http://www.unf.edu) and click on the 35th anniversary hot button for their complete interviews.



Clifford



Schafer



Rasche



Bowman



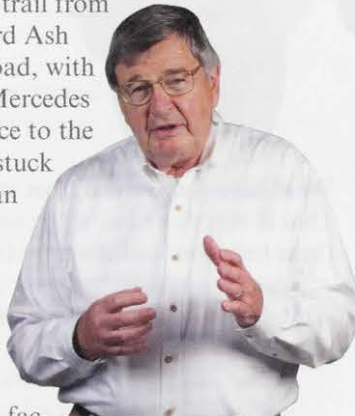
Wood

### What made you decide to come to UNF?

They offered me a job, and the challenge of helping build a university. Who could resist that?

**Dr. Dale Clifford**  
*Chair of the History Department*  
*History professor*

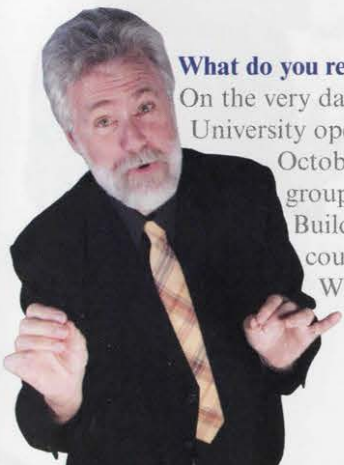
The only access to the campus when I interviewed in February of 1972 was via a dirt trail from Beach Boulevard... Dean Willard Ash drove me over the bumpy dirt road, with deep washout holes, in his old Mercedes diesel. We stopped at the entrance to the campus, where a bulldozer was stuck – blade first – in a sinkhole. Dean Ash promised that somewhere through the pine trees and palmettos, a campus with office and classroom buildings, a library, boathouse, parking lots, and other university amenities would be ready for students and faculty in the fall. From that moment on I was intrigued by the idea of working at a university that would be entirely created by its faculty and administration.



**Dr. Dan Schafer**  
*History professor*

### What do you remember about the first day of classes?

On the very day and at the very hour that the University opened its doors to students—on October 2, 1972, at 7:30 a.m.—I met a group of students in a small classroom in Building 3, and together we began a course called “What Is Existentialism?” Willard Ash, the founding dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, had



dreamed up a series of interdisciplinary courses that he called Venture Studies. “What Is Existentialism?” was one such course.

**Dr. Bill Slaughter**  
*English professor*

There had been a great deal of rain, and although the buildings were complete, the landscaping and sidewalks were not. It was muddy, and students and faculty pitched in to help students in wheelchairs onto and off of the plywood boards laid down between buildings. And most of all, the students were so grateful and excited to have the opportunity to attend a university.

**Dr. Dale Clifford**



### What humorous times do you recall, and why were they so funny?

One of the best was the time we had an alligator sunning himself on the deck just below what is now the Schultz Education Building; and a second was Roy Singleton getting bitten by a snake as he walked out to his car after finishing class at 11 p.m. Fortunately, the snake wasn't poisonous.

**Dr. Paul Eggen**  
*Foundations and Secondary Education professor*

We had to laugh in the beginning because so many things went wrong. When the school first opened, the phones did not work properly, the sidewalks from the parking lots to the buildings were made of pine-bark nuggets and were sometimes adventurous to walk on, and there were lots of wild animals around.

**Dr. Chris Rasche**  
*Criminal Justice professor*





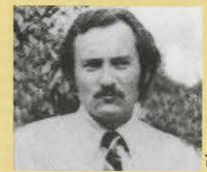
Bizot



Smith



Chamblin



Shapiro

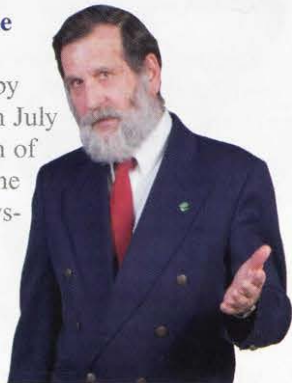
One day in a sophomore writing class I called on a student who was wearing a baseball cap, turned backward on his head, saying to him, "What do you think? You've got your thinking cap on." And he said, "Yes, but it's in the off position." Sadly, it was.

**Dr. Dick Bizot**  
*Director of Irish Studies*  
*English professor*

**Is there one event that's most memorable for you during your time at UNF?**

The recognition of the Natural Trails by the U.S. Department of the Interior on July 10, 1978. I had led the re-configuration of the nature trails from blazed trails in the woods to a self-guiding, educational system with a common trailhead.

**Dr. Ray Bowman**  
*Director, UNF Environmental Center*  
*Chemistry professor*



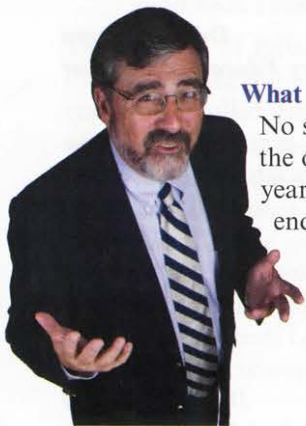
Yes, there is one, and that is when I asked a student where he came from. Given the fact that early on most students came from Duval County, when the student said he came from the North, I was ecstatic that finally we have students coming from out of state and especially from the North. And when I insisted to know where in the North, and he said he came from Fernandina Beach, all that excitement melted away and I decided that we needed to broaden the students' horizon and that moment was the beginning of developing the International Business Program. Dean Edward Moses realized the issue, and he helped us start it.

**Dr. Reza Vaghefi**  
*Management professor*

**What was your favorite year at UNF and why?**

No single year stands alone, but I remember the optimism and enthusiasm of the initial years as we embraced the seemingly open-ended promise of starting a new university.

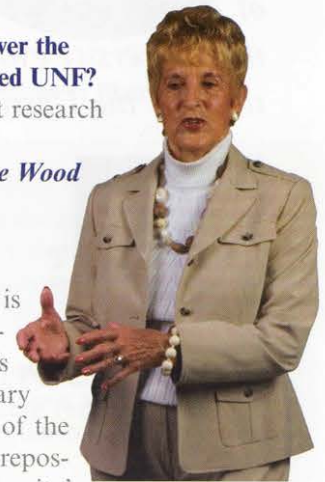
**Dr. Minor Chamblin**  
*Chair of the Department of Psychology*  
*Psychology professor*



**How has UNF impacted Jacksonville over the years, and how has Jacksonville impacted UNF?**

We are now thought of as a significant research and service institution in Jacksonville.

**Dr. Janice Wood**



I think the University is one of the determining forces in the city's future and the library will serve as one of the most enduring repositories of the city's

history. The city would, I hope, serve as a real life laboratory and reality check for research by University practitioners in all possible fields.

**Linda Smith**  
*University librarian*  
*Cataloging Department*



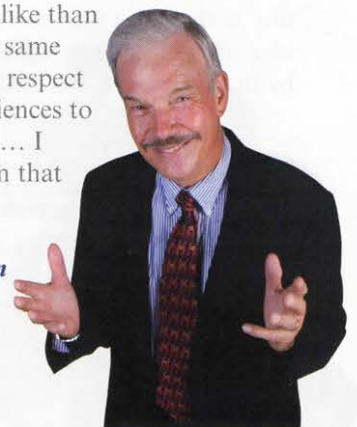
**What have you learned from students over your years at UNF?**

That if you don't know the answer let them know it and let them help you find the answer.

**Dr. Steve Shapiro**  
*Director, Center for Economic Education*  
*Economics professor*

Basically, students are much more alike than different... they have essentially the same needs. They want to be treated with respect and courtesy; they want their experiences to make sense, and they want to learn ... I have never heard a student complain that they didn't like a class because they learned too much in it.

