

alumni

# CLASnotes

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SPRING 2008



journey to the  
**white house**

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA

# CLASact

## Thy M. Nguyen

B.A., Political Science, 2001

Thy M. Nguyen is arguably one of the University of Florida's most successful young alumni. Graduating a mere seven years ago, she has earned an M.A. in strategic studies and international economics from Johns Hopkins University, and landed a job as a Foreign Affairs Officer in the Bureau for International Security and Nonproliferation. In between assignments in Austria, Vietnam, China, and Japan, she debriefed *Alumni CLASnotes* on her life at the U.S. State Department.

**ACn:** What does an average day look like for you?

**TN:** A typical day starts off with checking diplomatic reporting that has come in overnight from around the world concerning the key countries and issues I cover. Then I check to see whether I have been assigned to draft any briefing materials for my bureau leadership or department principals to prepare them for meetings, hearings, and high-level visits. Generally this includes briefing papers, press guidance, presentations and the like. If there is some kind of crisis—such as when North Korea tested a nuclear device in October 2006—then the pace and scope of work can increase exponentially, and that's when you reacquaint yourself with what it was like to pull an all-nighter in college.

**ACn:** How did CLAS prepare you for a career in public service?

**TN:** During my freshman year, I took a course with Dr. Leann Brown, who taught the Introduction to International Relations course that really piqued my interest in international relations. I also took a course with Dr. Richard Nolan on U.S. Foreign Policy, and the lectures and discussions we had on the Cold War in particular were the first time I really had a sense of American politics and policy in a global context. You learn these things in one form or another in high school, but my sense of awareness of, and appreciation for, the art of diplomacy and leadership and the impact it had on world history didn't really happen until my studies in CLAS.

**ACn:** What advice would you give a student wishing to follow in your footsteps?

**TN:** If you want to be involved in U.S. diplomacy, I think it's very helpful to have a solid grasp on U.S. and world history, international affairs, international economics, and at least one foreign society or culture. Most people who work in a policy capacity at the State Department have lived or worked overseas. But you know, there's nothing that says there's only one right way to get into foreign policy or, more broadly, international relations work. As long as you're learning, having fun, and have a sense of what you want your next step to be, you'll be in good shape, whatever career you choose.

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### About CLAS

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida is the largest college on campus, with more than 700 faculty members responsible for teaching the majority of the university's core curriculum to at least 35,000 students each year. CLAS has more than 12,000 undergraduate students pursuing a variety of disciplines through its 42 majors and 42 minors. Additionally, nearly 2,000 graduate students are attaining advanced degrees in the college.

### About Alumni CLASnotes

*Alumni CLASnotes* is published twice a year by the University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for its alumni and friends. Please send all correspondence to Editor, CLAS Dean's Office, PO Box 117300, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-7300 or editor@clas.ufl.edu.

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### on the COVER

An international student explores what it takes to become president of the United States, page 4.

JANE DOMINGUEZ



# a note from the Dean

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences occupies a beautiful section of campus that captures the origins and history of the university in its buildings and landscaping. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and donors, many of the original architectural structures have had their grace and grandeur restored. Because of its importance to the entire campus, we modify the historical district rarely. And when we do, we do so carefully.

In February, CLAS celebrated the completion of a marvelous new building, Jim and Alexis Pugh Hall, whose style respects and complements that of its neighbors. Its placement between Newell and Dauer Halls creates a new plaza and focal point, where none existed before. Thanks to the generosity of Jim and Alexis Pugh, the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service have a new state-of-the-art home. Please visit [www.ufl.oxblue.com/grahamcenter](http://www.ufl.oxblue.com/grahamcenter) to view a live shot of the building and see a time-lapse film of its construction.

CLAS formally opened the Graham Center in March. Inspired by the work of former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham, the center prepares students to assume leadership roles in addressing state and national issues. It focuses on public leadership and public service through coursework and practical experience, U.S. relations with neighbors in Latin America and the Caribbean basin, and homeland security. Through its distinguished speaker series, the center engages

the campus in considering problems facing the nation. So far this spring, the center has hosted Bob Graham, Dr. Joseph Nye, Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough, Senators Chuck Hagel and Jay Rockefeller, and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The college's primary mission is to prepare our students to assume leadership roles in resolving the challenges facing the nation. Through the Bob Gra-

ham Center for Public Service, students will have the opportunity to learn about those challenges and to work shoulder-to-shoulder with current leaders to help address them. By any measure, our students are among the most talented in the nation. If we can turn their attention to address boldly our most pressing problems, we will have helped our nation take great strides forward.

—Joe Glover, Interim Dean

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# journey to the white house

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPLORES THE MAKING OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT



Every international student at the University of Florida has a unique story about moving to Gainesville, though many share some common elements: Wandering through the massive campus in the midst of the oppressive August heat, gawking at the size of the Swamp (the football stadium, not the restaurant), and marveling at the number of alligators sunbathing in Lake Alice.

For those of us who arrived for the Fall 2007 semester, we have not only had to learn the intricacies of Gainesville and Florida culture, but have been confronted with perhaps the grandest political spectacle in the world—the race to occupy the White House.

Growing up in New Zealand, I was somewhat of an Americaphile. When the other kids were playing rugby, which is closer to a religion than a sport, I was playing basketball. When we had to do a project on someone we admired, I chose Robert Kennedy, not famed New Zealand mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary. Thus, from a young age, I became interested in the exhausting, bewildering, lavishly funded and intricate contest for the Oval Office.

Arriving in the U.S. 15 months prior to the national election—an election, as the mass media continually reminds us, that is set to be the most interesting in years—I have become a full-blown campaign news junkie. However, as an outsider still perplexed by some of the details of the American political sys-

tem, I remain intrigued by the essential question that remains to be answered in November: In terms of skills and character, what makes a president?

So, I turned to some of the experts in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who could provide insight into what specific personality traits are needed to lead the United States.

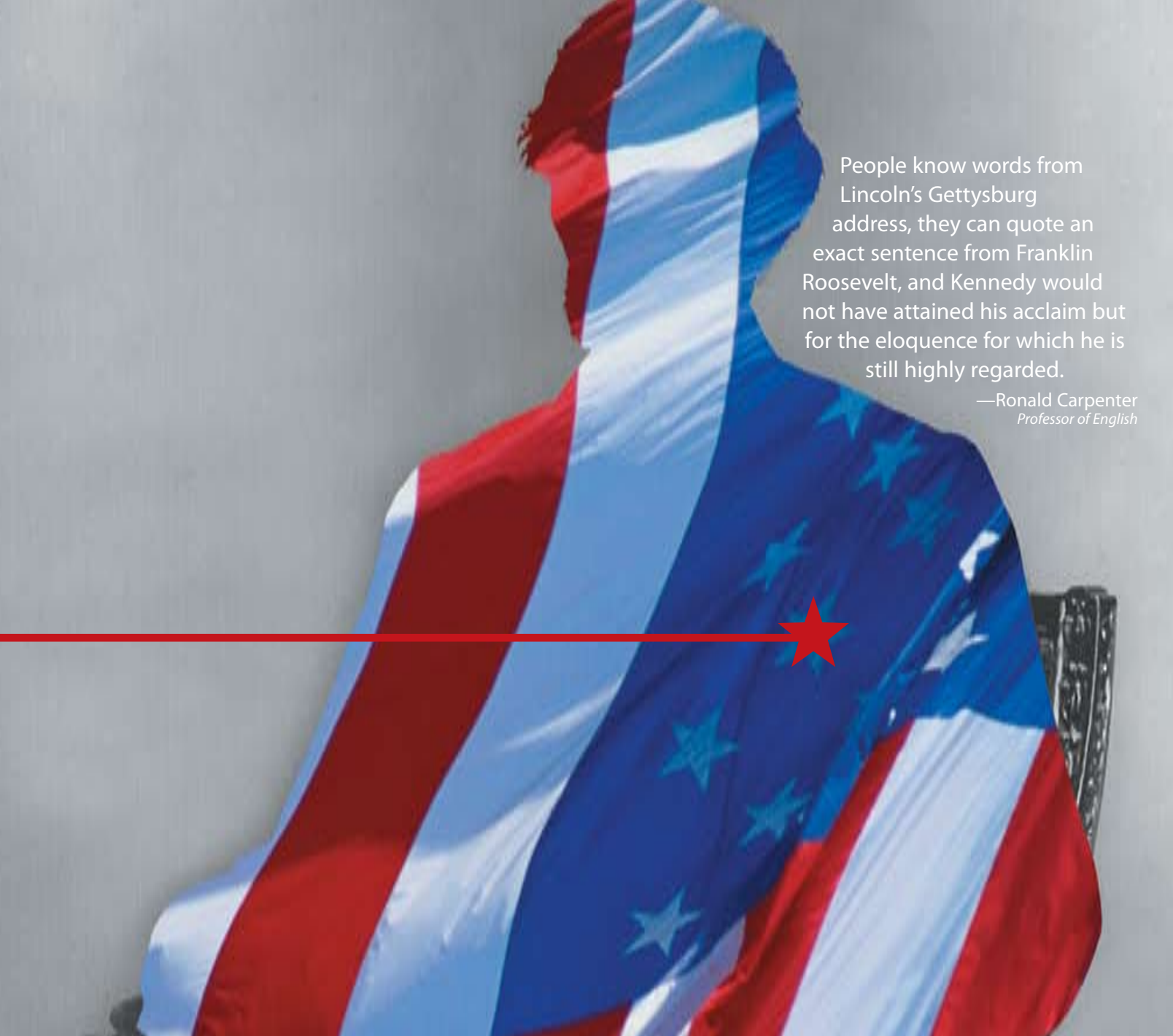
My journey took me to the office of Political Science Professor Richard S. Conley, author of a number of works on U.S. presidents, including *The Historical Dictionary of the Reagan-Bush Era* and *The Presidency, Congress, and Divided Government*. He said if there's a common factor linking the past occupants of the Oval Office, it is the basic ability to appeal to voters coupled with an inherent desire to succeed.

