

The COMMUNICATOR

The newsletter of the School of Arts and Communication

Fall 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

COM Honor Society:
Lambda Pi Eta

4

Education Connection:
My China Experience

5

Students Produce Album
of Resident Artist Lestang

9

Study Abroad: From
Iceland to the Netherlands

10



Florida Institute
of Technology

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Remembering Robert Shearer

By Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop, *The Communicator*

Twenty-one years have passed since he graduated from Florida Tech, but Michael Lockette can still recall his excitement whenever he entered a class taught by Robert “Bob” Shearer, Ph.D.

“I was enthralled by Dr. Shearer’s philosophical demeanor,” said Lockette, a 1995 communication graduate who minored in aerospace engineering.

“It was amazing how he put forth ideas that I had never imagined before while also reawakening concepts that I pondered, but never quite defined,” Lockette added.

“Dr. Shearer most definitely opened some fantastic spaces in my mind. He was one of my favorite professors at Florida Tech.”

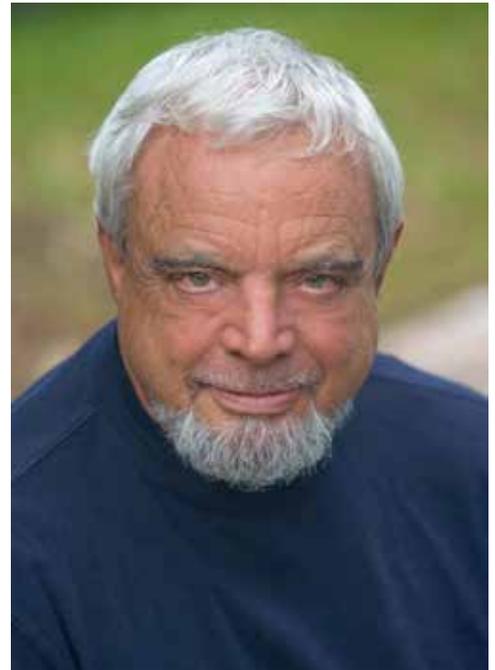
It’s a sentiment shared by many of Shearer’s students and colleagues over the span of his 35 years as a faculty member at FIT.

Those feelings now have a touch of sadness following Shearer’s death on Sept. 18, but his legacy still lives on in the minds he engaged and the lives he touched.

An associate professor of philosophy, with multiple degrees from Florida State University, Shearer taught courses in philosophy, music, cultural history and logic in the School of Arts and Communication (SAC).

“I had many classes with Bob when I was a student back in the late ‘80s and he was a wonderful teacher and a truly unique individual,” said Bino Campanini, vice president of alumni affairs, who received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the university in the early 1990s.

SAC alumna Kate Broderick, who received her bachelor’s degree in humanities in 2010, said she took several of Shearer’s classes. In fact, he was instrumental in helping her to choose philosophy as the topic of her senior capstone project.



“I was very inspired by his class and chose to examine how the concept of ego was similar to Buddhism and the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre,” she said.

Shearer served as her project advisor.

“The entire research project would not have been realized without his guidance,” she said. “He always challenged me to look deeper and harder at my research to find and examine connections, and to see why they were there.

“As an instructor, Dr. Shearer was transformative. He inspired students to see the world through new eyes,” said Broderick, who went on to receive a master’s degree in global strategic communication from the SAC in 2014.

Shearer’s verve and excitement about education was seen in and out of the classroom.

continued on page 6

Save the Date: Fall 2016/Winter 2017 Calendar of Events

SAC Student Field Trip to Channel 13 News (Orlando)
Nov. 15

SAC Faculty Meeting
Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. | Crawford, 7th Floor

COM Faculty Meeting
Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. | Crawford, Room 611

String Orchestra presents
"Blockbuster Soundtracks"
Free popcorn. Costume contest with prizes.
Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. | Gleason Performing Arts Center

Concert Choir Concert
Romance Under the Stars
Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. | Pantherium

Concert Band/Jazz Big Band Concert
Set the Darkness Echoing: Music for Peace and Protest
Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. | Gleason Performing Arts Center

Student Recital
Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. | Gleason Performing Arts Center

Jazz Syndicate Holiday Concert
Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. | Hartley Room

Brass-Hoppers Performance and Master Class Workshop
Jan. 17 | Gleason Performing Arts Center
3:30 p.m. Master Class; 7 p.m. Concert

Free Speech Day Keynote Address
Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. | Hartley Room

Academic Calendar

Nov. 17	Spring 2017 registration begins
Dec. 7	Last day of classes
Dec. 8–9	Study Days (No classes.)
Dec. 17	Fall 2016 Commencement Ceremonies
Jan. 9	Spring 2017 classes begin
Jan. 13	Last day to register or add a class

THANK YOU Special thanks to those who contributed to producing this issue of *The Communicator*. We owe you a debt of gratitude!

Anushka Boyd, Dr. Kevin Burke, Dr. Melissa Crofton, Audrey Gangloff, Lindsay Isaac, Adam Lowenstein, Duke Richardson, Alexandra Soya, Aaliyah Thomas and Jennifer Wayne

The Communicator

A publication of Florida Tech's College of Psychology and Liberal Arts
School of Arts and Communication
150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975
Phone: 321-674-8082 • <http://cpla.fit.edu/hu-com>
Editor: Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop • Designer: Christena Callahan

FACULTY

Professors

Andrew Aberdein, Ph.D., Logic and Metaphysics, *University of St. Andrews*
Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Georgia*
Gordon Patterson, Ph.D., History, *University of California–Los Angeles*
Lisa Perdigao, Ph.D., English, *Northeastern University*

Associate Professors

Gabriella Baika, Ph.D., French, *University of Pittsburgh*
Kevin Burke, Ph.D., Musicology, *University of Cincinnati*
John Lavelle, Ph.D., English, *University of Louisiana–Lafayette*
Robert Shearer, Ph.D., Philosophy, *Florida State University*
Youngju Sohn, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Georgia*
Jamie Younkin, Ph.D., Music, *University of Toronto*
Wanfa Zhang, Ph.D., Political Science, *University of Alabama*

