An Education for a Lifetime
Celebrating scholarship at New College

Showcasing the Intellectual Mind
New Scholars New College is born | Page 4
A letter from NCAA Board Chair Robert Lincoln ’77

By the time you receive this issue of Nimbus, Dr. Donal O’Shea will have taken the reins as the fifth President of New College. This is the first in a number of transitions that will occur as New College confronts, adapts and embraces change so that it can continue its mission. As an alum, you are already well aware that a new world needs New College. As you will learn in this issue, New College students and faculty are receiving ever-greater recognition for scholarship, teaching and community engagement. New College alumnae/i shape our world as creative thinkers and innovators. Aaron Hillegass ’89 is one such creative thinker who exemplifies the result of the unique educational experience received at New College’s academic program.

As Alumnae/i, you are already well aware that a unique Alumnae/i Association also serves to support the College. In addition, many alums meet in Coffee Talks with current students that help New College’s young scholars develop an understanding of possible career paths and graduate or professional educational choices. In addition, many alums meet with prospective students and donors, helping to enlighten the community about the New College experience.

Enjoy the experience of teaching your own Independent Study Project (ISP), workshop, or a semester long class at New College as part of our Alumnae/i Fellows Program. This teaching experience allows you to work with the engaged and independent learners of New College in a course you get to build from the ground up. You provide an exciting new learning opportunity for the future alumnae/i of your alma mater in a course designed to supplement the curriculum. Submit your application now for the 2013 January ISP term or spring 2013 semester. The deadline is Friday, August 24th. A faculty recommendation is required for all applicants.

Submit your application now for the 2013 January ISP term or spring 2013 semester. The deadline is Friday, August 24th. A faculty recommendation is required for all applicants.

To download the faculty recommendation form and to view the application guidelines please visit our website: http://nca.edu/alum-fellows. If you have any questions about our Alumnae/i Fellows Program or our application process please contact VP of Alumnae/i Affairs, Jessica Rogers at ncaalum@nca.edu or 941-487-4900.

*If you would like to recommend yourself or a fellow alum to be considered for appointment to the NCAA Board please visit our website and download an application.

Meet the New NCAA Board Members

The New College Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors voted on board applications at the May 2012 meeting. A governance subcommittee consisting of current board members Maia Hinkle ’06, David Banks ’05, and Governance Chair Cindy Hill ’89 along with past leadership Mike Campbell ’87, Larry Vernaglia ’87, and Caroline Chambliss ’79 was created to review and recommend candidates to the board for appointment.

The NCAA received 11 applications. The subcommittee evaluated each application and voted on a recommendation slate that was submitted to the board for consideration. Seven applicants were selected through this process. Four current board members (Robert Lincoln ’77, Susan Sapoznikoff ’83, Stu Levitan ’73, and Carla Eastis ’88) were reappointed to the board and three new board members (Thomas Knight ’03, Mitch Silverman ’91, and Hazel Bradford ’75) were selected.

In addition, the terms of current board members, Mike Burton ’86 and Robert Hans ’76, will end in November of 2012. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service.

New directors are as follows:

**Thomas Knight ’03**

Thomas graduated from New College in 2007 with a concentration in Economics/Environmental Studies, and in 2009, received an MS in Antitrust and Regulation Economics from Tilburg University (The Netherlands). He is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida, where he teaches game theory. Currently, he is serving on the Bureau of Economics at the Federal Trade Commission. Thomas resides in Gainesville with his boyfriend Gerardo.

**Mitch Silverman ’91**


At New College, Mitch served as Justice and Chief Justice on the Student Court, and as a Minister without Portfolio to the NCUSA Board of Directors.

President. He majored in General Studies; his thesis was a narrative of his father’s final illness and death of AIDS, written under the sponsorship of Mac Miller.

Mitch then attended the Florida State University College of Law, where he concentrated in alternative dispute resolution, and practiced as a Certified Legal Intern in the Children’s Advocacy Clinic.

After practicing law in a number of different areas, Mitch returned to school at the Florida State University College of Information, where he received his Master of Science degree in Library and Information Studies, with a concentration in Reference and Information.

Mitch is currently the Outreach and Emerging Technologies Librarian at Nova Southeastern University law school’s Library and Technology Center, in Fort Lauderdale. He lives in Hollywood, FL with his wife Becky Katz.

Mitch is an avid technology user and is very active on Facebook. He wants to connect with as many New College alums as possible—not only online.

**Hazel Bradford ’76**

Hazel Bradford is the Washington reporter for Pensions & Investments, a daily news website and print publication. Her previous positions included director of communications for the International Masonic Masonic Institute and Washington correspondent for McGraw-Hill publications, including Business Week and Engineering News-Record.

She is a founding board member of the Gardenia House for migrant farm worker families on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, and a board member of the News Literacy Project, which introduces high school students to journalism.
The thesis requirement is one of the distinguishing hallmarks of a New College of Florida degree. Aside from what students learn about their topics, it is also what they learn going through the process that makes a New College education so valuable. The thesis process, however, can be an isolating and solitary activity for a student. And as unfortunate as it may be, most thesis projects make it through the baccalaureate and into the library never to be heard or seen again.

In the fall of 2005, Dr. Sonia Labrador-Rodríguez asked me to assist in putting on a Thesis Showcase. The idea was a relatively simple one: create a conference style event where any student from any discipline, has the opportunity to present and share their thesis to the campus community. Students could share their thesis work with each other, younger students and faculty. It took a year to plan, but on March 29, 2006, the first Showcase took place in College Hall with over 25 students presenting their work.

Fast forward to the fall of 2011; a group consisting of faculty who attended a Council of Undergraduate Research Seminar, and staff who attended an Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Central Florida, met to discuss the future direction of the Thesis Showcase. In keeping with recent themes, the event’s name was changed to New Scholars New College and added a stronger public image with greater community presence and external marketing. The New Scholars event was given ad space in the commencement article in the Sarasota Herald Tribune and Public Affairs, the Alumnae/i Association and Foundation heavily promoted the event.