"To a large degree, most of our presidents have been able to connect with people, and they possess a drive and a search for excellence," Conley said, adding it is also worth remembering the "human" factor of the race to the White House. "Sometimes, people who crave the spotlight like politicians do are trying to fill a void in their own personal-

ity," he said. "And presidents, like all of us, have to conquer their own demons when they're in office."

Conley refers to the late James Barber, former Duke University political scientist known for his work exploring the psyche of presidential hopefuls, when discussing the leadership traits not always apparent to the public on the campaign trail. "Richard Nixon, for example, destroyed his opponents—he vilified people, and made lists of his enemies," Conley said. "Ronald Reagan, on the other hand, was an eternal optimist and he really didn't like to hear bad news. He would say, 'I just don't want to hear this.' Reagan's staffers learned this about him, and at times they would keep bad news from him."

The next expert on my list, Stephen C. Craig—professor and chair of the political science department and director of the UF graduate program in political campaigning—said that while each candidate claims they will follow through with their pledges, he warns voters to be wary of expecting too much from campaign promises. The highly valued characteristic of following



People know words from Lincoln's Gettysburg address, they can quote an exact sentence from Franklin Roosevelt, and Kennedy would not have attained his acclaim but for the eloquence for which he is still highly regarded.

—Ronald Carpenter  
*Professor of English*

through on election assurances is a wholly problematic proposition after winning an election.

"You can never anticipate what a president is going to be like when he or she gets into office," Craig said. "You can try and look at what they say and predict what they'll do, but it's almost impossible to know."

Even if the president-elect attempts to stay faithful to the substance of his or her rhetoric, Craig said the promises made by candidates may not be what swayed

voters in the first place. Quoting the title of a February 11 issue of *Newsweek*, Craig said, "When it is head versus heart, heart wins."

In the *Newsweek* feature, various experts from a range of disciplines described the ways in which the emotional appeal of a candidate will always trump the more logical analysis of a politician's "platform," citing the innately human tendency to follow one's gut. "That doesn't mean voters don't care about Obama's war vote or McCain's support of the

war surge," wrote reporter Sharon Begley. "They do—but not because these positions would affect them. Instead, voters evaluate how a position makes them *feel*."

Craig identifies the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush as examples of the existence of this often intangible "feel" factor among U.S. voters. "After the Carter administration, Ronald Reagan made Americans feel very proud again," he said. "In 2004, George W. Bush made people feel more secure." Professor Conley

agrees that "feel" will be a deciding factor come November. "With Bush, the message is sent that every day there is a threat. That every day, there is the possibility that the sky will fall down," Conley said. "People may be tiring of that message."

To consider what it takes to be president in the hyperactive media culture that permeates all aspects of American life in the 21st century, we may first want to go back and visit one of the watershed media moments in the history of



the republic's national electoral process—the 1960 televised presidential debates.

For a moment, imagine that we have been transported to the mid-part of the 20th century: a time of black and white television, limited network channels, and basic sound and low definition images. You are one of 70 million Americans—the largest audience in television history up to that point—tuned in on a late September evening to watch the first-ever televised debate between two men vying to occupy the most powerful political position in the world.

The candidate on the audience's right, Richard Nixon, the once little-known Republican from California who is currently serving as the country's vice presi-

dent, has bluntly ignored the advice of his campaign team by not wearing make-up—his pale face and “five o'clock shadow” facial stubble more noticeable on television than it might have otherwise been. The candidate on the left, the young senator from Massachusetts, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, is fresh from campaigning in a convertible in the Californian sun—his tan adds to the contrast between his opponent's drawn, haggard appearance and the handsomeness that is already part of the Kennedy legend.

As Professor Richard Conley reminds me, the outcome of the Nixon/Kennedy debates was a pivotal moment that affirmed the emergence of an important new campaign tool. The research surrounding the debates has moved

into the annals of media studies history: those who listened to the first debate on the radio picked Nixon as the winner, while those who watched the television broadcast of the event overwhelmingly sided with Kennedy.

To get some perspective on the significance of the 1960 Nixon/Kennedy debate and the importance of physical appearance in the age of visually based multi-media outlets like YouTube and MySpace, I consulted History Professor David Colburn, former provost of UF and director of the university's Reubin O'D Askew Institute on Politics and Society since 1994. Reflecting on visual mediums and the Nixon/Kennedy debates, Colburn predicts that, “Today, we probably wouldn't

elect Abraham Lincoln or George Washington with his wooden teeth.”

Looking back over the achievements of various administrations, Colburn sees one major trend that has shaped the role of the Commander-in-Chief, whether Republican or Democrat. “I think that the best presidents have had the best cabinets,” he said. “Abraham Lincoln was said to have had the best cabinet in the history of the presidency.” However, he said this does not change the influence that the president can wield. “The power of the office is quite stunning.”

But attempting to harness such power in what Colburn calls the “CEO approach” has often proven to be a mistake. “The one



To a large degree, most of our presidents have been able to connect with people, and they possess a drive and a search for excellence.

—Richard S. Conley  
*Professor of Political Science*

leadership style that hasn't really worked is the CEO approach, particularly by Republicans," he said, pointing to the Hoover presidency as an example. "It doesn't encourage the important exchange of ideas. It is more like, 'I'm in charge.'"

Like Colburn, English Professor Ronald Carpenter emphasized the necessity of fostering the effective exchange of ideas and communicating those ideas to the American public. A specialist on public discourse, Carpenter believes that a successful president needs to be a conduit of the greater abstract desires of Americans. "I think Americans expect leaders capable of articulating the sentiments and strong feelings that Americans have—their beliefs," said Carpenter.

Author of *Choosing Powerful Words: Eloquence that Works* and *History as*

*Rhetoric: Style, Narrative, and Persuasion*, Carpenter argues that the importance of oratorical skill is not only a necessity on the campaign trail, but is what provides the substance of great presidential legacies. "People know words from Lincoln's Gettysburg address," Carpenter said. "They can quote an exact sentence from Franklin Roosevelt, and Kennedy would not have attained his acclaim but for the eloquence for which he is still highly regarded."

Referring to Ronald Reagan's early acting career, Carpenter emphasized not only the importance of the "right" words but the ability to present them on television. "Reagan learned how to deliver lines to a camera in Hollywood," Carpenter said. "If he flubbed his lines and they had to do the shot again, the female actor could leave the set and he would deliver the lines again, by himself, to the

camera." Sophisticated communication skills have always been integral to engendering the trust and support of the American people, argues Carpenter, and television changed the dynamics.

In addition to the importance of capturing the public's attention through the Internet, both the news media and the candidates themselves have consistently trumpeted the diversity of this year's cast of presidential hopefuls. While historically presidents have not been diverse in terms of race and gender, Conley points out that presidents have traditionally come from "diverse backgrounds."

From Lyndon B. Johnson, who came from very humble roots, to the wealthy family of Bush presidents, Conley argues the second half of the 20th century has produced a list of presidents with vastly different personalities—making it difficult to identify those traits all presidents appear to share. So instead of trying to compile a precise checklist of presidential leadership qualities, Craig believes the essential questions voters need to answer for themselves are simple: "Who's got the vigor to be president and who's ready for the job?"

As the academic year comes to an end and the heat and humidity once again descend upon Gainesville, international students like myself firm up our summer plans—which for many will include trips back home, where our friends and family will want to know about our studies in America. Questions about who will be the country's next leader will inevitably arise, so we cannot help but keep one eye on the other side of summer and the imminent election.

While cynics say the electoral process is too drawn out and the incessant media coverage borders on hysteria, the campaign provides us, both international students and Americans alike, with a rare insight into this nation's collective psyche as reflected in the appeals of the politicians. At best, during the race for the highest office in the land, America's hopes and dreams, fears and insecurities, are played out in the public sphere for all of us, citizens and foreigners alike, to witness. I for one cannot wait to see what happens next.

—Christopher Garland



Christopher Garland is a graduate student in the Department of English.



Bob Graham overlooking Pugh Hall's grand lobby.

