With a campus situated just miles from a barrier island, the Intracoastal Waterway, Atlantic Ocean and St. Johns River, UNF benefits from an ideal location for the study of coastal biology.

Now the Coastal Biology program will benefit from an infusion of $1 million in funding as a result of being named UNF’s fourth flagship program.

“The infusion of flagship funds in Coastal Biology will enable us to hire a professor and director who has national stature, and who can help us develop and mature existing strengths in research and teaching,” said Dr. Dale Clifford, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Clifford said the flagship designation marks a chance for the Coastal Biology program to begin achieving a long-held dream. It also puts Coastal Biology on a path to gain national recognition.

Designation as a UNF flagship program focuses resources to help transform existing excellence into academic programs with national prominence. Coastal Biology joins Community Nursing, Transportation and Logistics and International Business in earning status as flagship programs.

UNF began the process of trying to distinguish itself in a handful of areas in which programs could attain a top-10 national ranking with a strategic infusion of support from the University.

UNF President John Delaney announced Coastal Biology’s new status during a recent ceremony at Sisters Creek that coincided with an announcement about a $1 million gift from Taylor Engineering to establish the Taylor Engineering Research Institute, which will support and promote collaborative research in coastal and water resources science and engineering.

Delaney said the new institute and the new flagship program create opportunities for collaboration that rarely exist at other universities.

“Each of them will have their own research and teaching agendas,” he said. “Yet this is an overlap which will lead to partnerships creating an interdisciplinary component available to all our students. At UNF, we always say ‘no one like you, no place like this,’ which comes alive today.”

Clifford said the program offers a direct value to the city and the region by offering a series of seminars on coastal biology issues and projects.

Clifford said the Coastal Biology program has a talented and dedicated faculty of teacher-scholars in biology, one of the best locations in the country for the study of coastal biology, enthusiastic undergraduate majors who participate in research efforts with their faculty mentors and a new graduate program with students who also will do research in coastal biology.

“You can expect important results from this program,” she said.
Two rows of faculty dressed in multi-colored academic regalia occupied stage left under the bright lights of the Lazzara Performance Hall Sept. 29 as UNF President John Delaney delivered the state-of-the-University address. This day marked the University’s 34th Annual Fall Convocation, during which 16 members of UNF’s faculty received various teaching, scholarship, service, advising and leadership awards.

The audience, primarily comprised of faculty, staff and administrators, also included the friends, parents, spouses and children of those on stage.

Everyone on stage received a moment in the spotlight, after years of expending extra effort in academics.

“Each of you provides a clear example of what we mean when we talk about the contributions of UNF’s faculty and staff,” Delaney said. “Your dedication to your respective professions and this University serves to inspire us all.”

Specifically, Delaney was referring to: Dr. Christopher Leone, Distinguished Professor Runner-up; Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award recipients Mark Ari, Drs. Yemisi Bolumole, Nick Hudyma, Krista Paulsen, Gordon Rakita, Alexandra Schonning and Pamela Zieser; Outstanding Scholarship Award recipients Drs. Elizabeth Furdell and Samuel Kimball; Outstanding Service Award recipients Drs. Jeffrey Michelman and Christopher Leone; Outstanding Undergraduate Advising Award recipient Michael Murillo; Outstanding International Service Award recipient Dr. Dominik Güss; and Outstanding International Leadership Award recipient Dr. Andres Gallo.

But the star of the show was Dr. Theophilus Prousis, this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award. As the 29th faculty member to attain this title at UNF, Prousis was selected based on his excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. The award is the highest honor conferred upon a UNF faculty member.

“The reason this honor is so highly regarded by the faculty is that they themselves determine which of their colleagues is worthy of such a distinction,” said Dr. Mark Workman, UNF provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “In the case of Theo Prousis, his passion for knowledge informs all that he does and is the basis for his exemplary achievement.”

Upon his arrival at the podium, Prousis launched into an energetic and engaging acceptance speech which included references to baseball, his childhood home of Chicago, his wife and colleague Dr. Betty Furdell (a past recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award), highlights of his education at the University of Minnesota, his love of Russian and modern-Greek authors, his teaching and scholarship as a history professor, his current research efforts and his views on higher-education “administrative fads.”