The focus was also to engage all independent research instead of just the thesis. The committee noted that New College students participate in a myriad of research projects including ISPs, summer research activities, and community projects each year, which are not thesis related. These students deserved an equal opportunity to present their impressive work to the campus and surrounding community. The decision also had the benefit of increasing student participation in the event.

In addition, keynote speakers were to be added to the series which was a new change as presenters had not previously been a part of the thesis showcase. In the year leading up to the New Scholars event, much attention was paid to the idea that the higher education system was not “producing” students ready for the job market. Although New College has had to address this issue for years as a liberal arts institution, the economic climate made it a more difficult challenge. As a result of this conflict, the committee agreed that the presenters should be a successful New College alum and a recent or soon-to-be graduate interested in a similar field or business. The idea was not to make claims that a New College degree produces a graduate for a job, but rather gives a graduate the skills and knowledge that will guide him or her for a lifetime of career changes. On May 24, 2012, nearly a year after the committee’s decision to rethink the thesis showcase, New Scholars was given new life. Throughout the course of the day, over 40 students gave oral or poster presentations and over 300 community members, parents, alumni, and friends attended. The day began with opening remarks by New College President Mike Michalson and Provost Stephen Miles who noted that the event was “an embodiment of [New College’s] mission.” A poster session and several panel discussions took place throughout the day. One notable panel discussion addressed the Occupy Wall Street Movement, a group ISP started by Professor of Sociology Sarah Hernandez, an expert on labor movements. Keynote presenters Jonathan Smiga ’75 and Johannah Birney ’08 spoke about their passion for reinventing the restaurant industry to be eco-friendly and sustainable in a talk entitled: [Coffee] Grounds for Success: How a Liberal Arts Education Can Transform Business.”

Smiga, the CEO of Barnies Coffee Kitchen, stated that he “came to New College for the experience of academic freedom and the opportunity to craft his own future.” He noted his firm belief that a good liberal arts education is not a “bridge to a job,” but rather a “springboard for the future.” Birney, an environmental studies major at New College, said “New College is a haven for free thinkers,” said Birney, who worked with faculty to create many tutorials in order to pursue her interests in sustainable food. “The Environmental studies program trains environmental problem solvers. For me, it created a launching pad for success.”

Did your thesis project turn into your life’s work? Share your story with us at ncalum@ncf.edu. Visit our website to learn about other alums who have taken their thesis research to a higher level.

Header: Liz Usherwood presents her research Below: Alyssa Bonchachanvich next to her poster
Aaron Hillegass ‘89 Helps Programmers Achieve “Nerdvana” in A Unique Training Program

Aaron Hillegass ‘89 is the CEO of Big Nerd Ranch, which he founded in 2001. He started programming at the age of 10 in the basement of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. At 19, Aaron took his first professional programming job with the Mitre Corporation in its Advanced Signal Processing Lab. He graduated from New College in ’91 with an AOC in Mathematics.

In 2000 Aaron was asked to teach Apple engineers how to write apps for this new Operating System: Mac OS X. After spending the summer volunteering at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY, he decided to apply the monastic idea of retreat to technical training; Big Nerd Ranch was born. BNR taught its first course in March of 2001.

MacTech consistently names Aaron one of the top 25 most influential people in the Mac community. An accomplished speaker, Aaron has lectured at Apple’s Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC), ApacheCon, and C4. He has given the keynote at all the Apple’s major events, including WWDC, and has been called in, the problem to be solved is probably not an easy one. That experience makes us better, more authoritative teachers.

NCAA: What do you feel you have learned from your experience as an instructor?
Most adults think that the world has overestimated their intelligence. They believe that they have tricked the people around them. In a strenuous learning experience, most people worry that their shortcomings will be discovered.

Here is the funny part: most people around the self-conscious learner don’t care how smart he is, and the ones who care know exactly how intelligent/dumb he is.

Any energy spent trying to trick the people around you is energy wasted.

NCAA: Your company has an office in Amsterdam. Why do you feel it’s important for BNR to have a global presence?
Here is a weird fact of economics: If you want to do something really well, you need to move into as big a market as you can.

For example, let’s say you make bread in a village in Nepal. If you make decent bread, your neighbors will buy it and you will survive. There is no real reason to make the recipe better – there is no serious competition and you can’t sell more bread than your neighbors will eat.

If you decide that you are going to sell bread to everyone on the planet, you will spend every hour tweaking the recipe. Every time you make it better, you will change your market share of the world bread market.

(Continued on pg. 16)
Since 1995, Dr. Miriam Wallace has been teaching courses at New College on the British novel and literary theory with particular interest in feminist and gender theories. She was recently granted a Visiting Fellowship at Yale University’s Lewis Walpole Library to conduct research on her project “Illustrating Speech: Depicting Professional, Popular, and Illicit Public Speaking, 1780-1820.”

Interview by: Sarah Thompson ’06

NCAA: How do you feel that your research completed as a Visiting Lewis Walpole Fellow will enhance what you bring to the classroom?

Professor Miriam Wallace

Well, since at New College we teach a really broad range, I don’t teach a focused 18th-century course all that often. But I will be teaching my 18th-century British literature survey in fall 2012, and I’m contemplating using some more visual images or even illustrations to the works we read. There’s something about reading an image that asks you to focus on details and that takes you out of the comfort zone of narrative. You really have to see what’s there. You can’t supply what you think should be there from your own mind the way you can sometimes do with a novel or prose with a strong plot line. In a less specific content-driven way, I think spending focused time myself learning something new—having the experience of starting from scratch in an area where I’m not really an expert, learning to “read” new materials (like satirical political prints where I don’t even know who all the people are or what the jokes are about), and then figuring out how to write about this new material—keeps me honest. Sometimes when I’ve taught something many times or written on it extensively, it’s easy to forget how difficult it was when I was just starting to work with that material. As faculty we ask a lot of our students at New College, and it’s good to remind ourselves what it’s like to be just starting out as a beginner.