**Dr. Paul Eggen**





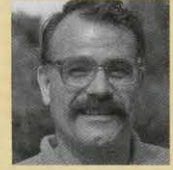
eggen



Vaghefi



Slaughter



Woods

**How have students changed over the last 35 years?**

Our best students now are among the best we have ever had. UNF is attracting more of the very best students who could attend older institutions with more established reputations.

*Dr. Ray Bowman*

**How will you keep UNF in your life and heart after you retire?**

I've been here over half my life so UNF's imprint is indelible.  
*Dr. Minor Chamblin*

**What are the biggest challenges on campus today compared to opening day in 1972?**

Motivating students to read the text, complete outside readings and acquire a thirst for knowledge ... [students today need to] learn to think critically and not accept everything they hear as the gospel.

*Dr. Lou Woods  
Economics professor*

**What are the biggest changes you've witnessed at UNF?**

The biggest change has occurred since the arrival of John Delaney. President Delaney rejuvenated the University as he did the city of Jacksonville. I believe his leadership has changed the character and direction of UNF and we are headed for greater national and international recognition. These changes will have positive ramifications for many years.

*Dr. Reza Vaghefi*

**What kept you at UNF for so many years?**

The challenge of educating young people to become teachers. I've loved every minute of it.

*Dr. Janice Wood*

**How has college education changed over the last 35 years?**

The most radical changes have come only recently with the advent of the Web. Information both, good and bad, is at everyone's fingertips. I fear the art of reading the printed word will continue to decline, e.g. newspapers, news magazines and novels.

*Dr. Steve Shapiro*

**What have you done during your time at UNF that you are proudest of?**

I am very proud of having created both of our undergraduate and graduate criminal justice programs, as well as the minor in women's studies, which is now gender studies. Academic programs, from which hundreds of students have graduated, are, I hope, lasting contributions.

*Dr. Chris Rasche*

First, the people. I've been privileged to work with the best group of librarians imaginable from the former director, Andrew Farkas, throughout the ranks of my former and current colleagues. And second, the challenge. Not many brand new librarians (as I was in 1972) get to build a library from scratch. It was a wonderful experience.

*Linda Smith*

## All about Betty Holzendorf's drive

First, Betty Holzendorf learned the rules. Then, she won the game. In between, she spent more than two decades playing hardball in the political arenas of Jacksonville's City Hall and the Florida Legislature.

The University of North Florida counts itself among the beneficiaries of Holzendorf's efforts, which helps explain why the only campus road named for an individual is called Betty Holzendorf Drive.

"Betty Holzendorf was a significant advocate for UNF throughout her tenure in the Florida Legislature," said Dr. Adam Herbert, who served as UNF president from 1989 to 1998. "As just one example, without her support, we would not have received funding for the University Center project. She held up the conference report and refused to sign it until the project was fully funded."

In addition, Holzendorf fought for funding for the Science and Engineering Building, the Fine Arts Center and the expansion and renovation of the Thomas G. Carpenter Library. She also fought for equity funding for UNF for years of continued growth during a period of budget reductions.

"I watched in awe and amazement as she tirelessly worked to ensure UNF received its funding priorities," said Janet Owen, who has lobbied the Legislature on UNF's behalf since 1998.

Holzendorf's interest in UNF was due, in part, to the fact that she was a member of the University's inaugural class. She graduated from UNF with a master's of education administration in June 1973. She laughs as she talks about being on campus at that time.

"I think there was one building, an administration building and the Library – and snakes," Holzendorf said. "We used to sit outside the Library with our feet up because we didn't know what might be crawling down below."

Holzendorf said she chose UNF because it was good for adults who wanted to advance in their careers. She already had a bachelor's in science from Edward Waters College, a master's in biochemistry from Atlanta University and had taught in the Duval County Public Schools. She was director of institutional research at Edward Waters College when she began her UNF studies.

"It was convenient for me because I could work during the day and go to school evenings and Saturdays," she said.

*"Betty Holzendorf was a significant advocate for UNF throughout her tenure in the Florida Legislature."*

- Adam Herbert

Three of her children, Kevin, Kim and Kessler, also graduated from UNF. Why UNF?

"Because it's where I was going to pay for them to go," said Holzendorf, who confesses to being an overly protective mom. "It gave them an opportunity to have a campus life and be close to home."

Holzendorf's tenure in government and politics began in 1975 when she became the city of Jacksonville's affirmative action officer. She served as the city's equal employment officer and as Mayor Jake Godbold's legislative liaison.

In 1988, she ran for and won a seat in the Florida House in a special election to fill a vacancy created by the criminal conviction of the former officeholder.

Holzendorf said she learned early on to do her homework and find out how things worked, especially the budget, which helped to bring additional funding for education to Duval County.

"I learned how to read the budget," said Holzendorf, who spent four years in the Florida House and 10 in the Florida Senate before term limits forced her to retire.

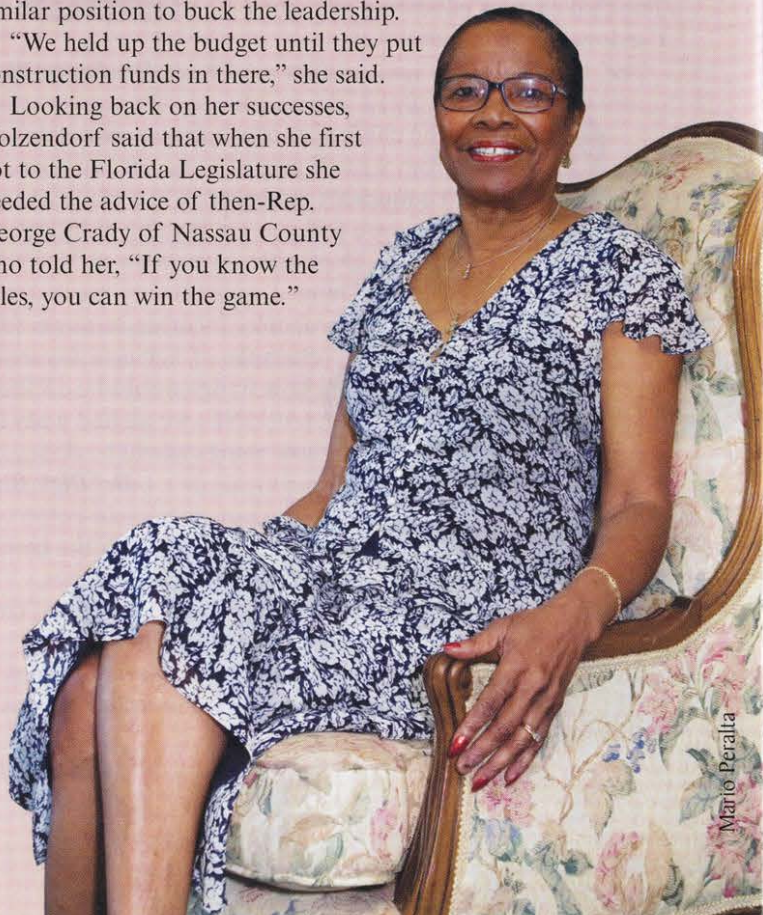
During her tenure in office she also learned that no committee chair left Tallahassee without getting money for local projects. That knowledge and her ability to find money helped her gain funding for UNF.

"They had pockets of money, but you had to find it," she said.

She said she worked with Herbert to make sure UNF kept up with the University of Florida and Florida State University. Told one year that UNF would have to wait for funding the following year, Holzendorf, who was chair of the Education Appropriations Committee, convinced colleagues who were in a similar position to buck the leadership.

"We held up the budget until they put construction funds in there," she said.

