Howard reaches Hollywood’s heights

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

From working in feature films to TV sitcoms and dramas, Traylor Howard (’89) has arrived at Hollywood stardom. However, before she was cast as sidekick Natalie Teeger on the wildly popular USA-TV hit “Monk,” she was a Seminole at Florida State University, studying advertising in the College of Communication.

In fact, after she first moved to Los Angeles in the early 1990s, Howard worked for a public relations firm for nearly seven years. But a childhood experience with TV commercial stardom in Orlando, Fla., stirred her interest in trying her luck, once more, with showbiz.

“My boyfriend at the time studied acting, and his commercial agency would try and get me to read for commercials,” Howard said. “I really wanted to use my degree, but I thought, ‘I don’t make much money, I’m going to be an actress,’ which is just silly, but I started doing commercials.”

From there, Howard started to study acting.

“I always wanted to do something exciting and creative when I was in school, I just didn’t know what,” she said. “I worked really hard, got an agent, which is quite difficult, and a manager, and I got the lead in a show called ‘Boston Common’ (1996-1997).

“It was the first time I had producers and writers who really got me, and I was what they were looking for,” she said. “Three weeks later, we were on set. In between ‘Friends’ and ‘Seinfeld,’ and people told me, ‘That doesn’t normally happen.’

“My parents were shocked,” she said of her proud father and mother, Bobby Howard and Peggy Traylor Howard (B.A. ’62, Arts and Sciences) of Orlando.

Among other acting turns from Howard’s extensive filmography was her starring role opposite Jim Carrey in “Me, Myself & Irene” (2000). She also won the role of Sharon Carter in “Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place” (1998-2001) with co-star Ryan Reynolds. After that, she played a young woman named “Alice O’Connor” in the sitcom “Bram and Alice” (2002) who learns the identity of her biological father, Bram Shepherd, played by Alfred Molina.

“Bram and Alice’ was the shortest-lived one and the best one I’d done,” she said. After another feature film, “Son of the Mask” (2005), and some positive feedback about her own idea for a TV show, Howard got a call from her manager who wanted her to read for a TV show (Continued on page 15).

The FSU money crunch

What alumni should know about Florida’s budget woes

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Here’s the bad news: Florida’s budget forecast for 2008 is grim.

For the past several years, population growth — which is the state’s primary economic engine — has increased by 2.6 percent from the mid-1990s to 1.8 percent in 2007. What’s more, revenue generated by sales taxes — which comprise nearly 75 percent of general revenue — is decreasing because of a decline in consumer confidence.

Now here’s the really bad news: Florida’s failing financial fortunes directly affect Florida State University. Since the 1990-1991 academic year, FSU has taken $65 million in budget cuts. Again this year, FSU will try to squeeze some money from the turnip, as the saying goes, to continue funding vital parts of its mission, despite less state revenue.

Most of the university’s academic and administrative units endured mid-year, across-the-board budget cuts, with some critical exceptions, because the state’s 2007 budget forecast was overly optimistic.

“Our estimated budget was reduced by 4 percent in October of 2007,” said FSU President T.K. Wetherell. “A second round of cuts in the first week of the legislative session just took another $7 million out of our budget, and the 2008-2009 budget isn’t looking any better.” (Continued on page 15)
I am

> a media consultant
> learning the art of gourmet cooking
> a world traveler
> an advocate for foster children
> a faculty spouse
> a rummy champion
> connected to my family
> happy
> just getting started

I am
Anna Johnson-Riedel
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Roop creates Robert M. Ervin Lawyers’ Commons

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Florida State University alumna Meredith Trammell Roop (B.S. 1991, Political Communication; J.D. 1995) beams as she talks about her friend and fellow attorney Robert M. Ervin—a bona fide legal giant.

“He is such a gentleman, and he has always supported me and encouraged me,” Roop said of the man who, among other laurels and achievements, served as a member of the American Bar Association’s Board of Governors, 1979-1982, as president of The Florida Bar, 1965-1966, and as the president of the Tallahassee Bar Association, 1953-1954.

For the past two years, Roop, who is the current president of the Tallahassee Bar Association, has spearheaded an extraordinary effort not only to preserve the association’s presence in the Leon County Courthouse, where every square foot is considered precious real estate, but also to create the Robert M. Ervin Lawyers’ Commons.

“Robert Ervin is the Tallahassee Bar Association’s most senior member,” Roop said. “Besides his distinguished career as an attorney, he is a Marine colonel who fought in World War II. He is such a wonderful soul that some of us decided the new commons should be named after him.”

In convincing the commissioners of the vital role that the Tallahassee Bar Association plays within Leon County, which is in Florida’s 2nd Judicial Circuit, Roop pointed to the 1,500 pro bono cases that association attorneys handled in 2007 — more than 1.3 million hours of donated legal services.

“I’ve heard attorneys say, ‘I don’t like doing pro bono,’ she said. “Well, I don’t like doing pro-bono either. It’s not fun. A lot of the pro bono work we do with the Tallahassee Bar Association’s Legal Aid program is with family law, and it’s heart-rending. None of the people are at a happy point in their lives. But it is something that, when it’s done, leaves you with a sense of satisfaction and makes you proud to be a lawyer.”

In addition, Roop led a fundraising drive that raised $120,000 to pay for remodeling the courthouse space into an office suite and lawyers’ commons. The suite also contains the office of the association’s executive director and an office reserved for attorney-client conferences.

“I am extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to the effort to make our new offices and the Ervin Lawyers’ Commons a reality. I couldn’t have done it without the help of so many,” Roop said.

Even though Roop’s term as Tallahassee Bar Association president ends in April, she continues to be of service in other ways to her profession. Roop is part of the speakers’ bureau of The Florida Bar and has been recognized as one of its most effective speakers.

In addition, she has been invited to join the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Inns of Court every year since 2001. As an undergraduate at FSU, Roop majored in political communications, which focused on how to run political campaigns and the dynamics of politics.

“One of the professors who made a huge difference in my life was (FSU Associate in Communication) Mark Zeiger,” she said. “He taught me several of my group dynamic classes. Now that I’m a lawyer, I feel very lucky to have had a teacher like him.”

Roop praised Zeiger’s zeal and his motivational approach to teaching communication skills. He remembers her as an excellent student.

“Meredith was very driven,” Zeiger said. “She knew what she wanted to do as an undergraduate, made plans and then followed them. She has accomplished so much, yet still has time to raise a family and be a mom.”

During her law school days, Roop spent two intrepid summers studying various aspects of government and law abroad.

“I moved to Budapest, Hungary, and through a co-op program learned about their political system and government, and how they do pro bono work,” she said.

