Welcome

Welcome to another issue of Kudos, the newsletter of the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies Program, which highlights the many achievements of our students. Since the program began accepting students in the Fall of 1999, there have been 30 graduates from the program, including two from the Program in Literatures, Literacies, and Linguistics. These alumni literally work around the globe, holding either academic or professional positions. Our current students also have made an impact at conferences held both in the U.S. and abroad, and have published in national and international publications as well. As you read through Kudos, we think that you will be as impressed, and as proud, as we are!

- Stefanie Gapinski, editor

New Dean Heads College of Arts and Letters

Dr. Manjunath Pendakur, a communications scholar recognized for his research and teaching nationally, began his tenure as dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters in March 2008.

Responsible for overseeing one of FAU’s largest colleges, which houses nearly 200 faculty members, 54 degree programs, and almost 4,000 students, Dr. Pendakur brings institutional knowledge, experience, and expertise to the position.

“I am thrilled to become part of an exciting College of Arts and Letters and a dynamic university. It is a privilege and high honor to be associated with such good faculty colleagues who are producing outstanding students and highly-regarded research and creative activity,” said Pendakur.

Prior to this position, Dr. Pendakur served as dean of the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts at Southern Illinois University Carbondale for nearly seven years. He has held several leadership positions at prestigious universities in the US and Canada. Notably at Northwestern University in Illinois, Dr. Pendakur was chair of the Department of Radio-Television-Film and also Director of the Program on Communication & Development Studies. As the founding dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario in Canada, he helped establish the Media, Information & Technoculture undergraduate major.

In a search that took approximately nine months, 55 candidates applied for the position from around the nation. Of these applicants, 10 were chosen for telephone interviews. Three finalists from this pool were selected to interview with a cross-section of the university, including College of Arts and Letters faculty.

“During the recruitment process, the university’s search committee did an excellent job in researching and interviewing all the candidates,” said Dr. John Pritchett, Provost, Florida Atlantic University. “The committee’s unanimous vote for Dr. Pendakur led me to believe that we have the right person for the position.”

Dr. Pendakur earned his undergraduate degree in Radio-TV from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a doctoral degree in communication from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., Canada.
Message from the Interim Director

Well, another academic year has passed with much happening, including the arrival of our new Dean, Dr. Manju Pendakur. We want to welcome Dr. Pendakur and hope that he has a long tenure here in the College of Arts & Letters, and we also want to thank Dr. Sandra Norman for getting us through the interim. My thanks also go to all of the department chairs and program directors and faculty members, as well as to all of the members of our three executive committees, who have contributed so much to the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies in this last year. You are the program, and it wouldn’t be here without your efforts on our behalf.

And a special thanks to all of our doctoral students and doctoral candidates for maintaining the high caliber of this program with your scholarly acumen and diligence. I hope that you will continue along the paths you have set out for yourselves. You are already making us proud!

Before you all go off to your various summer activities, please be sure to make a note of all of the scholarly activities our students in the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies completed within the last year. I am truly impressed with the awards, conference presentations, and publications that our students have produced.

Have a good summer!

- Susan Love Brown

Alumni Profile: Ana Adriaiza-Rodriguez

Ana Adriaiza-Rodriguez, Ph.D. decided to enter the doctoral program in Comparative Studies because it offered inter-disciplinary perspectives as well as theories and paradigms related to the social, economic, political and philosophical arenas.

She entered the program in the fall of 2002, and her research focused on education and environmental sustainability in Peru. For her dissertation entitled “From Economics to Resources: Teaching Environmental Sustainability in Peru’s Public Education,” she explored Peruvian educational and environmental laws and praxis, and the extent to which teaching environmental awareness in Peruvian public education instructs new generations on caring, sustainability and stewardship of the environment and natural and cultural resources. Part of her dissertation offered a curriculum for public education teachers to teach environmental sustainability from a personal perspective.