# celebrating CIVICS

## GRAHAM LAUNCHES PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

An all-star cast of political icons recently gathered on campus to celebrate the grand opening of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service. Three former Florida governors, a Pulitzer Prize winning historian and two U.S. Senators were among the participants in a week of festivities held to formally kick off the new center March 3–6.

“All great public universities have a noted public policy center,” said University President Bernie Machen during the dedication ceremony. “Now we join them.”

Following his retirement from public office in 2005, former Florida governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham—who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from UF in 1959—announced his desire to create a public leadership center at his alma mater. Named in his honor, the Graham Center for Public Service exists to foster public leadership and examine issues related to the Americas and homeland security.

“The primary mission of the Graham Center will be to prepare current and future Floridians for

effective and honorable public service,” Graham said. “The center is accomplishing this through the extensive educational resources of the University of Florida, internships and other forms of experience learning, and exposure to persons who exemplify civic and public service.”

The center currently offers an undergraduate certificate in public leadership, which enrolled its inaugural class of students in January 2007 (see page 10), and is developing bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in public policy. The center has also partnered with the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida to promote civics education in Florida’s K–12 classrooms.

“I think it is a great idea to bring together students to discuss policy issues and give them an understanding of the good things government can do,” said former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during a visit to campus hosted by the center March 26. “It is very reflective of Senator Graham and his interests.”

As the Albright visit indicates, the center serves as a magnet that attracts big names in American politics and public policy to Florida. This spring,

a distinguished list of political leaders has kept the spotlight on the university. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough, author of *Truman* and *John Adams*, gave a public lecture centered on America’s educational system, while scholar Donald Critchlow, author of *The Conservative Ascendancy: How the GOP Right Made Political History*, discussed civic engagement and modern conservatives.

Just in time for the 2008 presidential election, the center has organized a lecture series on The Path to the White House. U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., laid out “The Next President’s Agenda” in a public forum in March. A month later, *New York Times Magazine* reporter Matt Bai and Democratic campaign worker Joe Trippi debated “Media and the Presidency.”

Looking ahead to the fall, Democratic National Committee chair Howard Dean will discuss the “2008 Primaries” on September 5, while Florida Governor Charlie Crist will speak on “The Next President and Florida” on October 3. All events are free and open to the public, and alumni are encouraged to return to campus and attend.

“The center’s ability to achieve its objectives will be based on a strong foundation of support from students, faculty, alumni and the entire Gator Nation,” said Graham.

For more information on the center, visit [www.graham.centers.ufl.edu](http://www.graham.centers.ufl.edu).

—Buffy Lockette

“ I think it is a great idea to bring together students to discuss policy issues and give them an understanding of the good things government can do.”  
—former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright





# DOORS OPEN TO

# Jim and Alexis

# Pugh Hall

In the heart of the University of Florida, nestled between 98-year-old Newell and 72-year-old Dauer Halls, there's a new kid on the block energizing the historic district of campus. Jim and Alexis Pugh Hall was dedicated on February 9 and has become a focal point of campus activity.

Equipped with the latest technology and features of our time, the 40,000-square-foot facility honors its stately neighbors in its exterior design—blending the modern and traditional in a style that is all its own. It should be no surprise, then, to learn the new campus treasure was commissioned by one of the state's most prominent building professionals, Jim Pugh, and his wife Alexis, who has led a distinguished career developing multi-family housing across the nation.

"We are most impressed with the design," said Pugh, a 1963 UF building construction alumnus, in praise of the design team Ponikvar & Associates and Charles Perry Construction. "It's a new building in the old part of campus with a timeless design, so it fits in nicely among the beautiful old buildings."

The Pughs were looking for a way to contribute to the university when they learned former Florida Governor and retired U.S. Senator Bob Graham, a 1959 political science alumnus, was planning to establish the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at UF. Graham and Mr. Pugh were fraternity brothers in Sigma Nu during their undergraduate years, and even then Pugh knew he would find a way to some day give back to his alma mater.

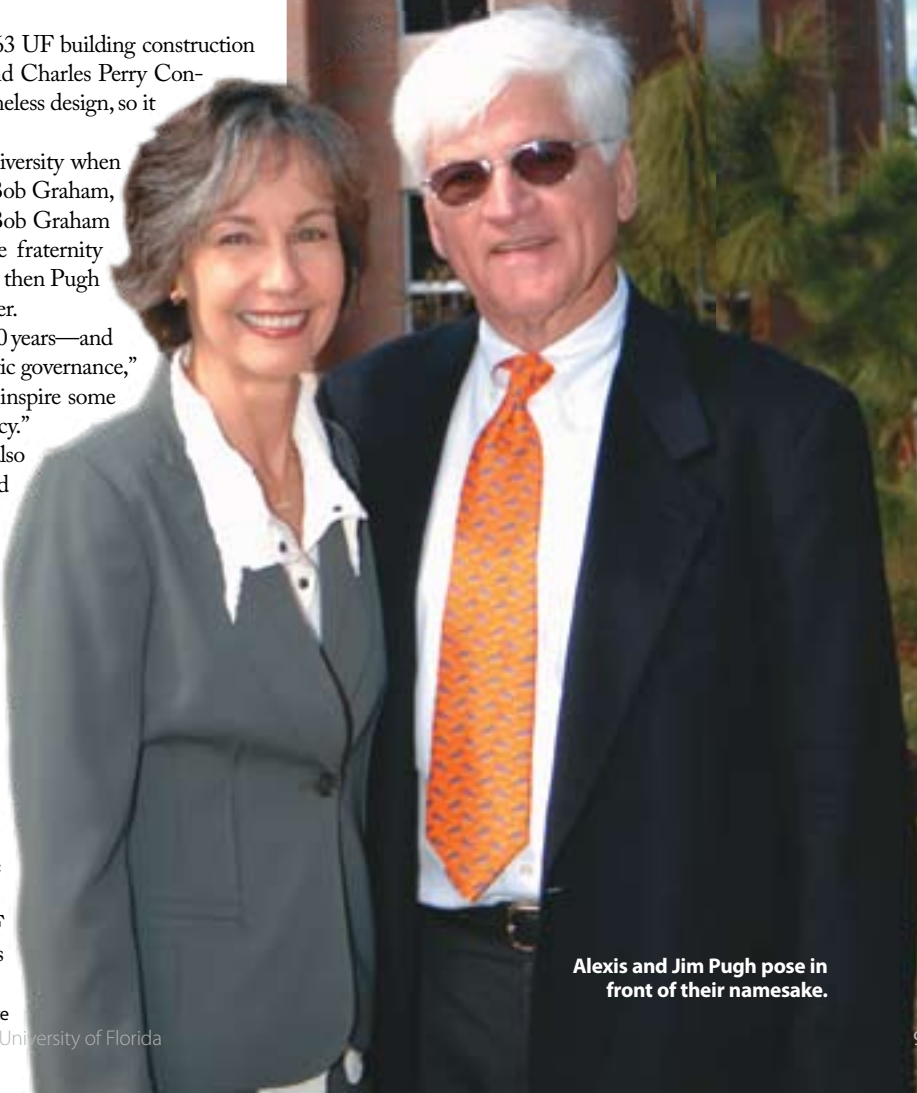
"This was a natural way to support Graham—my friend of 50 years—and the creation of a place for students to study functioning democratic governance," Pugh said. "I hope between Bob Graham, Alexis and I, we can inspire some students with this magnificent building and Bob's vision and legacy."

In addition to housing the Graham Center, Pugh Hall is also home to the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures, which promotes a better understanding of non-Western languages and cultures, and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, which preserves eyewitness accounts of Florida history. These three programs unite in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' mission to advance the understanding of our world and our place within it.

Classes began meeting in Pugh Hall at the beginning of the spring semester in January, and more than 200 people gathered to celebrate its grand opening a month later. Mr. and Mrs. Pugh surprised the audience during the ceremony by pledging another \$1 million to name the building's auditorium in honor of former Florida Governor Buddy MacKay, and his wife Ann. All who participated in the event noted the humble generosity of the Pughs.

"The word philanthropist is a very important word," said UF President Bernie Machen. "It means to do good with the resources they have on this earth, and that's what they have done."

—Buffy Lockette



Alexis and Jim Pugh pose in front of their namesake.



# Leading tomorrow

## GRAHAM CENTER STUDENTS PREPARE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

“Poor public leadership is damaging to the future of our country.

The **next generation** cannot simply sit back and wait for change—we **must actively participate** and **provoke change.**”

—Logan Perel

After reading Senator Bob Graham’s 2004 book *Intelligence Matters*, Logan Perel knew he wanted to dedicate himself to a life of public service. Luckily, the Delray Beach native didn’t have to go far to pursue the kind of training he will need as a future policy maker. The Bob Graham Center for Public Service has launched a certificate program in public leadership aimed at training tomorrow’s public leaders and Perel was one of the first students to enroll.

“Poor public leadership is damaging to the future of our country,” said Perel, a political science major. “The next generation cannot simply sit back and wait for change—we must actively participate and provoke change.”

