

College of Arts & Sciences

Youth Violence Prevention Project Continues Commitment to Area Youth

By: Deanna Burkett, English graduate student



Shannon Shelley-Tremblay joins USA Youth Violence Prevention Project as Program Manager.

Ken Hudson had been working as a social worker for several years when, while walking home from work one night, he was approached by two young men. "I thought they were going to ask me for money," he said, addressing a Mitchell Center audience of fellow professors, community leaders, and students at the press event for the Youth Violence Prevention Project. When one of the young men pulled out a gun and began to speak to him in a loud, angry voice, he said he realized that money was not the issue.

His personal experience with violence made him wonder what kind of world creates a situation in which young men and women commit crimes for which there are very few, if any, rewards. "I've wondered what happened to that young man," he said, and as one investigator for the Youth Violence Prevention Project (YVPP), he is not alone in his concern for these at-risk young people.

Psychology professor, Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, who is Co-Principal Investigator for YVPP, spoke before Dr. Hudson. She described a project headed by the Psychology Department aimed at reducing intimate partner

violence as it investigates the effectiveness of a four session program called "Building a Lasting Love." In its second year of funding, the program is designed for teen mothers are evaluated on characteristics such as depression and self-esteem, acceptance of interpersonal violence, and relationship skills both before and after participation in the intervention.

Roma Hanks and Nicole D. Flynn from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, displayed research findings from their project, "Developing a Life Course Model of Female Crime and Deviance," a qualitative investigation of women in jail that seeks to better understand how events during childhood and adolescence relate to adult criminal outcomes. Their research aims to develop a more informed theoretical model of female offending, and its results will provide a basis for developing programs for girls, which recognize key transitions that may influence their entry into the criminal justice system.

Created in 2001, the Youth Violence Prevention Project has funded a wide range of projects which represent the work of the Arts and Sciences departments of Psychology, Political Science and Criminal Justice, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Dramatic Arts, and Visual Arts. This year the College of Education also joined the collaboration.

These departments have come together in one mission: "to develop and support collaborative, culturally relevant, community-based research on youth violence and prevention and to broadly disseminate these findings." Each year YVPP requests proposals for research projects related to this mission, and an expert advisory panel that is external to USA evaluates these proposals and makes recommendations for funding.

Hudson is not alone in his concern for these at-risk young people.

The overall program is funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Its most recent grant of nearly \$1 million will allow the continuation of established projects and the development of new ones. Dr. G. David Johnson, Dean of Arts and Sciences, is Principal Investigator for YVPP, and Ms. Shannon Shelley-Tremblay, J.D., is Program Manager.

Shelley-Tremblay accepted the position of Program Manager this year. Prior to this appointment, she was a civil rights advocate for a local non-profit, but she is a lawyer by training, an award-winning graduate of Rutgers School of Law. Before law school she was a middle school and high school teacher in Colorado and New York.

Youth Violence Prevention Program

continued



Students in the “Digging Out of Trouble” project work on an archaeological dig site in Mobile.

“My background combines working with young people, community organizing, engagement with the criminal justice system, and policy work,” she said of the experiences that led her to YVPP, a modest description of a work history that has been repeatedly recognized for its importance to public interest and civil rights by professional and educational associations such as the New Jersey Association of Prosecutors and the New York University School of Law.

Shelley-Tremblay’s enthusiasm finds a voice in her descriptions of YVPP. “It’s an exciting project that the University should be proud of,” she said. “It’s an opportunity to work collaboratively, and a lot of things are coming together that are allowing us to attack the problem on a more comprehensive level.”

For YVPP, working together means building relationships within the university and reaching out to organizations in the community. Shelley-Tremblay calls these organizations “community stakeholders.” Strickland Youth Center, Camp Martin Leadership Academy, Mobile County Juvenile Court, Mobile Mental Health Center, and the Mobile Police Department are just a few of the stakeholders that YVPP’s efforts have touched, with projects that range from archeology to gun control.

“Digging Out of Trouble” paired Sociology and Archeology faculty with the Network Aftercare System (NAS), which assists with the transition of adjudicated youth from residential treatment to the community. This eight-week project included archeological fieldwork in downtown Mobile, artifact processing and analysis, and interpretation and construction of a portable display.