Looking back on her successes, Holzendorf said that when she first got to the Florida Legislature she heeded the advice of then-Rep. George Crady of Nassau County who told her, "If you know the rules, you can win the game."



Mario Paralta

# Smooth moves + Smoothie café = Entrepreneur award

Shortly before his 2001 graduation, Alex Juarez went out with his UNF roommates in search of a light snack. The problem was, no area restaurants offered what they envisioned. That thought stuck in Juarez's head as he finished up his bachelor's degree in international studies, and he soon found himself writing what turned out to be a business plan for opening his own restaurant.

Now Juarez is president and one of three partners in ISLA Smoothies Inc., which operates two Tropical Smoothie Café franchises in Duval County.

Though he studied liberal arts, not business, during his time at UNF, Juarez said his courses and instructors taught him how to pursue an idea and see it to completion. He believes UNF's smaller student-to-faculty ratio helped him develop critical thinking skills.

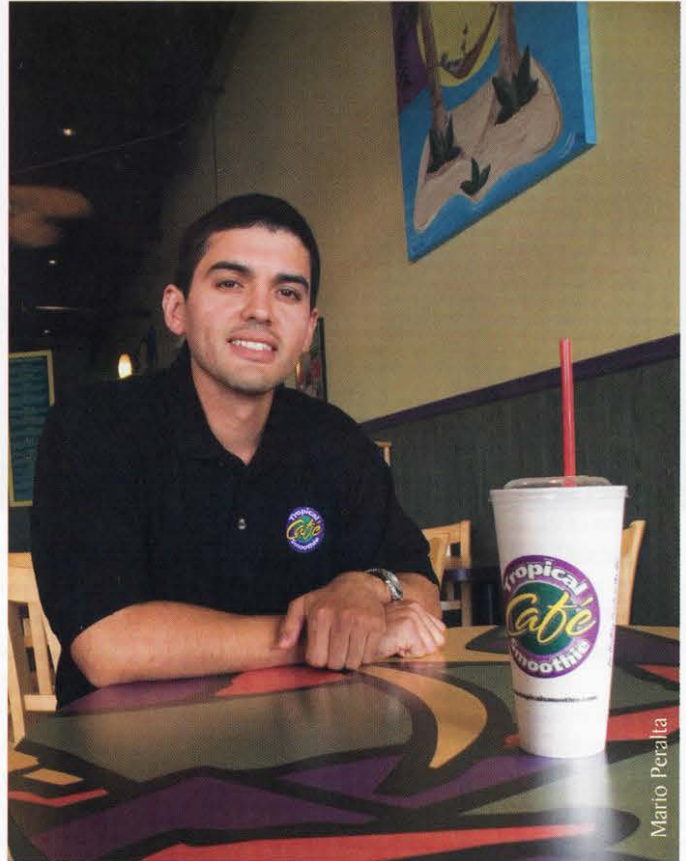
"What they really give you are life skills to feel confident that you can work through it; I learned problem-solving skills," Juarez said, taking a break from work at his first Tropical Smoothie Café, which opened on 3rd Street in Neptune Beach in 2003 when Juarez was just 24. Juarez opened the second location at Butler Boulevard and Phillips Highway in 2005.

Juarez thought he might pursue a career in federal law enforcement and he even completed an internship with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms during his senior year at UNF. His international studies courses focused on Latin America. He thoroughly enjoyed delving into the political, economic, geographic and language issues of nations. But he switched gears entirely once his business idea came to him.

"It sounds corny," he said, "but it was like one of those opportunistic light bulbs went off in my head."

Juarez grew up in a family in Homestead that owned a Mexican restaurant, so he had some idea of how to operate his café. The hardest part was securing financial backing from a bank. The Hispanic Business Alliance, a program of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, helped him get started. He also took his plan to UNF's Small Business Development Center in 2001. Area Director Cathy Hagan reviewed his plan and helped tweak it. Hagan and Juarez still keep in touch and Juarez speaks to Hagan's students at the Coggin College of Business.

"He's a sharp young man," Hagan said. "He's very focused on what he does, he has an extremely strong work ethic, and he's moving forward."



Alex Juarez at his Neptune Beach restaurant

Now Juarez, who lives in Jacksonville Beach, is reaping the rewards of his initiative. The U.S. Small Business Administration named him a Young Entrepreneur of the Year for 2007. He received the honor in April at the 15th annual Small Business Week Celebration at UNF's University Center. Now that he's tasted success in the restaurant biz, Juarez is hungry for more. He plans to expand his business to include two more restaurants in the near future. Smooth move, Juarez.

## About Alex Juarez

**Age:** 29

**Degree:** B.A. in international studies, 2001

**Occupation:** Restaurant owner

**Hometown:** Homestead, Fla.

**Now lives in:** Jacksonville Beach

**2007 Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

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## New country, new life



Ruta Jureviciute on the balcony of her New York condo

**F**resh out of high school and eager to explore another part of the world, 17-year-old Lithuanian Ruta Jureviciute traveled 5,000 miles in 1990 to spend the summer in the United States. What she didn't know then was that she'd never return to live in her home country.

Armed with a tourist visa, a couple of suitcases and \$350, Jureviciute came to America upon the insistence of her mother, who was looking for options for her daughter's future. At the time, Lithuania was still under Soviet rule but going through a turbulent transition to democracy.

"The last few months of my high school years, the Soviet Union cut off our oil supply so all the transportation stopped and we had to boil water every morning to take showers," Jureviciute said. "When they discovered economic sanctions didn't work, they moved the military back in and tried to take over the key posts of Lithuania. There were tanks all over my city, people were being killed and nobody knew what was going to happen next, so it was very scary."

Jureviciute ended up staying in Jacksonville with her mother's cousin and his wife, Diane Kazlauskas, a librarian at UNF, although staying wasn't her choice. "I actually hated America at first," Jureviciute said. "I only knew a few words of English and I missed my family and friends. The last thing I wanted was to be here in this strange country."

Realizing she needed to know English and keep busy,

Jureviciute enrolled in the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program at FCCJ. She later began taking courses at UNF as a non-degree student, but it wasn't until she made a trip back to Lithuania in 1993 that she was able to obtain a student visa and enroll at UNF fulltime, working toward a double-major in economics and psychology. Along the way she also investigated UNF's pre-law program and got to know Dr. Martin Edwards, the program's director.

"I had always wanted to go to law school, but it had never been an option because in order to get into law school in Lithuania you had to know or pay somebody and I didn't have those connections," she said.

But after meeting with Edwards, Jureviciute realized she could actually pursue her dream. "Marty didn't laugh at me like everyone else," she said. "It was nice to meet somebody who actually believed in me, because before that I'd met a lot of people who'd said, 'Yeah, why don't you set some realistic goals?'"

Jureviciute earned her B.A. degree from UNF in 1996 and with Edwards' support applied to Duke University in Durham, N.C., where she was offered a \$50,000 scholarship to study law.

"Ruta first came to America without speaking English," Edwards said. "She was one of the most dedicated and intelligent students I had taught and advised."

By 2001, Jureviciute had earned degrees from Duke in international and comparative law and investment banking, before moving to New York City, passing the New York Bar exam and starting a job in mergers and acquisitions for Bear Stearns, an investment banking, securities trading and brokerage firm.

But the timing for starting a job in New York was unfortunate. "I had a dream job that I'd worked so hard for, and then Sept. 11 happened," she said. "The economy went downhill and it really affected Wall Street, so of the 90 people in my incoming class at Bear Stearns worldwide, only 25 of us were left after four rounds of layoffs the first year."

She survived the competition by working hard and putting in 90 to 100 hours a week. "We're advisers to clients and when you have a deal happening, you have to do whatever it takes and work day and night to get it done," she said.