Through coursework and practical experience, Graham Center students gain the skills and knowledge necessary for effective and ethical leadership careers. The certificate has been designed to complement major programs offered across the university, including the natural sciences, humani-

ties, social sciences, journalism, and business. Its alumni are expected to go into a wide variety of fields, in addition to law, politics and government work.

“Many students will be working in the private sector, but questions of governing and public policy touch all our lives and this program can give students some of the tools they need to understand these issues,” said David Hedge, political science professor and academic programs director for the Graham Center. “The idea is that the problems governments face are not one-dimensional. We need to look at policy problems from different perspectives and draw upon various disciplines.”

Jessica Hand, a political science major pursuing a minor in agriculture and natural resource policy, said she decided to enroll in the program to prepare for a future in county or city politics. “I intend to pursue a master’s degree in urban and regional planning and then return to my hometown to work as a public planner,” Hand said. “I also would like to run for a county office, because I feel that there is currently a lack of leadership in



Retired U.S. Senator Bob Graham chats with a group of students enrolled in the center's public leadership program.

the local government where I am from. I believe that earning this certificate is the first step towards preparing me to fill that void."

Political science and history double major Sara Meerow believes the program will prepare her for law school. "I enrolled because I am interested in public policy, wanted to hone my leadership skills and intern in politics, and because I have always admired Bob Graham," she said.

To apply, students must have a minimum 3.25 GPA and have already completed the university's general education requirements. Once enrolled, they are expected to earn 18 hours of credit in public affairs courses, including Writing for Public Leadership, Florida Since 1845, Economics and Public Policy, and Current Controversies in Public Policy. They also must complete a public affairs internship. Outside the classroom, Graham students benefit from the diverse list of speakers the center brings to campus—rubbing elbows

with local, state and national leaders (*see page 8*).

"The theory that is taught in class is complemented by the experiences of the speakers that the Graham Center brings in," said Ben Cavataro, a political science major and religion minor. "I joined the program to learn from both theorists and practitioners."

The center is in the process of designing bachelor's and master's degree programs in public policy. For now, Hedge says the certificate in public leadership will continue to evolve according to student demand and interest. Although the program has only been in place for a year, two dozen students have been recruited and are taking policy courses and serving as interns at the local, state, national, and even international levels. "The students are amazing," Hedge said. "These are very bright individuals who care deeply about critical policy issues."

—Buffy Lockette & Heather Read

Spring 2008 Alumni CLASnotes, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida

## Mastering Politics

In addition to the Graham Center's new undergraduate certificate in public leadership, the UF Department of Political Science offers a Master of Arts degree in political science with a special emphasis on political campaigning and practical politics. The goal of this bipartisan program is to provide students with knowledge and skills relevant to a wide variety of political roles, including: running for public office, campaign management, opinion polling, media, public relations, political and private-sector fundraising, grassroots mobilization, lobbying and issue advocacy, international consulting, and serving as an aide to government officials.

The program is designed to provide students with the basic skills, insights and experiences critical for success in the ever-changing profession of politics and political consulting. Unlike other programs in professional politics, the University of Florida's M.A. in political campaigning combines the best of both academic study and practical experience. By incorporating academic study in the fields of voting behavior, political participation, public opinion, and political communications; students are presented with a sound theoretical basis that can be used to better understand the "how and why" of political campaigns.

Alumni include Florida's former Assistant Secretary of State David Rancourt (M.A., 1990) and Shannon McAleavey (M.A., 1994), Vice President of Government Relations at Walt Disney World. U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., who earned an M.A. from the program in 1990, said it gave her a strong foundation for her career in public service.

"My degree certainly caught the eye of elected officials when I first looked for a job," Schultz said. "And the experiences I had as a student, particularly the opportunity to wage a mock campaign, helped give me the confidence I needed to run for office myself."

For more information about the program, visit [www.polisci.ufl.edu/campaign](http://www.polisci.ufl.edu/campaign).

on the sidelines  
of history:  
ENGLISH  
ALUMNUS  
DOUG BAND  
SERVES AS  
CLINTON'S  
TOP ADVISER

Playing golf with Tiger Woods, sipping tea with the Queen of England and having dinner with Nelson Mandela are experiences most of us can only dream about. For English alumnus Doug Band, personal adviser to former U.S. President Bill Clinton, they're perks of the job. But while he may have enjoyed having Paul McCartney sing to him on his 30th birthday, he keeps his ego in check, "Often I think people get caught up in positions like these and forget what this is all about: making a difference and helping people."

Band has worked for Clinton for more than 12 years, starting out as a White House intern in 1995 shortly after receiving a B.A. in English from UF the same year. He worked his way up through the ranks, becoming the youngest deputy assistant ever to serve a president before concluding his last year in the Oval Office as the President's Aide. Along the way, he managed to earn a law degree and a master's in liberal arts from Georgetown University, taking night classes while working full-time at the White House.

"You break into this kind of work by believing in the inherent value and good of public service," Band said. "You get out of it what you put into it, which is a valuable lesson I learned at UF. Hard work, determination and being driven to help other people have been key factors in getting to where I am."

Today Band is regarded as Clinton's closest adviser—his right-hand man, so to speak. He manages every aspect of the former president's life, from meetings with world dignitaries to joining him on family vacations. If you see Clinton in the news, you are highly likely to catch a glimpse of Band in the background. He's even pictured on the back cover of Clinton's 2004 autobiography, *My Life*.

Over the years Band has racked up many stamps in his passport—visiting 92 countries, 750 cities and every state in the U.S. He lives out of a suitcase, traveling at least 200 days a year, and has grown accustomed to 18-hour workdays. His itinerary is so jammed packed, in fact, he had to complete the interview for this story via BlackBerry on a flight back from London. While this grueling schedule might seem like a small price to pay in exchange for the opportunity meet the occasional rock star like U2's Bono, the reason Band sticks around goes much deeper.

"The thing I most enjoy in my job is helping people," he said. "I have been able to remain behind the scenes, making a difference and changing people's lives."

As the mastermind of the Clinton Global Initiative, Band has helped raised \$30 billion in the past three years alone to be used around the world to combat global warming, alleviate poverty, improve education, fight AIDS and address other pressing health concerns. He presented the idea to the Clintons in 2002 and they let him plan, develop and initiate the project, which has become the center of Clinton's White House afterlife.

Essentially the architect of Clinton's post-presidency, Band is called upon by other retiring world leaders, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair,

for advice on making the transition back into private life. As Clinton himself recently commented to *Alumni CLASnotes* through e-mail, "I couldn't have done half of what I have done in my post-presidency without him."

Band was born and raised in Sarasota, Florida. The youngest of four sons, he followed in the footsteps of two of his older brothers, Greg and Roger, when he became a student at UF. Greg Band earned a law degree from the university in 1990 and practices in Sarasota. Dr. Roger Band received a B.S. in microbiology in 1994 before earning an M.D. from Thomas Jefferson Medical College in 2001. He joins Doug and Clinton on international trips as Clinton's road physician.

As an undergraduate, Band served as vice president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, president of the Inter-Fraternity Council and a member of Florida Blue Key. He also interned in D.C. for Congressman Dan Miller, R-Fla. Myra Morgan, Director of External Relations in the UF Division of Student Affairs, has known Band since he was an undergraduate and remains one of his close friends and mentors. "He was always a kid who had great ideas and a great vision," she said. "I wasn't exactly sure what he was going to be, but I knew we'd all look back one day and say 'Wow, we knew him when.'"

Though his career often keeps him a world away from UF, Band is very proud of his alma mater. He visits campus as often as he can, flying down to meet his brothers for at least one Gator football game each season. Proud of the high quality of students UF produces, he regularly introduces fellow alumni to Clinton—like in March, when seven UF alumni attended the launch of Clinton Global Initiative University in New Orleans. Band was also highly influential in getting Clinton to come to UF as an ACCENT speaker in 2003.

"I don't think there are words to describe my time at UF," Band said. "It is not just an institution of higher learning, it's a community, a family—one that helped further the principles, ethics and morals that I had been taught all of my life."

Morgan and a delegation of his childhood and college friends flew to Paris in August to attend Band's wedding to successful handbag designer and entrepreneur Lily Raffi. Dozens of Gators joined Bill and Chelsea Clinton in celebrating the couple's nuptials. The newlyweds can't wait to start a family of their own, but when asked whether the firstborn will be named after one of the Clintons, Band said, "Not a chance! It's going to be Albert or Alberta of course, at least that's what I'm trying to ease my wife into."

—Buffy Lockette

“ I couldn't have done half of what I have done in my post-presidency without him. ”

—President Bill Clinton



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# updates from

# CLASmates

## 1950s

**Harold Klapper** (B.A., Political Science, 1959) is on counsel at Boies Schiller & Flexner, a litigation firm in New York City. He holds the honor of being the first National Debate Champion at UF.