Assistant Professors

Melissa Crofton, Ph.D., Literature, *University of South Carolina*
Natalie Dorfeld, Ph.D., English/Composition & TESOL, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*
Michael Finnegan, Ph.D., Literature, *University of Rhode Island*
Chris Frongillo, Ph.D., English Literature, *Vanderbilt University*
Sharon Irvin, M.A., English, *University of Wisconsin*
Lars R. Jones, Ph.D., Art History, *Harvard University*
Bill Leach, Ph.D., Texts and Technology, *University of Central Florida*
Debbie Lelekis, Ph.D., Literature, *University of Missouri*
Moti Mizrahi, Ph.D., Philosophy, *The Graduate Center, City University of New York*
JoAnn Parla-Palumbo, Ph.D., Applied Linguistics, *State University of New York–Buffalo*
Ted Petersen, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Florida*
Alan Rosiene, Ph.D., English, *Northwestern University*
Matthew Ruane, Ph.D., Higher Education and Policy Studies, *University of Central Florida*
Angela Tenga, Ph.D., English, *Purdue University*
Dzmitry Yuran, Ph.D., Communication and Information, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION FACULTY AND STAFF 2016–2017

SCHOOL HEAD

Associate Dean Robert Taylor, Ph.D., History
Florida State University

Visiting Assistant Professor

Jacob Ivey, Ph.D., History, *West Virginia University*

Instructors

Annie Caza, M.Ed.
Elizabeth Dopira, M.M.
Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop, M.S.
Keturah Mazo, M.A.
Anna Montoya, M.A.
Joy Patterson, M.A. and M.S.

Visiting Instructors

Ingrid Bradley, M.S.
Amy Laakman, M.S.
Alexandra Soya, M.A.
Andy Stanfield, Ph.D.

Adjunct Instructors

John Almasi	Mariana	Pervin Muradov
Christina Apelgren	Garciagodoy-	Kelvin Nelmes
Douglas Bailey	Cervantes	Matt Reed
Patricia Baker	Nancy Garmer	Jillian Sedivy
Dana Beattie	John Harbaugh	Lucy Serody
Andrei Belyi	Shirley Johnson	Anne Smith
Erik Cole	Michael Kahn	Carol Tillema
George Cornelius	Kyle	Sara Torabi
Kyle Creedon	Knappenberger	Charles VanRiper
	Julianne Mallak	Fontaine Wallace
	George Maxwell	

Staff

Anushka Boyd, *Administrative Assistant II, Student Services*
Sara Torabi, *Administrative Assistant II, Faculty Services*
Margaret Moore, *Administrative Assistant*

From the Chair:

Honoring Robert Shearer: A True Renaissance Man

This issue of *The Communicator* remembers the life and accomplishments of Dr. Robert (Bob) Shearer, associate professor of philosophy, who passed away on Sept. 18.

He was a very energetic and engaging teacher, a scholar, and a dedicated member of the School of Arts and Communication (SAC), in particular, and Florida Tech at large since joining the university in 1981.

In the area of teaching, Dr. Shearer consistently ranked as one of the SAC's most popular instructors. His courses ranged from Civilization II to Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and from Modern and Contemporary Philosophy to Masterworks of Music.

Generations of students consistently praised his passionate classroom efforts in their course evaluations. Students always marveled at how he could push them to be better than they ever thought they could be.

Dr. Shearer was active in the area of research and established a reputation as a scholar. He produced a variety of scholarly works, and his range of interests included musical composition and novel writing.

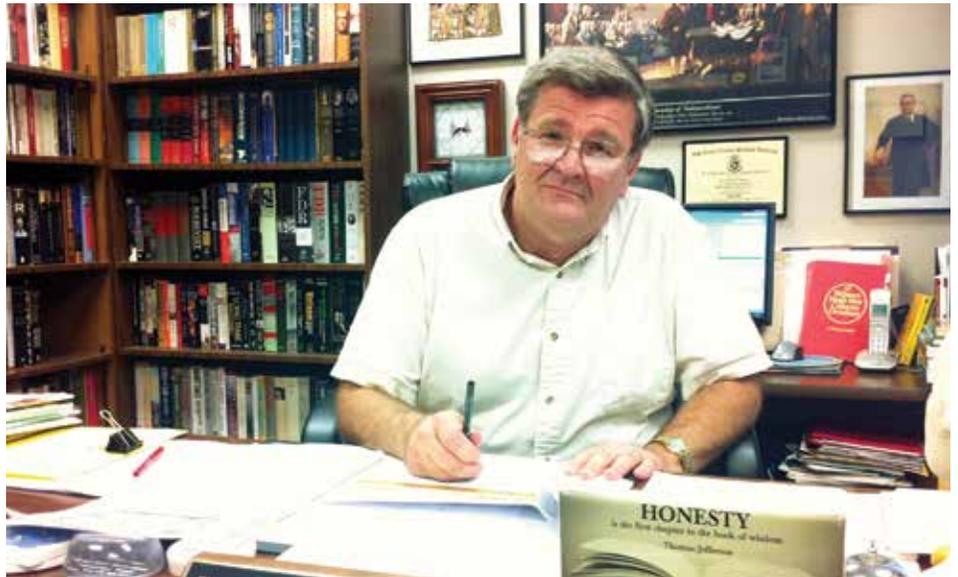
He also loved sailing in a boat he built himself.

Professor Shearer also rendered considerable service to the SAC and the entire university over the decades. He served long and well as secretary to the Florida Tech Faculty Senate as well as to the General Assembly of the Faculty held each August.

Bob Shearer also had the unique distinction of being one of a handful of faculty who served under all five Florida Tech university presidents.