“So many possible topics crossed my mind when I imagined giving this speech. I kept thinking about the value of my excellent liberal-arts education at the University of Minnesota, where I had the opportunity to sample an amazing variety of history and humanities courses and to read a fascinating array of great works of literature,” he said. “Also at Minnesota, I benefited from committed teachers and engaging scholars. Those outstanding professors inspired me with their love of teaching and scholarship.”

The qualities Prousis said his former professors possessed are the very qualities he now possesses in his teaching and scholarship, partly evidenced by favorable student evaluations. “My courses challenge and transform student-learning, which explains why students routinely evaluate my Holocaust course as powerful and life-changing,” Prousis said.

Since joining UNF’s faculty in 1984, Prousis has taught freshman-requirement courses, Honors courses, and courses on the Holocaust, the Middle East, Russian history and modern-European history. He has also won several awards recently, including the Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award in 2004 and the Distinguished Professor Runner-up title last year.

Prousis praised his colleagues in the Department of History for being excellent role models over the years. “I’m not sure I would have won the award if I were not part of a department that has been so successful in supporting and encouraging younger faculty,” he said. “At this point in my career, I’d like to think I’m a role model for younger faculty.”

In conclusion, Prousis quipped, “On a personal note, I thank the department for having the good sense to hire my future wife and me in the same year. They thought we might get along - and the rest is history.”
The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs hosted its annual Principal Investigator Appreciation Reception Oct. 6 at the University Center to honor faculty and staff who directed research projects or programs last fiscal year. Principal investigators typically write and submit grant applications, oversee scientific and technical aspects of those grants and manage the research involved.

Addressing a roomful of movers and shakers from around campus, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Workman spoke about the maturation of UNF from an undergraduate educational institution in its early days to one boasting 28 graduate degree programs and a growing number of doctoral programs.

“I welcome that growth, which indicates that we are here to serve the educational needs of the community and the region,” Workman said. “As we enhance the quality of existing graduate programs and develop new graduate programs, research is essential … research is right at the heart of the academic enterprise.”

For their research and excellence in sponsored-program activity during fiscal year 2005-06, Workman recognized centers on campus as well as individuals.

Centers receiving contract or grant funding for 15 or more consecutive years included the Florida Center for Public and International Policy; the Florida Institute of Education; the Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives; the Northeast Florida Science, Technology, and Mathematics Center for Education; and the Small Business Development Center.

Individuals receiving the same 15-year honor included Dr. Lehman Barnes and Dr. Marianne Barnes of the Northeast Florida Science, Technology, and Mathematics Center for Education and Dr. Cheryl Fountain of the Florida Institute of Education. Dr. Joseph Butler of the Biology Department was recognized for receiving continuous funding over the past 14 years, while Dr. Carolyn Stone of the Department of Leadership, Counseling and Technology was recognized for having received funding for 10 consecutive years. Another 30 faculty and staff members were recognized for programs sponsored for five-to-nine consecutive years.

More than 100 faculty and staff members were recognized for their engagement in sponsored programs in fiscal year 2005-06, during which 167 proposals were submitted and 116 awards totaling $16 million were received. The awards ranged from $750 for Dr. Prabir Mandal’s “Application of Nanotechnology in Physiology and Disease Studies to Evaluate Environmental Stress” to more than $3 million for Fountain’s “School Readiness Technical Assistance and Support Initiative: Childcare Resource and Referral 2005-06.”

“Although research at one time may not have been considered a significant aspect of faculty workload, today we expect that faculty who join us are going to be active in research,” said Dr. Imeh Ebong, UNF’s assistant vice president for research. “We are a University which strongly values and vigorously supports research.”

In his address to this year’s principal investigators, Workman concluded, “We have bright days ahead of us. All of you are going to carry us forward to a bigger and better University.”
TLO involves writing library’s history

By Tom Cain
Staff Writer

Prior to July of 2004, Dr. Nancy Levine had never been to Hastings. She’d heard the name, but didn’t know a thing about the place. Now two years later, she and about 30 UNF students are intimately familiar with the little town 35 miles south of here.