## 1960s

**Charles E. "Abe" Abramson** (B.A., History, 1963) is a commercial real estate broker who has just completed six years on the Medical Staff Ethics Committee at Missoula, Montana's Saint Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center, where he continues to serve on the Joint Institutional Review Board. He is also a founding trustee of the Missoula Public Library Foundation and serves on Montana's Board of Realty Regulation.

**Shere Hite** (B.A. and M.A., History, 1967 and 1969) has published several books over the years, including *The Hite Report: A Nationwide Study of Female Sexuality* and *The Hite Report on Male Sexuality*. She lives in London and is a newspaper columnist for several publications around the world.

**John Arthur Marshall** (B.S., Geology, 1963) is president of the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, established to honor the late Arthur R. Marshall (B.S. Biology, 1953), an ecologist and Everglades restoration pioneer. The foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary in March.

**Darrell A. Simmons** (B.A., English, 1961) has published a novel, *Daily Double Cross*.

**Joseph Horn Thomas** (B.A. and M.A., History, 1962 and 1969) is an adjunct history professor on Edison College's Lee Campus in Fort Myers, Florida, where he serves as faculty adviser to the Omicron Epsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

**Billy M. Thornton** (B.A., Mathematics, 1963) holds an M.S. in systems engineering from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University. He recently retired from Colorado State University, where he served as a business professor for 26 years.

## 1970s

**Patricia J. Amick** (M.S., Physics, 1978) was recently promoted to Technical Fellow in the area of Electronics Manufacturing at the Boeing Company. She also received an international electronics industry award this year.

**Colette Mullaney Bancroft** (M.A., English, 1975) is the book editor of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

**Steven "Ed" Cox** (B.A., English, 1977) is a high school English teacher in the

Oviedo, Florida area.

**Fred Gahr, Jr.** (B.A., Psychology, 1973) has converted to the Sikh/Yogic way of life and is now known as Gurukirn S. Khalsa. He is co-owner and national sales manager of Soothing Touch, a Santa Fe, New Mexico based manufacturer of massage and spa products.

**David Jaffee** (B.A., Political Science, 1977) is assistant vice president for undergraduate studies and a professor of sociology at the University of North Florida.

**Barry M. Kay** (B.S., Psychology, 1977) has been named president of the Chamber of Commerce of Hollywood, Florida. He holds an optometry degree from the Pennsylvania School of Optometry.

**Kenneth F. Kiple** (Ph.D., History, 1970) recently retired as a distinguished university professor of history from Bowling Green State University. He has authored or edited a dozen books, including the recently published *The Movable Feast: Ten Millennia of Food Globalization*.

**Col. Michael L. Neveaux** (B.S., Mathematics, 1970) spent five years in active duty as an Army aviator, retired after 24 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, and has spent 34 years as chief pilot of the Los Angeles Police Department's Air Support Division.

**Joyce M. Romanski** (B.A., Psychology, 1979) went on to pursue a master's in English education and an educational specialist degree in curriculum and instruction from UF. She taught for 25 years at North Marion Middle School in Citra, Florida and recently published a novel for adolescents, *Redfield Alma Mater: No More Teachers' Dirty Looks*. She also teaches composition at Central Florida Community College.

## 1980s

**Bob Andelman** (B.A., Film Studies, 1982) authored *Will Eisner: A Spirited Life* in 2005 and is the producer of the *Mr. Media* podcast.

**David R. Atherton** (Ph.D., Chemistry, 1984) is principal materials scientist at Exide Technologies, a leading acid battery manufacturing company. He resides in Johnson City, Tennessee.

**Tina Brier** (B.A., History, 1982) earned a law degree from Fordham University in 1989 and is chief contract negotiator and director of classified personnel for the Berkeley Unified School District in Berkeley, California.

**Michael A. Downs** (B.A., Economics, 1980) is president and CEO of the United Church of Christ Pension Board, which serves 22,000 clergy and staff employees and manages \$3.2 billion in assets.

**Scott Gordon** (B.A., Criminal Justice, 1987) recently promoted from an overseas assignment in Bangkok, Thailand to become the resident agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Tacoma Resident Office in Tacoma, Washington.

**Ray de Lugo, Jr.** (B.A., Political Science, 1984) works for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida in the Jacksonville corporate headquarters as the senior commodities consultant. He is working in the Purchasing Division focusing on construction, facilities and contract management.

**Lisa Cohen Minnick** (B.A., English, 1988) is an assistant professor of English language and linguistics at Western Michigan University. Her book, *Dialect and Dichotomy: Literary Representations of Speech* was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title in 2006.

**Jack Morey** (B.S., Economics, 1987) has been included for the second consecutive year on *Bank Investment Consultant Magazine's* list of top 50 bank financial advisers in the nation. Working at SunTrust Investment Services in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, he has been educating clients for over 12 years on investment planning and preparing for their financial futures.

**Donovan D. Mouton** (B.A., Political Science, 1980) is a program director with the One Economy Corporation, managing the Kansas region, including the growth and development of its web media properties and on-the-ground digital inclusion programs. Prior to joining the corporation, he served as Director of Urban Affairs and Public Advocacy under Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Kay Barnes.

**John M. Roberts** (M.A., Political Science, 1988) has been appointed to the policy committee of the Corporate Executive Board, a Washington, D.C. based business advisory firm.

**Dawn Marie Rubio** (B.S., Psychology, 1985) received a law degree from UF in 1988 and is an attorney and the principal court consultant for the National Center for State Courts.

**James D. Scott** (B.S., Zoology, 1989) earned a master's in education from UF in 1991, as well as a Pharm.D. in 1994. He received tenure and was promoted to associate professor at the Western University of Health Sciences' College of Pharmacy in Los Angeles, California.

**R. Keith Stayer** (B.A., Political Science, 1988) is a vice president and private banker for Synovus Bank of Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Monica Sutton** (B.A., Psychology, 1982) is test administrator at the Langley Air Force Base Education Center,

where she was recently recognized as employee of the month for the entire base. She also works for Hospice at Riverside Hospital.

**Deb Thalasis** (B.A. and M.A., Political Science and Public Administration, 1980 and 1981) is assistant town manager of Marana, Arizona, a high growth community just outside of Tucson.

**Michael Tichenor** (B.A., Political Science, 1986) has been promoted to the Juvenile Division in the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office.

**John V. Tucker** (B.A., Philosophy, 1988) received a law degree from UF in 1991 and practices with Tucker & Luddin, P.A. in Clearwater, Florida, where he is the managing shareholder. He was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Mid-Florida Chapter.

**Kerry S. Waldron** (B.A., Political Science, 1986) recently published a motivational book, *Loving Life and Living Large: A Commonsense Approach to Successful Living*.

## 1990s

**Todd H. Albert** (B.S., Geography, 1998) was awarded a NASA Graduate Research Fellowship in 2001 and an Innovative Research Program grant in 2002. He received his Ph.D. in 2007 and is now teaching at Bowling Green State University.

**Joseph N. Alexander** (B.A., Criminal Justice, 1996) is a civil litigator with Potter, Clement, Lowry & Duncan in Mount Dora, Florida.

**Armando A. Olmedo Arias** (B.A., History, 1992) is vice president and senior legal counsel for Univision Communications, Inc. In March he received a "People of the Year" award from the Organization of Iberoamerican Journalists in Madrid, Spain.

**Douglas A. Barlow** (B.S., Physics, 1996) is an assistant professor of physics at Westmont College. He got married in December of 2007 to Evelyn M. Calhoun. The couple reside in Santa Barbara, California.

**Lindsey Keller Berjansky** (B.A., Sociology, 1996) has received a master's in counseling and development from George Mason University and a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from George Washington University.

**Mike Campbell** (Ph.D., Psychology, 1998) is on the faculty of the University of the West Indies in Cave Hill, Barbados, where he lectures in behavioral science and psychology in the School of Clinical Medicine and Research.

**Jorge A. Cervera** (B.A., English, 1992) is sales/product manager and website copywriter for HeadPhone.com, the

world's largest online headphone shop and headphone audio manufacturer, based in Bozeman, Montana.

**Caryn Slovenski Clark** (B.A., English, 1994) is a voice-over actress and can be heard all over the country on radio and television commercials, as well as in corporate and web narrations.

**Leanne Dolin** (B.S., History, 1998) earned a law degree from UF in 2001 and works as a staff attorney for a trial judge in Atlanta. Three of her cases have been nationally televised.

**Howard L. Glass** (B.S., Psychology, 1993) received a law degree from the University of Houston in 1997 and practiced law from 1997–2000 before returning to Florida to teach.

**Tracy S. Greenberg** (B.A., Criminal Justice, 1996) received a law degree from the University of Texas in 1999 and is on the corporate counsel of Marriott International, Inc.

**Yoni Leviatan** (B.A., Criminology, 1999) is an accomplished independent recording artist. His debut album, *Extra Credit*, was released in 2007 and he has licensed songs to MTV, Oxygen Network and PBS. He is currently touring the college circuit. Visit his fan club at [www.songsofyon.com](http://www.songsofyon.com).