Gun control and neighborhood safety are issues being addressed jointly by the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice and the Mobile Police Department (MPD). “Operation Ice” was initiated by the MPD in 2002. Interventions took the form of public service announcements such as billboard ads meant to deter gun violence. YVPP provided funding in 2005 to evaluate “Operation Ice.” Its principal investigator, Timothy O’Shea, has collected and analyzed monthly gun crime data since 2002.

David Bowers,, from the Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice, is the Investigator for a project that involves the use of sanctions and rewards in the juvenile justice system. Research indicates that a system of punishment without the possibility of reward does not work, and Dr. Bowers’ project aims to develop a matrix of rewards and sanctions and the framework within which to test this matrix. This project will generate new information for juvenile corrections and help academics and practitioners better understand the impact that rewards and sanctions have on the juvenile justice population.

As of this year, the grants for YVPP’s work total \$4.4 million, and more than 20 USA faculty and close to a hundred students have collaborated with local and national agencies to fulfill YVPP’s mission. Anyone interested in learning more can visit the YVPP website at www.southalabama.edu/arts&sci/yvpp/, which provides a descriptive listing of completed and ongoing projects.

Author Frye Gaillard joins USA as Writer-in-Residence

By: Jen Ekman, Public Relations

Lauded for his books on the Civil Rights Movement, Mobile native Frye Gaillard has joined the University of South Alabama as a Writer-in-Residence in the History and English departments. Through his course "History and Literature of the Civil Rights South," Gaillard is sharing his vast knowledge of the South and its history with USA undergraduates. He is also working on several book projects, offering guest lectures around the region, and participating in events to mark the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

"The wonderful thing about Frye is that he can't be pigeonholed into one academic area. He's a writer, historian and journalist," said Dr. Clarence Mohr, chair of USA's history department. "He will be an invaluable emissary for the University."

Gaillard began his career as a reporter for daily newspapers in the late 1960s, writing about the Civil Rights Movement as it unfolded across the South. As a reporter, and later editor for The Charlotte Observer, he covered the integration of that North Carolina city's schools by busing, Elvis Presley's funeral, the downfall of the powerful PTL movement and former President Jimmy Carter.

Since 1990, Gaillard has been a writer, author and editor for newspapers and books. He also was the founding editor of the Novello Festival Press in Charlotte, a national award-winning literary publishing company. In 2000, Gaillard began a three-year research and writing project about the Civil Rights Movement that led to his book *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America*. The book won the Lillian Smith Award given by the Southern Regional Council in Atlanta. Previous winners include such luminaries as Alex Haley, Pat Conroy and Eudora Welty.

During interviews for *Cradle of Freedom*, Gaillard says he reexamined his home state and realized it was coming to terms with the racial divisions of its past. "It was a wonderful reintroduction to Alabama for me," he said. "I saw how Alabamians were embracing their history."

During a speaking engagement for the book, Gaillard met Mohr and they began discussing a possible collaboration at USA. Gaillard said he was interested in a writer-in-residence opportunity in his hometown, after teaching and writing at other universities in North Carolina, including Johnson C. Smith University and Queens College. Plus, he never lost his fondness for Mobile culture, including the seafood and live oaks. His course is full of students who were born well after the events of the Civil Rights Movement. Gaillard said he is encouraged by their interest in the subject and their lively discussions. "I'm enjoying the teaching process," he said. "We have some great discussions."

Gaillard received his bachelor's degree in history from Vanderbilt University in 1968. He is the author of nineteen books and was nominated for an Emmy in 1995. Gaillard's new book *Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement That Changed America* is available at the USA Bookstore.

Nominees to Dean's Leadership Council Approved

The Dean's Leadership Council for the College of Arts and Sciences recently approved a slate of 8 nominees. These individuals will begin their term of service with the winter 2007 meeting: Stillman Knight, Patsy Dow, Angelia Stokes, Al Stokes, Christopher Lee, Scott Speck, Danny Patterson, Richard Rogers. Look for a feature on the Dean's Leadership Council new members in our spring newsletter.