Levine, an English professor, has created a Transformational Learning Opportunity to write the history of the Hastings Library. The project involves 10 undergraduate students Levine selected and 17 students in an Honors Program course taught by Marcia Ladendorff.

The project is called “Reading the Library/Listening to a Community in Transition: Recording the History of the Hastings Library in Hastings, Florida.” The lengthy name is apropos because the project has spiraled off in several directions. It’s almost two or three Transformational Learning Opportunities rolled into one.

The genesis for what eventually became the Transformational Learning Opportunity was a service-learning project Levine organized for her American Fiction course a couple of years ago. For the class, Levine and her students traveled to Hastings, where they prepared and served food in a soup kitchen at a local church.

Migrant workers made up the preponderance of the soup kitchen’s clientele. Hastings, a town of about 700 people in St. Johns County, bills itself as the “Potato Capital of the World.” The migrant workers labored in the potato fields.

Levine was moved by the third-world poverty of the migrant workers and their families. “I am drawn to the idea of finding out how other people live and doing something for them,” she said. One student in the service-learning class changed career paths and became a county nurse as a result of her experience at the soup kitchen.

Levine spoke quietly about one woman, a migrant worker she encountered while distributing Christmas presents – socks, gloves, candy, toiletry articles – at a farm near the church.

“There was a line of them. Since they couldn’t stop work, I placed the bags at their feet and wished them a merry Christmas,” Levine said. “A very thin Asian woman looked up and wearily asked: ‘Where am I? What’s this town?’ She had no contact with the outside world. She had no idea where she was going next.”

During her many visits to Hastings for the service-learning class, Levine got to know the town and its citizens — of all economic circumstances — quite well. When Sandy Sivulich, former branch manager of the Hastings Library, was contacted about finding someone to research and write the library’s history, she recommended Levine.

To write the history of the Hastings Library as part of a TLO, Levine called upon several of her students who were veterans of the service-learning project. The students are doing archival research at the library, which opened in 1987, and other sites. They also are interviewing community leaders and people involved in the political and cultural world of the Hastings community.

There is a sociological component to the project. Because of encroaching commercial and residential development, Levine is concerned that Hastings will become a “bedroom community” for St. Augustine and Jacksonville, and the library will be “transformed or torn down.” Should that happen, the project to record the history of the library would help the town preserve a part of its heritage.

The library history project seems almost to be the history of Hastings in microcosm. “I want the town of Hastings to benefit,” Levine said. “I want scholars to know there was something here worth examining.”

Joyce Combass, a senior majoring in English and anthropology, is working on the library project. She was in the service-learning class during the soup-kitchen days. Combass, like Levine, is fearful that development may come at too high a price. “I grew up in Starke – a small, rural community – and watched it change,” she said. “It’s all about how small communities get their voices heard and how they fight their battles.”

Later this year, Levine plans to sit down with students to begin writing the history of the Hastings Library. Her ultimate goal is to have articles published in such quality academic publications as the Journal of the St. Augustine Historical Society, Journal of American History and American Quarterly. She also hopes to present the students’ work at academic conferences.
A $2 million gift from George Hodges and his wife Kernan highlighted October’s Founders Month festivities at the University of North Florida. The gift enables UNF to install nearly 10,000 seats, build an eight-lane, 400-meter track and add other facility enhancements at the University’s soccer and track stadium.

The stadium is now named Hodges Stadium. “From the very beginning, the Hodges family has been instrumental in the development of UNF and has played a prominent role in its growth,” UNF President John Delaney said. “Naming the stadium in honor of George and Kernan Hodges is an ideal way to recognize their legacy of generosity.” The state will match the Hodges’ gift, boosting the total to $4 million.