**Claire K. Mazur** (B.A., Sociology, 1997; M.A., Political Science, 1999) is a Chief Legislative Analyst with the Florida Legislature.

**Lowell Nieporent** (B.A., Geography, 1997) has received an M.S. in instructional systems design from Florida State University.

**Peg O'Connor** (B.A., Criminology, 1993) earned a master's in sociology and a law degree from UF in 1998. Having completed a three-year clerkship with U.S. District Judge Stephan P. Mickle, Northern District of Florida, she is now in private practice focusing on high-level criminal defense issues.

**John Paré** (B.A., Political Science, 1991) holds a law degree from George Washington University and serves as Deputy Attorney General for the Central Florida Region for Florida's Attorney General.

**Teresa Schaller** (B.A., Criminal Justice, 1995) has received an M.B.A. from Florida Atlantic University with a certificate in international business management.

**Jennifer Schultz** (B.A., German, 1992) earned a master's in education from UF in 1994 and an education specialist degree from Georgia State University in 2007. She was recently awarded the Florida Language Association Foreign Language Teacher of the Year Award for Georgia.

**Robert J. Sniffen** (B.A., Political Science, 1990) has received and managing partner of Sniffen Law Firm, P.A. in Tallahassee. The firm represents em-

ployers in labor and employment law matters, and also represents clients in commercial and administrative litigation, property taxation, construction litigation and license defense matters.

**Kristen Williams** (B.A., Political Science, 1999) works in medical sales in Jacksonville, Florida. She recently competed in the Dexter Jackson Classic Women's Figure Show and placed fifth. She was also selected as Miss December for the 2008 *Lex and Terry Calendar*.

## 2000s

**Bret William Adams** (B.S., Physics, 2007) is a patent examiner in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Brooke Bass** (B.A., Economics, 2002) earned an M.S. in business administration in 2005 and recently opened Keller Williams Gainesville Realty in Haile Plantation. The *Wall Street Journal* and *REAL Trends* named her one of 2007's Top 200 Real Estate Professionals.

**Rachel Bird** (B.A., Sociology, 2004) received an M.A. in education policy studies from George Washington University in 2006 and is currently the policy and research coordinator for the Strong American Schools campaign in Washington, D.C.

**Jerome V. Cerdan** (B.S., Microbiology and Cell Science, 2001) completed a doctorate in dental medicine at Temple University in May 2006 and is serving as a dentist in the U.S. Navy, based in Okinawa, Japan.

**Christina Chambers** (B.A., Political Science, 2007) received a B.S. in public relations from UF and is working at an Orlando public relations agency.

**Scott Chase** (B.A., History, 2002) is metro aquatics director at the North Central Florida YMCA in Gainesville.

**Tracie Nicole Cohens** (B.A., Sociology, 2004) received a master's degree in counseling and works in Gainesville as a clinical behavior specialist, helping individuals who are developmentally disabled.

**Patrick Cosgriff** (B.A., Political Science, 2001) holds an M.B.A. from UF and is currently managing consultant for IBM's Global Business Services.

**Victoria Eads** (B.A., Religion, 2006) is pursuing a nursing degree in Texas. She has been invited to join Sigma Theta Tau and was voted by her instructors to be one of 40 undergraduate and graduate students to join Who's Who of America's Colleges.

**Jason Donald Graham** (B.A., Classical Studies, 2001) has completed an M.B.A. at Rollins College.

**Bridget Felicetty Healy** (B.A., English, 2004) is pursuing dual master's

degrees in public administration and non-profit management at the University of Central Florida. She also works part-time as manager of new business development at the university's Community Service Center.

**Andrea Hobbs** (B.S., Psychology, 2005) received her master's and education specialist degrees in school psychology from Florida State University in April 2008.

**Derrick "Hoeb" Hoeben** (M.F.A., Creative Writing, 2007) is an assistant professor of English at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina. He recently published flash fiction stories and is working on a novel.

**Laura Santurri Holmes** (B.S., Psychology, 2001) earned an M.S. in occupational therapy from Florida International University in 2004 and works in pediatric occupational therapy.

**Travis Horn** (B.A., Political Science, 2000) earned a law degree from UF in 2005 and has accepted a position with Austin, Ley, Roe & Patsko, P.A., serving the Tampa/ St. Petersburg area.

**Harrison Hove** (B.A., Political Science, 2005) received a B.S. in meteorology from Florida State University in 2007 and is the weekend meteorologist at KLFY-TV, the CBS affiliate serving Lafayette, Louisiana.

**Aisha Khan** (B.S., Microbiology and Cell Science, 2006) is a first-year medical student at Nova Southeastern University.

**Chastity (Baker) Kolb** (B.A., Sociology, 2005) is a legislative analyst for the New York State Assembly, working in the areas of social services, children and families, election law, and real property taxation.

**Alexis Bramlett Lombard** (B.A., Sociology, 2006) is a second-year law student at Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida.

**Brianne N. Loomis** (B.A., Communication Sciences and Disorders, 2002) received a doctorate in audiology from Northwestern University in 2006 and is a pediatric audiologist for The Hearing Centers in Tennessee. She is also the proud mother of one-year-old Aine Lea Douglas Loomis.

**Kathryn D. Masters** (B.A., Anthropology and Political Science, 2004) had a busy year in 2007, earning a law degree from George Washington University, getting sworn in to the Virginian bar, and marrying Austin Barile.

**Michele Murphy** (B.A., Criminology, 2004) graduated from Harvard University's law school in 2007 and is an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in New York City.

**Lan Nguyen** (B.A., Sociology, 2003) recently earned an M.B.A. from Nash-

*continued on page 16*



Tony Blair & Barbara J. Stephenson

COURTESY BARBARA J. STEPHENSON

## English alumna Barbara J. Stephenson

has been nominated by President George W. Bush to serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to the Republic of Panama. She is currently awaiting Senate confirmation.

"When I started my diplomatic career—and I joined A-100, the name of the entering class for new diplomats, the very next day after I defended my doctoral dissertation at the University of Florida—experienced, senior diplomats came in to talk to us about the dream of making ambassador one day, noting how few of us would make it," said Stephenson. "I am deeply grateful to the President and the Secretary of State for the unforgettable honor of nominating me to be ambassador to Panama, a country I came to love during my first diplomatic assignment 20 years ago."

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Stephenson currently serves as Deputy Coordinator for Iraq at the Department of State. Prior to this, she served as a Principal Officer in Belfast and as a Political and Economic Officer in Panama. She holds a bachelor's, master's and Ph.D.—all in English—from the University of Florida.

Look for a full feature on Stephenson in the Fall 2008 issue.

## send us your updates

Let us know what you're up to by completing an update form online at [www.clas.ufl.edu/alumni/](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/alumni/). Want to promote your new book? E-mail the cover art and jacket information to [editor@clas.ufl.edu](mailto:editor@clas.ufl.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!



1983

## Where Are They Now?

### Charlotte Mather: First Woman Elected President of Student Government

Charlotte Mather made UF history in 1983 when she became the first woman ever elected student body president at the university. Now, 25 years later, the political science alumna is using her legislative experience as Vice President of Government Relations and Community/Public Affairs for Broward Health.

“Winning that election showed me I could accomplish whatever I wanted with hard work, dedication and belief,” said Mather. “The odds were against me because no organized groups would support a woman, but I was so focused and so were my supporters that we just believed we were going to win. A lot of great people worked hard on that campaign, and it takes a team to accomplish the goal.”

Mather’s team in the North Broward Hospital District handles legislative affairs, corporate sponsorships, community relations, public relations, and multicultural affairs. Before she went to work for the organization in 1996, she served in several roles including legislative assistant to Florida Sen. Tom McPherson, executive director of the Broward Legislative Delegation, and government relations director for a Fort Lauderdale law firm. She received an M.B.A. from Nova Southeastern University in 2007.

—Buffy Lockette



2008

...continued from page 15

tional University, specializing in human resource management.

**John Pasden** (B.A., East Asian Languages and Literatures, 2000) lives in China, where he has become fluent in Mandarin and teaches English classes. He will soon graduate from East China Normal University with a master’s degree in applied linguistics. He also works for ChinesePod, an educational podcast company, and serves as senior product manager for its corporate parent, Praxis Language.

**Dahlia Reed** (B.A., History, 2002) holds a master’s degree in Jewish studies from Oxford University and a master’s in international affairs from the George Washington University. She lives in Washington, D.C. and works as a legislative aide for U.S. Senator Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), focusing on defense and foreign policy issues.

**Robert Saccenti** (B.A., English, 2002) is currently living in Los Angeles, working as an art director on the CBS television show *Big Brother*.

**Emmy Schiel** (B.A., Political Science, 2006) is pursuing a master’s degree in accounting at Nova Southeastern University.

**Randall Stephens** (Ph.D., History, 2003) is an assistant professor of history at Eastern Nazarene College and a 2007–2009 Young Scholar of American Religion at Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis. Harvard University Press recently published his book, *The Fire Spreads: Holiness and Pentecostalism in the American South*.