“Then, over the next summer, I lived in Barbados and attended the University of the West Indies to study advocacy for people who can’t afford an attorney.”

After graduating from Florida State Law, Roop was eager to learn how to try cases, so she applied for a job with the Florida state attorneys’ office.

“My first day, an intern brought what must have been 300 files into my office,” she said. “I said, ‘What are you doing with that?’ and he said, ‘I’m putting them on your shelf. These are your cases that you have to try next week.’”

Working with such a high volume of victims, attending hearings and arguing cases in front of juries over a four-year period gave Roop ample opportunities to hone her skills as a trial attorney.

In the process, she learned that the best path to becoming effective in the courtroom was to be herself.

“You have to use the skills you have to the best of your ability,” she said. “The attorneys that I’ve seen fail the furthest are the ones who try to be something they are not. But the ones who come in and are comfortable with their own style do well.”

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Florida State Times
April—May 2008
FSU’s distinguished faculty makes the news

Many of the faculty members of Florida State University are some of the most highly sought-after experts in a broad spectrum of fields. This is evident in the impressive volume of national and international media outlets — both print and TV — that feature their research findings and opinions.

FSU alumni are invited to visit www.uniconf.fsu.edu/news and see just how often FSU makes headlines around the world.

Kinsey named FSU trustee

James E. Kinsey Jr. of Fort Myers, Fla., has been named to the Florida State University Board of Trustees. A fourth-generation Floridian, Kinsey has been actively involved in Southwest Florida real estate through his company, Kinsey Associates Inc., for the past 25 years. He is a licensed real estate broker, mortgage broker and developer.

Kinsey is the past chairman and a current member of the city of Fort Myers Planning Board and was instrumental in the redevelopment of that city’s downtown area.

Kinsey received his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Tulane University in 1977 and a Master of Business Administration degree from Loyola University in 1980.

Czernis tapped to lead Florida Highway Patrol

Col. John Czernis, a Florida State University alumnus, was named the director of the Florida Highway Patrol during a ceremony at the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles headquarters in Tallahassee in December.

Czernis earned his Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Rollins College in Orlando, Fla., in 1981 and a Master of Public Administration degree from FSU in 2005.

Beerman selected among Ohio’s best artists for 2008

Florida State University alumnus Burton Beerman (B.M. ’56), who is an acclaimed professor of composition and music at Ohio’s Bowling Green State University, has been chosen by that state to receive a 2008 Governor’s Award for the Arts in the category of “Individual Artist.”

Beerman’s music, which includes chamber art, orchestral music, and music for documentary films, and theater and dance performances, has been recognized by more than 30 prominent publications and publications, and his activities have been the subject of broadcast, cable and public television network shows.

The awards program lauds Ohio artists from all disciplines who have brought regional, state-wide or national recognition to Ohio through their sustained dedication to artistic excellence.

Student-athletes are champions of volunteerism

For the second year running, the Florida State University Department of Athletics has received the National Consortium for Academics and Sports Award for its commitment to community service and outreach. During the 2006-2007 academic year, FSU student-athletes volunteered 5,339 hours, reaching more than 150,000 children and senior citizens. In 2005-2006, FSU student-athletes volunteered 4,385 hours.

The majority of student-athletes worked with youth in the Tallahassee community. Some even committed to make weekly visits with the same groups of children in a relationship akin to mentoring, according to John W. Lata of FSU Athletic Student Services.

Alumni sought for research project

David W. Eccles, the lead research scientist at the FSU Center for Expert Performance Research, is seeking participants for a national study of household finances. Participants will be asked to complete a survey involving only a few hours of work and will be paid $50. Households that are asked to participate in the second phase of research will be paid $300.

Participants should be part of a couple (one male and one female between the ages of 18 and 40), who have been married for more than 15 years and never divorced, have few current or past major medical bills, have never owned a business, have never experienced bankruptcy, and have children who are (largely) financially independent. In addition, the higher wage earner of the couple must have been employed in a white-collar job for the majority of his or her career.

To participate, call (850) 644-5459 or send an e-mail to financelstudy@lsi.fsu.edu. The survey will not ask participants to disclose any information about their identities, and all volunteered data will be kept secure and confidential.

Tibbals donates $4 million to expand circus museum

Florida State University and The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art have announced a $4 million gift from philanthropist and circus enthusiast Howard C. Tibbals to expand the Ringling’s headquarters.

Maguire and Dozier fund innovations in College of Medicine

Two retired Tallahassee physicians have joined forces with Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare to provide $1.5 million worth of enhancements to the Florida State University College of Medicine, including a new center where medical students will learn using high-tech patient simulators.

The Charlotte E. Maguire, M.D., and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Center for Clinical Simulation is equipped with mannequins that can simulate a variety of conditions, from wheezing to a heart murmur to cardiac arrest, enabling students to learn how to react to unexpected or no-risk environment.

The center, which went into operation in February, honors Maguire, a benefactor of both the hospital and the College of Medicine, and was made possible through a $5,000,000 gift from the TMH Foundation that was matched by the state of Florida for a total gift of $11.5 million.

In addition, Maguire’s friend and colleague, Dr. Elaine L. Dozier Jr., has funded a $2 million charitable remainder annuity trust for the ultimate benefit of TMH and the College of Medicine. When the funds are received, FSU will establish the Laurie L. Dozier Jr., M.D., Endowed Professorship.

Get in on ‘The Master Plan’

January marked the one-year anniversary of The Master Plan, a weekly online newsletter for Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) students in the Florida State University College of Business. The newsletter is posted each Monday afternoon that honors one student and may be read at mba.fsu.edu/masterplan. Each week’s highlights and a link are sent to all College of Business graduate students, as well as college faculty and staff members. Also in the works are two online newsletters for alumni: one for master’s graduates and another aimed at Ph.D. graduates.

Among those alumni seeking to be added to the distribution list may e-mail Melanie Yeager of the College of Business at mseyager@cob.fsu.edu. For more information on College of Business happenings, visit cob.fsu.edu.

Clarification

In the February-March 2008 issue of the Florida State Times, the FSU Foundation’s column — “Margaret Sitton: A portrait in academic and philanthropic leadership” — contained three points that need to be clarified: The Summer Program at Oxford was developed by the College of Medicine at FSU, not by the College of Business, and may be read at mba.fsu.edu/masterplan. In 1972, and most recently, she added to the Wilson Sitton Endowed Scholarship within the College of Human Sciences.

Spatman named FSU athletics director

Florida State University President T.K. Wetherell has named Randy Spatman as the university’s new director of athletics. Spatman, a former Air Force colonel, had previously served as athletics director at Utah State since 2004, and at the U.S. Air Force Academy from 1996 to 2003.