3

Dr. Andy Harper Room Dedication

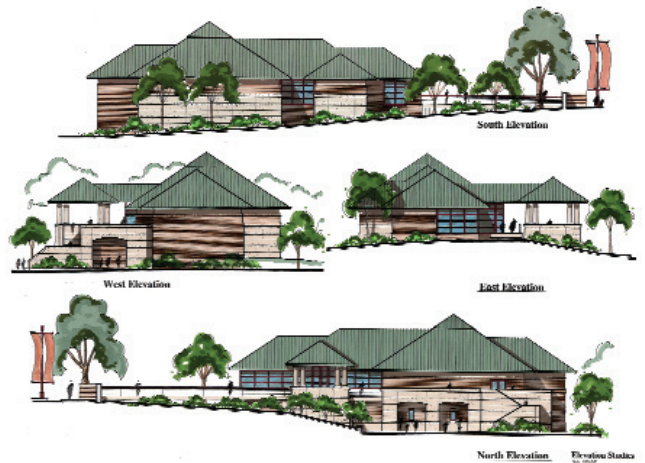
The Andrew H. Harper, Ph.D. room was recently dedicated in the John W. Laidlaw Performing Arts Center. Dr. Harper's many contributions as a faculty member to the USA Music Department were honored with both the dedication of the former 'green room' in his name and the announcement of an endowed scholarship in Music made possible by the generosity of gifts received from family and friends of Dr. Harper.

President V. Gordon Moulton presents a photo plaque and conductor's baton to Dr. Andrew Harper at the dedication of the Green Room in the Laidlaw Performing Arts Building.



From Dream to Reality: The Alfred and Lucile Delchamps Archeaology Building

Above: Architect's rendition from 2004
Below: Photo of the Alfred and Lucile Delchamps
Archeaology Building as it now appears. Exhibit
planning and fundraising continue.



G. David Johnson,
Dean College of Arts and Sciences

Dean's Letter

This issue of the Arts and Sciences Newsletter is being published as we end 2006, which has been a great year for the College. Our Dean's Leadership Council held its first two meetings – one in the spring and another this fall. At the latter meeting, eight new members were appointed: Scott Speck, Angelia Stokes, Dr. Richard Rogers, Stillman Knight, Danny Patterson, Christopher Lee, Al Stokes and Patsy Dow. We will publish brief biographies of the new members in our next issue.

This edition of the newsletter presents a partial list of the many accomplishments achieved by our faculty and students since our last issue. We are proud of all of them.

This issue also includes a story about the Youth Violence Prevention Project which is funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This project benefits greatly from the

good work of Jenny Langinrichsen-Rohling (known as Dr. L-R to her students) who is co-principal investigator, and Shannon Shelley Tremblay who serves as the program manager. I am particularly proud of the strong relationships that have formed as a result of this project between the faculty and students of our college with the leaders of many organizations that serve youth in our community.

This issue also features Frye Gaillard, our writer in residence assigned to the departments of History and English. Frye is one of the best journalists in the south, and a wonderful story teller. We are delighted to have him on the faculty.

As always, the purpose of our Newsletter is to inform the reader of the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, students, alumni and supporters. We are happy to share their stories with you.

Faculty and Student News

Dean G. David Johnson is pleased to welcome the following new faculty to the College of Arts and Sciences: **Dr. Robert Barletta**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry; **Nadia K. Bush**, Instructor of Communication; **Ron Mills**, Instructor of Communication; **Dr. Reggie Moody**, Assistant Professor of Communication; **Dr. Christopher Raczowski**, Assistant Professor of English; **David A. Faught**, Instructor of Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Dr. Phillip Hadlock**, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Dr. Donald Devore**, Associate Professor of History and Assistant to the Dean; **Dr. John Turner**, Assistant Professor of History; **Rebecca Williams**, Instructor of History; **Dr. Joe Pendleton III**, Assistant Professor of Music; **Dr. Ted L. Poston**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy; **Dr. Nader Entessar**, Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice; **Dr. Melanie Hope Jackson**, Assistant Professor of Psychology; **Dr. Benson Chisanga**, Assistant Professor of Social Work, **Lt. Col. Douglas E. Mullins**, Chair of Air Force Studies; **Lt. Col. Oakland McCulloch**, Chair of Military Science.

