He'd grown up in the suburbs of Chicago, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard and was joining the Peace Corps, hoping for one of the mountainous countries in South America. He got Nepal, where he was assigned to teach farmers the latest in agricultural techniques. “I didn’t know the difference between corn and rice,” said John Scholz, who had specialized in European politics and done a thesis on East and West Berlin. But the Peace Corps taught him some modern agriculture and the Nepali language, and Scholz managed to be useful in an isolated village.

I never in history has society been so awash in words—nor so dependent on them for economic survival—and Johnny still can’t read any better than he could 35 years ago. The sad evidence is anywhere one cares to look. The typical American corporation today routinely pushes new hires through remedial reading and writing. Fortune 500 corporations run huge display ads with grammatical blunders in the wording. Even the toniest four-year colleges are graduating students the teachers know are borderline functionally illiterate.

Since 1969, the best measure of the nation’s troubled learning curve has been the Nation’s Report Card, run by the U.S. Department of Education. In 2000, it reported that 37 percent of America’s fourth-grade children (roughly 10 million kids) could not read at even a basic level. Researchers predict that 40 percent of those youngsters will drop out of high school. Many have bleak futures, beginning with their prospects for earning a living and ending sometimes in crime.

Cantero appointed to Florida’s highest court

Ray E. Cantero III, a Florida State graduate, is the first Hispanic on the Florida Supreme Court. “It is significant to the Cuban-American community, because we have been here for 40 years, and this sends a message that we are accepted as important, productive members of our state,” he said. “It says that our input is necessary for the proper functioning of Florida. We can finally feel at home—truly Americans and truly Floridians.”

Cantero, previously head of the appellate division of the Adorno & Yoss law firm in Miami, earned a B.A. in English and business at FSU in 1982. “Raoul Cantero is a man of exceptional character,” Gov. Jeb Bush said in July. Cantero was born in Madrid, Spain, to Cuban parents who had fled after his mother’s father, Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, was overthrown by Fidel Castro. Cantero’s family immigrated to the United States in 1961 and settled in Miami. At 41, Cantero is the youngest justice in almost 30 years. “I hope to bring some vitality and gregariousness to the court,” he said. “I also want to be a consensus builder and bring energy.” Cantero is one of three practicing attorneys appointed to the Supreme Court.

There needs to be balance on the court—with both judges and practicing attorneys appointed to the Supreme Court.
Tallahassee Community College is experiencing a new era of leadership in part, by the influence of Florida State University.

In May, during his first year as the college’s fifth president, William D. Law Jr. reinforced his reputa-
tion as a long-time educational leader who has unabridged a wealth of talent throughout the state's community colleges.

When Law started work, SCC’s enrollment was 15,000. Currently, more than 21,600 students are enrolled at the college.

“When you speak of leadership in this institution, you speak of leadership with passion and purpose,” Law said.

Law has turned his focus on the college’s strategic plan, which includes an emphasis on student performance and university cooperation.

Under Law, the college has progressively begun to attract students from throughout Florida and beyond.

“Tallahassee Community College was primarily a local technical college,” Law said. “Now we're an attraction college for the state, reaching the highest quality students in the state.”

Law’s goal is to increase the college’s enrollment to 30,000 students.

“Tallahassee is a vibrant community and our enrollment is rising accordingly,” Law said. “We are committed to providing students with the best educational experience possible.”

Law’s vision for the college includes a focus on community engagement and collaboration with local businesses.

“Tallahassee Community College is a leader in the community,” Law said. “We work together with employers and community leaders to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students.”

Law also has a goal of increasing the college’s graduation rate to 60 percent by 2020.

“Tallahassee Community College is focused on the success of our students,” Law said. “We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students.”

Law has been a leader in the community for more than 25 years, serving as a faculty member, administrator, and president of Tallahassee Community College.

In his new role, Law is focused on providing a top-quality education for all students.

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ComprESSion: short takes on big subjects

**COMPETENCIES:**

The mystery takes place in Florida and revolves around an undercover agent looking for revenge. His childhood friend was murdered by drug runners in the north part of Sunbelt Island. The story takes McGray to Fort Myers and Sunbelt Island so he can track the killers.