Dr. Adriaiza-Rodriguez has extensive experience in secondary and higher education teaching; she also worked in the educational administrative sphere as principal and pedagogical advisor for the Southern Peru Copper Corporation educational systems in Tacna and Moquegua in Peru. She taught in the Colleges of Social Sciences and Education in the University of San Agustin of Arequipa, Peru. She worked also as a curator at the University of San Agustin Anthropology Museum, and as a Pre-Colombian textile consultant and conservator for the Archaeological Contisuyo Proyect of the City of Moquegua, Peru.

Prior to entering the Ph.D. Program, she studied in and graduated from the National University of San Agustin of Arequipa Peru, where she received a doctoral degree in education as well as one in history and anthropology. She obtained her Master’s of Arts at Florida Atlantic University. She received a Fulbright Scholarship (1969-1970) to study Ancient Pre-Colombian Textiles: Conservation and Exposition Techniques in The Textile Museum of Washington, D.C., the Museum of Natural History and the Guggenheim Museum of Art in New York.

In December 2006, the National University of San Agustin awarded her the “Honorary Professorship” distinction that entitles her to all the rights and obligations pertaining to that recognition. In the Summer of 2007, she was invited to present conferences and seminars on themes related to environmental sustainability in Peru in the San Agustin University post-doctoral and graduate programs. In March 2008, she was invited by the Universidad Nacional San Agustin’s College of Philosophy to present a paper at the Peru’s XI National Philosophy Conference in Arequipa-Perú.

Dr. Adriaiza-Rodriguez delivering "Philosophy and Ecology in Peru," and "The Urgent Responsibility to Educate for the Ethical Sustainability of the Natural Resources in Peru" in Arequipa-Perú, March 2008.
Since the program accepted the first cohort of students in the Fall of 1999, 30 students have graduated:

**Ana Adriazola-Rodriguez (5/07)**
From Economics to Resources: Teaching Environmental Sustainability in Peru’s Public Education
Chair(s): Kenneth Keaton, Carlos F. Diaz

**Samiah Elizabeth Baroni (5/07)**
Color Me Green: Saudi Arabian Identity and the Manifestations of Power
Chair: Max Kirsch

**Gabriela Ovando Barrero (12/07)**
From Subaltern to President: Evo Morales, New Social Movements, and Autonomies in Bolivia
Chair: Michael Horswell

**Bonnie M. Benson (8/03)**
The Other Side of Fifty: The Crones Among Us
Chair: Susan Love Brown

**Lynne Bentley-Kemp (5/03)**
Recovering Eden: The Photographer in the Garden
Chair: Susan Love Brown

**Maria-Odette Caniwell (8/04)**
Public Intellectuals in Latin America: Writers and Politics
Chair: William Covino

**Paul Anthony Dottin (12/02)**
The End of Race as We Know It: Slavery, Segregation and the African American Quest for Redress
Chair: Stanford Lyman

**Silvia Giagnoni (5/07)**
Christian Rock Goes Mainstream: Youth Culture, Politics and Popular Music in the US
Chair: Chris Scodari

**Natalia Giannini (5/03)**
Naples: The Mother City
Chair: Anthony J. Tamburri

**Juan Carlos Gonzalez (5/05)**
Soil of Misfortune: Education, Poverty, and Race in a Rural South Florida Community
Chair: Max Kirsch

**Andrew R. Halloran (5/07)**
Exploring Diachronic Change in the Population-Specific Vocalizations of Chimpanzees
Chair: Douglas Broadfield

**Bruce Hieronymus (5/07)**
Music, Technology and Social Change: 17th - 18th Centuries
Chair: Kenneth Keaton

**Tobin Kent Hindle (8/06)**
The Regeneration of Nature: An Alternative to Ecological Restoration
Chair: Robin Fiore

**Suzanne M. Kelly (8/06)**
Enduring Relationship with the Dead: The Corpse, The Feminine and Popular Culture
Chair: Jane Caputi