In addition, he played concert piano at the annual Florida Tech Honors Convocation for many years, making his performance a university tradition. His efforts elevated the tone of the event to new heights for many Florida Tech students and their families.

Bob Shearer has been a major part of the intellectual growth here at Florida Tech. He was



Robert Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, and Head of the School of Arts and Communication.

a true Renaissance man and truly deserving of recognition for all he contributed to our university through his efforts.

His was the life of the mind, and he left us all here in the School of Arts and Communication a tremendous legacy.

We are not likely to see his kind again.

“Bob Shearer has been a major part of the intellectual growth here at Florida Tech. He was a true Renaissance man and truly deserving of recognition for all he contributed to our university through his efforts.”

Connect with us:



New Communication Honor Society Hits Stride With Community Service

By Duke Richardson, For *The Communicator*

Just six months old, the new student chapter of Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society is off and running.

Chapter members recently wrapped up a community service project where they collected donations for a food bank at Eau Gallie High School so that students in transitions (between homes or homeless) could get free food for themselves and their families.

Six large bags were filled with donated items such as boxed cereal, canned fruit, canned soup, muffin mixes, peanut butter, oatmeal and other dry goods. The chapter worked to collect donations in conjunction with one of the classes taught by Keturah Mazo, a COM instructor who serves as the society's faculty advisor.

Community service is one of three thrusts for the organization, which also promotes professional development among communication majors while encouraging academic excellence.

Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) is the National Communication Association's official honor society at four-year colleges and universities. The Greek letters Lambda Pi Eta represent Aristotle's three modes of persuasion: logos (Lambda), meaning logic; pathos (Pi), relating to emotion; and ethos (Eta), defined as character, credibility and ethics.

With more than 450 active chapters at universities across the country, LPH recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement in communication studies.

Last spring, students in the School of Arts and Communication (SAC) initiated the process to found a campus chapter.

Florida Tech is well known not only for its wide variety of academic majors but also for the high caliber of work expected from its students. As many of the degree programs at Florida Tech have honor societies to recognize those who are excelling academically, the founding members of Lambda Pi Eta wanted to bring that opportunity to the students in their field of study.

"I feel that Lambda Pi Eta will open many doors for the future," said Abeer Janakat, a senior communication major who also serves as the LPH chapter vice president.

"I hope to gain professional knowledge of the communication field as well as exposure to relevant networking opportunities," she said.

Mazo said the process of getting the chapter off the ground took approximately one and a half semesters.

Armed with 10 interested students, a motivated faculty advisor and the backing of the LPH national headquarters, the Upsilon Xi chapter



Tony Mazo (left) from Eau Gallie AICE Leadership receives food donations from Lambda Pi Eta Upsilon Xi chapter officers for 2016–2017: Riley Geeskie, historian; Abeer Janakat, vice president; and Duke Richardson, president.

of Lambda Pi Eta was approved for founding at Florida Tech.

A membership induction ceremony was held on April 26 in Room 620 of the Crawford building.

The ceremony incorporated words of wisdom and encouragement from Mazo and Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D., associate head of the SAC and communication programs chair.

Each initiate was recognized and presented with a membership certificate, member pin and graduation honor cord.

Duke Richardson serves as chapter president for 2016–2017 and Riley Geeskie is chapter historian.

LPH is already looking for another community service project to perform next semester and encourages communication students to continue to strive for academic excellence.

Student membership requires a 3.0 cumulative GPA, with 60 semester credit hours completed, and a 3.25 GPA for communication studies courses, with 12 semester credit hours completed.

For more information, search Facebook for "Lambda Pi Eta Upsilon Xi Chapter at Florida Institute of Technology."

Information can also be found on Orgsync by searching for Lambda Pi Eta.

REBOOTED FPRA STUDENT CHAPTER GIVES MEMBERS REAL-WORLD PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

By Lindsay Isaac, For *The Communicator*

Florida Tech students are excited about the recently reestablished student chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA).

"I've experienced firsthand the hard work and dedication needed to succeed in public relations," says Aaliyah Thomas, a communication sophomore and chapter officer.

The chapter restarted this semester with the following initiatives in mind:

- To provide members with an opportunity to gain professional experience while in school;
- To offer networking opportunities that provide insight into the field of public relations and that give members a chance to expand their portfolios;
- To partner with other student chapters in order to gain insight into best-practice and foster collaborative relationships; and
- To provide members with the opportunity to secure meaningful internships.

Several projects are already under way, including working with the Florida Tech Alumni Association on homecoming activities.



Members of the newly recharged FPRA student chapter pose on the sixth floor of the Crawford building.

The organization's faculty advisor is visiting communication instructor Ingrid Bradley, who has received recognition by the Space Coast FPRA chapter as a Public Relations Professional of the Year.

FPRA student membership is open to all full-time students who are pursuing studies in public relations, communication, journalism or a related field, and/or demonstrating an interest in pursuing a career in public relations.

Education Connection: My China Experience

By Alexandra Soya, For *The Communicator*

This summer, I visited Henan University (HU) in Kaifeng, China, to teach a four-week composition and rhetoric course comparable to COM 1101.

The students who took the course for credit are enrolled in a partner program at Florida Tech and began their academic careers here this semester.

One problem we faced this year was low enrollment.

Because the course would transfer as credit for COM 1101, students were required to demonstrate the same level of proficiency needed to take the course here at FIT. For this reason, few students were admitted.

From an instructional standpoint, the small class size was ideal because it allowed for individualized attention and a comfortable, active learning environment. The students who completed the course reported that it was highly valuable.

In response to low enrollment, we are currently developing an integrated grammar and writing course to replace the composition and rhetoric course next summer. This course is comparable to ESL 0401 and ESL 0405 and would be more appropriate given the students' language proficiency.

Teaching at Henan University was a rewarding experience.

I hope to return to China next summer to continue strengthening the relationship between Florida Tech and HU, and to continue serving our partner program students at both universities.