NCAA: What do you believe are some of the challenges that face New College scholars as they prepare for their lives after New College? What can we as an institution do to combat them?

There are two aspects to this—one from the faculty angle that alumni/i might not initially think of. New College is first and foremost a teaching college, so for New College faculty, one of the real challenges is figuring out how to balance scholarly work with teaching. Faculty work hard to be great teachers, mentors, and often life-long colleagues, while still keeping their own minds alive as active researchers. When this is done well, it has a really big impact—making faculty better teachers and demonstrating for students how to have an intellectually engaging life.

For NCF scholars, I think this balance of life and work is a key challenge—how to find something that will pay you enough to live on while also using your time to keep learning and engaging with the world. College is a betwixt and between period—you’re not still a child at home, but you’re also not entirely on your own yet and someone is usually checking up on you. Transitioning from the more structured life of a college student into the life of someone who is completely independent is a big jump. I’d like to think that “scholarship” is more broad than what is often articulated in a college setting. Scholarship is not just specialized library work or experimental laboratory work, but it’s also about figuring out how to solve a problem that might require some online or library research (like how to build your own brick patio), how to develop a new skill or even how to be intellectually flexible enough to adapt to a new career, a new life situation, or a new living context. Even if you have a job for a while that isn’t challenging or enjoyable, you should have the mental furniture to keep yourself entertained or to do something you really love in your spare time.

In the end, making the most of where you are, not being afraid to pick up and try something new, to take on a challenge even if it scares you, and to recognize that adaptability requires great intellectual and psychic stamina—that’s what I hope most NCF grads take away. After all, you probably had to adapt quickly to all the different demands that classes, social life, and the college itself put on you. You never know where those skills will take you, but you’ll be able to keep picking yourself up and moving to interesting places if you trust yourself.
New College Students Receive Honors for their Scholarship

Recent graduate Claire Comiskey received the honor of presenting at the Council on Undergraduate Research’s (CUR) Posters on the Hill event in Washington, D.C., this April.

Claire Comiskey, a 2012 graduate, found out that she would be presenting at the Council on Undergraduate Research’s (CUR) Posters on the Hill event in early January. Held on April 23–24, in Washington, D.C, the CUR honored the research achievements of 75 undergraduate students from colleges and universities nationwide. Each student presented his or her research to members of Congress, congressional staff members, and federal government officials, among others. Claire was one of only 75 students selected from a total of 850 applicants.

Claire’s poster was based on her senior thesis project. She examined the impact of women’s participation in microfinance self-help groups run by nongovernmental organizations (NGO) on their economic status and social empowerment. Focusing on rural Rajasthan, India, Claire found that the women’s participation in the groups did not make them more money, but did allow them to accrue savings that they valued. Most of the women she interviewed did not feel a sense of social empowerment. The goal of her research was to indicate broadly how women’s microfinance programs can be better designed and implemented.

Asked how she enjoyed the experience at Posters on the Hill, Claire noted: “It was great to be in the presence of other students who were pursuing their own individual passions. The best part of the event, for me, was when we put our posters up, before the public came in, and had the opportunity to talk to each other about what our research was about. It was fascinating to see how so many people from different institutions had arrived at the same event through different means.”

Claire attended Posters on the Hill with the assistance of a Student Travel Grant (STG), a core NCAA program which students may apply to in order to receive funding for their academic pursuits. “Not only did the Student Travel and Research Grant make this trip possible,” Claire stated “but I also applied and received SRTG funding for travel costs related to my thesis and ISP research earlier in my academic career. All of those research projects lead up to this moment. I would not have even been able to attend this event if it wasn’t for the support I previously received. (Continued pg. 16.)

Grace Fisher Named 2012 Civic Fellow

New College student Grace Fisher has been named a national 2012 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact for her personal commitment to improving the Sarasota-Bradenton community through service, community-based research and advocacy. Fisher is a second-year student in sociology from Jupiter, FL., who has spent many hours coordinating clothing and food drives, volunteering with food pantries and working on homelessness issues. “This award honors students who demonstrate leadership in the promotion of lasting, positive social change,” said former New College President Gordon E. “Mike” Michalsen Jr. “This recognition suggests that Grace represents the best features of the New College student body. It also suggests good things about her future.”

Through an independent study project at New College, Fisher participated in an Americorps VISTA initiative that partnered with the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness and Resurrection House, a day resource center for the homeless in Sarasota. As part of the Suncoast Partnership’s Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, Fisher collaborated with homeless individuals, city commissioners and managers, law enforcement and local attorneys to discuss crime, safety and community outreach techniques. She also helped synthesize data from a 2011 homeless census and attended community meetings with service providers throughout the county.

Recently, Fisher led her New College classmates in implementing after-school tutoring and mentoring at the Robert L. Taylor Community Center in Sarasota’s Newtown neighborhood. Fisher is also being sponsored by the Sarasota Branch of the American Association of University Women to attend its 2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland, College Park. Fisher is one of 162 students from 32 states to be honored as a 2012 Newman Civic Fellow. She will join a network of students around the country, sharing ideas and tools through online networking to leverage a greater capacity for service and change.

Two Students Win Prestigious National Science Research Grants

Sophie Lang and Katie McAlpine have been awarded grants for specialized research study with the National Institute on Standards and Technology (NIST) Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program. The program is supported by the National Science Foundation.

Sophie Lang, of Tallahassee, FL, is one of 80 students to study at the NIST SURF facility just outside Washington, D.C. Lang is a third-year student pursuing her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from New College and an associate’s degree in fire science from Florida State College at Jacksonville. Lang will participate in the Fire Research Division, which develops, verifies and utilizes measurements and predictive methods to quantify the behavior of fire and means to reduce the impact of fire on people, property and the environment.

