Chicurel receives Estill Voice Lifetime Achievement Award

Theatre professor Steven R. Chicurel, DMA, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Estill Voice International at the Sixth Estill World Voice Symposium at Harvard University, August 2013. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of voice.

"Over the past years, we have received increasing numbers of queries from potential students (or their parents) who are looking for Estill-based Voice Training as the foundation of Musical Theatre voice studies," says Dr. Chicurel. Theatre UCF is one of just three Educational Affiliates of Estill Voice International worldwide.

Animation alum’s Oscar-Winning effort

Recent grad Mohammed "Mo" Hassan is one of the animators behind Disney's latest box office smash Frozen. The film has been honored with a host of awards including the Oscar for Best Animated Feature and is now the highest grossed animated film of all time.

Hassan is a member of the Visual Effects team at Walt Disney Animation Studios in Burbank, CA. At the Visual Effects Society Awards, Frozen swept the four awards for animated feature film, including outstanding animation.

Hassan graduated in 2011 with a B.F.A. in Art - Emerging Media: Experimental Animation.

The Committee wins Best Documentary award

The Committee, a documentary by University of Central Florida students and professors, won the Best Documentary award at this year’s Love Your Shorts Film Festival in Sanford.

The Committee was directed by Lisa Mills, an associate professor of film, and Robert Cassanello, an associate professor of history. The 24-minute documentary was researched and written by students in a Burnett Honors College documentary class, and was edited by Aaron Hose, a video producer in UCF’s Center for Distributed Learning.

The film explores the Johns Committee, an investigative panel of the Florida Legislature from 1956 to 1964 that sought to root out homosexuals from state universities. The investigation, directed by Sen. Charlie Johns (below, right), lead to more than 200 students and teachers who were expelled or fired.

The film has presented at festivals and showcases throughout the country and continues to be screened at local schools, community centers, and universities as an educational tool.

The film can be viewed in its entirety at http://riches.cah.ucf.edu/committee/.

NEW PROGRAM COMING IN FALL:
B.A. in WRITING & RHETORIC

On March 27, the UCF Board of Trustees approved a new bachelor’s degree in Writing and Rhetoric.

The program is the first of its kind in Florida and was designed to address workforce needs by producing graduates who are proficient in analyzing, creating, editing and adapting text. Surveys of employers and professional organizations across industries point to writing and communication skills as among the most important for success and advancement in today’s knowledge-based economy.

The program is housed in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric.
Rosalind Beiler and Sybil St. Claire were recently honored at the Women Faculty Partnership Celebration, each receiving the Excellence in Community Partnership Award. The UCF Center for Success of Women Faculty and LIFE @ UCF recognized 30 female faculty members for their successful partnerships in the community.

Beiler, Director of Public History at UCF, was honored for a partnership with the Seminole County Public Schools to create the Public History Center in Sanford. The center provides innovative educational programming for students of all ages, serves as a local resource for public history research, and promotes community collaboration.

Theatre lecturer Sybil St. Claire was recognized for her role in founding interACTionZ, a group designed to create theatre for and with LGBTQ youth and their allies. InterACTionZ is a partnership between Theatre UCF, the Zebra Coalition, the Orlando Repertory Theatre, and the Orange County Public School system.

InterACTionZ is led by Jonathan Jackson, a recent graduate from UCF’s M.F.A. in Theatre for Young Audiences. Working with St. Claire, the creation of interACTionZ became Jackson’s thesis.

Paolo Giordano was one of 18 professors invited to “Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps: Italian Americana, Diasporic Studies, and the University Curriculum,” a conference held at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy.

Theatre on a Grand Scale

Theatre UCF, together with Orlando Shakespeare Theater, recently completed the largest production in its history. *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* clocks in at 6½ hours running time with a cast of 27 actors performing 100 scenes in 40 locations. Design and construction of the stage alone took more than 2,000 man-hours.

The dramatic adaptation of Charles Dickens’ novel tells the story of a penniless youth who struggles to save his family from greed, lechery and corruption in Victorian England. Despite its award-winning pedigree, the play has been performed professionally just seven times in the U.S. since its 1980 London premiere.

Mackarey and Wansac

Amelia Mackarey and Alexis Wansac were inducted into the Order of Pegasus during this year’s Founders’ Day Celebration. Amelia (right) is an undergraduate majoring in both English/Literature and Biomedical Sciences. She is working with James Campbell on her Honors in the Major thesis “Representation and Imagination of the Holocaust in Young Adult Literature.”

Alexis (left) is a double major in Political Science and History.