Alexandra Soya is a visiting ESL instructor in the School of Arts and Communication.



Soya's class (above) accomplished several benchmarks during their summer course, including evaluating, analyzing and synthesizing scholarly articles, writing their first annotated bibliographies, and writing their first research papers.



Soya (seated left) joined other HU foreign teachers in treating their assistants to a 'hot pot' dinner.

The SAC Five FIVE FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

Melissa Crofton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English



3 I used to be a respiratory therapist before I went back to school to pursue my B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. I met my husband on the job, where he happened to tell one of his patients that I was going to be his wife, even though I didn't know it yet.



4 I used to be a cheerleader, and I had some totally awesome BIG hair. I can also still do the splits.



1 I'm absolutely terrified of flying, though I won't let it prevent me from taking vacations. I think my fear of flying came from the year I had my fellowship, since I had to fly to D.C. once a month.



2 I name my pets after my interests. I've had two springer spaniels named Hamlet and Ophelia, two birds named William and Kate, and we currently have a long-haired dachshund named Marlowe. I almost named him Dante, but I thought he looked more like a Marlowe when we met him.

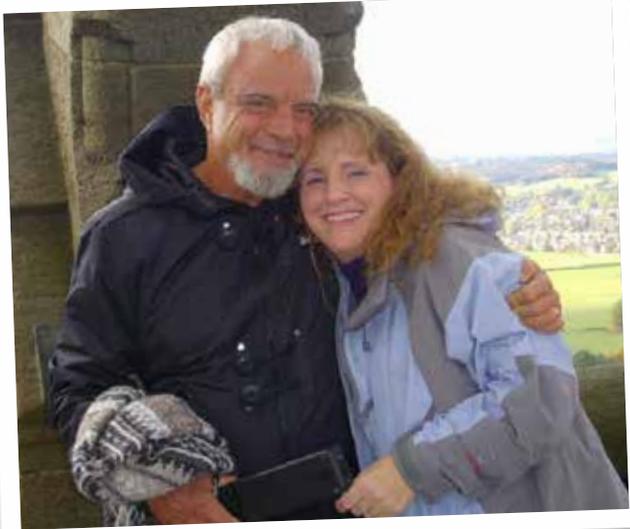


5 I almost got locked in the Folger Shakespeare Library (located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.) when I had a fellowship there in 2009. I had to go down to the stacks to get a book and I had never been there before. I opened up a door that definitely wasn't to the stacks and it shut before I could stop it. It was late on a Saturday night, and the library is closed on Sundays.

You weren't allowed to bring your phones into the library, so I could have been stuck there until someone found me (if someone found me) on Monday. I was absolutely frantic because every door I tried to open was locked. Moreover, I was horrified that I would set off an alarm and get caught for doing nothing—except for being stupid.

REMEMBERING ROBERT “BOB” SHEARER

continued from page 1



Shearer and his wife, Wende Anderson, Psy.D., at the William Wallace Memorial in Scotland. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Anderson)

He often arrived on campus as early as 7:30 a.m. in order to put in extra time helping students who were struggling academically. He also assisted students who were having financial issues by lending them books and reading materials, even sometimes changing his course plan to get around the high cost of textbooks.

“He was entirely student driven,” said his wife, Wende Anderson, Psy.D., a licensed psychologist.

“He was a demanding professor, refusing to lower his standards in any way. Rather, he challenged his students to meet them, and many succeeded in his class, and in life, because of his insistence on excellence and on ethical behavior.”

She added that her husband strived to make sure his students left his class as well-rounded people capable of reasoning and understanding beyond that attainable by mere trainees.

“He was addressing the whole person,” she stated.

Luckette said Shearer, a winner of the university’s Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching, knew how to ignite a fire for learning in his students.

“I remember his engaging and thought-provoking style in the classroom, which made me eagerly anticipate his next class,” he said.

Renaissance man

Known as a true Renaissance man for his scholarly interests in existential philosophy, history, music, literature and mathematics, Shearer’s research and project focus delved into the works of such philosophers as Sartre, Martin Heidegger and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. He wrote both philosophical and literary papers, some

of which were read at meetings of the Florida College English Association (FCEA) and the Florida Academy of Sciences.

In 2003, he won the Thomas A. Campbell Award by the Florida Conference of Historians (FCH) for the best paper published by an academic professional in the organization’s annual proceedings for his article, “Mathematics and the Mind of God: Implications of the New Cosmology of the 17th Century.” He also published papers with the American Society for Engineering Education.

As a writer, he completed two novels—publishing one, *The Beethoven Years*—and

penned two philosophy books for specialists.

An accomplished composer and pianist, he hosted a “Chopin Hour” in the Gleason Auditorium in 1983 and performed Johann Sebastian Bach’s “D Minor Keyboard Concerto” with an orchestra in Miami in 1985.

Many times, Shearer’s outside interests found their way into his classes.

“The sight of Bob playing the piano, in the way only he could, was one of the highlights of any class,” recalled Campanini.

Luckette remembered watching Shearer perform at the university’s annual Honors Convocation, which became a tradition for the event.

“It was something to watch him playing piano masterfully at the convocation, often featuring his own compositions,” Luckette said.

Broderick recalled how Shearer would often connect music with class topics.

“I’ll never forget coming to class in Grissom Hall at 8 a.m. on a Tuesday morning and Dr. Shearer taking to the piano to play the most amazing concerto. He transformed a boring Tuesday morning into something magical,” she said.

“I believe that was a part of his legacy, being able to take the mundane and turn it into something extraordinary, and taking us with him on the journey,” Broderick added.

But whenever he wanted to get away, Shearer could be found sailing on his 16-foot sloop, *The Neurotic Dolphin*. When the *Dolphin* capsized in 2010, he purchased another sloop and named it *Zephyrs’ Idyll*.

More than a professor

While educating future generations of thinkers and leaders was Shearer’s passion, he was equally dedicated to the university and providing a voice for its faculty.