Now a vice president in Bear Stearns' financial sponsors group, Jureviciute said her education at UNF was incredibly important to the success of her career. "At UNF I learned to become a part of the American culture, I got my self-confidence back, and I was guided to exactly where I wanted to be."

### Ruta Jureviciute

**Degrees:** B.A., UNF, 1996; JD/LLM, M.B.A., Duke, 2001

**Age:** 34

**Languages:** Lithuanian, English, Russian

**Job:** Vice president, Bear Stearns' financial sponsors group

**Hobbies:** Travel, tennis, skiing, reading, dancing, biking

**Gives back:** By sponsoring a Bosnian family in Jacksonville since 1995



## 35 years of generosity

For many, 35 years is a lifetime in their career. People retire and enjoy themselves in a variety of ways. However, 35 years for a university is quite young. Europe has some universities that have been around for nearly a millennium. In the



United States, there are several more than three centuries old. The reason for pointing this out is to illustrate that UNF is precocious in terms of its receipt of gifts and the growth of its endowment. I did some research regarding giving to UNF and found several interesting facts.

First, in the past six years gifts to the University of North Florida have totaled \$72 million. That's 55 percent of the \$131 million UNF has received throughout its young existence. The past several years have been monumental for the Ospreys.

Second, the \$131 million in outright gifts have funded thousands of scholarships, helped to recruit outstanding faculty through chairs and professorships, purchased state-of-the-art equipment and built great facilities. Without such support, UNF would be just another regional school. With this support, we have distinguished ourselves.

Third, the endowment has grown through gifts and the great state-matching program along with a solid track record of investments. In 1983, when the UNF Foundation started to invest its portfolio, it had \$1,013,257. Today, it is valued at \$87 million and growing. On July 1 of this year, the Foundation distributed \$3.2 million to more than 200 endowment operating accounts. Of that amount, \$1.5 million is for student aid, assisting more than 700 students. I look forward to the day when 1,000 students are receiving scholarships.

One might conclude that if all is going so well that the University of North Florida does not need "my support." I wish that were true, but it is not. As we grow, so does the need for more scholarships, faculty support and facilities. UNF has a great future and the next 35 years will be transformational. Alumni and friends are pivotal for our future.

*Pierre L. Allaire*

Vice President, Institutional Advancement

*Sometimes it takes a little help to reach your goals. Drs. Marianne and Lehman Barnes, who have made a \$25,000 gift to fund the Marianne and Lehman Barnes Scholarship for Science Education, can vouch for that.*

## Barnes endowment funds science scholarship

Marianne Barnes, a professor in Foundations and Secondary Education who has been on the faculty since 1976, and Lehman Barnes, a part-time faculty member who has worked on grants and projects since 1990, have experienced the difference that scholarships can make.

She has worked with numerous students who have benefited from scholarships. As a young man, Lehman Barnes needed a scholarship to attend college because he had the smarts but lacked the finances. "That helped make it possible for me to go to college," he said of the scholarship he received. For him, scholarships are also a form of positive reinforcement. "Whoever provides scholarships is saying to you, 'Hey, you can do it.' They are nudging you to do it."

In addition to funding an endowed scholarship to help

## Clarke endowment funds education, nursing scholarships

Growing up during the 1940s in a quiet neighborhood in the Murray Hill section of Jacksonville, Roy Clarke developed a deep and abiding respect and affection for his parents and a woman he calls the "neighborhood nurse."

Clarke's mother, Hazel, came from a West Florida family of 12 kids. The only one to get a college education, she went on to become a Duval County teacher for 24 years.

His father, Roy, was a high school graduate who, according to Clarke, gave himself an on-the-job education. He worked for years as an engineer with the telephone company.

Both parents worked hard to overcome obstacles on their way to successful careers, which over the years earned their son's respect, pride and admiration.

Clarke also has fond memories of a woman who lived across the street in Murray Hill, a professional nurse named Evelyn Cooper who helped nurse the neighborhood kids – including Clarke – back to health.

"She doctored all of us in the neighborhood," he said. "I haven't forgotten the image of a woman with a heart of gold."



Mario Peralta

future and current science teachers who need a hand to make their college dreams come true, the Barneses plan to leave a portion of their estate to UNF to fund more science education.

"This is a tremendous commitment to the University at a time when we need more teachers in the profession," said Dr. Pierre Allaire, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "Endowed scholarships are so important because they are available to the students year after year. And the fact they have included UNF in their estate plans is special."

The Barneses work with students who want to become science teachers, particularly in middle school and high school. Marianne's father, a scientist who supported her through many science fairs, encouraged her interest in science.

"We just feel it would be appropriate to give something back

to the University and help someone," Marianne Barnes said when asked about the motivation for the gift. "It's a good feeling. This has been and continues to be a wonderful career."

Lehman Barnes calls science education his "life and livelihood." He and Marianne Barnes want to be available to the scholarship recipients for academic questions and questions about life.

He is a consultant for Big Brothers-Big Sisters and Community in Schools. "I lost my father as a senior in high school. I always had an adult mentor as I grew up. I am very much into mentoring, as all adults who have the time and energy should be," he said. "If this [making the gift] nudges one person to be a mentor or contribute some scholarship money, that would be wonderful," Lehman Barnes said.

Clarke also has never forgotten Cooper's work ethic. He speaks admiringly of her pulling the night shift while raising four children as a single mother. And she still found time to be very active in her church and community.

Sadly, all of these people who made an impact on Clarke's life have since passed away. In an effort to honor them through a memorial, Clarke recently established the Clarke and Cooper Family Scholarship Endowment Fund with a \$150,000 gift to UNF that will be matched by \$75,000 from the state of Florida. The gift will fund the Roy and Hazel Clarke Education Scholarship and the Evelyn Cooper Nursing Scholarship.

"Family-based scholarships designed to honor cherished members of one's family are one of the most wonderful kinds of gifts we receive from our University friends and donors," said Dr. Larry Daniel, dean of UNF's College of Education and Human Services. "The Clarke family's decision to invest in education and nursing is especially noteworthy."

Scholarships can make a huge difference, particularly for UNF students enrolled in the nursing program, which features an

extremely rigorous curriculum, according to Dr. Lillia Loriz, director of the School of Nursing.

"Scholarships allow our students to focus on their studies without having to work in order to make ends meet," she said. "I know our students feel truly blessed when they receive a scholarship."

Clarke is eager to meet the education scholarship recipients and maybe talk to them about his parents. "I want to let them know that through energy and application and effort; all things are possible." Speaking of his parents, he said, "I think they'd both be honored and proud of the concept of a scholarship fund, very proud."

Clarke is concerned about what he calls "tooting his own horn" regarding the scholarships. He prefers to see it as a way to repay those who have helped him along the way.

"I have been successful beyond my wildest dreams," he said. "I'm always interested in giving a little bit back for all the wonderful opportunities I have had."

## Learning that lasts a lifetime

The phone rang non-stop one day in early August in the office of Billie Lombardo, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. For Lombardo, the ringing wasn't annoying at all. Far from it. It was actually music to her ears.

"We had a big pre-registration for fall. The phone rang off the hook for four hours," Lombardo said with a smile. "We didn't have any clue we would have this kind of a response."

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is a UNF Division of Continuing Education program for people age 50 and over who are interested in taking courses on a variety of topics ranging from The History of the Opera to Florida Friendly Landscaping.

The Lifelong Learning Institute is funded by a gift, \$100,000 a year, with a possible renewal for another two years, from the Bernard Osher Foundation, a San Francisco-based philanthropic organization that supports an array of educational and cultural programs.

"This was the right opportunity for Jacksonville and UNF to connect the dots. We have a lot of seasoned learners over 50 who want to continue their social and academic experiences," said Robert Wood, dean of Continuing Education.