Katie McAlpine, of Spring Hill, FL, is one of approximately 20 students to be awarded the fellowship for study at the NIST SURF program in Boulder, CO. McAlpine is a third-year student in physics, who has collaborated with Dr. Mariana Sendoa, professor of physics, in New College’s Optical Spectroscopy Lab.
A New World Needs New College

New College Students Receive Prestigious Travel Scholarships in Their Quest to Make the World a Better Place

**Four Fulbright Recipients**

Four New College students, all graduates of the 2012 class, were selected as 2012-2013 Fulbright recipients.

Dana Zeigler, from Niceville, FL, received an English Teaching Assistantship to Indonesia where she will incorporate her study of Political Science and Music into the curriculum. At New College, Dana has served on the student government as vice president of public affairs, a teaching assistant and director of the New Cats Jazz Band.

Susanna Payne-Passmore from Philadelphia, PA will teach in Georgia where she will use her studies in music composition to introduce American culture to her students. Payne-Passmore first became aware of the country during a concert in Philadelphia of the Anchiskhati Ensemble, a polyphonic choral group from Tbilisi. Christopher Mulholland from Bradenton, FL will continue his research to better understand the connection between epigenetic changes, the chemical modifications made to the DNA in genes, and cancer at the Center for Integrated Protein Science at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany. Fully proficient in German, Mulholland plans to enter a doctoral program in the field of epigenetics in preparation for a research career. Finally, Kathleen McQueeney of Boynton Beach, FL received a Fulbright to the Netherlands, but will be starting a fully funded PhD program in Economics at Brandeis University in lieu of a Fulbright year.

**Three Critical Language Scholarship Winners**

New College of Florida students Nolan Bensen of Orlando, FL, Ilene Gillispe of Alexandria, VA and Neushin Jiwani of LaOrange, CA have each been awarded a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) by the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for study this summer. This is the third consecutive year that students from New College have been awarded this top government grant. CLS participants study approximately one year’s worth of language study in seven to 10 weeks during the summer institutes. The 13 critical languages of study include: Punjabi, Mandarin, and Arabic.

**Two French Teaching Assistantship Awards**

Two New College of Florida students will travel to France next year under teaching assistantship grants awarded by the French government. Rose Marx, a French/English literature major from Fort Myers, FL, has been assigned to a secondary school in Paris, and Alison Parks, an international and area studies/French major from Palm Coast, FL, will teach in a primary school in Lille. Marx and Parks make up a total of 17 New College students who have received awards to teach in France since 2000-2001. The Teaching Assistant Program in France is a joint initiative of the French Ministry of Education, the Centre international d’études pédagogiques (CIEP) and the Cultural Services Department of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. Each year, nearly 1,500 American citizens and permanent residents teach for seven to nine months in public schools across all regions of metropolitan France and in the overseas departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion.

**2012 Kremlin Fellow**

Michael Long was named a 2012 Kremlin Fellow, one of only 15 student leaders selected from colleges and universities nationwide, including Harvard. Long represented the Florida Student Association (FSA) and New College when he met with Russian government officials, entrepreneurs and student leaders in Moscow.

The Kremlin Fellows Program is an exchange program sponsored by Russia’s Federal Agency on Youth Affairs and administered by The Center for American-Russian Engagement of Emerging Leaders. The program was founded in 2010 to introduce the next generation of American leadership to the cultural and historic context in which Russian people and institutions operate as well as to help dismantle stereotypes left behind by the Cold War.

**Alumnae/i Award Recipients**

For many New College alums, there is no time to rest on their laurels after graduation. Here is a snapshot of some of the impressive awards our alumnas/i have garnered within the past 5 years:

- 3 alums have won Fulbrights in their graduate programs including Michael Jones ’99 who won a 2012-2013 research grant to study Education in Laos, Kara Andrade ’95 who received a Fulbright to Guatemala for the 2009-2010 year to study Fine Art, and Daniel Pettit ’99 who was awarded a prestigious research grant to study Anthropology in Ireland in 2008-2009.
- 3 alums have been awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Carly Summers ’01 in 2012, Talya Dayton ’01 in 2011, and Craig Schuetze ’01 in 2010.
- 4 alums were admitted to Teach for America. Naushervan Hafeez ’04, Dayna Firth ’07, and Aijne Milukaite ’07 were awarded in 2011; while Nina Barracloch ’06 received this honor in 2010.
- Elisha Renee ’67 was awarded a 2012-2013 Guggenheim Grant for her outstanding research in African Studies.
- Karen Hicks received a NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF). Her proposal, titled “Laboratory Studies of Titan and Early Earth Tholins”, focuses on the formation mechanisms of complex organic molecules, which have implications for chemistry at the origin of life.
The 2012 commencement, held on May 25, 2012, celebrated New College’s second largest graduating class with 179 students. (The largest commencement took place in 1975 with 182 students.) As is traditional, New College students wore fanciful costumes in jovial celebration of their proud achievement. One student proudly wore a sign that stated: “have a college degree, need a job.”

References to the job market were echoed in New College President Mike Michalson’s keynote address. Responding to the current national trends towards vocational-oriented degrees, Michalson reassured parents that their sons and daughters were “wonderfully prepared for a future in which college graduates will experience multiple career changes, a future filled with career options that haven’t even been invented yet. Frankly, in today’s situation, the students I worry about are those being trained to do just one thing, since that is a surely a recipe for obsolescence.”

Dr. Michalson also emphasized the importance of critical thinking skills rather than technical training in building a lifelong career. “We have a different approach here at New College,” the president stated “an approach that manages to support the legitimate needs of economic development without making those needs paramount. Our distinctiveness is embedded in the seriousness with which we take the ideal of educating the ‘whole student’ as opposed simply to honing their acquisitive instincts and capacities.