Dr. Roy Ryder, Department of Earth Sciences, is serving as Vice President of the U.S. National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). PAIGH was founded in 1928 in order to encourage, coordinate, and publicize geographical, geophysical and historical studies in the Americas.

Dr. J. Scott Carter, Chair of Mathematics and Statistics, was recently awarded a grant by the National Science Foundation for a project entitled "Collaborative Research: Algebraic Structures and Cohomology Theories Associated to Knottings" which he is directing in collaboration with Masahiko Saito of the University of South Florida.

Dr. Sue Walker, Chair of English, poet and author, received a Greater Mobile Arts Award on September 8 in the artist category. Dr. Walker is the current Poet Laureate of Alabama and has published a number of books.

Dr. Kelly Major, Department of Biology, was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant for the project entitled "Research, Restoration of Herbarium Specimens of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Damaged by Hurricane Katrina." Participants in this collaboration include Louisiana State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. John McCreadie, Department of Biology, was recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant for the project, entitled "SGER: Bioinventory of the Mobile/Tensaw Delta Before and After Hurricane Katrina." This project is under the direction of **John W. McCreadie** and **Peter H. Adler**.

Drs. Eugene Cioffi and Maria Ngu-Schwemlein, Department of Chemistry, were recently awarded an NSF grant for support of the project entitled: "RUI: Rational Design of Fluorogenic Cyclopeptides as Sensors for Metal Ions."

Dr. Sytske Kimball, Department of Earth Sciences, has been awarded a National Weather Service Grant for the USA Center for Hurricane Intensity and Landfall Research.

Communication student **John W. Washington** interned in the office of Senator Jeff Sessions this summer in Washington, D.C. John is a Radio, Television, Film student.

Biology Senior Thesis student **Molly Mintz** was the runner-up in the "best undergraduate poster" competition at this year's meeting for the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists held in Daytona, Florida. In August 2006, she went on to take 1st prize for "best poster in plant physiology" at this year's annual meeting for the Botanical Society of America in Chico, CA. BSA is one of the largest societies in the world devoted to the study of plant biology and Molly is the first South student to be recognized by BSA for academic achievement in plant physiology. Congratulations to Molly and her mentors Drs. Anne Boettcher and Kelly Major of Biology.

Jenny Albrecht-Booth, senior Biology student, has been awarded \$2,000 as a 2006 Legacy Foundation scholarship winner for her achievements in conservation biology and ecology. The Legacy Foundation is a non-profit organization that fosters stewardship of the environment through educational activities and achievements. Congratulations to Jenny and her mentors **Drs. David Nelson and Clinton S. Major** of Biology.

Dr. David H. Nelson, Department of Biology, is currently serving as the President of the Alabama Academy of Science. The AAS is a state organization that promotes scientific research, publications and education in Alabama; it also publishes the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science. The group sponsors and coordinates scholarships, as well as state and regional science fairs and science Olympiads. The 84th annual meeting of the AAS will be held at Tuskegee University in March, 2007 coinciding with the meetings of the Alabama Junior Academy of Science and the Gorgas Scholarship Foundation. Scientists, academics and students from around the state will convene there to present papers, hold competitions and conduct meetings.

Dr. Greg Waselkov (Anthropology) is the author of the recently released book *Conquering Spirit: Fort Mims and the Redstick War of 1813-1814*. Congratulations to Dr. Waselkov.

Faculty and Student News

continued

Renowned author and lecturer **Marge Piercy** will be the featured speaker at the University of South Alabama's Eugene Walters Writers Festival to be held October 6 at the Radisson Admiral Semmes Hotel in Mobile. Hosted by USA's department of English, this three day conference is designed to celebrate writing and is open to writers of all genres. The event will feature a host of nationally known authors, agents and editors, as well as writing that will showcase the talent of conference participants.

