

Stetson University
Academic Affairs
Student Highlights
May 2015 - October 2015

Valentine Agranovsky, class of 2016, participated in the Gray Perry Competition (Florida Music Teachers Association state student day - May 2015 – Tampa). She also attended/participated in the summer 2015 Brevard Music Camp (Brevard, North Carolina) for 6 weeks.

Victoria Aldea, class of 2016, **Aaliyah Grey**, **Jordan Bennett**, both class of 2017, and **Leigh Ann Dunning**, Writing Center Director, were accepted to present “Writing Centers in Transition: (de)Centering and (re)Centering Our Work in Times of Institutional Upheaval or ‘Keep Calm and Tutor On’” at NCPTW (National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing) in November 2016.

Haley Barr, class of 2016, **Grace Figueroa** B.A. ‘14, **Kimberly Foley** B.A. ’15, **Alex Gallimore** B.A. ’14, **Rachel LaQuea** B.A. ‘14, **Alexandra Merritt** B.A. ’14, **Stephanie Miller**, class of 2016, **Hien Nguyen-Pham** B.A. ’15, **Cameron Spanogle**, class of 2016, **Julie Stevens** B.A. ‘14, and Benjamin Trigani, class of 2016, co-authored a paper with **Chris Ferguson**, Associate Professor of Psychology, entitled: “Digital poison? Three studies examining the influence of violent video games on youth,” published in *Computers in Human Behavior*, 50, 399-410.

Ashley Baksh B.B.A. ’15 won the national Caribbean Student Association President of the Year award at the CSA National Conference.

Joe Beery, class of 2017, was selected for the Capital One All-American academic third team for his excellence in academics and athletic ability in cross country.

J. Cole Binkley B.M. ‘15, **Victoria Buffkin** and **Emily Frier**, both class of 2016, were chosen from national competitors to attend the Buffet Academy. Other students attending were from Michigan State University, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Eastman School of Music, University of Maryland, New England Conservatory, and Florida State University.

Cameron Black and **Tracy-Lynn Cleary**, both class of 2016, were accepted to present “Centering Expectations: What First-Year Students Want (and What They Actually Need) in a Tutoring Session” at NCPTW (National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing) in November 2016.

Alex Bocco, class of 2018, participated as counselor and staff at the 2015 Double Reed Workshop. She continues to perform in the RAINZ woodwind quintet.

Lindsey Brigham, third year law student, and **Barbara Wood**, fourth year law student, ably represented a veteran before the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. The veteran received a favorable decision in which he will receive monthly benefit payments in the future and a back-pay award of approximately \$200,000. In its opinion, the Board noted: “Their diligent and thorough work

on behalf of the Veteran is a credit to themselves and to the Stetson University College of Law.” The College of Law Veterans’ Advocacy Clinic, under the supervision of **Stacey-Rae Simcox**, Associate Professor of Legal Skills and Director, continues to represent veterans in connection with claims for benefits before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Erin Brennan, Lauren Eliopolos, and Jeremy Rill, third year law students, were finalists in the 2015 Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition. The students got to argue before the full Florida Supreme Court at this year’s Annual Florida Bar Convention. The team was coached by **Brooke Bowman** J.D. ’02, Professor of Legal Skills, **Roberta Flowers**, Professor of Law, and **Kristen Adams**, Professor of Law.

Raveena Budhu, Rachel Read, Sydney Schless, and Ashley Yony, all class of 2016, represented Stetson at the National Vandoren Ensemble Festival in Mobile, Alabama.

Rachel Read, Victoria Buffkin, Sydney Schless, all class of 2016, and **Cole Bushman**, class of 2017, were part of the faculty of the Annual Stetson University Clarinet Clinic coaching small ensembles, teaching young students, and serving as dorm counselors.

Ben Chase, Tabitha Petri, Katie Nathenson, all class of 2016, and **Sarah Coffey**, class of 2018, spent six weeks in the San Juan Islands of Washington state with **Wendy Anderson**, Professor of Environmental Science and Studies, where they conducted vegetation surveys and analyses for three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the San Juan Islands National Monument. Internship stipends and travel funds were provided by a grant from the Bureau of Land Management.

Sarah Coffey, class of 2018, and **Mackenzie Quinn**, class of 2019, in their roles as Environmental Values Fellows, continue to work with the administration and staff in Facilities Management to achieve greater resource efficiency and a smaller environmental footprint.