“Randy Spatman has a strong record of leadership with honesty and integrity. His experience and organizational and management skills set him apart as one of the best athletics directors in the country,” Wetherell said. “We’re very pleased that he has joined the Florida State family.”

Spatman, 55, was lauded during his tenure at Utah State for the success of the Aggies’ athletic programs, both on the field (or court) and in the classroom. Utah State joined the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) in 2005, and claimed four conference championships in its first two years. Even more impressive is the fact that the university’s student-athletes lead the WAC with a 78 percent graduation rate and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of higher than 3.0.

“Florida State University is one of the finest college athletics programs in the nation,” Spatman said. “To be asked to serve as its athletics director is a great compliment, and I was thrilled to accept. I proudly served my country for many years with honor, commitment and pride. And I now look forward to bringing my skills as an athletics director to this university and serving Florida State University with the same honor, commitment and pride.”
Parker Rose helps keep government marching forward

By Bayard Stern
Managing Editor

Cheryl Parker Rose was in the audience during President Bush’s State of the Union address in January. “It was a memorable experience,” she said. Parker Rose, an alumna of the Florida State University College of Law, is a senior adviser and director of intergovernmental affairs for Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, who was sitting behind Bush during his annual address to the Congress and the American people.

“That occasion was one example of the strengths of our democracy,” Parker Rose said from Washington, D.C. “It is important because, although our political leaders may disagree sharply in their policy and political agendas, we nonetheless engage in certain civic practices, honored by all political parties, which represent order and stability.”

Parker Rose’s job allows her to hear concerns from state and local elected officials from across the nation about legislation making its way through Congress or about remarks made by the speaker that might impact state and local policies.

“I am the speaker’s liaison on all legislative matters and issues affecting state, county and municipal governments,” she said. “I get calls from mayors, state legislators, governors and county executives from throughout the country. On any given day, I hear elected officials’ candid assessments on a variety of pending federal legislation.”

Parker Rose serves in a similar capacity for issues relevant to organized labor.

Even though getting in contact with Parker Rose doesn’t always mean that she can change whatever policy is being challenged, she appreciates the fact that elected officials can readily reach the speaker’s office and that they will be able to talk with someone who is knowledgeable about state and local issues.

“I am their first point of contact on issues relating to the speaker’s priorities and responsible for connecting the dots to advisers with more substantive knowledge.”

Parker Rose has built a career in public service and advocacy, and worked at high levels for other notable politicians before joining Pelosi’s senior staff.

“This is my second stint on the Hill,” she said. “The first was as legislative assistant to Florida Congresswoman Carrie Meek, which was an enormous honor. I learned a great deal about the federal legislative process during my brief nine months there.”

She also worked as special counsel to Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles, whom she referred to as “a Renaissance Man.”

In addition, Parker Rose served as a senior policy adviser to former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and as an assistant for strategic initiatives at the Service Employees International Union. From 2001 to 2005, she was counsel and director of policy for the Democratic Governors’ Association and was the director of intergovernmental and interagency affairs at the U.S. Department of Education during the Clinton administration, working for Secretary Richard W. Riley, the former Governor of South Carolina. She also worked in the Florida Legislature’s Office of the Democratic Majority Leader as counsel and staff director for the K-12 Education Committee.

“While I’ve held various positions, the subtext has been the same — each required me to quickly understand new and sometimes complex issues, solve problems and build trust among intergovernmental individuals and groups so that the lines of communication remained reciprocal,” she said. “Over my many years in the Washington metro area, I’d like to believe my trustworthiness is solid.”

“I’ve had the privilege to work for extraordinary public officials — all visionaries with their own unique historic markers. Working for the first woman speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives is, in a word, ‘cool.’ In my estimation, her track record as speaker best answers the question of whether a woman can successfully lead our country.”

As speaker, Pelosi is second in the line of presidential succession.

Born and raised in Tallahassee, Fla., Parker Rose earned her bachelor’s degree from Florida A&M University and received her Juris Doctorate from the FSU College of Law. She is a member of The Florida Bar and the District of Columbia Bar.

“Law school was difficult and very competitive, but at the same time, it was my lifeboat. They were very tough, life-altering but enjoyable years. I particularly enjoyed constitutional law because it reinforced a fundamental lesson: When challenged we look to the Constitution to define the boundaries of everything we do as Americans, every activity, every thought, every inadvertent act. Law school expanded my universe — how I problem-solve. I knew then that my calling was public service.”

Herbert is Florida’s DUI arrest leader

By Dave Fiore

If you ever have been caught driving under the influence in Broward County, Fla., then chances are you have met Deput Jim Herbert.

And that is no exaggeration.

Herbert holds what is believed to be the all-time record in the state of Florida — an amazing 6,519 DUI arrests over his career. To put that in perspective, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) presents awards each year for law-enforcement officers who make at least 100 DUI arrests in a year. Not only has Herbert received that award every year of its existence, but he once totaled 618 in a single year. What’s more, Herbert maintained a conviction rate of 90 percent.

Now retired, Herbert (B.S. ’76, Criminology) said that while the arrests came from a variety of situations, there was one event that altered his career significantly.

“Most of those arrests came from traffic stops, check points and accident scenes,” Herbert said. “But there was a DUI investigation involving the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, and they called and asked me to help.”

The cooperative effort went so well that the police department changed its policy and began using the sheriff’s office, and Herbert in particular, to help on other DUI cases.

“We would find out what happened, make the arrests and even draw the blood,” Herbert said. “We became an all-purpose unit for our agency and others.”

After spending 17 years on the Broward County Sheriff’s Office DUI Task Force, another unit for our agency and others.”

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After spending 17 years on the Broward County Sheriff’s Office DUI Task Force, another enforcement. Herbert said Herbert said he could never get over how easy it was in most cases to spot someone driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

“Drunken drivers usually become obvious and stick out like a sore thumb,” he said.

Even as a youth, Herbert said that he wanted to be in law enforcement.

“I had a lot of respect for law enforcement as a young kid — I always thought it was an admirable profession,” he said. “After getting back from Vietnam and getting a two-year degree from Miami-Dade Junior College, I wanted to go back to school. FSU was touted as the No. 1 criminology department in the U.S., plus my future wife (Susie Brockmeier, B.S. ’76, Nursing) was at FSU. During one visit, she made an appointment for me to meet the dean, and we spent four-and-a-half hours talking. The courses were very challenging, exciting and interesting, I loved every minute of it.”

Herbert said the most rewarding moments are when he is reminded that his efforts both saved and changed lives.