**Anita Kirchen (8/03)**
Finding Their Voice: Jewish Women Artists in the 19th and 20th Centuries
Chair: Max Kirsch

**Holly Ann Larson (8/03)**
Low-Income Women's Standpoint: Recognizing Poor and Working-Class American Women as Generators of Resistant Knowledge
Chair: Jane Caputi

**Beverly R. Lomer (5/06)**
Music, Rhetoric and the Creation of Feminist Consciousness in the Marian Songs of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)
Chair(s): Jane Caputi, Kenneth Keaton

**Chiara Mazzucchelli (8/07)**
Heart of My Race: Questions of Identity in Sicilian-American Writings
Chair: Anthony J. Tamburri

**Rebecca L. McCarthy (8/07)**
Building Cosmopolitical Democracy through the Antigone: A Return to the Chorus
Chair: Jan Hokenson

**Monica Melton (8/07)**
Positive Perspectives on Prevention: Southern Women’s Voices on HIV/AIDS in an African American Community
Chair: Josephine Beoku-Betts

**David Glen Miller (8/07)**
Authenticity, Articulacy, Ineffability, and Moral Self-Formation
Chair: Richard Shusterman

**Caren S. Neile (5/03)**
The Stories of America: In Search of National Values in Family Memorate
Chair: Susan Love Brown

**Kevin M. Petrich (12/03)**
Reforming Public Broadcasting’s Problematic Publicness: An Analysis of the Effectiveness and Prospects of Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting
Chair: Fred Fejes

**Emanuele Pettener (5/04)**
The Father, the Son, and the Sense of Humor: The Novels of John Fante
Chair: Anthony J. Tamburri

**Marc Alan Rhorer (8/07)**
Believers in Dixie: A Cultural Geography of the Kentucky Shakers
Chair: Susan Love Brown

**Kristen L. Robbins (12/06)**
Between Home and School: Guatemalan Maya Students and Cultural Gender Roles in South Florida
Chair: Susan Love Brown

**Nancy Rubin (12/07)**
Digital Public History: Virtual Field Trips as Engaged Learning
Chair: Robin Fiore

**Ilaria Serra (5/04)**
The Value of Worthless Lives: Italian Immigrant Autobiographies by Ordinary People
Chair: Anthony J. Tamburri

**Diana Sinisterra (5/07)**
Colombian Happiness: A Look at Life Satisfaction and Explanatory Style
Chair: Susan Love Brown

**Maltiben Turnbull (12/07)**
The Vessel: The Connection of Pottery and Earth Consciousness
Chair: Jane Caputi
Message from Ph.D. Student Association

The Comparative Studies Ph.D. Students Association (PSA) represents all three programs in the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies:
- Public Intellectuals Program (PI)
- Program in Literatures, Literacies, and Linguistics (LLL)
- Program in Fine and Performing Arts (FPA)
and participates in the FAU Council of Student Organizations (COSO), publishes a twice-yearly journal for the works-in-progress of Comparative Studies students, and sponsors and co-sponsors other student activities.

PSA is pleased to announce the 2008 Executive Committee:
- President: Jeff Kleeger (PI)
- Vice-President: Jamie Lynn Johnson (LLL)
- Treasurer: Kristin Renee Hurley (FPA)
- Secretary: Meg Feeley (LLL)
- COSO Liaison: Kathryn Miller Morris (FPA)

The new executive appreciates the dedication and hard work of outgoing President Shereen Siddiqui, and wishes her well in the completion of her degree as well as in further endeavors.

Currently, PSA is forming planning committees and generating a call for papers for the first annual CST Environmental Conference. This important event is scheduled for October 24, 2008. Please save the date, and look for more details to follow.

PSA recently co-sponsored the American Friends Service Committee exhibit “Eyes Wide Open,” which displays the boots of fallen soldiers from Florida lost in the Iraq War as a commentary on the human cost of war. The work was installed, under the supervision of PI student Jeff Nall, on the Boca campus’ Free Speech Zone at the 5-year anniversary of the start of the war.