Dr. Tim O'Shea (Political Science/Criminal Justice) is the author of the recently published article: "Physical Deterioration, Disorder, and Crime" in the June edition of Criminal Justice Policy Review.

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work and the USA Programs in Gerontology held their annual Honors & Awards Ceremony in April. Students receiving awards were: Anthropology Student Paper Award, **Hope Brasfield**; Outstanding Anthropology Student Award, **Stephen S. Barrott**; USA Foundation Scholarships in Anthropology: **Andrew Page**, **Erin McCaskill Lewis**; **Christine Kilgore Holley** Student Paper Award for Native American Research, **Jennifer Givens**; Sociology Undergraduate Student Paper Award, **Todd Tillinghast**; Outstanding Undergraduate Sociology Student Award, **Amanda Eck**; Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award, **Tiffanie Burke**; Outstanding Sociology Graduate Student Award, **Tiffanie Burke**; USA Foundation Graduate Student in Sociology Scholarship, **Vicki V. ElZarrd**; Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Gerontology, **Pamela Brown**; Outstanding Graduate Student in Gerontology, **Stephanie Jackson**; VISION Award in Gerontology, **Adam Bell**.

Academic Achievement in Anthropology awards were given to: **Amy A. Evans**, **Stephen S. Barrott**, **Miranda M. Cleveland**, **Kristin D. Little**, **Ashley D. McKain**, **Megan R. Nieves**, **Takuji Okawai**.

Academic Achievement in Sociology awards were presented to: **Belinda Boros**, **Khalana J. Davis**, **Amanda N. Eck**, **Stephanie M. Graf**, **Angelic T. Herndon**, **Tess Howell**, **Melissa M. McEvoy**, **Serena L. Moss**, **Kendi E. Pelot**, **Melanie L. Thomas**, **LaPorcia S. Tutton**, **Anna B. Wambolt**, **Crystal L. Yates**.

Academic Achievement in Sociology awards were presented to: **Tiffanie Burke**, **Vicki V. ElZarrad**, **Mindy D. Mitchell**, **M. Felicia Woerner**.

Donald R. South Faculty Service Award in Sociology was presented to **Dr. Mark Moberg**.

The 2006 James and Ivel Caldwell Scholars have recently returned from study abroad in France made possible by this endowment. **Danielle Bruhl**, a double major in Communication and Foreign Languages and Literatures studied French conversation, writing and culture this summer at the Centre International d'Etudes Francaises

(CIEF) and L'Universite de Bourgogne in Dijon. **Caroline Lyons**, a double major in International Studies and Foreign Languages and Literatures, also attended the summer program at Centre International d'Etudes Francaises (CIEF) and L'Universite de Bourgogne in Dijon.

The Murphy High School Caldwell Scholarship 2006 was given to **Tania Morris-Diaz** to begin the USA Honors program this fall as a double major in Communication and Drama.

A new organization, *The Stage and the Quill* will host roundtable discussions in conjunction with the four major theatrical productions staged by the Department of Dramatic Arts each year, and will feature a panel of artists, scholars, and community members with expertise in areas of vital interest to a particular theatrical work and its literary history and tradition. **Moira Amado Miller** of the English Department and **Leon Van Dyke**, chair of the Department of Dramatic Arts, have developed this as a collaborative learning project to advocate for the integration of the arts and provide opportunities to creatively explore and reinterpret the productive tradition between literature and the theatre.

Dr. Moira Amado Miller delivered the fourth annual *Eugenia L. Hamner Lecture* for the Graduate Program in English at USA on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. The title of Dr. Amado-Miller's talk was be "Versions of Grandeur (and Defilement): Bodies that Mediate the Body Politic, or How Sex becomes Text."

This lecture recognizes the great intellectual contributions of **Dr. Eugenia "Genie" Hamner**, retired faculty member, to USA's English department and the Mobile community. Each fall, a member of the Graduate Faculty in English will deliver the lecture.

The Mobile Arts Council hosted a theatrical exhibition this summer featuring the design work of Drama faculty members **Rebecca Britton**, **Lyle Miller**, and **Constance Smith** along with the technical work of USA theatre students. It was designed as a part of the LODA Artwalk series.