“It is most satisfying when those few people have written me a letter and thanked me for arresting them,” he said. “They say it changed their life.”
Gaines brings down the house in ‘La Mancha’ benefit

By Annette Hannon Lee

It was a one-time-only event — the “Man of La Mancha” sold-out benefit concert in Florida State University’s Richard G. Fallon Theatre on Dec. 15, 2007 — a singular, extraordinary musical production.

A murmur of recognition swept through the audience when Dean Emeritus Dick Fallon took his seat before the show. After all, this performance originally had been his idea, his dream.

Cameron Jackson, the director of the FSU School of Theatre, said Fallon actually had proposed a full-fledged Broadway or London “La Mancha” production after hearing FSU alumnus Davis Gaines sing “The Impossible Dream.”

Chappell, the head of FSU’s MFA Directing Program, said, “It’s very refreshing to have an artist of Davis’ caliber and recognition share his talents and time with students in such fundraising events for the School of Theatre.”

“The character of Alonzo, known to Quixote as ‘Dulcinea’,” was performed with vitality and flair by Susan Russell, who, at the commencement ceremony that very morning, had received her Ph.D. in theater studies from FSU. An assistant professor in theater at Pennsylvania State University, Russell also earned her master’s degree from Florida State following a 25-year career as a professional actor and musical performer on and off Broadway, in regional theaters and with opera companies.

Gaines, however, who served as the drawing card, generating premium-priced ticket sales for patrons wishing to meet the musical theater star during the after-show reception.

Gaines transformed himself into the role of the Captain of the Inquisition in “La Cage aux Folles,” along with numbers from “Phantom” and his performance as Anthony Hope in “Sweeney Todd in Concert” with the San Francisco Orchestra.

The cast delivered an impressive ensemble performance. It was Gaines, however, who served as the drawing card, generating premium-priced ticket sales for patrons wishing to meet the musical theater star during the after-show reception.

The staged concert reading was the first time Gaines had tackled the Quixote role. “I loved it so much,” he said.

“It was one of the most rewarding and fun things I’ve done in a long time. I felt like I was in college again.”

After years of performing, actors sometimes wonder why they got into the business in the first place, Gaines admitted.

“But those students inspired me to work harder and better, and it was such a thrill to be a part of that production,” said the actor, who had performed on the same stage in “Godspell,” directed by Fallon in 1976, when Gaines was a student.

On Broadway, in Los Angeles and in San Francisco, Gaines played the lead role in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Phantom of the Opera” more than 2000 times. The award-winning performer, who lives in L.A., has sung in cabarets, concert halls, small clubs and private mansions. He is heard on 30 original cast recordings and compilation albums in addition to two CDs of his own. Gaines’ rich, passionate voice also has delivered the National Anthem before professional baseball games.

For a sample of his vocal capability, go online to YouTube.com and search for “Davis Gaines” to hear his magnetic, five-star rendition of “Song on the Sand” from “La Cage aux Folles,” along with numbers from “Phantom” and his performance as Anthony Hope in “Sweeney Todd in Concert” with the San Francisco Orchestra.

Gaines’ abundance of talent and stage presence has built a solid fan base around the globe, with admirers sharing recordings of his music via the Internet.

The “La Mancha” benefit raised funds for “musical theater” and acting students to perform in showcase productions for producers and agents in New York and Los Angeles.

“There’s no budget item in the school to finance these opportunities to showcase our students’ talent,” said Jackson, the School of Theatre director.

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“There’s no budget item in the school to finance these opportunities to showcase our students’ talent,” said Jackson, the School of Theatre director. “So, our Patrons Association has stepped up to fund these showcases for our B.F.A. students, who otherwise wouldn’t gain this valuable exposure in the nation’s theater centers.”

Other major university theater programs that offer similar showcases for their students include Carnegie Mellon, Penn State, the University of California at Los Angeles and New York University.

“Davis Gaines is a great supporter of the school,” Jackson said. “He long ago established a scholarship here, but this year he wanted all benefit funds to go toward the student showcases.”

Gaines has soloed with ev-
Crews blends science with love for history of quilting

By Suzanne Smith Arney

Much like the bright square at the center of a quilter’s Log Cabin block, Florida State University alumna Patricia Cox Crews is enjoying being at the center of a rare scholarly enterprise. She is the director of the International Quilt Study Center, a spacious new 37,000-square-foot museum that was dedicated at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in March.

Traditional Log Cabin designs are constructed around a red square, representing the hearth. They are then pieced from a reservoir of materials, strip by strip, onto a foundation fabric. There seem to be endless variations; it is a cherished tradition in American culture that continues to inspire quilters today. Likewise, Crews has pieced together an outstanding career in textile science and history, successfully joining science and cultural studies with disciplined research — and dreaming.

Her foundation was, she says, being raised in the South “in the heart of the textile industry.” Crews grew up with an awareness of the variety and tactility of fabrics, an interest nourished by trips to colonial Williamsburg, Va., and the Smithsonian. And she learned to make things when still very young.

“My mother taught me to sew and knit at the same time I learned to read,” Crews said. Although she hasn’t much time for sewing these days, Crews still relaxes with reading, and especially enjoys historical novels.

Crews’ interest in textiles had shifted from fashion to science by the time she enrolled in FSU’s graduate program in textile science. It was there that she found the Carter Collection of pre-Colombian Peruvian textiles.

“I was captivated by this collection of 2,000-year-old textiles,” she said, remembering them as “stunningly beautiful, technically amazing and surprisingly colorful.”

“I became very interested in natural dyes’ chemistry and light fastness.”

In 1973, Crews earned a master’s degree in textile science from FSU, with a minor in organic chemistry.

“My research interests in textile science over the years have remained focused primarily on improving textile and apparel product performance, and in identifying methods of protecting museum textiles from the damaging effects of light,” she said.

“This work eventually led to a re-definition of the ideal light filter for museums.”

Crews also has contributed to the development of a test method and labeling guidelines for sun-protective clothing marketed in the United States. Recently, she has studied adhesives with which to glue fabrics together.

“FSU had a huge impact on me,” she recalls. “It was there I learned to be an independent researcher. That served me well in my doctoral studies and professional career.”

In 2005, Crews won two prestigious awards — she was named a Florida State University Centennial Laureate and was recognized as a Distinguished Scholar by the International Textile and Apparel Association.

In 1984, after earning a Ph.D. in textile science and conservation at Kansas State University, Crews joined the faculty of the University of Nebraska.

She soon became involved in the Nebraska Quilt Project, a documentation of thousands of quilts and quilters. Crews’ resulting book, “Nebraska Quilts and Quiltmakers” (University of Nebraska Press, 1991), won the Smithsonian’s Frost Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Crafts. In the years since, Crews, now the Willa Cather Professor of Textiles and director of the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has continued to pursue her interests in quilt history and textile conservation in her roles of researcher, scholar and teacher. Her work has been honored in publications and with numerous awards. Crews combines her scientific pursuits with an equally passionate interest in American history. Through a focus on quilts, she has discovered a history written with thread.