The Lifelong Learning Institute began offering courses at UNF in October of last year. The pre-registration Lombardo was so happy about was for the Institute's fall semester, which runs from September to December.

Pre-registration was for members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, referred to as OLLIs, who have paid either the \$110 per-person or \$165 per-couple membership fee. Members get first choice of the 34 courses offered this fall. Three courses are included in the fee.

As of August, there were 400 OLLIs, a number that Lombardo thinks could reach 500 by the summer. "We didn't have any clue we would have this kind of response," she said. "Last summer we thought we would have 100 members. After our first semester, we had 300."

Wood said 500 is the "magical number" of members to qualify for a \$1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation. Though nothing has been finalized, Wood anticipates receiving the endowment within three years. By that time, he thinks the Learning Institute will have 1,000 members.

"We saw that the lifelong learning program at UNF had the potential to be wildly successful," said David Blazeovich, senior program officer for the Bernard Osher Foundation. "It has outstanding volunteer leadership, excellent staff and a University committed to developing educational opportunities that appeal to seasoned adults. We are thrilled to see the program moving forward so dynamically."

In addition to The History of the Opera and Florida Friendly Landscaping, other Learning Institute courses include Space: The Never-ending Frontier, Conversational Spanish, Wine 101, Women in the Irish Short Story, Basic Computer Skills, Great Books and The Roaring Twenties. The courses are taught mostly by retired professors and teachers, the majority holding doctoral degrees. They offer their services free of charge. Classes, which average 12-15 students, are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. five days a week, with several classes meeting simultaneously. Almost of all the classes are on the second floor of the University Center.

For more information about UNF's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, call (904) 620-4200.



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute students (from left) Paul Strauss, Jay Marshall, Lynn Strauss and Don Levy take a break during one of the classes.

# Dog gone, tournament has been good for UNF baseball



courtesy of UNF Athletics

UNF Baseball Coach Dusty Rhodes goes over Harmon Stadium ground rules with Ohio State coach Bob Todd before a Jacksonville Kennel Club Baseball Classic game.

**T**aking an extended baseball metaphor to its breaking point: The Jacksonville Kennel Club hit a grand slam by stepping to the plate and making a gift to fund the Jacksonville Kennel Club Baseball Classic, a tournament that attracts some of the biggest names in college athletics to Harmon Stadium.

“We’re very grateful to the good people of the Jacksonville Kennel Club for their support of UNF baseball,” said Dr. Richard Gropper, UNF Athletics director. “The annual Kennel Club Classic has evolved into one of the top college baseball events in the country.”

The first Jacksonville Kennel Club Baseball Classic was played in 1996. Through the years, UNF has done quite well in the tournament, posting an overall record of 57-31. The Ospreys have been rough on the Big 10, knocking off Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State and Purdue in tournament action. They also have wins over Navy and Notre Dame.

“When we first started our program here at UNF, the Kennel Club was such a great influence on getting our program off the ground,” baseball coach Dusty Rhodes said. “Without their support, there is no way we could have ever run our annual tournament. When we were still Division II, we had a chance to play top-notch Division I schools here in Jacksonville because of the support the Kennel Club provided. Those games helped spread the word about our University.”

The tournament, usually played in February, has included Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Princeton and Vanderbilt in addition to Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Purdue, Navy and Notre Dame.

The teams generally come to UNF over their spring break. There is no overall tournament winner, but the wins and losses go on each team’s season record. This year’s tournament was the 11th Jacksonville Kennel Club Baseball Classic.

“We think it’s an investment in the community. We have always cherished our relationship with UNF, and anything we can do to help out helps the community,” said Howard Korman, president of Jacksonville Greyhound Racing, which operates Jacksonville Kennel Club, Orange Park Kennel Club, Best Bet at St. Johns Greyhound Park and The Poker Room.

The Jacksonville Kennel Club, which endowed an academic scholarship at UNF in 1998, also made a gift to fund construction of the James J. Patton Osprey Nest at Harmon Stadium. Patton, who died in 1993, founded the Orange Park Kennel Club and was president of the Orange Park and Jacksonville Kennel Clubs.

Dedicated in 1994, the Osprey Nest is a fully enclosed seating area situated down the right-field line with kitchen facilities and restrooms. It’s available for use by groups for special functions. “If not for the Kennel Club, there is no way our program could have accomplished what it has,” Rhodes said. “Their support has meant so much through the years.”

## Private support to UNF near record level

The University of North Florida received \$12.9 million in private support in fiscal year 2006-2007, the second best year in the University’s history.

# UNF Athletics celebrates 25 years



Beginning this fall, the University of North Florida Athletics Department will celebrate its 25th season of competition — something that seemed unthinkable and perhaps even unlikely when the first UNF student-athletes donned school colors in 1983.

That handful of student-athletes, who wanted to be part of something special on the UNF campus, has grown into a program that now holds four national championships, 75 conference titles and 249 All-America awards during its history.

The program began competition as a member of the National Association on Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in 1983, but now competes on the NCAA Division I level — the highest level of competition in intercollegiate sports.

“So many facets of our program have changed, but some have stayed the same,” said UNF head track and cross-country coach Mark VanAlstyne, who arrived at the school as a student-athlete in 1987 and has never left. “What I remember was a desire from the beginning to be the best we could be, regardless of whether we were in the NAIA, or a small program just starting out. We wanted to win the meets we competed in — and sometimes those were against Florida and Florida State. The people in charge back then instilled in us that we needed to be focused on being the best we could be. That is one of the things that attracted me to UNF. That is what has lived on in the program.”

The story of UNF Athletics began — without much fanfare — in large part through the assistance of a group of local boosters known as the Varsity Club, which later became the Osprey Club. Four sports competed in 1984 — cross country and tennis, for men and women. The department was housed in the advancement suite in Building 1 and consisted of a secretary, a handful of student workers and the school’s first athletics director, Bruce Grimes. All of the student-athletes were junior college transfers.

“Bare bones is an accurate way to describe it,” Nancy Tankersley said of the original athletics’ operation. “We all wore many hats then, some of which didn’t have anything to do

with athletics.” Tankersley started during the program’s first year as a part-time data entry clerk. A year later she became the department’s full-time secretary. She remained with the department throughout its transformation — watching every step and hiccup along the way — until her retirement in June as the department’s executive secretary.

“We all knew that the program would grow,” Tankersley said. “But I don’t think any of us envisioned that it would get to this point. We have added a number of sports over the years, but most importantly, so many wonderful people have come through our doors.”

Grown it has, from NAIA startup, where UNF won three national titles — two in golf and one in women’s tennis — to NCAA Division II powerhouse beginning in 1994, where it won the national crown in women’s tennis that very first year. Today, the Ospreys play at the Division I level against the nation’s best.

“In terms of facilities and support staff — we are a big-time operation now,” VanAlstyne said. “Back in the old days, everything was on a shoe string. It was exciting, though, because we as athletes knew we were in on the ground floor of something special. A group had come four years earlier, but we still had the same sense of excitement. We definitely had a chip on our shoulder when we ran the Gators and Seminoles.”

A program that started with just four full-time employees now boasts more than 35. The first four teams consisted of fewer than 50 student-athletes combined. Today’s student-athlete population is in excess of 230 annually — and growing. The original four sports have blossomed into 17 competitive sports over the last 24 years. Women’s golf will become the program’s 18th intercollegiate sport by 2010. The Varsity Club consisted of fewer than 10 original members when it was formed and now boasts more than 200 Osprey Club members.

Athletics Director Dr. Richard Gropper arrived in 1995.