**EMPOWERED** by Adam Johnson (Ph.D. ’01 creative writing)

This mystery takes place in a quiet midwest town, a very small town in Ohio. A young man named Robert achieves notoriety by being a small part of the world’s most popular self-help book. He is designed as a self-help book. It is designed for professionals and a psychological self-help tool.

**Encyclopedia:**

Weidner warned as Don Weidner, the dean of Florida State's College of Law, criticized the financial dilemmas of Enron 18 months before the crisis of the company's collapse became known.

Weidner is one of the nation's leading experts on partnerships and complex real estate finance. He was also co-chair of the Revised Uniform Partnership Act.

“Corporations are permitted to appear far less leveraged than they are by no means, and are subject to the same laws. In a system that prides itself on transparency, this transactional right-hand should be permitted,” Weidner had hoped to send a message to the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Securities and Exchange Commission that the regulations needed to be changed. But the agencies made no move.

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**New grill can give you more...**

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WIMSE is looking for FSU graduates working in math, science and related fields to provide finance and audit guidance. Instructions for these students can be found via email or on the WIMSE website. Weidner said that the program is open to donors who graduated less than six years ago.

Ercolano can be reached at the FSU Office of Annual Giving, (850) 644-0743.

**Our Gates:**

The students they will help are in an FSU program called WIMSE — Women in Math, Science Engineering. WIMSE is a “community living unit,” in which women students live and study together in Lamont-Murphy Hall. All the students in the program have expressed an interest in science, math or engineering, and have applied for the program and the dorm assignment. The program offers them model-mentor, guest speakers, panel discussions, mentoring, workshops, research internships, tutoring and field trips.

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The FSU magnet lab director, Jerry Draper, stepped down June 1 as the founding dean, building FSU arts and dance to national prominence.

Jerry Draper, left, speaking at a scholarship ceremony held on the FSU campus.

Draper established the lab's current director, Jim McConnell, which is now the number one lab in the nation. The lab has received $15 million in grants and awards, and has become a national leader in magnet research.

Draper's departure has created a position of director, which has yet to be filled. The search for Draper's successor is underway.

Draper's successor is chosen.

The Portobello group, whose mission was to promote the public health of Panama in the 1970s, left a legacy that is still being felt today.

Left and center, Javier Miller helps patients. Above, house in Filipinas.

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Left and center, Javier Miller helps patients. Above, house in Filipinas.
Research reading hope to ensure that America can be thoroughly literate.
Football is not just war—it’s also life and civilization

By Charlie Barnes
Seminole Boosters
Keeping Score

As a race, mankind inclines both toward love and toward manifestin equal measure. I cannot say why that is true, but understanding the reality of our lives is the first step toward a peaceful existence.

Three hundred years ago, the Ap- palachia plains, hardiness, teamwork and other virtues in closely supervised games of sport at England’s elite military academy.

Our society has never been completely comfortable with the obvious connection between organized games of sport and the conduct of warfare. While the case can be made that organized competitive games can serve as substitutes for real battle, the matriarch is more complex and broader than may be thought.

Ritualized warfare is an offering of our genetic makeup. The two most powerful impulses of our nature are contiguou...
Florida State Times
September 2002

Legal Aid lawyer chooses a tough helping hand

Virginia Trujillo, a 1987 FSU graduate, is a lawyer who deliberately takes on the most difficult cases that others turn away from. At the beginning of the semester, Trujillo's project was "marketing more clients than they did last year."

As a result, the county has increased the contract with the Legal Aid's Homeless Initiative Partnership Project from $27,000 to $87,000. Trujillo's project also received $45,000 from a homeless shelter in Hollywood.

"Virginia has been very helpful and we're excited about the money for the project," said Montella Iannar, a Legal Aid attorney who works with Trujillo. "Although that money will help keep the project alive for another year, Trujillo's project is not enough for the demand."

Still, Trujillo's project helped 255 homeless people, right before Social Security Disability. Trujillo's cases included over one hundred people who were married with no client who couldn't work. She had to do all the paperwork to keep this as a low-cost house.

In one of the classes she's planning to teach this winter, students will go through case studies of water-related issues to which they have worked with and haven't worked. "I didn't think I could do this or saw teaching," she said. "Good students stimulate research ideas." - Meghann Lowery

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