“Most women left few written records prior to the 20th century,” Crews said. “Often the objects they made are some of the best documents from which to glean insights into their lives.”

FSU benefactors John and Mary Carter matched their zeal in collecting Peruvian artifacts with generosity in their gift to FSU. Likewise, Ardis and Robert James assembled a fabled collection of quilts from around the world and dreamed of a facility where scholars and visitors would be awed by the beauty and history of quilts. Impressed with her award-winning book on Nebraska quilts, the couple forged a partnership with Crews that would connect others and lead to the creation of the International Quilt Study Center in 1997.

FSU Alumni Association plans exciting events for 2008

What an exciting time to be at the Florida State University Alumni Association! So many things happening. So many things planned. This will be an active year for alumni, and I hope each of you reading this will get involved with your Alumni Association and “reconnect” with the university you and I love so much.

Sometimes all you hear is doom and gloom, but there are exciting and positive things happening at Florida State that you should know about.

The SAT scores of our incoming freshman class are more than 200 points above the national average. We have had two Rhodes Scholars since 2006 and, currently, 15 Fulbright Scholars. Our faculty continues to be nationally recognized for accomplishments in and out of the classroom. Our student-athletes have more people named to the ACC academic honor roll than any other school except Duke. The list of accomplishments goes on and on. Yes, it is an exciting time to be a Seminole!

Some things to look forward to that are coming this fall — all sponsored by the Alumni Association — are the annual Football Kickoff Luncheon, scheduled for Aug. 22, featuring the entire coaching staff and the 2008 Seminole football team. If you’ve never had the opportunity to attend one of these luncheons, make this the year to go. The Alumni Association has been hosting this event for 56 years, and it just keeps getting better and better.

Not only do you hear from Coach Bobby Bowden, but President T.K. Wetherell, Seminole Boosters President Andy Miller and Gene Deckerhoff, the “Voice of the Seminoles,” as well.

Each year, the Alumni Association hosts a Leadership Conference that is open to all alumni and the leaders of the local Seminole clubs. It’s a time to network with other club members and to get and share new ideas. The Leadership Conference is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 12-13. I urge you to attend. It’s a weekend filled with information about FSU and an opportunity to explore ways to make your local Seminole club even stronger. Club members from all over the nation attend.

The Annual Alumni Golf Tournament will take place Oct. 25 — the Friday before the Virginia Tech football game. The past few years have been a sellout and have been a great time to spend with other Seminoles. The golf tournament will have a great way to start a football weekend and at the same time support your Alumni Association.

Homecoming is the Alumni Association’s premier event each year, and this year will be no different. The Homecoming parade and PowWow will take place Friday night, Nov. 14. The Alumni Association, in conjunction with Omicron Delta Kappa, once again will host the “Grads Made Good” presentations. The Alumni Center will be open the entire weekend to welcome alumni returning to campus. The Homecoming football game will be Saturday, Nov. 15, when FSU takes on Boston College.

As always, the Alumni Association will help with game tickets and lodging for these events. Just call our offices at (850) 644-2761.

Yes, it’s a great time to be a Seminole. It always has been! I urge you to get involved with your local club and with the Alumni Association. You are never a stranger while on FSU’s campus.
Skrob blazes trail in business of information marketing

By Dave Fiore

What is better than earning a great salary for the work you do? How about earning money over and over again for work you’ve already done? For one Florida State University graduate, that simple notion has become the driving force behind a new venture, a new passion and a new level of success.

Not that things were exactly going poorly for Robert Skrob (B.S. ’92, Accounting; M.S., ‘93, Accountancy). He is the president and CEO of Membership Services Inc., a Tallahassee-based association management company serving more than a dozen successful clients from across the country. But even with his success in a highly competitive field, he said the current business model ultimately would limit his ability to reach his goals.

“I figured out that as long as I was in consulting, where I was trading dollars for hours, there really was no way I would be able to break ahead,” Skrob said. “I figured out in 2003 that I needed to do something that would allow me to work once and get paid many times.”

That something ended up being information marketing. For Skrob, it was a natural and seamless transition that even helped him serve his association clients more effectively.

“I had always seen these for-profit providers — a seminar promoter who puts on a particular industry event or someone who publishes a for-profit newsletter — and thought they are kind of doing the same thing associations are,” Skrob said. “They go into an industry and create newsletters and conferences or put together a product such as teaching a business how to acquire more customers. I applied the infomarketing techniques to my association clients and got astronomical results.”

Skrob began creating his own information products — seminars, manuals, books and PDF files that could be downloaded from the Internet — and eventually created the Information Marketing Association to provide infomarketers the tools and resources they needed to grow their business.

A turning point in Skrob’s venture came in 2007 with the publishing of “The Official Get Rich Guide to Information Marketing” (Entrepreneur Press), a book he wrote in two days after bad weather forced the cancelation of a business trip. It was a bestseller on Amazon.com and on Barnes & Noble, where it reached No. 2 among marketing and sales books.

“I needed a way of training people about how to get into this business that wasn’t a seminar or high-priced product, and the book allows distribution into bookstores and online booksellers that we couldn’t have gotten through any other resource,” Skrob said. The book, which was co-written by infomarketing guru Dan Kennedy and Bill Glazer, remains a strong seller today.

“Creating streams of income that stack on top of each other and are replaceable and recurring and do not depend on new work has been my sole focus in business for the last three years,” Skrob said. “That has pushed me into all the directions I have gone.”

Today, Skrob lives in Tallahassee with wife, Kory, and children Samantha, 12, and Robert, 8. In the Capital City, he serves his association clients and pursues his passion to make his efforts financially viable for the long term.
The inaugural “Bridging Civilizations” conference — sponsored by the Florida State University Claude Pepper Center for Intercultural Dialogue —recently brought speakers to the FSU campus that included the Rwandan President, Paul Kagame, and the minister of state of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah A. Alireza.

These dignitaries, accompanied by their entourages and tight security, addressed a standing-room-only Alumni Center Grand Ballroom on Feb. 11 to discuss the beliefs about what can be done to help make the peoples of the world understand, or at least tolerate each other, in these increasingly politically and culturally divisive times.

The conference was organized by the Pepper Center’s executive director, Monsignor William A. Kerr.

“I believe the speakers covered topics very specific to their experiences, and this honesty and frankness raised the level of interest among our students in world affairs and everyone in the audience,” Kerr said. “It was a learning experience for the community. All the speakers said they were very pleased with the event and enjoyed answering some tough questions from the audience.”