In addition to being members of the family that donated and sold a portion of the land for the UNF campus, the Hodges through the years have maintained a close association with the University. They made a $100,000 gift in December of 2000 to help fund construction of the Arthur “Buster” Browning Athletic Training and Rehabilitation Center at what is now Hodges Stadium. The Browning Center provides athletic-training care and support for UNF student-athletes.

“The Hodges family has had strong ties to UNF from its very beginning over 30 years ago,” George Hodges said in a press release announcing the gift, one of the largest private gifts in the University’s 34-year history. “We are pleased to have this fine educational facility and soccer stadium named in our honor.”

The Hodges last year were among the first recipients of UNF’s Presidential Medallion, the University’s highest non-academic form of recognition. Presidential Medallions honor alumni and friends of UNF for their outstanding service to the University.

Hodges Stadium’s new state-of-the-art track enables UNF to host national and international track competitions. Television-quality stadium lighting will be installed for night events. In addition to athletic events, Hodges Stadium also provides the University and the community a venue for outdoor graduations and lectures, concerts and recreation and fitness programs.

UNF Athletic Director Dr. Richard Gropper foresees a day when Hodges Stadium will be the scene for Atlantic Sun Conference and NCAA post-season track and field meets.

“As you can imagine, everyone associated with UNF Athletics is very excited about what the future holds for both our soccer and track programs as they look forward to training and competing in one of the finest facilities of its kind in the nation,” Gropper said at the Hodges Stadium gift announcement ceremony.

Hodges Stadium will have bench seating. The stadium will be one of the five largest collegiate soccer stadiums in the country. Other universities with bigger stadiums use them for both soccer and football.

Construction on Hodges Stadium is expected to begin in the spring of next year and be completed by spring 2008.

The Hodges gift announcement ceremony took place at the Arena prior to an intra-squad scrimmage by the NBA’s Orlando Magic.

The Magic held their preseason training camp in the Arena Oct. 3-7. It’s the ninth time the team has come to UNF for training camp. The free scrimmage, in front of a crowd estimated at 2,500, consisted of two teams of six players each. The Black team, paced by Dwight Howard’s 24 points, defeated the White team 60-47.
Breast Cancer Awareness Month:

Two groups of Continuing Education employees wearing pink gather outside the University Center to show their support of breast cancer awareness.

‘Greeks’ perform community service

A group of students from a UNF fraternity work together to complete a service project during a Builders Care volunteer workday. Builders Care is a non-profit division of the Northeast Florida Builders Association established to reduce substandard housing by providing repair to deteriorated homes belonging to low-income and elderly citizens, as well as those with disabilities. Members of several UNF fraternities and sororities participated in the Builders Care service project.
Ambassador Dodd speaks at UNF

President Delaney and history professor and Fulbright Scholar Tom Leonard (left) pose with Ambassador Thomas J. Dodd during a Fulbright Group Dinner prior to Dodd's lecture at UNF.

Carpenter Library celebrates expansion

President Delaney and Thomas Carpenter, UNF's first president, stand next to framed “READ” posters presented to them during the Carpenter Library's expansion celebration.

Social Sciences Building Dedication

Elkins project managers Gus Evans and David Birkelbach pose with Mark Lampke of Truevance during the dedication of the Social Sciences Building. All three UNF alumni played a major role in construction of the new building.
Brooks College of Health

Dr. Bart Welling’s and Dr. Mina H. and Dr. Thomas M. Dr. Michael Lentz authored a published paper in October titled “Improving Diversity: Using a Group Admission Interview” at the annual meeting of the SREB Collegiate Council on Nursing Education in Atlanta.

Dr. Reid Oetjen and Dr. Dawn Oetjen presented “Happily Ever After: Simplifying the Management of Outcomes” at the annual meeting of the Medical Group Management Association meeting in Las Vegas in October.

Dr. C. Dominick Trice presented “Accounting Educators Conference: Openness, Growth, and Income Convergence in Africa” at the European Trade Study Group meeting in Vienna, Austria.

Dr. Andros Gallo authored a paper titled “Political Institutions and Economic Policy: Rural Renter Legislation in Argentina, 1912-1942,” which was accepted for publication by Revista de Hidraulica Economica, the oldest and most prestigious journal on economic history in Spain and Latin America.