He served twice as president of the Faculty Senate, helping to usher in changes to faculty salaries and the establishment of a 12-month pay period.

He then served as senate secretary for more than a decade where he helped to facilitate interactions between the faculty and administration as well as among faculty members of various schools.

Professor Gordon Patterson, Ph.D., who, like Shearer, has served under all five of Florida Tech’s presidents, said his colleague was a remarkable man and an original.

“Bob brought energy, enthusiasm and intelligence to his work, his students and our university. He was a virtuoso pianist, a novelist, a philosopher, a teacher, a colleague and, to those of us who knew him—a friend,” Patterson said.

“Sartre once observed, ‘Only the guy who isn’t rowing has time to rock the boat.’ Bob did rock the boat. He raised difficult questions, faced challenges and taught us all much,” he said.

An on-campus memorial service for Shearer was held at the All Faiths Center on Oct. 14.

Anderson thanked Florida Tech faculty, students and alumni for the kind words, letters and support she has received.

“The outpouring has been tremendous,” she said.

Patterson said he would miss Bob’s presence on campus.

“He was a complex man, a scholar and one of Florida Tech’s stars.”



Shearer enjoying a relaxing sail on his 16-foot sloop, *Zephyrs’ Idyll*. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Wende Anderson.)



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June 2–16, 2017



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<http://cpla.fit.edu/sac/study-abroad>
edwardsh@fit.edu

Watch fitforum for announcements!

Making Moves: SAC Faculty News Roundup

Andrew Aberdein's book review on Mohan Ganesalingam's *The Language of Mathematics: A Linguistic and Philosophical Investigation*, published in FoLLI Publications on Logic, Language and Information. In addition, Aberdein was the site organizer for the Florida Philosophical Association's 2016 Conference held Nov. 4–5 at Florida Tech's Center for Aeronautics and Innovation building. Also, his book, *Rhetoric: The Art of Persuasion* (written with rhetorician Adina Arvatu), was reprinted in an anthology, *Trivium: The Classical Liberal Arts of Grammar, Logic, & Rhetoric*.

Aberdein recently published two papers in proceedings: "Diversity in Proof Appraisal" (with Matthew Inglis) in *Mathematical Cultures: The London Meetings 2012–2014*; and "Does Studying Logic Improve Logical Reasoning?" (with Nina Attridge & Matthew Inglis) in *Proceedings of the 40th Conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education*.

Aberdein also presented four papers at three conferences:

- "Whedonian Trolleyology," at the 7th Slayage Conference on the Whedonverses at Kingston University, Kingston-upon-Thames, in July;
- "Was Aristotle a Virtue Argumentation Theorist? Argumentation in Classical Antiquity: Dialectic, Rhetoric & Other Domains," at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in June;
- "Virtue Argumentation and Bias" and "Commentary on Patrick Bondy, Bias in Legitimate Ad Hominem Arguments," at the Argumentation, Objectivity and Bias: 11th International Conference of the Ontario Society for the Study of Argumentation at the University of Windsor, ON, in May.

Ingrid Bradley's article on her love of sailing, "Happy Hour Amore," appeared in the August issue of *Southwinds Magazine*.

Kevin R. Burke, along with Matthew Baumer, an associate professor of music at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, presented "Beyond Appreciation: A New Philosophy for Intro to Music Courses" at the Teaching Music History Conference 2016 in Denver in June.

Natalie M. Dorfeld will present her paper, "It Takes a Department: Addressing Advocacy in Our Backyard," at the NCTE Annual Convention in Atlanta, Ga., in Nov. 17–20. Her piece focuses on contingent labor issues in right to work states.



Congratulations to **Annie Caza**, who married David Bills in Oia, Santorini, Greece on May 8. Caza, an avid runner, also finished second place overall in the female division of the 2015–2016 Space Coast Runners Runner of the Year (ROY) Series.

Heidi Hatfield Edwards presented the paper, "Generation 3: Communicating Corporate Social Responsibility in the Age of the Integrated Corporate Citizen," at the 2016 Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in Minneapolis in August.

Jacob Ivey presented his paper, "No man better known in the Colony of Natal: John George Dartnell and the Reforms of Natal's Defensive Institutions," at the British Scholars Society Conference (Britain and the World) at King's College in London in June.

Gordon Patterson presented "Coping with the Mosquito Menace" as the keynote speaker at the Mosquito Control Association of Australia and Australian Arbovirus Research Meeting on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia on Sept. 4–9. He also spoke on "The Mosquito Wars: A History of Florida's War against Mosquitoes" at the 2016 XXV International Congress of Entomology held Sept. 25–30 in Orlando.

Lisa Perdigo's article, "Elusive Particles," examining poet Rae Armantrout's book, *Itself*, was published in the *Boston Review* on May 25. In addition, Perdigo's paper, "In Extremis: Unnatural Selection in Lifetime's Speculative Fictions," was published in *The Lifetime Network: Essays on "Television for Women" in the 21st Century* in the spring. Another article, "Becoming the Stories: Indefinite Play in Big Fish," was published in *Tim Burton: Essays on the Films*.

On July 24, **Wanfa Zhang** gave a public lecture on "Traditional Chinese Culture and the Grand Strategy of a Rising China" at the Confucius Academy of Guiyang, located in Guizhou Province, China. This lecture was attended by more than 200 people and was well received.

Due to the positive feedback from the audience, Zhang was interviewed a few days later on Guizhou TV-Channel 6 to discuss the lecture topic. The 20-minute interview aired on Aug. 9. Zhang also carved out time in his visit to see the largest radio telescope in the world, the 500-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST), located in Pingtang County, Guizhou Province.

Dzmitry Yuran presented his paper, "Think Tanks and News Media in U.S. Foreign Policy Agenda-Setting: Who is Telling Whom What to Talk About" at the 2016 Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in Minneapolis, in August 2016.