Kagame discussed his country’s efforts since 1994 to make formal education accessible to everyone, and stressed the importance of promoting a literate society that would, in turn, foster economic growth. He thanked FSU Student Body President Joe O’Shea and the TRUE Seminole campaign for raising money to pay for 17 FSU students to travel to Rwanda this summer for a month, during which they will teach computer skills and help build a technical school.

“Everybody should have a passport,” Overholt said. “Get one, even if you don’t have any plans to travel to another country.” She also stressed the importance of working on a local level with people from different countries to nurture understanding between cultures. “If you can create dialogue around a task, people will learn to work together.”

On the stage with each speaker sat different contingents of FSU students, including students from the Center for Intensive English Studies.

“The think that the students’ presence was key to representing to the distinguished guests and audience the diversity that exists here at FSU, and the opportunities FSU and the Tallahassee community have in which to interact with internationals right in our own backyard,” said Ramin Yazdanpanah, an instructor from the center. “The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of getting to meet heads of state and other distinguished guests. Having the opportunity to meet His Excellency Abdullah A. Alireza especially enthralled our Saudi students.”
The true story of the birth of the Seminole Warchant

Thirty years ago in Palm Beach County, young men who lived west of Military Trail were called “cowboys.” Chief among the cowboys for the purpose of our story was one Rob Hill. It’s been said each of us will be famous for fifteen minutes. Well, Rob Hill’s exposure to fame only lasted about fifteen seconds but it was a doozy.

On a forgotten football weekend long ago, a camera crew from ABC in search of local color descended on the Theta Chi fraternity house at Florida State University and asked to meet or see evidence of Rob Hill. Little Theta Chi pledges went scurrying through the hallways, camera in tow until they stopped in front of a framed display with small photographs of each Fraternity member.

Out of breath, bursting with pride, the boys pointed to one picture and the cameras focused in. “That’s him!” they said. “That’s Rob Hill, the man who invented the Seminole Warchant!”

Whether Rob Hill was in fact the singularity at the point of the Big Bang is open to speculation, but there’s no question that the three significant players in creating the Seminole Warchant were: the Scalphunters, the Theta Chi Fraternity and the Marching Chiefs.

Since there seems to be such a strong interest in the subject among so many Seminole fans, let’s explore the Warchant story from the perspective of four people who were closely involved in its origin.

Rob Hill entered FSU as a freshman and followed his fellow Palm Beach cow-boys to the Theta Chi Fraternity. Prominent Orlando attorney and developer Todd South was also a Theta Chi cowboy who continued to remain active in his fraternity and in Scalphunters all the way through the FSU Law School, graduating in 1985. South is now a Director on the Seminole Boosters National Board and has a freshman son at FSU.

“Those Palm Beach guys included Bobby Kreusler along with Glenn and Ed Criser, sons of University of Florida President Marshal Criser. They loved to send their dad garnet & gold balloons,” South says.

“The thing started in 1983 or 1984. Late in the game with the game in hand, our guys would make a moaning Indian sound and the arm motion. It became a late game tradition, sort of like lighting cigars in the 4th quarter. People would turn around and say, ‘What the hell are they doing?’

“The physical motion is different today. To duplicate the original arm motion, raise your right arm pointed to the right, then place the palm of your hand behind your head. Your arm goes straight out to the right, as if pointing to the goal, before returning to the back of your head. It wasn’t a ‘tomahawk chop’ or a chop of any kind. The original motion repeatedly pointed to the right. It soon morphed into the motion we see today where the arm moves directly forward in front of the body. Peggy Bazzell began with the Boosters in 1981 and retired in 2007. Peggy was in charge of Donor Records and knew everyone; she did a great deal of fundraising simply by talking to donors.

“That spirit group (the Scalphunters) and the Theta Chis were the first components in the development of the Warchant,” she said. “Seating the spirit group close to the Chiefs made it all come together because some chant-like noise developed... Once the Chiefs got involved the noise became an actual war chant... This was the beginning of everything.”

Peggy does not believe there was a single instant that made the Warchant come to life, but that over the course of a year-and-a-half it developed into a substantial phenomenon that every fan in the stadium embraced, not just the students.

Butch Rahman is Senior Vice President of Colonial Bank in Lakeland. Before his graduation in 1986 he was a distinguished student Senator, Vice President of Gold Key and a leader in Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.

Rahman recalls, “Some friends and I were walking by the Seminole Booster office (then located on Wildwood Drive) when a Theta Chi named Bobby Kreusler came out of his fraternity house on his way to the Scalphunters meeting. Bobby was a star running back for the Seminoles and we were almost right down on the field,” said Desjardin. He and the other Scalphunters settled in and began to lead the Warchant.

“Prior to that game at Auburn, we never heard the band play during the Chant. At Auburn, the Chiefs were on about the ten yard line facing at an angle toward us. When we all did the Warchant together, the effect was electrifying!”

“The rhythmic music helped orchestrate fans’ arm motions in unison. Thousands of voices all rang loud, together as one, coupled with the driving beat of the Marching Chiefs.

“It was incredible,” says Desjardin. “I remember the look on some of the Auburn players’ faces when the cheer reached its peak. You could tell it affected the players on both sides and the Chant helped to inspire a huge gold-line stand by our defense.”
Mary Frances Foster celebrates 100th birthday

Florida State University wishes a happy 100th birthday to Mary Frances Chittenden Foster, who attended Florida State College for Women between 1926 and 1929 and earned a degree in English literature.

Foster served as president of the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, 1926-1929, and remained enthusiastically active as an alumna in the ensuing years. She was married to Leo Foster, a prominent Tallahassee attorney and constitutional scholar, who died in 1991. She is a former member of the Garden Club, St. Mary’s Circle at St. John’s Episcopal Church, and the Tallahassee Cotillion Club.
Homer A. Black

Homer A. Black, 84, a Florida State University professor emeritus of accounting, died Jan. 31. He taught at FSU from 1958 to 1989. During that time, he was the chairman of the accounting department for more than 30 years and held visiting faculty appointments at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and IME in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In 2005, the Homer A. Black Endowed Fellowship Fund was established to honor Black’s contributions to FSU. The fund provides scholarships to a number of master’s students on an annual basis.

Black earned his doctorate in business administration from the University of Michigan.

J. Michael Armer

J. Michael Armer, 70, a Florida State University professor emeritus of sociology, died Jan. 21. He taught and conducted research at FSU from 1979 until his retirement in 2004. Armer also served as the department chair from 1980 to 1985 and was active on many student and university committees.

He held teaching and research positions in Nigeria, Dakar, Senegal; Kano, Nigeria; and Lausanne, Switzerland.