“What I found was a beautiful campus with all the potential in the world,” Gropper said. “With the solid base of facilities and support from the community, there seemed to be a good nucleus to build around. The key was establishing infrastructure and enhancing what was already in place. Division I athletics was the farthest thing from anybody’s mind at that time. We were a young Division II program that had a lot of needs. Little by little, we got better and got closer to where we wanted to be.”

One of Gropper’s first tasks was moving part-time coaches into full-time positions for each sport.

“A lot of our coaches had jobs until five o’clock, and then they would come to coach their teams,” Gropper said. “With more than 200 student-athletes, issues arise all day long, and we needed full-time head coaches to be there for their student-athletes and to help build those programs.”

And build UNF did - first joining the Division II Sunshine State Conference, where it won 16 conference titles from 1992 to 1997. An eight-year membership from 1997 to 2004 followed in the Division II Peach Belt Conference, where UNF won 23 conference championships. During its 13-year Division II membership, UNF won eight conference commissioner's cups, for being the best overall athletics program that year in the conference.

"Making UNF a nationally prominent Division II program was always our focus," Gropper said. "And we accomplished that goal. I always felt like we were doing it the right way - with our kids being successful both academically and athletically. After the sixth or seventh year at Division II, we started thinking that we had the opportunity to become an emerging Division I program. As we got further down the road in considering the possibilities, so many factors came together. It truly was the right time and the right place to make the move."

Following a vote of the UNF Board of Trustees in 2004, the idea of reclassifying to college athletics' highest division became a reality. Shortly after that, the Atlantic Sun Conference extended an offer of membership for the UNF program, and its Division I membership officially began in fall 2005.

The following spring, the UNF baseball team upset the 19th-ranked Florida Gators at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville - a feat it repeated in the spring of this year. The UNF men's and women's basketball teams also squared off against the Gators in competitive games in Gainesville. Record crowds have turned out for UNF basketball over the last two seasons, as they have for all Osprey sports. In 2007, UNF also put its stamp on its rivalry with Jacksonville University by winning the SunTrust River City Rumble all-sport season series between the schools 11-9.

Academics have remained a constant for the school as well, with UNF producing more academic all-conference honorees than any other Atlantic Sun Conference school during its two years of membership.

"We have come such a long way in a relatively short period of time," Gropper said. "If you look back over the last 10 years and really study the growth and progress our program has enjoyed, it really is phenomenal. The best days are still ahead for UNF Athletics without a doubt. We continue to grow each and every day, and the sky is the limit with all of the wonderful things we have to showcase at the University of North Florida."

A year of special celebrations is planned, including a 25-year celebration event at the UNF Arena in February. For more information on events, visit the UNF Athletics Web site at [www.UNFOspreys.com](http://www.UNFOspreys.com).

## UNF Athletics facts

### Sports - Year Started

Baseball (1988), Men's Basketball (1992), Women's Basketball (1992), Men's Cross Country (1983), Women's Cross Country (1983), Golf (1984), Men's Soccer (1991), Women's Soccer (1996), Softball (1992), Swimming & Diving (2000), Men's Tennis (1984), Women's Tennis (1984), Men's Indoor Track & Field (1984), Men's Outdoor Track & Field (1984), Women's Indoor Track & Field (1984), Women's Outdoor Track & Field (1984), Volleyball (1991).

### National Championships:

Women's Tennis - 1986, 1994; Men's Golf - 1991, 1993

### Conference Championships:

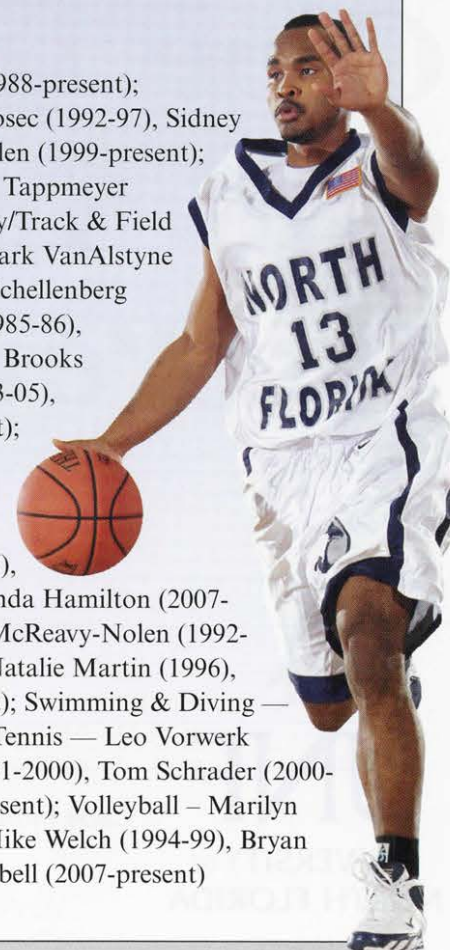
Baseball (13), Women's Cross Country (12), Volleyball (11), Men's Cross Country (11), Golf (7), Men's Tennis (7), Women's Tennis (7), Softball (4), Swimming & Diving (2), Women's Soccer (1)

### Athletics Directors:

Bruce Grimes (1982-85), Tom Healy (1985-89), Don Kelly (1989-90), John Ratliff (1990-95), Dr. Richard Gropper (1995-present)

### Head Coaches:

Baseball — Dusty Rhodes (1988-present);  
 Men's Basketball — Rich Zvosec (1992-97), Sidney Green (1997-99), Matt Kilcullen (1999-present);  
 Women's Basketball — Mary Tappmeyer (1992-present);  
 Cross Country/Track & Field — Bob Symons (1984-91), Mark VanAlstyne (1991-present);  
 Golf — Rick Schellenberg (1984-85), Ernie Baderson (1985-86), Duncan Hall (1986-90), John Brooks (1990-2003), John Sadie (2003-05), Scott Schroeder (2006-present);  
 Men's Soccer — Ray Bunch (1991-present);  
 Women's Soccer — Julie Orlowski (1996), Rodney Kenney (1997), Mike Munch (1998-2006), Linda Hamilton (2007-present);  
 Softball — Marilyn McReavy-Nolen (1992-93), Dee Hargett (1994-95), Natalie Martin (1996), Sonya Wilmoth (1997-present);  
 Swimming & Diving — Beth Harrell (2000-present);  
 Tennis — Leo Vorwerk (1984-90), Charley Jenks (1991-2000), Tom Schrader (2000-05), Igal Buberman (2005-present);  
 Volleyball — Marilyn McReavy-Nolen (1991-93), Mike Welch (1994-99), Bryan Bunn (2000-06), Kevin Campbell (2007-present)



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# 1970s

1974

**Jan A. Starr** (B.A.E., M.Ed.)

1984) retired in June after 33 years in the Florida public school system. For the past 22 years, he was an elementary school principal, both in Duval County and Palm Beach County. He will now serve as director of teacher education for a new private college in Palm Beach County. He resides in Boynton Beach.



**John TenBroeck** (M.Ed.) was inducted into the Gate River Run Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement. He has served as

a volunteer and staff member for the event for all of its 30-year history.

# 1980s

1980

**Brenda C. Litchfield** (M.A.) is a full professor of Instructional Design and Development (IDD) at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. She has been there since 1990 and teaches M.A. and Ph.D. courses in IDD. She is also the program coordinator, serves as chair of 16 doctoral committees and works with local school systems and



the university in the area of faculty development. She is active in environmental education, creates instructional programs for all levels and has won numerous awards. She received her Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1987.

1984

**Elizabeth "Chic" Holliday**

(B.A.) is the president of American Specialty Advertising and has had several articles published, including an article highlighting her U.S. travels for the Gulf Streamers International RV Club. She resides in Jacksonville.