All Comparative Studies alumni, faculty, staff and students are welcome to participate in student association activities. Current students are included in email lists; others are encouraged to send an email to mfeeley@fau.edu to express interest in becoming involved.

Update on Our Graduates

Dr. Ana Adriazola-Rodriquez (PI)

Dr. Maria-Odette Canivell (PI)


Dr. Bev Lomer (PI)

Dr. Monica Melton (PI)
Monica has accepted a position in Women’s Studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Caren Neile (PI)

Dr. Malti Turnbull (PI)
Student Profile: Cynthia Zaitz, FPA

At various times in my life, I have been a musician, actor, dancer, poet, writer, and painter, and I believe strongly that the arts can be a powerful transformative agent in society. FAU is very involved in helping artists develop their skills while bringing the arts to the community. The Program in Fine and Performing Arts has given me the opportunity to further examine the relationship between the arts and to gain a better understanding of the relationship between world events and the evolution of the arts.

While a graduate assistant in the program, I have taught “Music History and Appreciation,” “Rock and Roll in American Society,” and in the Fall I will be teaching “Theatre History and Appreciation.” This teaching experience allows me to hone my classroom skills across disciplines and to become more competitive in the marketplace as an interdisciplinary academician.

This summer I am traveling to New Zealand for two months to research my subject of study, the cultural significance and symbolism of Maori dance (haka) and meeting house (whare nui) design. I have been fortunate to have established affiliations with Dame Anne Salmond of the University of Auckland and Wira Gardiner, a respected Maori leader and haka expert. My research takes me to a country that I have long admired, not just because women got the vote there nearly 30 years before we did in the US, but for its natural beauty and what appears to be the successful integration of two different cultures.

I plan complete my dissertation by March 2009 and graduate that May. From there, who knows where the adventure will lead next!

“… the arts can be a powerful transformative agent in society.”
Cynthia Zaitz

Student Profile: Gary Brooten, PI

I came to Florida in 2002 as an early corporate retiree with a small consulting business and a backlog of writing projects on issues of science and public policy I encountered in decades as a science journalist, nonprofit advocate, Environmental Protection Agency public affairs director and corporate communication executive. I quickly saw a need to expand and update my ancient undergraduate education.

I found the Public Intellectuals program from news accounts of Teresa Brennan’s tragic death. Though I hadn’t thought about a Ph.D. this seemed right. The program, along with FAU’s Master’s in communication, had what I needed — theoretical perspective on my decades of experience practicing journalism and applied rhetoric. So I came for the package, starting work on the language requirement in 2003.

Thanks to teaching assistantships in the Master’s program and in the Ph.D. program as well, I have been able to study full-time since fall 2005. My Ph.D. concentration is rhetoric and my second area is environment, a topic of special interest since I had covered the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm as a journalist. I’ll do my dissertation on rhetorical strategies being used in the debates about global climate change, but have not yet narrowed the topic.

I am working on condensing my master’s thesis, based on previously undocumented rhetorical strategy used by George W. Bush in his 2001 stem cell speech, into a journal article, and am beginning to build a small backlog of academic writing projects. I remain involved with science writing and public relations groups, as well as newly-joined scholarly associations. I received the MA last year and look to earning the Ph.D. in Fall 2009.

“… the program had what I needed— theoretical perspective….”
Gary Brooten
Dissertations In Progress

The following Ph.D. students have advanced to candidacy and are working on their dissertations. Please note that these are working titles.