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"Whiskey Down"
Tyler Reeve (B.S. ‘04, International Affairs)
Tyler Reeve/BMI

This is the debut album from up-and-coming Atlanta singer-songwriter Reeve. Jeans, a T-shirt, boots and a guitar say it all about his style of music. In the title track, Reeve sings, "I drink my whiskey down/spend all my money when I can’t never put a cowgirl in the saddle by my side/a little bit of weight can drag me down.”

"Under This Yellow Sun"
Tori Sparks (B.F.A ‘99)
Glass Mountain Records

Sparks’ second album — alternative acoustic with attitude for miles — features a rich blend of textures. Behind her trademark black boots and deft guitar playing lives an inventive lyricist who fortifies her words with commanding vocal capabilities.

"Abstract Painting in Canada"
Rosal Nagasda
(FSU professor of art history and chairman of art department)
Douglas and McIntyre

This book is the first comprehensive history of abstract painting in Canada and contains 200 full-page color reproductions. Beginning with art from the 1920s — with pioneers such as Kathleen Munn, Bertram Brooker and Lawren Harris — it continues to the Abstract Painters era, Canada’s first truly independent avant-garde movement. “Abstract Painting in Canada” showcases art through the 1980s and ‘90s and concludes in the 21st century, with abstract painting alive and well again in the studios of young artists.

"Charm Spinner"
Ladd Graham (B.A. ’69)
Publish America

Set in 1963 at a Southern university where the color lines are just starting to break, a black star football player catches the attention of a popular white professor. This attention grows into an obsession, but the athlete’s focus is on a new girl he has met. Graham’s novel erupts with passions and jealousies that threaten to consume the athlete, who believes that only murder will set him free.

"Christianity: 5,000 Years of History and Development"
Gary A. Stilwell (M.A. ’96, Ph.D. ’00)

Divided into three parts, this book examines the 5,000-year history and development of what became today’s faith. The first part observes the modern day, in which thousands of variations of the Christian faith exist. The second part explores how the roots of Judaism and ancient Greek religions fed into Christianity. The third part examines the question: Was there ever a single Christianity? The book also includes maps, tables, graphs and timelines.

"I Was Cuba: Treasures From the Ramiro Fernandez Collection"
Kevin Kwan, Peter Castro and Ramiro Fernandez (B.A. ’74)
Chronicle Books

The images in this book have been edited, sequenced and designed into a narrative “dream journey” that laces together the history of Cuba with biographical elements of Ramiro Fernandez’s life. Fernandez is a photo editor for People magazine. The book showcases 300 never-before-seen images of the island spanning more than 100 years, ranging from the 19th century to the revolutionary period. Included are texts from famed Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas.

"Days of a Chameleon: Collected Poems"
Jeffrey DeLotto (M.A. ’74, Ph.D. ’81)
Xlibris

In a collection of poems, DeLotto takes the role of a chameleon, examining a variety of topics — large to small, light to dark and calm to storm.

"The Invincible Alice"
Alice L. Luckhardt
Lulu Publishers

This is the biography of Alice L. Walters Wallace, a Florida-raised, privileged and educated young woman in the 1940s. While she endured numerous terrible events in her life — illness, family deaths and four husbands — she remained a pillar of invincibility.

"Legends — Family Stories and Myths"
Alice L. Luckhardt

Every book has family stories handed down over the generations. This book can help the reader learn how to decide what is the truth and what is pure fiction with his or her own family stories by showing how to search for the real events behind the tales. Using 30 actual family legends, Luckhardt presents the sources and methods used to research what actually happened in the stories.

"Rape Work: Victims, Gender, and Emotions in Organization and Community Context"
Patricia Yancey Martin (M.A. ’64, Ph.D. ’69, and FSU Daisy Parker Flory Professor of Sociology)
Routeledge

Despite 30 years of feminist activism, many rape victims still experience what has been called a “second rape” through the harsh treatment of the criminal justice and health care systems. Martin identifies organizational, occupational and community conditions that prompt this phenomenon. She also notes the four key reforms — legal, sexual-assault nurse examiner, sexual assault response teams and rape crisis centers — that are essential to improving responsiveness to victims.

"Seven Laws of Presidential Leadership: An Introduction to the American Presidency"
Charles W. Dunn (M.S. ’63, Ph.D. ’65)
Prentice Hall

This book examines seven laws from presidential history, spanning from George Washington through George W. Bush, in order to understand how presidents lead the nation. Those include the laws of history, rhetoric, culture, theory, politics, morality and management. It also explores the impact of contemporary culture on presidential leadership, the relationships between morality and presidential leadership, and the various theories of presidential leadership.

"Shaping Your HR Role: Succeeding in Today’s Organizations"
William M. Kahnweiler (Ph.D. ’79) and Jennifer B. Kahnweiler (Ph.D. ’79)
Elsevier

Combining theory and practical case studies to support their developments, this book provides human resource practitioners with tools, guidelines, ideas and strategies for developing their role and skills. The book also focuses on issues — current and future — in both the human resources profession and the workplace.

"The Shifting Line"
Chelsea Rathburn (B.A. ’97)
University of Evansville Press

In Rathburn’s debut book of poems, she examines life’s gray areas — how a light touch can easily become harsh or a passive home can become charged with “curses we can feel but can’t repair.” Through sonnets, ballads, blank verse and nonce forms, she gives the fragility of the lives and relationships she explores poetic strength. Rathburn is the recipient of the 2005 Richard Wilbur Award for poetry.

"Shire Hall"
Sarah Maree Austin (Senior majoring in political science and religion)
PublishAmerica

Set in early 18th-century England, two students witness a murder while walking home from class. Emmeline Forrester and her friend, Adam, are arrested and taken to Shire Hall prison for the crime. When they are falsely accused of murder and sentenced to death, Emmeline decides to take justice into her own hands. She soon realizes that the journey to freedom from Shire Hall is the beginning of a horrible nightmare.

"Speech Ghostwriting: Crafting Effective Speeches for Other People"
Douglas Perret Starr (M.A. ’79, Ph.D. ’72)
Marion Street Press Inc.

Starr’s step-by-step guide shows the reader how to compose a winning speech that sounds like the client wrote it by him- or herself. Included are suggestions on interviewing the client, researching the topic, writing the speech to fit the speaker’s style, and receiving approval from the client. Helpful finalizing tips teach writers how to prepare the speaker for the event and provide materials to the news media.
Turn assets into income without paying capital gains tax

Do you have stocks, securities or other assets that have appreciated significantly over the years but provide little in the way of income? You could sell these assets but may be hesitating due to the large capital gains tax you would have to pay. As a result, you might be wondering how and when to reinvest these assets.