The intellectual curiosity of the students we attract is not only the starting point for the truly educated person we try to cultivate, it is very likely the main source of New College’s institutional distinctiveness. Intellectual curiosity is like a power supply providing the College with an ongoing stream of continuity through administrative changes, political upheavals and budgetary downturns.”

Later in the ceremony, Dr. Michalson was bestowed the title of “honorary alum” by Alumnae/i Association Chair Robert Lincoln ’77 who presented the honor on behalf of the Alumnae/i Association. Among the reasons provided for Michalson’s honor were his strong leadership abilities, especially in times of financial hardship. This touching moment was commemorated in a framed document that will hang in Michalson’s new Caples office.

Following the commencement ceremony, 200 alumni of all ages gathered at the Kesting Center for a festive celebration. New College band, The New Cats, crooned cool jazz tunes while alumni, new graduates, and families dined on fanciful hors d’oeuvres under the stars. The event was a true celebration (New College style) of the graduates hard earned achievements.

The 2012 commencement celebration marked Dr. Michalson’s last graduation ceremony as president of the college, a position he stepped down from on July 1, 2012. Dr. Donal O’Shea, a mathematician and administrator of Mount Holyoke College, succeeds President Michalson as the College’s fifth president.
Claire Comiskey Continued from page 10

The funds provided through this program were vital to making my NCF experience what it was. Continuing to fund this program immeasurably enriches a student’s academic experience at New College and I believe other students should have the same opportunities I was afforded.”

Comiskey’s range of experience working on social and economic justice issues in the U.S. and abroad is impressive. In her home state of Wisconsin, Claire worked at the Capitol as a social policy intern researching and drafting a bill to replace predatory payday loan institutions with microfinance programs. While at New College, she conducted independent research on modern leftist populist movements in Latin America, and in 2009, she was a discussant at the 2009 ASA Race, Gender and Class Conference and an American Delegate at Northwestern University’s Global Engagement Summit. In 2010, she spearheaded a project in Bolivia in partnership with a local NGO to create a work cooperative for the production of reusable bags in a women’s prison. During her time there, Claire also led political and social leadership workshops in collaboration with local feminist groups. In 2011, she worked with nonprofit Workers Defense Project in Dallas, Texas, researching the adverse conditions that immigrant workers face in the construction industry.

Currently, Claire is interning with Interfaith Action, an ally organization with the Coalition for Immokolee Workers in Immokolee, FL, which aims to stop human rights abuses of undocumented farm workers. Claire hopes to be offered a full time position with Interfaith after her internship is complete. Claire later plans to pursue a Ph.D. in sociology, focusing on the economic sociology of globalization. Her goal is to understand the ways in which shifts in the global economy change people’s lives and livelihoods—for better or worse.

“I hope to engage the communities I will become a part of—locally and globally— in action research, joining the resources of academia with the knowledge, passion and social capital of communities to do relevant and necessary research for social change,” says Comiskey. “I hope to be an individual who both contributes to our understanding of the myriad forces of globalization and an agent that channels these forces for social justice.”

“Nerdavana” Cont. from page 6

We’ve always considered ourselves a global company. Thus, we’ve never been afraid to make the investments that set us apart from our competitors.

NCAA: What do you believe is the value of a New College degree?

We currently employ three New College alumnae/i, and I would love to hire more. Every spring I call Dr. McDonald to beg for the names of some soon-to-be-graduates with technical ability.

I am always looking for employees who want to spend their lives learning. If you attended New College, you are probably passionate about learning. If you graduated, it is guaranteed.

Also, I look for people who care about more than just short-term, material rewards. It is nice to know someone has spent a few years stewing in a place where the community celebrated scholarship, art, social justice, and environmentalism and disapproved of blatant materialism. If you’re interested in a position please send resumes to jobs@bignerdranch.com.

NCAA: What are your goals for the future of Big Nerd Ranch?

We will be building our own conference center in a forest near the Atlanta airport.

Big Nerd Ranch has already exceeded all my expectations, but I hope that we will continue to learn and grow, both as individuals and as a company. I hope that our reputation for expertise and integrity continues to spread. I hope that our classes continue to change people’s lives.

1. Sarasota Law Networking Reception hosted at the new law office of Ahorn ’89 & Jenn Maplin ’89.
2. Miami—Hosts Patricia & Rob Hans ’78 pose with Dr. Michalson
3. May New College Night Out—Charlie Lenger ’91, Doug Perry ’90, Jessica Rogers, Carol Fleener ’64, DeeAnn Garey Roy ’78, Greg Roy, John Buchanan ’72, Barbara Coo ’67, & Sarah Thompson ’06
4. Tallahassee—Susan Sapoznikoff ’83, Richard Butgereit ’81, & Kim M-Chane ’88
5. June New College Night Out—A New College incoming student parent poses with Mike Lasche ’76, & Caroline Chambliss ’79
6. Miami—Gena Peoples ’94, Dr. Michalson, & Sam Skogstad ’77

Spring & Summer Chapter Events

Clear your schedules, because the NCAA and New College’s new President Don O’Shea are headed to your area soon! Here are some of the locations we’ll be visiting in the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013. Please be sure we have your updated address on file in order to receive an invite! If you are interested in hosting a chapter event in your area please contact us at ncalum@ncf.edu.

• Atlanta, GA
• Boston, MA
• Chicago, IL
• Los Angeles, CA
• New York, NY
• Orlando, FL
• San Francisco, CA
• Tallahassee, FL
• Tampa, FL
• Washington, DC

Host a New College Night Out at your favorite local hotspot in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. Contact ncalum@ncf.edu today.

Don’t love to hire more. Every spring I call Dr. McDonald to beg for the names of some soon-to-be-graduates with technical ability.

I am always looking for employees who want to spend their lives learning. If you attended New College, you are probably passionate about learning. If you graduated, it is guaranteed.

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NCAA: What are your goals for the future of Big Nerd Ranch?

We will be building our own conference center in a forest near the Atlanta airport.