1989

**Hope Greig** (B.A., M.S.H. '93) joined Mayo Clinic Arizona as an operations administrator in January. She and her husband, Nigel, have one son, Hunter, and now reside in Scottsdale.



# 1990s

1993

**Henry Walter Clary** (B.A.) recently was appointed missionary by the International Missionary Board at Grove Avenue Baptist



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E-mail: [d.roman@unf.edu](mailto:d.roman@unf.edu)

# classnotes

Church in Richmond, Va., and is headed for an assignment in Uruguay with his wife, Tasha.

1994

The Jacksonville Business Journal recently selected **James L. Smith Jr.** (B.B.A., M.B.A. '98) to its 7th Annual Up and Comers' list. A shareholder with Presser, Lanhen & Edelman, Smith was called "one of Jacksonville's 40 brightest, most promising professionals under 40." He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the United Way's Atlantic Circle Stein Fellowship. He also serves as a mentor for Take Stock in Children. He resides in

Fernandina Beach.

**Scott Devitt** (B.B.A.) recently took the reins as chief financial officer of Blue Nile Inc., an online retailer of diamonds and fine jewelry. In addition to his finance degree from UNF, he holds an M.B.A. from the University of Georgia. Prior to Blue Nile, he was managing director and senior analyst at Internet Consumer Services.

**Tiffany Brainerd** (B.S.) is currently completing a residency in anesthesiology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. She earned her M.D. degree in 2004 from the University of Texas in San Antonio. She resides in Tucson.

1998

**Shannon Farling** (B.A.) was awarded the CSX Chairman's

Award for Excellence for her involvement in negotiating a system-wide locomotive engineers' labor contract. She earned an M.B.A. and J.D. from Stetson University in 2001 and is director of labor relations for CSX Transportation.

**Jodi Ehrlich** (B.A.) became engaged to **Jeremy Weil** (B.B.A.) in December. The wedding is planned for March 2008. The couple currently resides in Jacksonville.



2000s

2001

**Chad J. Betters** (B.A.) recently graduated from the University

of Florida with his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science. He became an assistant professor at Winston-Salem State University in August. He is married to Jenna L. Jones Betters (B.S. '01), who received her Ph.D. in exercise physiology at the University of Florida.

**Jaime Dawn Rich** (B.B.A.) married Waleed Michael Eadeh in April at St. George Antiochian Greek Orthodox Church in Jacksonville. She is on leave from her job as a mortgage executive at Ameriquest Mortgage and hopes to resume work on an M.B.A. next year. He is a direct sales representative with Comcast Cable. The couple resides in Jacksonville.

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**Robyn (Sandeem) Watson**

(M.H.R.) is director of workforce development for JEA in Jacksonville. She married Doug Watson in 2006 at Casa Marina in Jacksonville Beach. They reside in Jacksonville.



2002

**Jeffrey Brewer (B.S.)** proposed to **Samantha Chewing (B.F.A.)** in June and "she happily accepted." He works as a



Department of Defense civilian electronics engineer for the Strategic Weapons Facility at the Naval Submarine Base in Kings Bay. She works at The St. Joe Company in Jacksonville as the corporate communications coordinator. Both alumni live in Fernandina Beach while they await their April 2008 wedding.

**Leah (Earl) Cygan (B.A.)** and her husband, Randy, welcomed their happy, healthy daughter, Kileigh Danielle,

in January. The new mother, who has been teaching first grade at Jacksonville Heights Elementary for the past five years, recently earned National Board Teaching Certification.



**Erin (Moody) Issac (B.A.)** recently was promoted to communications director for Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. A former spokeswoman for the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office, she handled media duties in Crist's race for governor, then, after he took office, served as his press secretary prior to her promotion. Crist describes her as "exceptionally talented."

**Katrina (Schneider) Johanning (B.A.)** and her husband, Ben, welcomed their first child, Lillie Grace, born in March.

The new mother has put her job as a kindergarten teacher at Mill Creek Elementary in Kissimmee on hold to become a stay-at-home mom. The new dad is a contract manager at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando. They reside in St. Cloud.



**Beth A. LeBlanc (B.B.A.)** married Anthony Labno in May in Bradenton. They reside in



Naples, where she works as a graphic designer at Homes and Land Magazine, and he is an assistant superintendent at The Strand Country Club.

**Heather (Stamper) Martin (B.A.)** recently was promoted to executive director of Grove House Supportive Services

Inc., a local non-profit agency assisting adults with developmental and acquired disabilities to live as independently as their abilities permit. The organization also assists with obtaining competitive employment.

2003

**Amy (Michele) Thurston (B.B.A.)** and her husband, Jamie, recently celebrated the birth of their first child. Hayley Gray Thurston was born in December.

The Thurstons live in Milton, Fla., while the new dad is serving as a Navy flight instructor in Pensacola.



2005

**Justice Kragiel (B.S.)** joined SwisherBurgos, a full-service marketing agency with offices in Jacksonville and Albuquerque in April as an account executive. Prior to joining SwisherBurgos, he worked with Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide in Atlanta and interned with Husk Jennings Galloway + Partners in Jacksonville.



**Erica Nichols (B.A.)** recently started a new job as an office assistant for Physical Facilities at UNF. By spring 2008, she plans to begin graduate courses at UNF while continuing to work full time. She resides in Atlantic Beach.

2006

**Moriah (Foster) Everson (B.S.)** announced the birth of her

daughter Eden Everson. Eden was born in May.



**Sharon Meier Lutheran (M.S.H.)** is employed as a senior public health nutritionist supervisor at the Duval County Health Department and as a clinical dietitian at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital. She resides in Jacksonville.

2007

**Jennifer Ragsdale (B.S.)** recently became marketing coordinator for Mulkey Engineers & Consultants. Working out of the company's Jacksonville office, she is responsible for the Florida region. Mulkey Engineers has offices in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Obituaries

**Nelson B. Balgos (B.B.A., 1985)** of Ponte Vedra Beach passed away in May. Born in 1938 in Capiz, Philippines, he was a retired U.S. Navy

chief warrant officer, having served for 27 years. After retiring, he continued his career as an electrical engineer with CDI Marine and Jacksonville Electric Authority. Over the past 15 years, he was a state tax auditor. He was proud that his entire family also graduated from UNF.