**Dr. Lauren Stern** (B.S., Zoology, 2001) earned her M.D. from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 2005 and is in the last year of her residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, where she will become a fellow of the Division of Nephrology effective July 2008.

**Stephanie Sullivan** (B.A., English, 2006) works in foundation relations in the Office of Development at Rollins College. She is pursuing an M.A. in art history from Florida State University.

**Kimberly Treadwell** (B.A., English, 2007) is a legal administrative assistant at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, one of Washington D.C.’s largest law firms.

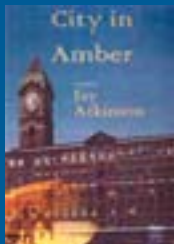
**Jessica Tudor** (B.A., Anthropology, 2005) lives in San Francisco, California, where she works as an archaeological field technician in the cultural resource management field. She’s applying to graduate schools in archaeology and is engaged to be married.

**David E. Winchester** (B.S. and B.A., Microbiology and Sociology, 2000) is preparing to complete a residency in internal medicine and will be returning to UF to accept a cardiology fellowship in July 2008.

**Michelle Zambrana** (B.A., English, 2007) is the National Institute of Justice Research Project Coordinator at Florida International University’s Stempel School of Public Health.

## alumni bookshelf

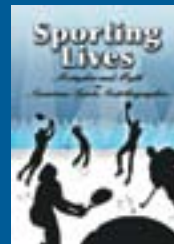
**City in Amber** by Jay Atkinson, M.A., English, 1982. This work of historical fiction shines the spotlight on the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, a planned industrial city built around the cloth and garment industry. The reader will be pleased and surprised to find nearly mystical threads connecting generations: Ah, that’s what happened to those solid gold cuff links!



**Image Collections: From Chauvet-Pont-d’Arc to Flickr** by Howard Greisdorf, B.S., Psychology, 1963. Human beings have always had a penchant for collecting images. This book presents an interdisciplinary approach to the principles, practices and belief systems underlying categorization and image management.



**Sporting Lives: Metaphor and Myth in American Sports** by James W. Pipkin, Jr., B.A., English, 1966. This book follows well-know athletes from the echoing green of eternal youth to the sometimes cult-like and isolated status of fame, shedding light on the day all athletes dread: when their bodies betray them and the cheering stops.



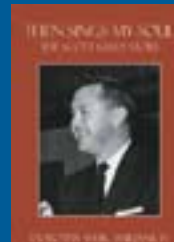
**Nobody’s Perfect! A Critique of Modern American Society** by Richard W. Glukstad, B.A., History, 1971. This book is a constructive critique of America, done out of patriotism and love of country. It is not intended to be a complete makeover of America, but rather a way to save what’s great and enhance what may be improved.



**My Mother Wears Combat Boots: A Parenting Guide for the Rest of Us** by Jessica Mills, B.A., English, 1992. Disappointed by existing parenting books, the author tackles the issues faced by a new generation of parents. Based on extensive research and much trial and error, this book delivers advice for parents of all stripes.



**Then Sings My Soul: The Scott Kelly Story** by Dorothy W. Smiljanich, B.A. & M.A., English, 1969 & 1971. This biography of a Florida Senator from Polk County who was nearly elected governor in 1964 and 1966 offers insight into the public and private sides of his fascinating, sometimes troubled life.





# CLAS *tomorrow*

## THE HEART OF THE GATOR NATION!

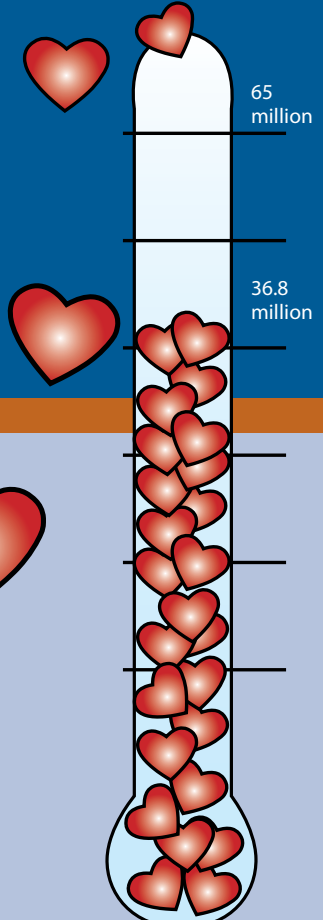
### anyone can make a difference

CLAS would like to thank the **Sheikh family** of Merritt Island, Florida for endowing the Izzat Hasan Sheikh Professorship. The fund will allow the UF Department of Religion to hire a professor in Islamic studies and honors the memory of the family's matriarch, Izzat Hasan Sheikh.

"The Sheikh family is thrilled to have this opportunity to honor the memory of Izzat Hasan Sheikh by promoting the objective study of the Islamic world, its religious beliefs, social and moral values, cultural traditions and contemporary challenges and opportunities," said Asifa Sheikh, who earned a law degree from UF in 1986. "We believe, in establishing this professorship, that understanding, tolerance and cooperation spearheaded by scholarly inquiries are essential conditions for breaking down barriers of misconception and discrimination, and advancing the welfare of all peoples."

CLAS would also like to recognize the following friends for their kind support:

- **Julianne and Troy Davis**, who donated \$110,000 to establish an endowment to fund the Dyslexia Center Intensive Summer Treatment Program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
- **Bob and Barb Dellecker**, who have given more than \$29,000 over the past two years to the Department of Zoology for the purchase new lab equipment
- **Dr. Howard and Mrs. Brenda Sheridan**, who gave \$300,000 to the Department of Chemistry to be used for scholarships, fellowships, and the purchase of new equipment



### College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Florida Tomorrow Campaign Goals

	Raised to Date	Goal
Faculty Support	\$7,229,338	\$16,800,000
Graduate Support	\$1,469,059	\$3,600,000
Undergraduate Support	\$122,793	\$600,000
Campus Enhancement	\$6,869,000	\$11,000,000
Program Support & Research	\$21,145,288	\$33,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,835,478</b>	<b>\$65 million</b>

We are over halfway to our goal!

To learn how you can help, contact the CLAS Development Office at (352) 392-5474 or visit [www.floridatoday.ufl.edu/CLAS/](http://www.floridatoday.ufl.edu/CLAS/).

## we need **your** support!

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences depends on gifts from alumni and friends to cover needs as basic as hosting our spring commencement ceremony. We also need help providing student scholarships and fellowships, presenting lecture series, and sending our faculty to conferences. A donation of any amount would be greatly appreciated and is tax deductible.

Please send the following coupon to:  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
University of Florida Foundation  
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Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# SUDANESE “LOST BOY” FINDS REFUGE AT UF

Peter Ter, a political science major, springs to his feet in the living room of his cozy University Heights apartment and goes straight to his large bookshelf. For Ter, books are one of life’s most valuable objects. “All of my friends joke with me,” he said, thumbing through a book for one of his favorite photographs. “They say that I will want to be buried with my books.” Ter’s passing reference to death harkens back to an earlier part of the conversation. Just moments before, Ter had reflected on the origins of his long journey to the United States and how he became a student at the University of Florida. “If it hadn’t been for the support of the United Nations,” Ter said. “I would be dead.”

One of Sudan’s lost boys, Ter was removed from his home by the bloody civil war that has raged in Sudan for the last 20 years and which continues to this day in Darfur. He recalls the day that he was separated from his parents. Playing with friends, he looked up to see planes flying above the village where he lived. The next thing he remembers is the bombs dropping through the sky, destroying the life he knew. “I ran with a group of people away from the village,” Ter said. “Because I was young, someone held my hand.”

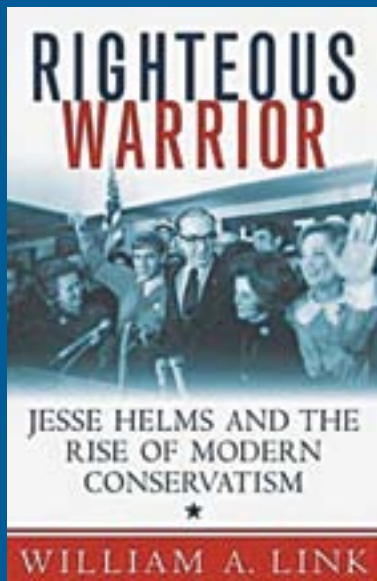
After a torturous barefoot trek, Ter ended up in a refugee camp in Ethiopia for three years. Forced again to move due to civil war, Ter returned with other refugees to the jungles of southern Sudan. It was not long before the government of Sudan began bombing the refugees, causing them to flee their own country once more. Ter lived in another refugee camp from 1992 to 2001, this time in northern Kenya. The conditions that characterized life in the camps were abysmal. Disease, malnutrition and death were constants.

Despite surviving on one small meal a day, Ter is thankful for one part of life in the refugee camps. Practicing his writing in the dirt, Ter began to learn English. From there, his passion for education was born. Ter was one of the lucky ones: two of his brothers were forced to become child soldiers. Lured from the camp by false promises of escape to the U.S., Peter’s brothers were handed AK-47s and told to fight for their homeland. At the time, Peter was not yet eight years old—too young to join the Sudanese army.