Big Nerd Ranch has already exceeded all my expectations, but I hope that we will continue to learn and grow, both as individuals and as a company. I hope that our reputation for expertise and integrity continues to spread. I hope that our classes continue to change people’s lives.

1. Sarasota Law Networking Reception hosted at the new law office of Ahorn ’89 & Jenn Maplin ’89.
2. Miami—Hosts Patricia & Rob Hans ’78 pose with Dr. Michalson
3. May New College Night Out—Charlie Lenger ’91, Doug Perry ’90, Jessica Rogers, Carol Fleener ’64, DeeAnn Garey Roy ’78, Greg Roy, John Buchanan ’72, Barbara Coo ’67, & Sarah Thompson ’06
4. Tallahassee—Susan Sapoznikoff ’83, Richard Butgereit ’81, & Kim M-Chane ’88
5. June New College Night Out—A New College incoming student parent poses with Mike Lasche ’76, & Caroline Chambliss ’79
6. Miami—Gena Peoples ’94, Dr. Michalson, & Sam Skogstad ’77

Spring & Summer Chapter Events

Clear your schedules, because the NCAA and New College’s new President Don O’Shea are headed to your area soon! Here are some of the locations we’ll be visiting in the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013. Please be sure we have your updated address on file in order to receive an invite! If you are interested in hosting a chapter event in your area please contact us at ncalum@ncf.edu.

• Atlanta, GA
• Boston, MA
• Chicago, IL
• Los Angeles, CA
• New York, NY
• Orlando, FL
• San Francisco, CA
• Tallahassee, FL
• Tampa, FL
• Washington, DC

Host a New College Night Out at your favorite local hotspot in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. Contact ncalum@ncf.edu today.
Making an Impact
One student at a time

New College offers its thanks to the many generous donors who gave scholarship gifts this year, allowing financially struggling students to attend college and providing the funding for students to embark on research and travel around the world. 94% of New College students receive financial aid, merit based scholarships, and/or research and travel grant funding. Donations come from New College alumni, local donors, and foundations. Debra Faulk (pictured above) of Wells Fargo Foundation which donated $10,000 last year to help students living in an 8-county region of Florida’s Gulf Coast, says: “Wells Fargo is pleased to support New College. We recognize the importance of providing access to higher education and applaud New College’s pursuit of a diverse and inclusive student body.” Wells Fargo has announced their commitment of $10,000 in scholarship support for the 2012-2013 school year. We thank them for their generosity.

In addition, the Student Research and Travel Grant Program (SRTG) provides grant funding to New College students in support of research and travel associated with their thesis work, tutorials and independent study projects. In the 2011-2012 year alone, 53 students were awarded grants totaling $37,385. Proposals are invited from students seeking support for research undertaken with a faculty advisor and for any accompanying travel. A committee of four alumni/i and three faculty members review all proposals. Those awarded monies must submit a thank you letter to their donor. To remain eligible for future funding, they must also submit a summary of their experience. Each year, a reception is held thanking donors for their contributions to scholarships and the SRTG program. We sincerely appreciate the community’s support in ensuring all students can attend New College and giving them the freedom to research and travel around the world in support of scholarly work.

For information on how you can support a New College student please contact Jessica Rogers, V.P of Alumni/i Affairs at jrogers@ncf.edu or 941-487-4900.

Did you know?
Alums have given a total of $230,685 during the New College Promise Campaign to fund student scholarships and grants.

“I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the generous stipend you have given me for my research at an orphanage in Uganda. I believe my study will not only aid in providing an understanding of the cognitive deficits which are caused by PTSD at the orphanage but will open the door to future research in therapies for children everywhere. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for your generosity.”

–Stephanie Larumbe

“Throughout my life I have been graced with the good will and charity of others. This charity provided my first home with dry milk, basic foods and a bed. This charity purchased school supplies for my first day to elementary school. This charity pushed me to believe that I could not only go to college, but would go to college. So, I sit here today in my New College dormitory because people like you chose to take part in the charity that has graced my life.”

–Michael “Gavin” Dietrich

“I view my marine biology research as a step towards sustainability within the aquaculture and fishing industries, the benefits of which will be experienced by future generations. This grant allows students to dream beyond the limitations of our wallets – limitations which should never be a factor in hindering education.”

–Meagan White-Domine

“Thank you for contributing to help me study at Smolny College in St. Petersburg, Russia. By researching with the faculty and taking advantages of travel opportunities within Russia, I will be able to gather information I will use in my thesis. By funding me, you not only let me graduate as a Russian language and literature major, but you benefit my entire academic future.”

–Erich Barganier

“During these times of economic duress, the contributions of yourselves and others have been invaluable in alleviating the fiscal burden placed on not only my family, but on those of many close friends. The value you have placed on furthering New College’s mission and expanding access to this education has and will continue to have a profound role in enriching the lives of students.”

–Joshua Scheible

“Although New College already is one of the nation’s most affordable colleges, more than half of our students receive financial aid. The availability of scholarship support is vital to attract and retain highly talented, motivated, and innovative students, including those from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The creation of a named scholarship endowment is a two-fold gift. In the act of honoring or memorializing a member of one’s family, a civic leader or a former professor or student within the New College community, the donor is also recognizing and assisting exceptional students. Through this kind of financial support, New College is able to attract and retain a diverse student body of the highest intellectual caliber.

The New College Promise will increase scholarship funds available to students from underrepresented communities, especially first-generation, minority and out of state students. In addition to endowing scholarships, donors can provide annual tuition, room, and board support for individual students. Donors have the opportunity to meet their scholarship recipient at an annual lunch or dinner and frequently stay in contact with their student during and after graduation.

To endow a single out-of-state scholarship costs $400,000. To endow a single in-state student scholarship costs $200,000.

Help us make an impact one student at a time. Make your promise today.

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The Legacy Club

Be among the many alumni like Sharon Landesman Ramey ’65 and husband Craig Ramey who are including New College in their future plans. Make a legacy gift today for the future of New College’s best and brightest students of tomorrow.