College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Michael Lentz and graduate student Tess Shiderler presented a poster titled “The Role of Cellular Kinase CK2 in Regulating Bowen Papillomavirus DNA Replication” at the annual meeting of the American Society for Virology in Madison, Wis.


Musik: The Barry Greene Quartet played on the main stage at the Savannah Jazz Festival in September. Greene also released his fourth CD titled “In the Meantime,” which can be downloaded from Apple’s iTunes.

Philosophy: Dr. Andrew Buchwalter presented the invited paper, “Hegel’s Begriff des Staats als ‘irdisch-goethiczles,’” which translates as “Hegel’s Conception of the State as an ‘Earthly Divinity, ’” at an international conference in Debrecen, Hungary. The conference was co-sponsored by the University of Debrecen, University of Cologne Germany and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He also made a presentation on contemporary American political philosophy to students and faculty at the University of Debrecen.


Dr. John Maraldo published a review titled “The War Over the Kyoto School” in a leading journal of Japanese Studies, Monumenta Nipponica, Vol. 61, No. 3.

Political Science and Public Administration: Dr. Darren Wheeler presented “The Implementation of Hamdan v. Rumsfeld and the Struggle for Power in Prosecuting the War on Terror” at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia. Wheeler also moderated a Constitution Day debate titled “Expanded Executive Power and the Constitution.”

Psychology: Dr. C. Dominick Güss presented the invited paper “Why do they hate us? - a cultural-psychological theory of suicide terrorism” at the Oxford Round Table, Global Security in the 21st Century, at the University of Oxford’s Lincoln College in Oxford, England. Güss also presented “Complex Problem Solving Around the World” at the Colloquium of the Max-Planck-Institute for Cognition and Action in Leipzig, Germany. He was also the convener of the symposium “Complex Problem Solving Around the World: Adventures Among Individuals, Groups, and Different Methodologies” at the 18th International Congress of
Community Outreach Council initiatives

With an eye on keeping at-risk students in school and out of trouble, the UNF Community Outreach Council recently announced several initiatives that could prompt those students to think about a college education.

The initiatives, in partnership with Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Children’s Commission, address Jacksonville’s murder rate. They will link UNF mentors with students in Northside public schools, focusing on literacy, the arts and physical sciences.

Community outreach will begin with UNF faculty, staff and students assisting public school students in after-school programs complete homework and literacy projects in conjunction with Jacksonville City Councilman Kevin Hyde’s Northside Homework Zone literacy project.

“This is going to be something that really will change Jacksonville,” Hyde said during the announcement. Mayor John Peyton was on hand to lend support for the announcement.

Dr. Michael Hallett, chair of the Criminal Justice Department and a key architect of the outreach initiative, said it seeks to strengthen the bond between the children and the Jacksonville community by acting as change agents. The goal is to help young people imagine their future and to believe in their prospects for higher education.

“Children with goals tend to stay out of trouble,” he said. “They have things they want to do.”

The Community Outreach Council also announced an Art and Youth initiative which will allow several hundred Duval County Public School students to attend UNF Fine Arts Center programs, including “Mad Science: Newton’s Revenge,” and “Majigeen,” a program documenting Anta Majigeen Njaay’s experience of slavery and life on Kingsley Plantation.

Another seeks to interest at-risk students in mathematics and science by inviting them to team up with UNF engineering students to participate in an egg-drop competition in which they design vessels to protect individual eggs when dropped from varying heights.

The science and art outreach programs will bring at-risk students to the UNF campus.

In addition to those initiatives, the UNF Department of Residence Life established the UNF Presidential Community Outreach Ambassadors program. Students will compete to undertake volunteer outreach projects throughout the city.
Bruce Taylor had a vision but not much help in 1983 when he started Taylor Engineering. He turned to his mother for clerical help the first month until he could hire his first employee — a secretary. Today, Taylor Engineering employs more than 80 people in Jacksonville, Tampa, West Palm, Baton Rouge, La., Argentina and Mexico.