One option to consider is the Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT). Establishing a CRUT for Florida State University allows you both to receive income during retirement and ensure a future gift to your favorite program at FSU. The CRUT pays a variable amount, based on the value of the trust assets, to the income beneficiary each year. As the assets increase or decrease, so does the income.

If you choose a CRUT with a lower-percentage payout, any excess earnings above your distribution amount can be reinvested into the principal of the trust, allowing your investment to grow. In this situation, because your payout amount is tied directly to the value of the trust principal, your income payment can increase as well.

As you can see, the CRUT can be an excellent option for generating higher income at a time when you need it most. Selecting a qualified trustee with a solid history of trust investment management is very important to the success of this type of investment. When handled by experienced managers, charitable trusts grow very well.

To that end, the Florida State University Foundation is proud to maintain a partnership with the Charitable Asset Management Group at State Street Global Advisors. A dedicated group within State Street Global for more than 20 years, the Charitable Asset Management Group applies an exceptional amount of expertise and experience to service over 24,000 donors and income beneficiaries.

To learn more about how the Charitable Remainder Unitrust can be used to augment your retirement income, please call the FSU Foundation today. You can reach us at (850) 644-0768 or visit us on the Web at www.foundation.fsu.edu/plannedgiving. We look forward to hearing from you!
In fact, current statewide revenue estimates show available recurring funds to be down by $3.2 billion for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

In response to Florida’s financial crisis, Wetherell had proposed a solution in February in the form of a state-constitutional amendment to repeal the Required Local Effort (RLE) property tax, which is the portion of local property taxes dedicated to fund Florida’s public schools.

“We had a proposal that traded high property taxes for tax reform, which would guarantee our children a place in higher education,” Wetherell said of his proposal that was similar to, and would let lawmakers repeal the required Local Effort. “It was a proposal that was similar to, and would have raised the sales-tax rate, but would have removed sales-tax exemptions for narrow special interests. It also would have given property owners a reason to cheer, because the Required Local Effort, which is levied in all of Florida’s school districts, can comprise up to 30 percent of annual property-tax bills. The plan would have benefited higher education because the amendment would have required the Legislature to fund higher education with not less than one-third of the sum of the Required Local Effort and the general revenue that normally is appropriated for public schools.

Some variation of CUF, probably without the services tax component, will be heard before the Tax Budget Reform Commission in April.

Unfortunately, at press time, the 2008 legislative session had just begun, so the fate of FSU’s fiscal future was unknown.

Florida’s flagging budget forecast will adversely affect FSU

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Howard enjoys the creative process of acting

(Continued from page 1)

called ‘Monk’—then in its third season—about a brilliant detective with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

It had never seen ‘Monk’ and I didn’t even want to audition because I was really ready to do my own thing, but my manager talked me into it and it was great,” she said. “One of the producers was Randy Zisk, who also had produced ‘Lois and Clark’ and remembered me from a little part I had done on that show. The ‘Monk’ producers didn’t mess around. They gave me some DVDs to watch and I thought, ‘This is really good.’ It was a throwback to ‘Columbo.’ I loved the mixture of comedy and drama.”

She also was excited about working with series star Tony Shalhoub.

“I actually auditioned with Tony,” she said. “He’s so good. After I got the part, he sat me down and joked, ‘Your life is over,’ and I said, ‘People tell me that I’ll only be working 12-hour days,’ and he said, ‘They’re lying. It’s not true.’”

To describe Howard’s schedule as exhausting would be an understatement. Her typical week starts at 4 a.m. on Monday and, after a week of 14- to 16-hour days, might end in the wee hours of Saturday morning. The upside, according to Howard, is the chance to work with nice and professional people, both in front of and behind the camera.

“I’m just very, very lucky,” she said. “It’s really fun.”

In spending time and working with accomplished actors such as Shalhoub, Howard finds inspiration. While filming a scene, she describes the acting process as “being in the moment and reacting off the other actors,” and riding the line between pushing herself to try something new and trusting her instincts to not over-think things “You don’t know how (your efforts) is going to go every time,” she said. “Sometimes they’ll say, ‘There was so great, what you did,’ and I don’t even know what I did. It’s just nice when you’re present, where you have these moments that work, and it’s nothing you really planned, but it just happened.”

Howard also enjoys the times when her parents come to California to visit her on the set.

“I have heard there is a lot of ‘fat’ that can be cut from higher education. It is true.

The belief that eliminating the ‘fat’ from higher education in general, and FSU in particular, can result in significant budget savings is incorrect. FSU has been diligent in seeking out and implementing opportunities to become more efficient on an ongoing basis. The university has a commitment to aggressively contain costs and enhance its academic quality. Over the past several years, FSU has invested in academic priorities, including the Pathways of Excellence initiative, enrollment growth and health care supplements for graduate students.

How big are the cuts that the state is facing? Current estimates show the state has almost 8 percent less revenue in its general revenue fund than anticipated when the budget was enacted in the spring of 2007. This comes to more than $3 billion. Further reductions are anticipated.

How do these cuts compare to those in 2001-2002? The current reductions will cut more deeply into university operations than those in 2001-2002. That year, the reductions totaled $29 million. However, many of the reductions were handled centrally from revenues recently appropriated and not yet committed. In this go-round, university reserves cannot absorb the reductions. Most of the cuts will have to be passed on to units throughout the university. So, the effect on operations and services will be greater.

What are the guiding principles established by the FSU Board of Trustees for reductions?

The priorities adopted are to:
- protect the integrity of the teaching, research and service mission of the university;
- protect the financial integrity of the university; and
- ensure the safety and security of students, employees and the campus.

Are all units in the university being cut equally? No. Some services such as library acquisitions and student financial aid will not bear the brunt of the reductions, and others, such as relatively lower paid staff in the facilities area, will be spared in large measure. Most other units, however, are being treated similarly in the short run. In the long run, there may be some reallocation of funds.

Why do top FSU administrators not seem to take university faculty members seriously other than as a “cost item” and, instead focus their attention on other matters, including growing and rewarding the FSU administration? President Wetherell has lobbied for salary increases, even when this issue was being ignored elsewhere in the state. Faculty members are integral to the university and are always the top priority. It is worth remembering that Florida institutions operate with thousands of dollars less per student than their counterparts around the country. As a consequence, FSU’s libraries have less funding than the libraries at universities to which FSU compares itself. Technology funding per student is 70 percent of such funding nationally. Across the board, the university has less money than its peers.

To read additional questions and answers related to FSU’s budget reductions, visit www.fsu.com/financial_crisis/pages/faq.html.

Frequently asked questions related to FSU’s budget reductions

- continue to enhance the university’s standing as one of the top research and graduate-education institutions in the nation;
- protect the financial integrity of the university; and
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