Sharon had this to say about her gift: “I cannot imagine having the wonderful and adventurous life I have had without New College being my educational foundation. I have lived my whole life believing that “in the final analysis each student is responsible for his or her own education.” Thank goodness I now realize that my education is also the result of my connections with talented peers and faculty members who created my New College experience.” Craig Ramey, father of New College alumna Ann Dryer Andre ’87, (Sharon is the mother) feels he too has now joined the New College community as the proud father of a New College graduate.

If you are interested in learning more about how to make a planned gift please contact VP of Alumnae/i Affairs Jessica Rogers at jrogers@ncf.edu or 941-487-4900.

Longboat Key Resident George Skestos Appointed to New College Board of Trustees

Longboat Key resident George Skestos has been appointed to the New College of Florida Board of Trustees by the Florida Board of Governors for the State University System. Skestos’ term runs through January 6, 2013, completing the term of J. Robert Peterson, who passed away in March. Skestos is the founder of Home- wood Corp., a residential building company based in Columbus, Ohio. He served on the Ohio State University Board of Trustees for nine years, with a one-year term as president. Skestos also served as chairman of the University East Hospital Board. He is a native of Owosso, MI, and relocated to Longboat Key, FL, in 2000. He earned his bachelor’s degree, master’s in business administration (MBA), bachelor of laws (LLB) and law degree from the University of Michigan.

Skestos joins a board whose members currently include Bradford Baker, Rick Cole (faculty chair), Audrey Coleman, Robert Johnson, William Johnston, Elaine Kesting, Michael Long (student government president), Keith Monda, Mary Ruiz ’73, John Saputo, Felice Schulaner ’78, and Steven Snyder. To learn more about the New College Board of Trustees please visit our website at http://ncf.edu/web/ncflorida/bot

New College Logo Redesign Update

The New College redesign team, consisting of alumni, faculty, staff, and students, has now reviewed all of the responses from the survey which closed on July 11, 2012 along with comments posted on Facebook and the blog. We are grateful for all of the constructive feedback and appreciative of our engaged and passionate New College community.

After a careful analysis of the survey comments, it is clear that while design “A” was the choice of a majority (54%) of respondents, it was the reluctant favorite, and we still have more work to do. We all want a logo that expresses the unique spirit and intellectual rigor of New College. We’re not about to compromise that objective. Because of that, we have decided to step back and take more time to completely integrate your input. In other words, we have heard what you have said, and we are not pursuing any of the four designs you were shown. This is a complex undertaking, and we recognize it’s a very big decision. Thank you again for taking the time to be part of the process. We will continue to keep you informed about the process as we move forward.

To read more New College news please visit our website at http://ncf.edu/news and be sure to join our email mailing list. Contact us at ncalum@ncf.edu for details.

New College is one of several partners with TEDx, an offshoot of TED, the global foundation devoted to “Ideas Worth Spreading.” TED started in 1984 bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, and Design. Since then, its scope has become even broader with the creation of TEDx, designed to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level. The focus of TEDxSarasota is “Creativity Matters.” Why it matters, where it matters, how it matters in the lives of each of us. The organizers say global change is effected because of the creative spark that ignites after learning and discussion.

TEDxSarasota will be held 12/12/12 at the Asolo Theater and includes all day presentations of 6 – 18 minutes each on creativity. We are hoping several of our professors will present. We are also a marketing partner; New College will be a host site for a TEDx salon on campus, a small intimate event to begin discussion for the larger TEDx December event.

For more information on how you can participate contact Marty Katz, Director of Marketing at mkatz@ncf.edu or 941-487-4743.

Named Book Fund at the New College Library

We are pleased to announce a new way to support the Jane Bancroft Cook Library. There has long been a tradition of endowing named book funds at college and university libraries, both public and private. New College is starting its own tradition of creating an endowed book fund. This fun will not only support the purchase of books and electronic resources for the Library’s general collection, but may also support the acquisition of numerous other items for special collections. The essence of an endowed fund is that only interest is used to purchase materials, the principal is never touched. Please consider starting a named book fund at the Cook Library in memory of or in honor of someone, in recognition of an alum or student, or a particular advisor or professor. A minimum donation of $1,000 is required. These make wonderful gifts and can be added to by anyone throughout the years to come. A plaque listing the Library’s named book funds will be permanently displayed in the Cook Library foyer and all book fund participants will receive a free lifetime membership to the New College Library Association.

For more information on how you can support the library, please contact the New College Foundation at 941-487-4800 or foundation@ncf.edu.

Invest in your future and ours
Glenda Cimino’s senior year at New College was ‘74, a turning point in her life as she graduated with her BA in Anthropology and the Department of Art History. She received a Master of Science in the Department of Anthro- pology and the Department of Art History. In 2010, she was awarded the honor of Afroamerican and African American professorship, and in 2012, she became the first assistant in the Writing Resource Center. In 2013, she published her first novel, “The Box,” with a team in Brasov, Romania. In 2011 she directed a short film, “Temptation,” with an Iranian Director. In 2011 she also directed the film “Down by the River,” which was released in Dublin, Ireland. She is currently working on raising funds for Oyster Kiln Literary Magazine, an annual online magazine she and a few fellow alumni originally created for a writing workshop. Please contact Natalie at natalsi@nfcu.edu to find out more. To join the magazine, visit http://oyster- kiln.com.

Christine Mccormick
Jamek ’08 married Taylor Jamrock on March 24, 2012 in Orlando, Fl.

It is with great sadness that New College an nounces the passing of J. Robert “Bob” Peterson, a longtime College and Foundation board member and generous contributor to New College and its students. Peterson died on Thursday, March 15, 2012 of complications following surgery. He was 88 years old. He was a true personal friend as well as respect for Bob,” said New College President Mike McIvor in a release whose generosity impacted not only the school but countless other arts and education orga- nizations in the Sarasota area. “He was a remarkable man, ex- tremely bright, who had an im- pressive command of the details of New College. He was 88 years old. “Bob was very nononsense. He possessed a very direct and effective way of working with others in meetings and discussions in Texas politics.