Impressive Results in Homecoming 5K Run/Walk

Staff Reports



Dzmitry Yuran, Natalie Dorfeld, Jacob Ivey, Anushka Boyd, Heidi Hatfield Edwards, and Gordon Patterson are just some of the SAC faculty and staff who participated in the 5K Run/Walk.

Congratulations to School of Arts and Communication (SAC) faculty members who ran in the 2016 FIT Homecoming 5K Run/Walk in Downtown Melbourne on Oct. 13.

The faculty helped make up the team representing the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, which finished ninth out of a total 26 teams. A total 411 runners and walkers participated in the event.

Here are the results for SAC faculty participants.

- **Dzmitry Yuran:** 12th OA (out of 411 runners/walkers), 2nd in his Age Group (25–29), Time: 21:28
- **Annie Caza:** 24th /411, 2nd OA Female, Time: 22:23
- **Jacob Ivey:** 33rd/411, 2nd in his Age Group (30–34), Time: 22:57
- **Natalie Dorfeld:** 115th/411, 3rd in her "old" Age Group (40–45), Time: 27:46
- **Gordon Patterson:** 170th/411, 3rd in his Age Group (65–70), Time: 31:12
- **Anushka Boyd:** 297th/411, 13th in her Age Group (25–29), Time: 43:03
- **Heidi Hatfield Edwards:** 298th/411, 11th in her Age Group (45–49), Time: 43:03
- **Michael Finnegan:** 377th/411, 7th in his Age Group, Time: 53:08
- **Joy Patterson:** 389th/411, 2nd in her Age Group (65–70), Time: 55:14



Photo by Deng Wanglu

SAC Students Produce Album Featuring Music Program's Resident Artist Alice Lestang

By Adam Lowenstein, FIT News Bureau Chief

Alice Lestang, a soprano from the Paris Conservatory, is FIT's third Artist in Residence to record and publish a CD while residing in Melbourne.

Previously, Christian Tamburr recorded and released his albums *Voyage* (2014) and *People Talk* (2015) at FIT and Paul Anquez released his album *Rivers* (2015) at FIT.

Lestang, who completed her residency in May, recorded her debut album along with pianist Romain Louveau, also from the Paris Conservatory.

Kevin R. Burke, Ph.D., associate professor of music and director of music programs, wanted to try something different with Lestang's album project by including FIT students as an educational experience.

Several students in the School of Arts and Communication (SAC) had the opportunity to learn about the music industry by participating in the project in the areas of art design, audio, registration, distribution, licensing and marketing.

Abeer Janakat, Ebube Ubochi, Jordan Symonds, and Lindsay Isaac—students in the Layout and Design class taught by associate professor Y.J. Sohn, Ph.D.—all submitted artwork designs using photos taken by their instructor.

Lestang and Louveau selected the design by Isaac for their CD.

Isaac, a sophomore in the communication program, said she was excited to have her work selected.

"I love art, I love design, and I love visual communication, so I was thrilled to have the opportunity to apply my passion for those fields to create a legitimate product," she said, adding that the project provided a valuable, novel and intriguing learning experience.

"There is something so exciting about seeing your work come to life and about engaging with others to make that happen," she added.

Music program students Conner Mahoney and Tatjana Jemmott assisted Burke with processing and submitting the audio mixes and master files, which were professionally engineered by John Marsden in Orlando and mastered by Bob Olhsson in Nashville, Tenn.

Mahoney and Jemmott also assisted with the album's marketing and promotion leading up to the April 19 release concert.

Although the CD can be purchased from Amazon, iTunes and other distributors, Burke said the FIT community can purchase a copy on campus.

"If anyone local wants to purchase the CD, it would actually be better for them to get it directly from the SAC Office. All proceeds from units we sell directly go to the music program gift account," he stated.

CDs are \$15 and \$10 for FIT students, faculty and staff.

To make a purchase, contact the SAC Office at 321-674-8082 or email music@fit.edu.



Top: (L-R) Students Ebube Ubochi and Tatjana Jemmott join Resident Artist Alice Lestang and student Lindsay Isaac at Lestang's album release party in April.

Bottom: (L-R) Music program students Conner Mahoney and Tatjana Jemmott listen to music with Resident Artist Alice Lestang.

SAC JOINS EVANS LIBRARY IN CELEBRATION OF CULTURAL ICON

By Jennifer M. Wayne, For *The Communicator*

This summer marked the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's composition of the book *Frankenstein* and the School of Arts and Communication (SAC) partnered with Evans Library to host a lively series of events honoring the classic.

Written by a woman who broke up her husband's previous marriage, the book has been surrounded by controversy throughout its history. When first released, reviewers insisted a woman couldn't have written the book, it was too scary, so it must have been written by her husband.

According to the *New York Times*, the book was banned in 1955 for being "indecent, objectionable or obscene."

Leading up to Halloween, Florida Institute of Technology celebrated the anniversary of the birth of one of the holiday's most iconic monsters. The celebration of *Frankenstein* isn't just timely, it's topical.

Debbie Lelekis, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and organizer of the *Frankenstein* 200 Celebration at FIT, said the majority of Florida Tech students read *Frankenstein* in such courses as Western Civilization or British & American Literature.

"The relationship with current connections to science made it a novel that students enjoyed and something we wanted to celebrate here on campus," she said.

The three-day celebration kicked off Oct. 25 with a Cinema World movie theater showing of the National Theatre Live production of "Frankenstein" starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Festivities ended with an interdisciplinary after-hours event hosted by Evans Library on Oct. 28.

The finale event included speakers Moti Mizrahi, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, and Jacob Ivey, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of history. There also was a display of student-created models of *Frankenstein's* monster.

Melissa Crofton, Ph.D., an assistant professor of English who teaches British & American Literature, said many of her students who read the book for class were surprised at the compassion they felt for the monster as a result.