Mr. Thomas Lakeman, Department of English, is the author of the recently released thriller *The Shadow Catchers*. Congratulations to Mr. Lakeman.

Dr. Brian Axmith, associate professor of biology at USA, co-organized and chaired an international symposium on fossil plants for the 7th European Palaeobotany and Palynology Conference held in Prague, Czech Republic in September. Axmith also presented the keynote address at the conference.

Celia Baehr, Dean's Leadership Council, received the Fred and Ann Delchamps Volunteer Award from the Mobile Arts Council on

Faculty and Student News

continued

Friday, September 7, 2006. Congratulations to Celia for her work and this distinguished award.

Chemistry student **Anna Blice-Baum** was recently published in a peer reviewed journal. Her work entitled "Computational and Spectroscopic Studies Concerning the Behavior of 1,3-Disubstituted Azulenes" was published in the International Journal of Quantum Chemistry. Congratulations to Anna and to her mentor Dr. Andrzej Wierzbicki.

Chemistry student **De'Arco McCreary** has had a paper accepted for publication in Inorganica Chimica Acta entitled "Synthesis, Spectroscopy, Computational Evaluation and First X-ray Structural Characterization of a Primary Amine Containing Boronium Ion." Congratulations to De'Arco and mentor **Dr. James H. Davis, Jr.**

Dr. T. G. Jackson (Chemistry Department) recently received the prestigious USA Alumni Advisor of the Year award for his long career as Pre Health professions advisor.

At the Employee Service Recognition Luncheon, the following were awarded service awards:

40 years: Dr. Wayne Ispording (Earth Sciences)
 Dr. Susan Youngblood (Philosophy)
 Dr. Joseph Nigota (History)

35 years: Dr. Jerry Alan Bush (Music)
 Dr. Robert Shipp (Marine Sciences)

30 years: Dr. Robert Bantens (Visual Art)

20 years: Karen Burns (English)
 Dr. John Coker (Philosophy)
 Dr. Mir Zohair Husain (Political Science)
 Dr. Elise Labbe-Coldsmith (Psychology)
 Dr. Raymond Kent Clark (Physics)

15 years: Dr. Roma Hanks (Sociology)
 Dr. Doug Haywick (Earth Sciences)
 Dr. Henry McKiven (History)
 Dr. Michael Monheit (History)
 Dr. Cornelius Pillen (Mathematics and Statistics)
 Dr. Daniel Rogers (History)
 Mr. Larry Simpson (Visual Arts)

10 years: Charlene Martin (Dean's Office)
 Dr. Timothy O'Shea (Political Science and Criminal Justice)
 Dr. Keith Blackwell (Earth Sciences)

5 years: Melva Kearney (Communication)
 Dr. Eric Loomis (Philosophy)
 Dr. Kelly Major (Biology)
 Dr. Martin Rohling (Psychology)
 Benjamin Shamback (Visual Art)
 Margarita Skiadas (Visual Art)
 Ameina Summerlin (Mathematics and Statistics)
 Dr. Nicole Amare (English)
 Dr. Matthew Ames (Dramatic Arts)
 Ms. Sonna Farmer (Math/Statistics)
 Ms. Jennifer French (Psychology)
 Ms. Carolyn Wertelecki (Earth Sciences)

Faculty Awards

Dr. Susan Anderson (Psychology)
 Dr. Mark Moberg (Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work)
 Dr. Daniel Rogers (History)
 Dr. Glenn Sebastian (Earth Sciences)

Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award: Dr. Ellen Harrington (English)

Dean's Lecturer: Dr. Keith Blackwell (Earth Sciences)

Junior Faculty Award for Scholarship and Academic Achievement:
 Dr. Sean Powers (Marine Sciences)

Dean's Lecturer: Dr. Keith Blackwell (Earth Sciences)



College of Arts & Sciences

Dean's Office
College of Arts and Sciences
Humanities Building
University of South Alabama
307 North University Boulevard
Mobile, AL 36688-0002

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 506
Mobile, AL