Kathleen Barsalou (LLL), William A. Dunning: The Mind of Reconstruction
Andrea Best (PI), Just Environmental Sustainability
Lorraine Bobb (PI), Jamaican Migrant Domestic Workers in the Cayman Islands: Victims or Fighters?
Savena Budhu (LLL), Negotiating Gender Formations in Contemporary South Asian Diasporic Literature
Rita Butler (PI), The Reality of Fiction: Diagnosing Patriarchal Society in Zora Neale Hurston’s Seraph on the Suwanee
Val Czerny (LLL), Let Them Run Wild: Childhood, the Nineteenth-Century Storyteller, and the Ascent of the Moon
Jane Day (PI), Preacher’s Cave: Developing a National Heritage Tourism Site in Eleuthera, Bahamas
Trudy Edwards (PI), Identity Construction of West Indian Home Health Care Workers in South Florida
Fatin Guirguis (LLL), Resistance Through Oral Traditions in the Coptic Culture
Pam Haley (PI), Agency, Structure, and the International Internet Marriage Practice
Nancy Hester (PI), Cultural Foundations of the Violence in Colombia
Tai Houser (LLL), Reading Detroit: Literary & Cultural Representations of the City Within a National Consciousness
Avia Huisman (PI), Snowbirds in Paradise: How Destination Image and Regional Identity Impact Pro-environmental Behaviors and Attitudes of New Residents and Transient Populations in South Florida
Teresa Jabin (PI), Water, Community, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: South Florida in Crisis
Jamie Johnson (LLL), The Animal in J. M. Coetzee
Vanessa Kaplan (PI), Expose the cause: A rhetorical analysis of the corporate marketing of Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Kristyl Kepley (PI), The impact of technology of South Florida on the integrity and vitality of Haitian Creole amongst second generation speakers

Student Profile: Rhianna Rogers, LLL

In 2004, I entered the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies because I believed that this degree would provide me with a comprehensive background in multiple disciplines that a traditional Ph.D. program could not. In this program, I was able to combine equally my interests in history and archaeology in a way that stimulated my interests and better prepared me to work in both fields.

My dissertation, La Reconquista de la Mujer: The Transformation and Resilience of Aztec and Mayan Female Roles, 1450-1550, will look at the way traditional pre-Columbian Mayan and Aztec roles comparatively dealt with a change in female roles in the Spanish colonial era. With different views about culture and religious practices, native groups were forced to contend against the complete restructuring of their respective cultures. My topic looks at that transformation as well as the ways these women were able to manipulate various European systems to retain power in the historic period.

While I am writing my dissertation, I accepted a position as the tribal archaeologist and section head of tribal archaeology at the Seminole Tribe of Florida-Tribal Historic Preservation Office. My duties include overseeing archiological work performed on all Tribal lands and reservations, reviewing archiological and historical fieldwork in order to meet the criteria set forth in Federal, State, and Tribal law; supervising federal, state, and tribal reporting of archaeological and historical research, and overseeing the utilization, creation, and implementation of the Tribal Archaeology research design. This job also requires publishing, presenting, and researching historical and archaeological information on a regular basis as well as communicating with federal, tribal, and public sectors about Seminole culture, archaeology, and history. I feel that the Ph.D. program prepared me to handle this position.

I hope to graduate in late 2009 once my research is finalized.

“… I was able to combine equally my interests in history and archaeology …."

Rhianna Rogers

Rhianna in Mayapan, one of the capital cities of the Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico.
On Tuesday, March 18th the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), in cooperation with the Comparative Studies Ph.D. Students Association (PSA), honored fallen U.S. military personnel and Iraqi civilians with its traveling exhibition: EYES WIDE OPEN: The Cost of War.

Over 170 pairs of combat boots representing the U.S. soldiers from Florida who have fallen in the Iraq War and 200 pair of shoes representing the Iraqi civilian casualties were on display on the free speech lawn on the Florida Atlantic University Boca Raton campus.

PI student Jeff Nall was instrumental in bringing this display to FAU.

Student Accomplishments

Our students and alumni have made an impact not only locally and nationally, but internationally as well. Space prevents us from listing all of the numerous papers, publications, and other accomplishments submitted for publication. Following is a sampling.

Emmanuel Alvarado, LLL


“Mexico’s Poor: Contextualizing Poverty and Inequality in the post-NAFTA years.” National Society of Hispanic Professionals, July 2007.