The Order of Pegasus is the highest honor that UCF gives to students. It recognizes outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students who have demonstrated exemplary university and community involvement, leadership, academic achievement, and community service.
Mundy Collection illustrates African-American history

With more than 5,000 items dating back to the 18th century, the Carol Mundy Collection tells the story of the African-American experience through books, newspapers, photographs and other rare ephemera. The collection is kept in the Special Collections & University Archives and displayed in the John C. Hitt Library.

Browsing through a shabby book section in a Florida thrift store, Carol Mundy picked up a 1901 edition of The Complete Life of William McKinley and Story of His Assassination. As she carefully flipped through the tattered pages, she found a yellow letter wrapped in wax paper slipped into its spine. Its date: 1870.

The letter was addressed to the 10th Calvary Regiment or “Buffalo Soldiers.” Mundy, whose mother was an antique collector, immediately saw the value in the historic piece. Fred Owles passed away in 2010.

The gift, with an estimated value of $1,000,000, will support scholarships in UCF’s Architecture program, which began in fall 2010 with the creation of the 2+2+2 program in partnership with Valencia State College and the University of Florida.

History students present podcast

A group of grad students presented their podcast series A History of Central Florida at the Florida Conference of Historians in St. Augustine.

The podcast is a 50-episode series chronicling the history of Central Florida from 9,000 BCE until the present. Tracy Revels of Wofford College appeared as an expert historian on the podcast series, and chaired the session. The series explores Central Florida history through objects found in local museums. The podcast was created as a classroom resource and can be found on iTunes.

L-R: Ella Gibson, Katie Kelley, Tracy Revels, Daniel Velásquez, and Chip Ford

Groom wins $25k NEA Grant

Kelle Groom recently was one of just 38 writers to receive a $25,000 Creative Writing Fellowship grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Groom received her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing/Poetry in 2008 and has been making waves in the literary world ever since. The fellowship is just the latest in a line of writing accolades Groom has earned over her career.


This spring, Groom will be the James Merrill House Writer-in-Residence in Stonington, CT. The residency program offers poets and writers an opportunity to work in poet James Merrill’s apartment for 3½ months and a stipend for the course of the stay.

MADELYN FLAMMIA recently won a Technical and Scientific Communication Award from the Conference on College Composition and Communication for her article, "Preparing Technical Communication Students to Function as User Advocates in a Self-Service Society." The article appeared in the Journal of Technical Writing and Communication. Flammia was honored on March 21 at the 2014 CCCC Annual Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

More highlights and events at www.cah.ucf.edu
ALUM STARS IN WAR HORSE

Michael Wyatt Cox (B.F.A. Acting, '09) stars in the first national tour of War Horse. Based on a book by Michael Morpurgo, it tells the story of a horse enlisted to fight for the British during WWI. Cox shares the stage with an impressive, mechanical horse operated by three puppeteers.

WHAT REMAINS: B.F.A. Art Exhibition

April 17 - May 6 • The UCF Art Gallery features artwork by graduating B.F.A. students. This diverse exhibit features drawing, ceramics, animation, illustration, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture.

Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 10am - 5pm
FREE ADMISSION • gallery.cah.ucf.edu

Fantasy Land, a short film created for a Documentary Workshop class at UCF by Gabrielle Tillenburg (B.F.A. Film, '13), will screen twice at the Florida Film Festival. The film explores her childhood relationship with her now-deceased father during a trip back to the Magic Kingdom.

PHOTO EXHIBIT

Featuring work by seniors from the Photography B.S. program at UCF Daytona Beach.
April 28 - May 9

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 26, 5-7pm
UCF Center for Emerging Media (500 W. Livingston St., Orlando)

New additions to the CAH LIBRARY

Creative Writing in the Community: A Guide by Terry Ann Thaxton (English), Bloomsbury
Dialogismo teológico: Devotio moderna, Celestina & Quijote by Martha Garcia (Modern Languages & Literatures), Academia del Hispanismo

Visit theatre.ucf.edu for exact dates and times and ticket information or call the box office at 407-823-1500

The Foreigner
June 12-29
by Larry Shue

A comedic chain of events is set into action in a Georgia fishing lodge when two friends tell a small fib about one’s ability to speak English.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
July 10 - August 24
Music and lyrics by William Finn • Book by Rachel Sheinkin
Conceived by Rachel Feldman • Additional material by Jay Reiss
Six spelling champs vie for ultimate glory in this spirited musical. Audience participation encouraged. Contains some mature language. Suggested for ages 12 and up.

More highlights and events at www.cah.ucf.edu