Colby Connell, second year law student, **Elizabeth Harbaugh, Patrick Iyampillai, and Dan Kavanaugh**, all third year law students, won the Student Professionalism YouTube Contest sponsored by the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Professionalism and the Florida Bar’s Harry Latimer Center for Professionalism. The students wrote, produced and acted in a two-and-a-half minute video focusing on professionalism in legal communication. The students received their award at the Florida Bar’s Annual Meeting this summer.

Courtney Cox, third year law student, will have her paper concerning the Tariff Act of 1930 and its impact on Florida’s economy published in the *Loyola University Consumer Law Review*.

Susanne Fox and **Philip Yang**, both class of 2016, accompanied by **Bonnie Holloway**, Visiting Lecturer in Accounting, attended the Beta Alpha Psi national conference in Milwaukee, WI in August. In addition to representing the department and the chapter at the conference, the three also participated in the literacy where they spent a day with local elementary school students.

Kelly Green J.D. ’15 and **Tamara Major**, third year law student, received an Honorable Mention Award for their pro bono efforts from the Sixth Judicial Circuit’s Pro Bono Committee.

Joan Hudson, Bernadette Salzano, and Nicole Wohn, all class of 2016 expected to graduate December 2015 and begin the Master of Accountancy program, and **Jerica Trotter, Savana Spooner**, current Master of Accountancy students, are recipients of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants scholarship. Additionally, Ms. Hudson, Ms. Spooner, Ms. Salzano, Ms. Trotter, and **Marge Lacombe**, Master of Accountancy student, were awarded the Clay Ford Florida Board of Accountancy Minority Scholarship.

Daniel Humphrey, class of 2016, was appointed to the Executive Board of Directors for Sigma Nu National Fraternity as a Collegiate Grand Councilman and works with the rest of the board to govern the affairs of the fraternity between annual meetings.

Luke Jorgenson, class of 2018, received the George L. Jenkins Prize in Physics from Dr. George S. Glander. This prize is given to the top performing student in University Physics I and II. He was invited to Stetson University's National Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma. He participated as counselor and staff at the 2015 Double Reed Workshop. Lastly, he was also on the Dean's list with a 4.0 GPA.

Paige Lacey, Lara McGuire, and Nicole Santamaria, third year law students, were semi-finalists at the 2015 E. Earle Zehmer Workers' Compensation Moot Court Competition. The team also was awarded best brief in the competition and Ms. Santamaria was also presented with the Professionalism Award by the National Association of Workers Compensation Judiciary. The team was coached by **Mike Allen**, Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and alum **Jason Stearns J.D. '08**.

Marge Lacombe, Master of Accountancy student, attended the AICPA's Accounting Scholars Leadership Workshop in Baltimore, Maryland. The Workshop was by invitation only based upon one's written application.

Omar Lawand, class of 2017, was accepted into the Performer's Class of the 2015 Southeast Trombone Symposium held at Columbus State University. The Performer's Class was directed by trombonist, Jim Nova of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Jake Moore, class of 2016 and a 2015 SURE winner, and **Susie Weiss**, class of 2017, were trained as transcribers for the *Canterbury Tales Project* under the directorship of **Thomas Farrell**, Professor of English.

Emily Niederman, class of 2016, and **George Winsten**, class of 2018, both Environmental Science and Studies majors working under the auspices of a NOAA Sea Grant headed by **Jason Evans**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Studies, are working with the Satellite Beach, FL community on a project entitled, "From the Bottom Up: Implementing Resiliency at the Local Government Level Through Data-Driven Analyses and Community Engagement."

Nicole M. Rivera-Montañez, class of 2016, attended the InterHarmony International Music Festival in Sulzbach-Rosenberg, Bavaria, Germany this summer where she performed the role of Third Lady in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. She was able to attend because of the generous contributions made by **Career and Professional Development** at Stetson, as well as **Thomas Masse**, Dean of the School of Music. She was there for three weeks with several colleagues from Stetson, as well as her voice professor and opera director, **Russell Franks**, Lecturer in Music.

She also had the opportunity to perform on the first student recital, and was highly praised in the review from a local newspaper. There, she sang “Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix” from *Samson et Dalila* by Camille Saint-Saëns. In her words, “It was one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences of my life.”