Tom Dayton ’74 has been designing software for the past eight years at NASA’s Ares Research Center. The software he’s been working on is now certified and deployed in John-}

Jason Palmeri ’95, recently published a book entitled, “Re- mixing Composition: A History of Multimodal Writing Pedagogy.” Jason did his thesis on writing pedagogy at New College. Jason’s administrative experience includes serving as Director of CSU San Marcos’ new General Education program. He has extensive committee experience, including work in enrollment management, curriculum development, budgetary operations, and hiring priorities.

Andrew A. Workman ’83 was appointed Provost and Senior VP at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Wendy Hoon Langen ’83 is an Assistant Professor at Barry University, teaching physical dis- abilities. Her article “The Evalu- ation of Physician Assistant Students’ History-Taking Abili- ties Using Actors as Standard- ized Patients” was recently published in the Journal of Physician Assistant Education.

Isabel Thompson ’88 graduated from her Ph.D. pro- gram in Mental Health Counseling with an emphasis on children and youth from Florida on August 11, 2012.

Shannon Dunn ’88 married her partner, Ryan Mackey, in June, and the two are currently living in Florida after moving back from Savannah, Georgia and from Texas, her home state. New College is currently the Archaeologist/ Cultural Resource Specialist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service for the state of Florida, a position that provides opportunities for research and travel at research sites throughout the state. She is happy to have volunteers to join her in the field!

Vicki-Marie Petrick ’90 de- nied the PhD in “History and Civilizations” - speciality “Art History” under the title “La Corporazione Marziale del paesaggio italiano del XIII secolo a Titian” on the 27th of June. She completed her MA in 2007 at Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris, France.

Deborah Goodwin Bailey ’92 will be attending the Clarion Writers’ Workshop in San Diego this summer. Clarion is an intensive six-week summer pro- gram focused on fundamentals of science fiction and fantasy. Clarion participants are matched with mentors and have the potential for highly successful writing careers and publishing opportunities with an application.

Curtis Worthington ’70 published Literary Charleston and Charleston’s literary history of a country with Trinity Univer- sity. With trendy recol- ocalization efforts digestive in the Old South with ever-grow-

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of her son had schizophrenia. Doctors recommended hospitalization, but Bob and Lee disagreed and instead founded the National Alliance of Research in Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSD), later renamed the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation. The organization remains the largest donor-supported organization of its kind in the United States.

Peterson began his long association with New College in 1997, when friend and current New College of Florida Board of Trustees Chair Bob Johnson encouraged him to join the board of the New College Foundation. He served on that board from February 1997 until June 2008, when he was named a trustee emeritus of the Foundation. In 2006, Peterson was named to the Board of Trustees of New College of Florida, replacing outgoing member John Cranz. Peterson’s board position was renewed by the Florida Board of Governors in 2008 and currently runs through 2013.

Over the years, Peterson contributed more than $2.5 million to the College, its faculty and its students, including a charitable remainder trust of $2.1 million made in 2001. In honor of his generosity, New College named one of its new residence halls in his honor. Peterson was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Major General John Peterson, Jr., and by grandchildren Philip, Janice and her husband Timothy Radder of Sarasota, Florida, replacing outgoing member John Cranz.

New College named one of its residence halls in honor of the late Ulla Searing. Born in Sweden on Oct. 21, 1912, she was sometimes called the “mother of the arts” with an incredible wit and this great smirk.”

Searing was known for her signature white gloves and for her adherence to standards of social decorum. “Some people saw her as flirty and demanding,” said Famiglio. “In reality she was just correct. She wanted people to step up and she wanted them to exercise etiquette and decorum at all times. She was very thoughtful, generous, kind, sensitive and with an incredible wit and this great smile.” Although she made significant philanthropic gifts over the years, her giving accelerated in the last several years of her life. She contributed more than $9 million to The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, which in 2007 opened the Ulla R. and Arthur F. Searing Wing. Her contributions include a $4 million bequest to Ringling College for scholarships; a $2 million gift to New College of Florida; and many others, including a gift to her husband’s alma mater, Lehigh University.

Searing was a longtime friend of New College. An avid boat owner, she and her husband Arthur Searing purchased land on Longboat Key in 1973. Arthur Searing died in 1983; the couple had no children.

Help us find our lost alumnae/i

The NCAA is looking for our lost alumnae/i. If you or your college or university’s classmate’s name is listed on our website (http://ncf.edu/lost-alumni) please fill out the update form. Let your friend(s) know that we are looking for them so that we can keep them updated on the news and events at New College. For the time being we are only listing New College graduates.

from facebook:

Oscar Lopez: “We need ‘The Honors College’ and I prefer the current logo over the ones presented. I feel like we could do better. Where are some post modern art students with a specialization in computer graphics when you need them...” A reply to the posting of the new New College logo ideas.

Caroline Giambus: “Thank you Charlie Lengen, Jessica, Sarah and Cindy... everyone...for a wonderful gathering at Marina Jacks last night. Great to see old friends and meet prospective students and their parents. Look forward to more of these!” A post on the NC Alum facebook wall.

Gilda Dennis “Student Jessica [Loeb] called and was so charming I couldn’t help but make a donation :) Happy August 12th, Jessica!” In response to the news that phonathon raised $73,000 this year.

Sarah Kemp: “I was asked to fill out a questionnaire for work about college. I can promise you that my answers were more interesting than anyone else! Thank you, New College - and happy eastert!” A wall post on the NC Alum facebook.
Congratulations 2012 Graduates!

NCAA welcomes you to the Alum Community. We are here to be your resource in the years ahead so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns pertaining to life as an alum. Reach us at ncalum@ncf.edu.