Today, the 22-year-old Ter speaks eloquently about world and American history, as well as discussing the politics of his homeland; in the future, he hopes to work as a diplomat. “Because of all the things I saw in Africa—war, killing, starvation, disease and a lot of injustice—when I came to the U.S., I became very interested in politics. I also started reading a lot of history.”

The fruits of the liberal arts education that Peter has received at UF are evident in the ease with which he moves between subjects—one minute he is explaining the enforcement of Shariah law in Sudan, the next he is considering the difficulty of shaping effective U.S. foreign policy. However, Ter’s own history is never far from his mind. “A piece of paper and a pen can change someone’s life,” he said. “I remember when UNICEF brought books in to the camp...I was elated.”





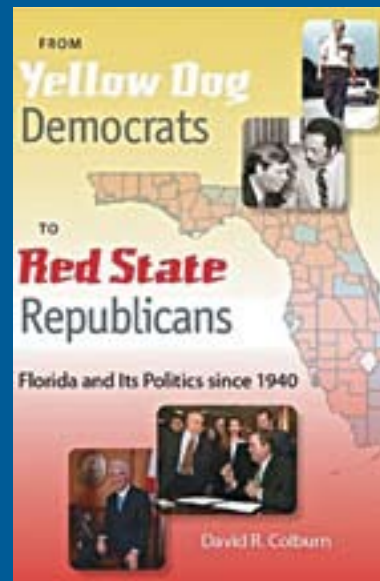
# FACULTY READS

**Righteous Warrior: Jesse Helms and the Rise of Modern Conservatism.** From an early age, Jesse Helms believed in extreme conservative causes, doctrinaire Christian worship and a mistrust of outsiders. Taking on everyone and everything that didn't tow the conservative party line, he literally became the center of the U.S. conservative movement. History Professor William Link tells the life story of Jesse Helms and, subsequently, the story of a conservative revolution that finally captivated America at the end of the 20th century.

—St. Martin's Press, 2008

**From Yellow Dog Democrats to Red State Republicans: Florida and Its Politics Since 1940.** Likely to raise hackles among Democrats and Republicans alike, this dynamic history of modern Florida argues that the Sunshine State has become the political and demographic future of the nation. History Professor David Colburn reveals how Florida gradually abandoned the traditions of race and personality that linked it to the Democratic Party. As the story of one of the most influential states in the nation, the book redefines Florida politics.

—University Press of Florida, 2007



## campus views

### Classic Success Story

The University of Florida has awarded the nation's first Ph.D. in classical studies pursued online to David McClister of Tampa, who successfully defended his dissertation on February 11 and graduated during the university's commencement ceremony in May.

The classical studies distance learning graduate program was established at UF in 2001 to address the needs of Latin teachers nationwide. It is the only program of its kind in the nation and is the only online Ph.D. offered at the university. The College of Pharmacy has awarded 1,245 Doctor of Pharmacy, or Pharm.D., degrees online since 1994 and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Public Health and Health Professions has awarded 1,164 Doctor of Audiology, Au.D., degrees online since 1998.

McClister enrolled in the program in 2003. As the father of four children and a full-time professor of biblical studies at Florida College, McClister said the program allowed him to pursue the highest degree attainable in his field without putting his life on hold.

"I was already in a tenure-track position at Florida College and knew that progress toward a doctoral degree would be an important part of my tenure application," said McClister. "However, taking a leave of

absence for a couple of years and moving away was simply not going to be feasible either for the department or for my family. I needed an arrangement where I could work toward an advanced degree and at the same time continue teaching and not disrupt our family life too much."

For his doctoral research, McClister studied the Greek works of Jewish historian Josephus, who wrote during Rome's first century.

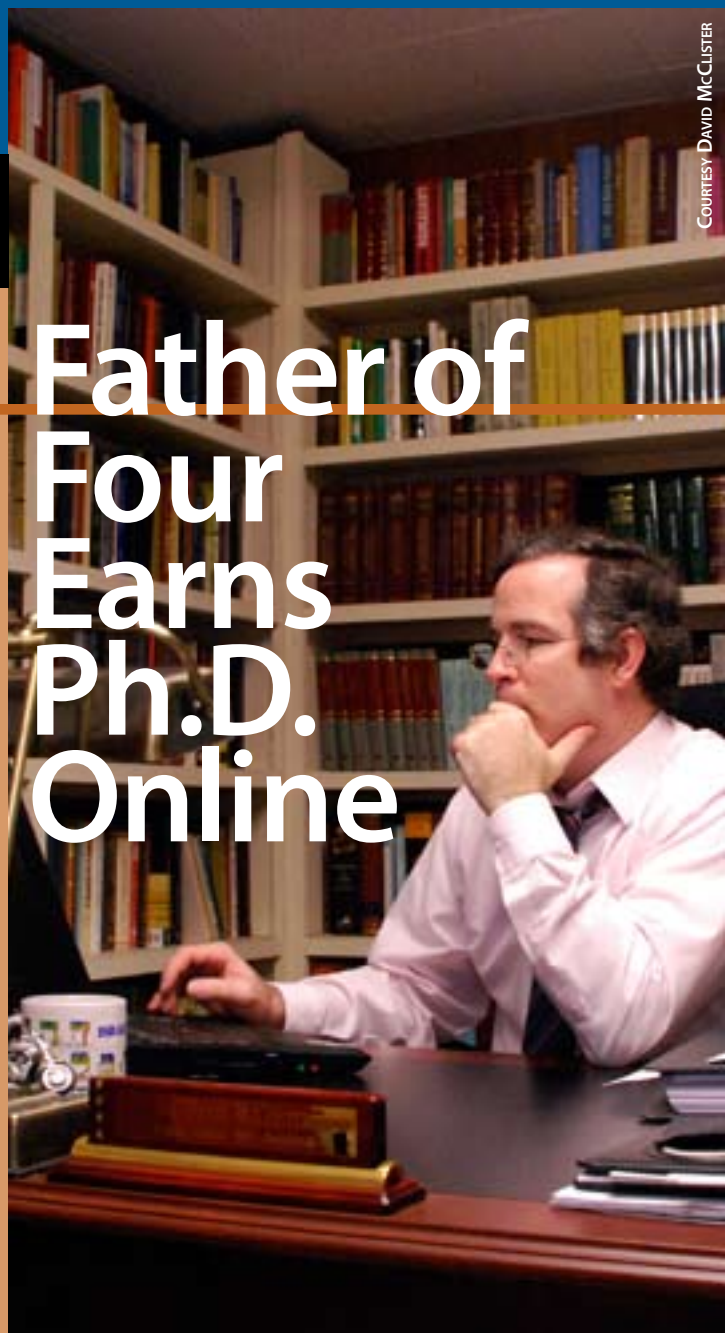
"David has produced an excellent and truly original dissertation exploring primarily how and why Josephus constructs Jewish identity, and also the way this construction of ethnicity interacts with other dominant Mediterranean cultures such as the Greeks and the Romans," said UF Associate Professor of Classics Konstantinos Kapparis, who served as McClister's faculty adviser. "I was impressed by the high standard of his work."

McClister plans to continue teaching at Florida College and hopes to publish his dissertation, as well as future research. In addition to his Ph.D., he holds a B.A. in classical civilization and an M.A. in biblical studies from Loyola University, Chicago.

For more information on the program, visit [www.classics.ufl.edu/distance/intro.html](http://www.classics.ufl.edu/distance/intro.html).

—Buffy Lockette

### Father of Four Earns Ph.D. Online



COURTESY DAVID MCCLISTER

# mark your calendar!

## **CLAS Commencement Ceremonies**

May 3

[www.clas.ufl.edu/events/commencement](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/events/commencement)

## **Stephen Craig, Political Science Professor and Chair, Visits DC Gator Club**

June 10

[www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/Outreach](http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/Outreach)

## **Anthony Falsetti, Director of the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory, Visits Philadelphia Gator Club**

June 21

[www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/Outreach](http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/Outreach)

## **Summer Holocaust Institute for Teachers**

June 16-20

[www.jst.ufl.edu/shift](http://www.jst.ufl.edu/shift)

## **Gator Football Takes On University of Hawaii in Season Opener**

August 30

[www.gatorzone.com](http://www.gatorzone.com)

## **The 2008 Primaries, featuring Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean**

September 5

[www.graham.centers.ufl.edu/](http://www.graham.centers.ufl.edu/)

## **The Next President and Florida, featuring Florida Governor Charlie Crist**

October 3

[www.graham.centers.ufl.edu](http://www.graham.centers.ufl.edu)

## **Lenguaje & Espacio/Language & Space: Fourth Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Hispanic/Latin American Literatures**

October 3-4

<http://plaza.ufl.edu/vjordan/ColoquioIV/ColoquioIV.html>

## **UF Homecoming Weekend**

October 25

[www.ufhomecoming.org](http://www.ufhomecoming.org)

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