And today, Taylor has another kind of vision. He sees the University of North Florida gaining more opportunities to conduct research and collaborate with local and even national experts in the public, private and government sectors.

To help the University realize that vision, Taylor Engineering is giving UNF $1 million to establish the Taylor Engineering Research Institute. The gift qualifies for a $500,000 match from the state, creating a $1.5 million endowment that will have a permanent legacy on the UNF campus in the College of Computing, Engineering and Construction.

“I’ve thought about this for a long time, actually,” said Taylor, chair of the UNF Board of Trustees. “For four years or so I’ve wanted to do a couple of things. One, UNF has now reached a stage of maturity where to elevate our scholarship we need to have the right balance of teaching and instruction as well as some research. We’re behind in research. This will help with that.

“Second, I thought it would be nice to create something in the name of our company. It will benefit Taylor Engineering and the University. It’s a win-win situation.”

The Taylor Engineering Research Institute will promote and support collaborative research in coastal and water resources science and engineering.

UNF President John Delaney announced the gift at Sisters Creek last month along with the announcement that Coastal Biology will become the University’s fourth flagship program. Flagship programs receive a strategic infusion of support to help them attain national recognition for excellence. Programs thought to have the greatest potential for achieving top-10 ranking are selected through a competitive process.

Taylor said he envisions a unique opportunity for experts from the private sector, government and academia to collaborate on coastal engineering research projects.

“We’re hoping that for every grant that we give out there will be two or three principal investigators or researchers from each of those entities,” he said. “It’s designed to bring those people together, to bring together the best minds of the private sector, higher education institutions and government.”

Taylor Engineering, which began as a coastal engineering consulting company, now provides dredging, dredged material management, hydrology and hydraulics, environmental services and construction-support services. The employee-owned company typically works on projects for federal, state and local governments.

Taylor, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, earned a masters degree from the University of Miami and a doctorate from the University of Florida. He said UNF, where his wife graduated with a teaching degree, is “very near and dear to my heart.” And Taylor Engineering continues to hire UNF graduates.

As for how the endowment helps Taylor Engineering, Taylor said, “The mere fact that we’ve done it. It recognizes our company in a different light, an altruistic light, if you will, because we’re helping the University, helping the community, helping the faculty and students. There are a lot of good things there in my opinion. There are a lot of things not directly tied to money. There’s more to business than just making money.”

Taylor also said that his firm has a number of employees with advanced degrees who would be interested in research if given the opportunity.

“It would be nice for them to hook up with the faculty at UNF or the Corps of Engineers on a research project,” he said. “If approved, it would give them a very nice sabbatical. It would be wonderful for them.”

Delaney said the gift comes from “a person, and company, with a great passion for education and in particular for higher education. He and his firm believe in our students and faculty.”
Good Question!

This column is a new monthly feature designed to give the University community an opportunity to ask informational questions about some aspect of UNF—and have them answered by various campus “experts.” Questions can be e-mailed to goodquestion@unf.edu. The deadline to submit questions is the 10th of each month. For more information, contact Julie Williams at jkwillia@unf.edu.

Q: From Dorreen Daly (Student Affairs) - Because I have always seen the welcoming tradition of putting a flower lei on a guest as gesture in Hawaii, I wonder why UNF’s new Gandhi statue was sporting one following his unveiling ceremony? Is this also an Eastern Indian tradition?
A: Yes, it’s an Indian tradition to adorn statues—usually of gods and goddesses—with flower leis. For example, by the Ganges River in India, there’s a statue of a goddess named Ganga, which is perpetually adorned with flower leis. The lei you noticed on the bronze Gandhi statue in the courtyard between Daniel Hall and Founders Hall was placed there as a sign of admiration, respect and honor.

Q: From Dona Kerlin (Brooks College of Health) - Having been involved in master planning in 2000, I feel certain there were plans for another parking garage just inside the loop road near the stadium. Are there plans for another parking garage very soon?
A: The 2005-2015 Master Plan anticipates the need for two new parking garages, but not within the loop road. However, before these garages are required, new surface parking spaces will be created around Lot 18 to replace the loss of spaces in Lots 3 and 4 due to the construction of the new education building and the new Student Union. Plans do change, but the current space requirement and financing plan does call for a new parking garage available for the fall 2010 term, although an exact location has not been determined.