"Once the novel shifts to his point of view, you are separated from Victor Frankenstein and what he thinks about it. You get this more humanlike aspect of the creature," Crofton said.



FrankenPete, an image designed by Matthew Thompson, web developer for FIT's Office of Continuing Education, depicts the university mascot as *Frankenstein* in honor of the 200th anniversary of the book.

One student who has not yet read the book, but is familiar with the cultural icon, is FIT freshman Avery Clague. He looks forward to reading the book and likes the fact that it was considered the first sci-fi novel.

"Frankenstein has just always been there, like wheels. He's a constant," Clague said.

SAC STUDENT PROFILE: MEET AALIYAH THOMAS

My name is Aaliyah Thomas, and I am a junior studying communication, with a minor in sustainability.

I am from a small town in Georgia called Villa Rica. My favorite class at Florida Tech so far is Scientific and Technical Communication

because I love science and communication, and this class allowed me to have both subjects in one.

So far, I have learned to be a better writer and editor, and I have learned my true potential as a future communication professional.

My biggest accomplishment so far was switching my major to communication. I came to Florida Tech to study meteorology, but I wasn't happy.

Since switching majors, I've become more confident in myself, and I enjoy what I do every day. When I graduate, I hope to join the Peace Corps and help developing countries become more sustainable. I also want to teach English.

Eventually, I want to work for the United Nations as a diplomat.

5 THINGS FLORIDA TECH DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT AALIYAH THOMAS:

1 I used to be fully left handed.

I played trombone for 7 years. 2

3 Country music is my favorite genre.

I will marry Sam Hunt,
Chris Lane or Chase Rice. 4

5 I plan to be richer than Oprah.



Aaliyah Thomas

From Iceland to the Netherlands, A Study Abroad Experience Like No Other

By Audrey Gangloff, *The Communicator*

Breathtaking. It's hard to put that feeling into words, that moment of rapture.

Your heart does a little flutter, your jaw may drop, or maybe, a small smile of wonderment hits your lips.

You forget to breathe, just for that moment.

Ask any student in the School of Arts and Communication (SAC) Study Abroad Netherlands 2016 program how their summer was, and they will remember that feeling. Their eyes will probably light up as they search for a way to explain the experience.

Ask them what their favorite part was, and they will likely shake their head and helplessly tell you that it was all simply amazing.

This year's study abroad program took nine students on a priceless trip of a lifetime in June.

They were communication and business students, engineers and scientists. The eclectic group that started off as strangers found themselves quickly bonded together by the magic of wanderlust.

The first leg of the journey started not in an airport, but in the classroom.

The students spent three weeks taking one or both of the courses offered in conjunction with the program. The driving pace of learning a semester of knowledge in three weeks is intense.

One common goal inspired the group to push through the daily four-hour classes. They knew that once they were done, it was travel time.

They were told to pack for all weather. In the Netherlands, said professor Judith Strother, Ph.D., it may be cold and rainy one day and breezy and sunny the next.

With suitcases full of options, they set out on the first leg of the adventure.

The program had a unique opportunity this year to do a three-day layover in Iceland before hitting the mainland. Svafa Gronfeldt, a 1995 communication graduate, donated several scholarships for some of the travellers and wanted to welcome the group to her home country.

One of the program's scheduled corporate visits was at Ossur, a prosthetics company headquartered in Reykjavik. That visit was one of the few required curriculum activities during the two-week jaunt.

The chance to experience 24 hours of daylight in Iceland, even for just three days, was one of the highlights of the trip.

Shrivana Jamunar, a business student from Trinidad, saw snow for the first time on a high Icelandic mountaintop.

"It was like jumping into a snow cone," she said in her musical, smiling accent. "It was so much fun!"

That same day, the group had their hair misted by the spray from the biggest waterfall in Europe and walked through a geyser field, driving around huge lakes and through vibrant green pastures.

The strangeness of it all was the first true bonding experience for the group outside the classroom.

The last night in Iceland was the first time they saw any kind of color in the sky. It was midnight, but the sky was faintly painted in the pastels of dawn.

This pit stop was so chock full of new experiences that several members of the group said their favorite memory was in this rocky land.

Chemical engineering student Sulaiman Alkalbani said swimming in the Blue Lagoon with his travel mates and everyone painting their faces with natural silica masks is the one thing he is sure to remember for the rest of his life.

continued on page 12

PRELAW SOCIETY EVENTS CALENDAR

The Prelaw Society in the School of Arts and Communication will host the following events this month and in December:

- **Nov. 18:** Guest Speaker Dr. Travis Conrad, FIT Child Advocacy program
- **Nov. 19:** Civic Engagement with Alpizar Law Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway
- **Dec. 2-4:** Civic Engagement with Guardian Ad Litem Toy Run

For more information on the Prelaw Society, contact Jennifer Wayne, organization president, at jwayne2014@my.fit.edu.



Netherlands Study Abroad participants enjoy a swim in the Blue Lagoon in Iceland during the first leg of their trip. The jaunt included making facial masks out of the natural silica in the water.



Kelsey and Chris Arnold (Photo Credit: Alissa Oppenheimer, B.S. Space Sciences '13)

SAC Alumni News Roundup

- **Kate Broderick**, B.A. Humanities '10 and M.S. Global Strategic Communication '14, interned over the summer as an associate with AIG Insurance's Global Legal, Compliance, Regulatory and Government Affairs Department in New York City. Broderick is a student at William & Mary Law School.
- **Zohra Fazal**, M.S. Technical and Professional Communication '06, is the new assistant director of career development at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.
- **Brooke (Fisher) Hambright**, B.S. Humanities '12 and M.S. Global Strategic Communication '15, and her husband, Brett, welcomed a second daughter, Bodie Rose, in June.
- **Kelsey McMullan**, B.S. Communication '13, and Lt. Christopher Arnold, B.S. Aerospace Engineering '12, married Oct. 9 at Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum in Ashland, NE.
- **Shannon Redman**, M.S. Global Strategic Communication '14, married Jamie Caldwell on Sept. 26 in Juneau, Alaska. Redman also was promoted to strategic change manager at Florida Power & Light (FPL) in July.
- **Andrew Shipotofsky**, B.S. Meteorology (with minor in Communication) '15, is now a meteorologist and reporter at KNBN Newscenter 1 in Rapid City, S.D.
- **Kimberly D. Schaefer**, B.S. Communication '10 and M.S. Technical and Professional Communication '15, and her husband, Steve, B.S. Computer Information Systems '05 and M.S. Computer Information Systems '06, welcomed their son, Henry, in October.