Recipient, Lifelong Learning Society Fellowship, Fall 2007.

Savena Budhu, LLL

Val Czerny, LLL
“Baffling the Beards, or The Labrys is Mightier Than the Sword.” Women Moving Forward 2nd Interdisciplinary Conference, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, FL, March 2007.


Jane Day, PI
“Enhancing the Written Record: Using Archaeology to Expand the Historic Legacy at Preacher’s Cave, Eleuthera, Bahamas,” 73rd Annual Meeting, Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, B.C., March 2008.


Margaret Feeley, LLL

Shane Gunderson, PI

Susan Hyatt, FPA
Recipient, Muse Award for “Arts Educator of the Year.” PBC Cultural Council, January 2008.

Jamie Johnson, LLL


Rebecca Karimi, PI


Jill Krieger, LLL
“What’s Right with the Shire: Chesterton’s Visit to Tolken’s World.” Annual Conference of MAPACA (Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association), Philadelphia, November 2007.

“From Paganism Toward Christianity: Theseus in Chaucer’s The Knight’s Tale.” St. Austin Review (StAR), March/April 2008.

“Mary’s Absolute Value: Mary Barton as a Magdalene Figure.” SE Conference of Christianity & Literature, Anderson College, SC, April 2007.

“Do As I Say, Or As I Do? Teaching Bronte’s Jane Eyre and Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet” in StAR, January/February 2007.

Giovanna Lecaros, LLL
FAU Lifelong Learning Society Fellow, 2006-07.

Jacqui May, PI

Ana Moretto, FPA
Musical director, Grease, Olympic Heights High School, Spring 2008.

Jeff Nall, PI

Student Accomplishments (continued)

“The Value of Activism and Contributions to Anthology of Peace Activism,” at the Space Coast Progressive Alliance’s monthly social event, in Melbourne, FL, February 2008.

Panel Participant, Peacemaking Seminar, hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard, in Melbourne, Florida, March 2008.

“Political Activism in the Face of Futility: A Philosophy of Perpetual Revolt,” at Unitarian Universalist Friendship Fellowship at Pineda, in Rockledge, Florida, March 2008.


In 2007, Jeff was instrumental in reforming Brevard county’s abstinence only sex-education curriculum, via his role as Communications Director for the Brevard chapter of NOW as documented in ACLU Freedom Files episode, “Freedom to Know- Sex Education.” (To air in 2008.)

Kitty Oliver, PI

Elizabeth Peterson, LLL
Recipient, FAU Graduate Diversity Fellowship, Spring 2008.


“Sevilla: una ciudad magica en el tiempo de Maria de Zayas.” Sixth Biennial Florida International University Conference on Spanish and Spanish-American Cultural Studies: “Writing and Filming the City” at FIU, Miami, March 2008.

Rhianna Rogers, LLL


Alessandra Senzani, LLL


Shereen Siddiqui, PI
Featured student, FAU President Frank Brogan’s Holiday CD, December 2007.

“Feminism and Activism,” radio interview on “Media Watchdogs.” KKFI 90.1, Kansas City, January 2008.


Walteria Tucker, LLL


2006 McKnight Doctoral Fellowship recipient (5-year award), Florida Educational Fund.

Olga Vazquez, FPA
As part of a privately sponsored project presented by Marshall Turkin and his Class Jazz Ensemble, Olga completed an arts integration curriculum exclusively for Boca Raton Community High School, January 2008.

Developed and designed an arts integration program for the Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphony’s 2006 Young People’s Concerts—American Landmarks and Landscapes. The Symphony offered a modified version of the educational program during their 2007-2008 performance season.


Consultant, The Core Ensemble, a touring company specializing in chamber music theatre; the Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphony’s first educational program evaluation; program evaluation for the Center for Creative Education’s LEAP project; program evaluation for Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education’s Support Community through Arts Learning Environments project.

Cynthia Zaitz, FPA
2008 project coordinator, 2009 Libby Larsen FAU Breezeway Project.