Q: Also from Kerlin: Are there plans to furnish shuttles to ease the walking burden for those having to park in satellite parking areas?
A: Yes! In conjunction with the completion of the western ridge connection road (also referred to as Eco Road or Green Road) in the summer of 2007, the intention is to implement a shuttle system from the north section of campus to the main core of campus for the start of the fall 2007 term.

Neal Fisher, Zak Ovadia, Oupa Seane and Vince Smyth provided answers for this issue’s questions.

Anissa Cameron

Get to Know:

Anissa Cameron

Department: Enrollment Services Processing
Job: Associate Director, Financial Aid Specialty
Years at UNF: One, as of Oct. 31
What’s/Who’s Your Favorite Author – Maya Angelou. Her work is poignant and heartfelt.
Movie – “Legends of the Fall.” The cinematography is magnificent and the cast is top notch.
Actor/Actress – Anthony Hopkins. He is versatile, yet believable, regardless of the role he is playing.
Musician/Musical Group – I enjoy all genres of music, particularly piano. I would say my favorites are Elton John and Billy Joel.
Sports Team – I have two favorite teams. One is the Jacksonville Jaguars, of course. My other favorite is the Oakland Raiders, which is the team I followed growing up. I usually try to schedule my California trips to coincide with football season so I can catch a Raiders game.
Vacation Destination – I was born and raised in California, so I enjoy the mountains and the ocean. My favorite destination is Hawaii, where I received my undergraduate degree. While vacationing in the mainland, I enjoy Key West and Lake Tahoe.
Hobby – Working with jigsaw puzzles. I have always enjoyed finding solutions, a trait that often comes into play during my normal work day.
Proudest Accomplishment – I find fulfillment each time I am able to help find a solution to a student’s need. I truly enjoy the work I do every day, and I believe enjoying one’s work is a proud accomplishment.
Most Memorable Moment at UNF – Taking part in the Enrollment Services Spirit Awards was definitely the most memorable event for me this past year. The Spirit Awards gave me the opportunity to get to know people I don’t always see and work with every day. I appreciate the fact that everyone here at UNF has the same focus: Helping students.
I love gardens that are active with birds, butterflies and other animals. At my home, I selected a large percentage of the plants for their value in attracting native wildlife. Noteworthy are the magnolias in my garden. One of the tall trees in my yard is an old sweet bay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana*. My neighbors have native southern magnolias, *Magnolia grandiflora*, but I had to actually plant them in my yard. The two trees are easy to tell apart. The sweet bay is a smaller tree. Its leaves have a silvery underside, and its flowers are about three inches across. The southern magnolia (bull bay) is a very big tree. Its large glossy leaves are green or rusty on the underside, and its flowers are four to six inches across. Both have cone-like fruits with red-coated seeds. On campus, I have seen the big pileated woodpeckers fly to the campus core from the neighboring woods to feed on these seeds. At home, I have watched mockingbirds fighting with much larger pileated woodpeckers over these seeds. They must be good! The large, open flowers of these two trees are adapted for pollination by rather large and clumsy beetles. Other insects may be attracted to these large flowers, too. This strategy seems to work well because magnolias produce lots of seeds. The evergreen foliage of southern magnolia and semi-evergreen foliage of sweet bay also offer small animals protection from predators and the weather. In fact, a full-grown southern magnolia could hide a very large animal. Both of these trees are suitable for home gardens throughout north Florida.

Having described these two trees, I have to mention that magnolias are good wildlife attractors if they grow in a diverse landscape. They provide fruits and seeds for only a few weeks each year. A supporting cast of plants like hollies, black gum, native blueberries and beauty berries help feed the fruit-eating animals for the rest of the year. A different group of plants is needed to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. A garden with a wide variety of plants, whether at home or on campus, attracts the greatest diversity of wildlife.