

Students in Documentary Institute win prizes in national competitions

by Angie Orth

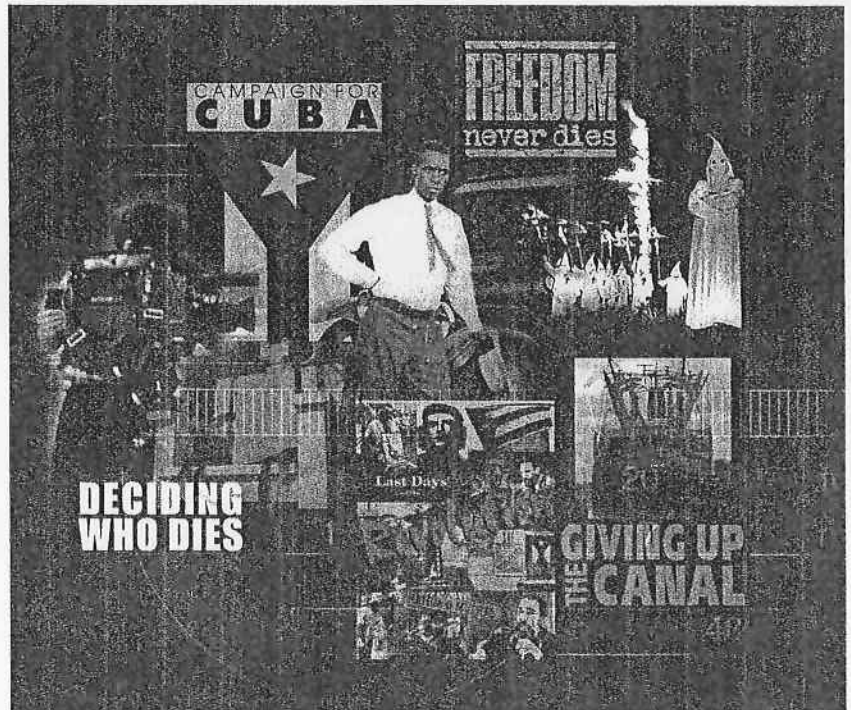
While The Documentary Institute in the College has produced only three graduating classes during its five years, the fledgling program often finds itself compared to more established programs at Stanford University and the University of Southern California, said Dr. Sandra Dickson, co-director.

"Stanford and USC have been around much longer, and we're right up there with them," Dickson said. "These students are amazingly bright, creative people with a burning passion to do this." All graduated with master's degrees in 2002.

One recent production, *Seasoned Veteran: Journey of a Winter Soldier*, is about anti-war activist **Scott Camil** who served two tours of duty in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart and Congressional Medal of Honor. The film, produced by **Micheal Kirschbaum**, **Benito Aragon** and **Melinda Kahl**, was a finalist in the International Documentary Association/David L. Wolper Student Documentary Achievement Awards. This is the second year that an Institute project was a finalist. In 2001, *Unfleshed: The Story of Dr. William R. Maples*, was a finalist. *Seasoned Veteran* was also a winner at the 2002 Kodak student competition at the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival.

Ocoee: Legacy of the Election Day Massacre received the HBO Short Documentary prize at the Urbanworld Film Festival. Producers **Sandra Krasa** and **Bianca White** were awarded \$2,500 in a ceremony in New York. *Ocoee* was also named Best Documentary at the Gulf Coast Film Festival in Houston.

Chris O'Brien's documentary, *No Room to Move*, is about urbanization and its effect on Florida's wildlife. It was a Kodak 2002 student competition winner at the Fort Lauderdale festival. The Florida



The Documentary Institute has created a number of cutting edge, award-winning documentaries in recent years—focusing on the Castro revolution in Cuba, the Panama Canal, the bombing death of early Florida civil rights leader and the Death Penalty

Documentary Film and Video Festival featured it and *Ocoee*.

David Cassidy, and **Kristin Davy**, recently signed an international distribution agreement with 03 Productions for their film, *One Small Step: The Story of Space Chimps*. It was screened at the Ojai Film Festival in California. Cassidy works for Cabin Creek Films.

The Institute, with four faculty mem-



bers, was relocated to UF from the University of West Florida in 1997. **Dr. Churchill Roberts** is co-director, and Professors **Cynthia Hill** and **Cara Pilson** are producers. ☐