Amanda Roy B.A. ‘15 presented her senior thesis research at the American Psychological Association (APA) conference in August. Amanda travelled to the APA conference in Toronto to present her research on video games and stress.

Joseph Rubano, class of 2016 cello performance major, was one of 12 cellists selected to participate in the National Orchestra Institute in College Park Maryland this past summer.

Bernadette Salzano, class of 2016, participated in a research project this summer as a funded Fell Research Scholar. She worked with **Maria Rickling**, Assistant Professor of Accounting, **Michael Bitter**, Rinker Distinguished Professor of Accounting, and **Jessica West**, Assistant Professor of Finance. Ms. Salzano played an integral role in gathering and confirming the data necessary for the project, which resulted in a paper titled “Auditor Conservatism after the Global Financial Crisis.” The paper is expected to be submitted for publication by the end of the fall semester.

Simone Seales, class of 2018 and cello performance major, was the recipient of a \$5,000 Sphinx Grant to study in Europe this past summer at the Interharmony Music Festival and in New York City with the Project Trio Festival.

Sarah Shahnovsky, class of 2016, had her senior research, “Not by Accident: Generational Normalization through Serial Killers” accepted for publication in an English academic journal.

Macie Thornhill, class of 2017, participated as counselor and staff at the 2015 Double Reed Workshop. Also, she completed 200 hours of yoga teacher training.

Emily Vitale, class of 2017, attended and participated in the ORFEO INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL, in Vipiteno, Italy from July 3 - 20, 2015. Emily was also awarded 2nd place in the Wednesday Music Club of Central Florida Scholarship Auditions, which is a part of the Florida Federation of Music.

Recent Graduates in Graduate Programs and Industry Positions

Matthew Ady B.B.A. ‘15 began his first year of studies at Emory Law School.

Christopher Aguirre B.B.A. ‘15 is now a financial analyst in Miami.

Joshua Albert B.M. ‘15 received a full Graduate Teaching Assistantship from the University of Central Florida to pursue a Master of Music in Percussion Performance.

J. Cole Binkley B.M. ‘15 was accepted to the University of California – Northridge on scholarship and an assistantship for clarinet performance

Austin Burket B.M. '15, violinist from the studio of Routa Kroumovitch Gomez, was accepted for Graduate Program at the Michigan State University studying with Dmitry Berlinsky.

Erin Davis B.B.A. '15 started a position as a financial analyst in Orlando.

Ashley Eason B.M. '14, M.B.A. '15 is now in Chicago to begin the Master of Music degree at DePaul University, where she received significant scholarship.

Adam Frocione B.B.A. '15 is working as an analyst for Commercial Real Estate Firm at Orlando.

Brett Hargaden B.B.A. '15 began his first year of studies at Roger Williams Law School.

Kayla Heckford B.M.E. '15 was appointed band director at Teague Middle School.

Alphonso Jaime B.M. '15 is working for Florida Business Consulting in Miami, and will tour with a production of *A Christmas Carol* in Florida and Nebraska from November to December.

Minki Lee B.B.A. '15 is working for an employment agency company.

Jamie-Jardine Lofthouse-Smith B.B.A. '15 moved to London, UK to work as a financial advisor.

Jozsef N. Nemeth B.B.A. '15 is working as an advisor at AXA Financial at Orlando.

Ashley Oliveto B.M.E. '15 was accepted to the Boston Conservatory with a \$25,000 performance scholarship.

Brittany Rathburn B.B.A. '15 started working as an intern at a Winter Park investments firm.

Emilio Rosario B.M. '15 was accepted to Cleveland State University on scholarship for clarinet performance.

Stephen D. Small B.B.A. '15 and Master of Business Administration student is working as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley at DeLand.

E. Krystal Somaza B.B.A. '15 started a position as a financial analyst in Jacksonville.

Jennifer Ter Keurst B.M. '15 traveled to Germany in August with the opera festival that School of Music Visiting Professor Russell Franks directed, and she performed the role of the Queen of the Night from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. She is now in Boston on a graduate assistantship to attend the Longy Conservatory for her Master of Music.

Lohengrin Velasquez B.M. '14 is now working at the Third Street Music School on the Lower East Side of Manhattan as a Programs Assistant. The school is the largest Community program in the country with over 5,000 students.