# Mama Mia! UNF alumni visit Italy

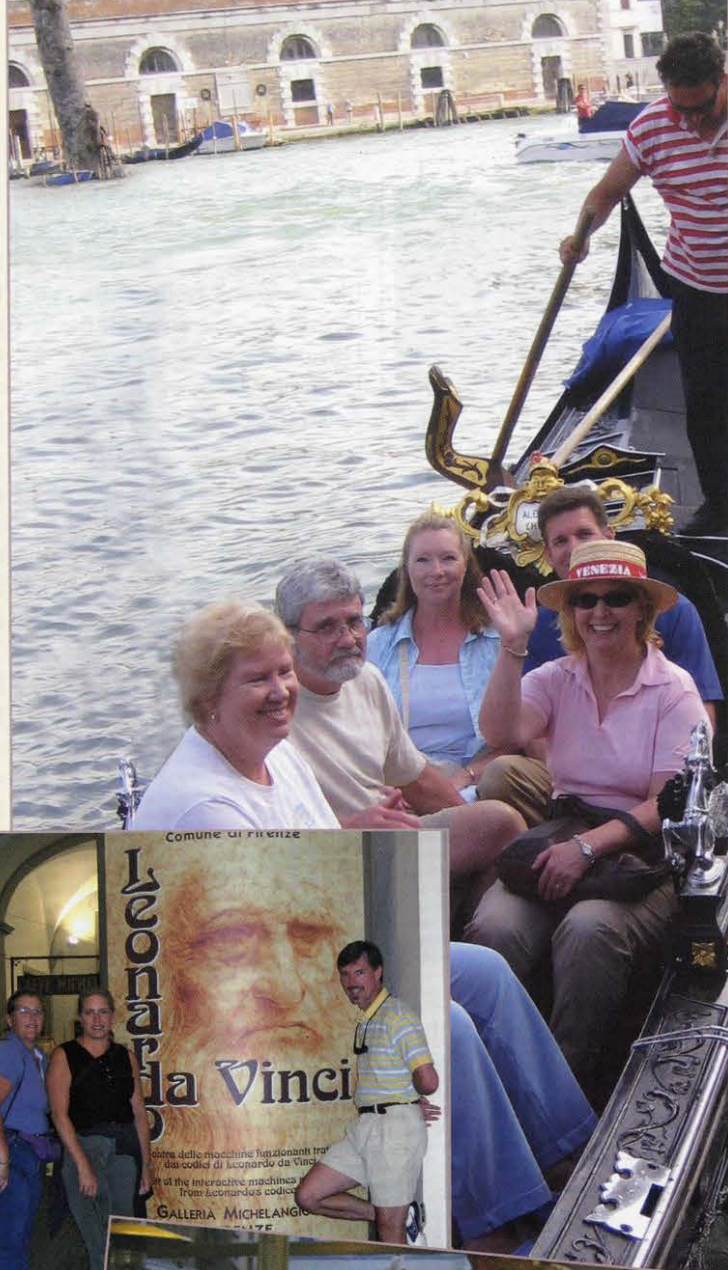
The UNF Alumni Association travel program entered its second year with an exciting trip to Italy. A group of 15 alumni and friends set off in May to explore the cities of Rome, Florence and Venice. Highlights included visits to the Coliseum, Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo's statue of David, St. Mark's Square and a gondola cruise down the Grand Canal in Venice. Lynn Brown, associate director of Alumni Services, served as a tour host.

The trip was more than just sightseeing, according to Brown. There were engaging conversations about the art and science of Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. "Alumni travelers were certainly enriched and enlightened," Brown said, "but we still had plenty of free time to shop and explore on our own."

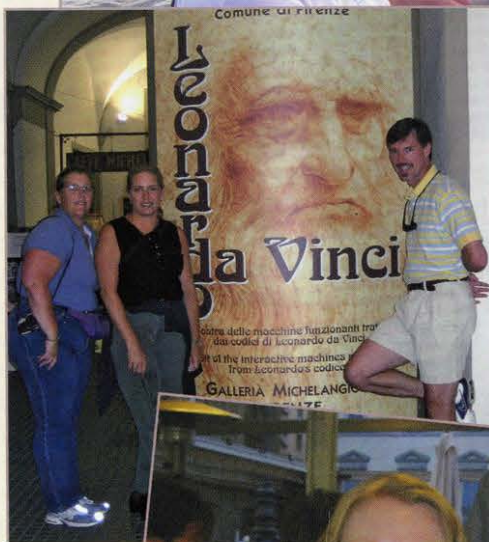
The UNF Alumni Association travel program brings together alumni whose paths normally would not cross. Along with sharing stories about UNF, Osprey travelers were especially interested in what is happening on campus today as well as the exciting plans for the future. Nina Hunter, (B.A. '77), described the entire trip as "Mama Mia!"

The UNF Alumni Association hosted another tour in August, when President John Delaney joined a group of alumni and friends on a 10-day tour of the Canadian Rockies. The trip began in Vancouver and included a spectacular train ride across the Continental Divide in Canada to Banff, which is considered to be one of the most beautiful spots on earth.

Shorter weekend trips are in the works for alumni who want to stay closer to home. Alumni interested in traveling with a fun group of Ospreys should visit [www.alumni.unf.edu](http://www.alumni.unf.edu) or call the Office of Alumni Services at (904) 620-4723 or (800) UNF-GRAD (863-4723).



Photos by Lynn Brown



## Golfers “Play a Round fore Scholarships” at inaugural UNF alumni golf tournament

The UNF Alumni Association hosted its first golf tournament at Deerwood Country Club in April. Players enjoyed a great day of golf with lunch, dinner and prizes galore. With more than 40 sponsors, 100 golfers and 25 volunteers participating, the association raised \$20,000 for scholarships and the Alumni Association. The Board voted to donate \$15,000 to the First Generation Scholarship Program, which will be matched dollar for dollar by the state of Florida. The Board set out to make the inaugural golf tournament a signature event for the Alumni Association. Co-chairs David Birkelbach and Joby Birr, the golf tournament committee and all the volunteers worked together to make this goal a reality, and their participation is greatly appreciated. Plans are already under way for the second annual golf tournament scheduled for April 21, 2008 at Deerwood.



“Play a Round fore Scholarships” golf tournament co-chairs (from left) Joby Birr (B.A. '95) and David Birkelbach (B.S. '01, M.B.A. '05)

## Remember When ... But Who?



Who are these “early birds,” and why did they win their awards? The photo was taken in May of 1977. Once upon a time, there was a bell at UNF. If anyone can solve the mystery of how it got here, where it was located, where it went, and why, we’d love to hear from you. Alumni Services will send a special gift to all who participate. Contact the Office of Alumni Services at [unf-alum@unf.edu](mailto:unf-alum@unf.edu) or (800) UNF-GRAD (863-4723) or (904) 620-4723.

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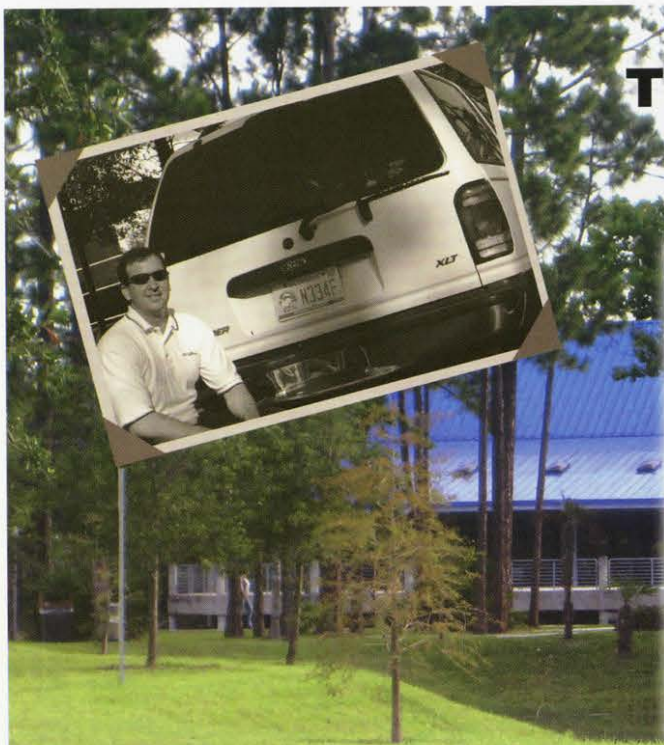


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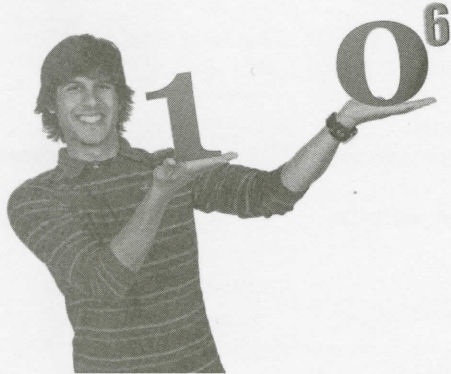
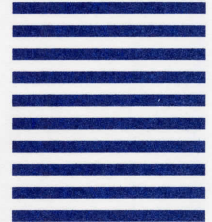
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