Dean Fernández among Central Florida’s Most Influential Hispanics, joins White House Forum

Visión, the quarterly publication of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, selected Dean José B. Fernández as one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanics in Central Florida. The individuals were selected based on leadership and contribution to the enrichment and growth of the Hispanic community in Central Florida. In 2009, Ahora magazine selected Dean Fernández as one of the 25 Most Influential Hispanics in Central Florida.

Fernández participated in the White House Forum on American Latino Heritage on October 12, 2011. According to the Washington Post, the meeting was set to bring together a who’s who of Latino business, political, religious and entertainment leaders to focus on whether the government is properly serving Hispanic students, small-business owners, military veterans, and artists. The U.S. Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, sponsored the meeting and President Barack Obama made an appearance.

Latin American Studies B.A. completes 1st semester

Latin American Studies celebrates the completion of the first semester for its new B.A. program. The degree launched in August 2011. The Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin American Studies is an interdisciplinary program including the fields of Anthropology, Art, English, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Music, and Political Science. This is an extension of the existing Latin American Studies minor program at the University of Central Florida. The program provides students with a basic proficiency in Spanish as well as the tools and knowledge to understand, study, and work with Hispanic populations.

Pictured are students Jennifer Rey, Keila Concepción, Cristina Baker, Ashley Timmerman, Lesther Cerritos, Paula Amaya, Michelle García, and Miriam Atehortúa.

The English Department’s Technical Communication program celebrates 30 years, an important milestone for technical communicators in Central Florida. UCF offers both a B.A. and M.A. in Technical Communication. The master’s degree program is completely online and provides students with theoretical and applied skills in such areas as technical writing, visual design, usability, ethics, stylistics, computer documentation, international communication, and the rhetoric of science.

Find more highlights and events online at www.cah.ucf.edu
Art History student recognized for research

Adee Benartzy, a McNair Scholar and Art History major, participated in the 2011 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at Yale University. The SURF program provides select students with insight into graduate and Ph.D. level training through mentorship, individual research, and workshops. Her participation in the SURF program was funded by a grant from the Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative.

Adee's research at Yale now serves as the basis for an undergraduate thesis at UCF. She was awarded an Honors in the Major scholarship for her proposal entitled “The Pastel Study: Communicating Sexuality and Promiscuity in Late Nineteenth-Century Paris.” Under the mentorship of Ilenia Colon-Mendoza, she studies late 19th-century and early 20th-century art and its impact on visual culture and the rise of Modernism.

She also works as a freelance writer, a consultant for the University Writing Center, and a volunteer for the UCF Art Gallery. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and a career as a museum curator.

UCF’s 1st open juried exhibition

Local artists from the Central Florida area feature original works in a variety of mediums based on the theme “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” through Feb. 13.

UCF Gallery hours:
Tuesday-Sunday, 11am - 7pm, ADMISSION IS FREE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Lynn Mackey

Lynn Mackey, ’06 and her husband, Robert Davidson, recently made gifts to the Dr. Alma Negy Summer Study in Spain Scholarship and the Pat Forton Memorial Summer Study in Italy Scholarship. The couple established both scholarships in 2009 which have helped give 10 students the study abroad experience and will continue to support many more. Lynn studied in Madrid, Spain while attending UCF and wanted to give deserving students, who otherwise would not have had the funds necessary to participate in the program, the chance to do so.

“I saw first-hand how great it is, what wonderful opportunities there are for students in addition to studying, and how important it is to give…the experience is everything!” said Lynn.

Pictured (L-R): Tara Gasparovic, Dr. Alma Negy and Lynn Mackey

Art History student recognized for research

UCF Film graduate Zachary Beckler has garnered critical praise for Séance, the film he wrote and directed. The film was a Jury Winner at Enzian’s 20th Annual Brouhaha Film and Video Showcase. Inspired by the horror genre, Beckler produced Séance as his thesis project for UCF’s Film B.F.A. program.

SVAD graduate wins $1000 grant

Jay Flynn (M.F.A., Studio Art and the Computer) won a $1,000 Artist Grant from United Arts Central Florida. The grant is an extension of a project Flynn began in a class taught by E. Brady Robinson in which students learned how to research, submit, and assemble grant proposals.

Jay will travel to Rochester, NY this summer to attend the Ambrotype Workshop at The George Eastman Kodak House International Museum and Photography. An ambrotype is a photographic technique that transfers a positive image on a sheet of glass. Ambrotypes were common in the 19th century and are experiencing a revival in the artistic world. Flynn will use this technique to produce ethereal architectural prints.

“Art History student recognized for research,” an article by Alla Kourova (Dept. of Modern Languages & Literatures) appeared in the Fall 2011 edition of the Florida Foreign Language Journal.

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