HUM STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KATHERYN "KAT" FORD

By Jennifer M. Wayne, For *The Communicator*

Most days, you can find Katheryn "Kat" Ford reading in the university's botanical garden, making copies for professors in the School of Arts and Communication Office, or parrying with an opponent in a Jeet Kune Do class, a form of martial arts developed by Bruce Lee.

She has rescued many a faculty member engaged in fierce battle with the SAC copier.

Drawn to the technical aspects of language and argumentation, Ford chose to major in humanities at FIT to build up her rhetoric and speaking skills in preparation for law school. The variety of classes gives her a broad perspective and helps reveal her passion.

Classes taught by Angela Tenga, Ph.D., on monsters and crime in fiction are Ford's favorite.

"I love seeing how the monsters in fiction are a reflection on society and how they then affect society after that ... It's really interesting to study," she says.

Her primary interest is the societal implications of monster theory, juvenile law and the connection between them.

"Children need to identify with the monster in playing video games as an outlet for violence and aggression because if they don't, it could be expressed in other non-desirable ways that could adversely affect society," Ford explains.

Her professional goal is to be a defense lawyer for juveniles who did not get the outlet for aggression that they needed or, perhaps, got too much, too soon. She hopes to guide them along a better path both legally and socially.

Ford "will be successful at whatever she chooses to do," says Tenga.

She has known Ford for many years in varied contexts as her advisor, her professor and her fellow martial arts enthusiast and appreciates her intellectual capacity, creativity and insight.

Tenga also describes Ford as a spectacular writer who is able to deconstruct an argument methodically and convey her insightful analysis beautifully. She is also noted for shifting seamlessly between her many roles.



Katheryn Ford

Jokingly referred to by Lisa Perdigao, Ph.D., humanities program chair, as the student who, "knows all the secrets of the faculty," Ford chose to accept a Federal Work-Study position in the SAC office not just because she gets to know professors before she has a class with them, but also because the work is tailored to her interests. "Plus, we have the best parties," Ford laughs.

She appreciates the mentorship of her office supervisor, Margaret Moore, who facilitates personal growth in interpersonal skills and communication.

SAC administrative assistants Sara Torabi and Anushka Boyd help to foster a creative element in Ford's work as well. Her co-worker, Aaliyah Thomas, a communication major, said Ford's organized creativity is a great complement to the team.

Ford thinks one benefit of a work-study position with SAC is the wealth of knowledge imparted by professors who are willing to sit down and talk about research, career goals and life.

"Especially, if you've made copies for them," she says.

As treasurer of the student Prelaw Society, Ford learned how to be an organized leader who prepares speeches effectively. She would love to see FIT sponsor an official prep course to help students prepare for the LSAT.

After she graduates, Ford wants to be remembered by SAC professors and staff for being a hard worker, both in the office and in the classroom, and for always accomplishing goals set for her, no matter the sacrifice required.

CONGRATULATIONS SPRING 2016 GRADUATES

These students graduated from the School of Arts and Communication in May.

M.S., Global Strategic Communication:

Usama Alharthi
Kai Clark
Julie Fainberg

B.A., Humanities:

Zoe Ashton
Daniel Fernandez
Fumiko Shinkawa
(minor in Communication)

B.A., Humanities/Prelaw:

Pedro Chavarriaga
Christopher Guelzow

B.S., Communication:

Alexandra Coultrup
Rebekah Duntz
Daniel Hereau
Ashley Montion
Gary "Duke" Richardson
Tyler Richardson
Zachary Wynne

B.S., Communication/Military Science:

Army 2nd Lt. Paul Cepeda

FROM ICELAND TO THE NETHERLANDS

continued from page 10

Two more hours east on a plane, two trains and a midnight bus ride brought the students to Eindhoven, their home base in the Netherlands.

The study abroad program is affiliated with Eindhoven University of Technology.

Students visited the university and met some interesting figures from the Brainport community, a region in the Netherlands akin to Silicon Valley.

The rest of the trip was truly a whirlwind.

The opulence of Antwerp's long and rich history was apparent in every city square and twisting alleyway.

Strother's expertise shined in her choice of hotel location. There are astounding cathedrals littered all over northern Europe, but the one standing outside the front doors of the Hotel O Kathedral was one of the most awe-inspiring.

On Sunday morning, communication student Jennifer Wayne woke up early with some travel mates to attend mass there.

"One of my favorite memories was walking through Antwerp Cathedral with Dr. Strother and seeing the architecture, hearing about how significant this place was for her and being able to share my love of art history with someone," said Wayne. "Someone who'd be fine to sit there and talk with me while I exude all my enthusiasm about it."

A day trip to Bruges, Belgium was a medieval wonder for much of the group. The town is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, mostly untouched by modern influences.

"Environment and nature gets me really quick," said chemical engineering student Mohamed Al-Sabri. "And when I went to that place, I could feel the magic in the air."



COM students Audrey Gangloff (left) and Jennifer Wayne (right) jokingly try to push their Tok Tok car while touring Iceland. The driver and fellow student Matthew Roof (far right) look on.



(L-R) Jennifer Wayne, Audrey Gangloff, Riley Geeskie and Sulaiman Alkalbani lounge on the dock of the Scheldt River in Antwerp, Belgium.

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