

## New faces of research

By Maria Mallory White  
University Communications

Intrigued by deep-sea ecosystems, ascetic practices in 16th- and 17th-century China and the health and demographics of aging Americans, three new professors bring their exciting areas of research to Florida State University.

As FSU continues to distinguish itself as a world-leading research institution, Amy Baco-Taylor, Jimmy Yu and Miles G. Taylor are among the latest additions to a faculty committed to in-depth scholarly inquiry and excellence in collegiate education.

Miles G. Taylor studies older adults, and she's particularly interested in the area known as "functional impairments."

"We usually call it disability," said the Jacksonville native, who was named after her father. "Generally, it's just a person's inability to function in their everyday life."

**Taylor studies older adults, particularly the area known as "functional impairments."**

Taylor said that when investigating routine daily tasks such as preparing their own meals, getting into bed or

taking a bath, medications or public transportation, she has

found the percentage of adults who are unable to do such things is about 8 percent at age 65 and swells to about 50 percent at age 80.

To support her work, Taylor has received a \$750,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study health disparities between black and white older adults.

"What I've been finding is that African-American individuals are about 50 percent more likely to have the onset of some impairment compared to white older adults," she said. Taylor did her undergraduate studies in sociology at University of North Florida. She completed her master's and doctoral degrees in sociology

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Taylor



Baco-Taylor



Yu

## Interdisciplinary FSU team helping engineer future of Amazonian village

By Bayard Stern  
Managing Editor

Juan Carlos Galeano is one part author, one part filmmaker and one part explorer. When he wasn't teaching Latin American poetry and culture, the Florida State University professor of modern languages and linguistics was scouring the lower Amazonian basin on a decade-long quest researching native folklore.

In 2006, Galeano visited San Rafael, a Peruvian village on the banks of the Amazon River,

to co-produce and co-direct the documentary film "The Trees Have a Mother," with Valliere Richard Auzenne, associate professor in the College of Motion Picture, Television and the Recording Arts. His yearning to return to the village culminated this past August when he led an interdisciplinary team of three FSU faculty members and six undergraduate and graduate students on a three-fold mission: to supply the village with a working source of fresh water, to help

it become a viable eco-tourism destination, and to lay the groundwork for future service projects by others from FSU.

"I became very acquainted and involved with some of the communities along the Amazon River," Galeano said. "San Rafael is a peasant community that has received help from the European Union to develop a pilot project of sustainable development, which is a very crucial issue in the Amazon. The villagers want

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Juan Carlos Galeano



Rebecca Galeano

Photos by Matt Roush

## Seminole Clubs offer great times in service to communities

By Dave Fiore

Social networking on the Internet through sites such as Facebook is one way to stay in touch with college friends after graduation, including the official Florida State University Facebook site. For those who prefer face-to-face interaction, however, there are livelier options.

Case in point: FSU graduates have more than 60 local Seminole Clubs scattered across 26 states

and two foreign countries where thousands of FSU alumni and friends gather on a regular basis to hang out and have a blast.

"It is the original way to network," said Scott Atwell, president of the FSU Alumni Association. "Every day, people move into a new city. For many, the first thing they do is see if there is a Seminole Club in the area to interact with fellow Seminoles and get the lay of the

land. It is a way for people of the same mind to get together in support of each other and the university."

While meetings usually include watching the Seminoles play on TV and listening to talks by coaches or professors from FSU, they also enable outreach efforts in a way the university could never afford to do, according to Atwell.

"The Seminole Clubs,

which are managed jointly by the Alumni Association and the Seminole Boosters, focus on community service, help recruit students in local high schools and raise money for scholarships," he said. "They are invaluable."

About five hours north of Tallahassee, the Atlanta Seminole Club — which is 300 members strong — uses a mix

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# Rising prominence: Florida State breaks into U.S. News top 50

By Jill Elish

*FSU News and Public Affairs*

Florida State University is one of the top 50 public universities in the country, according to *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges 2009" edition.

FSU tied with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for 50th place among the top 50 public "national" universities. In addition, FSU's overall ranking jumped 10 places to No. 102 among all universities — public and private — up from last year's ranking of 112.

"We are very pleased to see that the strides Florida State University is making in terms of student aid, retention and graduation rates are reflected in the *U.S. News and World Report's* rankings," said FSU Provost

and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lawrence G. Abele. "With the budget crisis facing Florida's universities, there are many funding issues that affect our rankings that are out of our control, but we continue to strive for excellence — and it shows in the success of our students."

*U.S. News and World Report* also lauded FSU in a category called "A+ Schools for B Students." Although 50 percent of incoming FSU students have grade point averages between 3.7 and 4.3 — well above a "B" average — Abele said FSU's listing in this category is reflective of the university's approach of looking beyond SAT scores when making admissions decisions.

"We're an A+ school that looks at more than a single

test score," he said. "That's one exam, one time. We put much more weight on the rigor of high school courses. We're looking at the total student."

FSU's commitment to the long-term achievement of each student remains critical to the university's mission, Abele said. That's why FSU is No. 1 in the nation in reducing the gap in graduation rates between African-American and white students, according to Education Sector, a nonpartisan think tank based in Washington. More than 72 percent of African-American students — who make up 12 percent of FSU's student body — graduate within six years, thanks largely to the efforts of FSU's Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE). Nationally, fewer than half of African-American

students who enroll in college graduate within six years.

Another way FSU demonstrates its commitment to student success is through need-based scholarships, Abele said. Because FSU offers the scholarships, only 32 percent of FSU students graduate with debt. The average amount of their debt totaled \$13,855, which ranked FSU 12th on the national universities "least debt" list.

The recognition that FSU is a university that accepts students with a desire to achieve has helped increase the number of top students who apply. FSU's ranking in "student selectivity" jumped 21 places from 120th to 99th among all universities, and improvements in retention and graduation rates saw that ranking rise from 96th to 91st place.

"As Florida State becomes increasingly more selective, we seek to recruit outstanding scholars whose strength, skill and character will help advance Florida, the nation and our world," Abele said.

Among those outstanding students are Rebecca Stone, a chemical engineering student, and Priya Pal, a chemistry and biomedical mathematics double major, who won prestigious Goldwater Scholarships; 10

2007 Fulbright Scholars; and Rhodes Scholars Garrett Johnson (2006) and Joseph O'Shea (2008). The Rhodes Scholarship is the pinnacle of student achievement worldwide, and FSU has outpaced virtually all other universities by producing two winners since 2006.

Such student success stories have likely contributed to FSU's ranking of 86 in peer assessment — up from 92. Peer assessment weighs heavily — 25 percent — among factors *U.S. News and World Report* uses to determine overall rankings.

For example, FSU's College of Business was recognized as having one of the best insurance and risk management programs in the country. The program ranked fifth among all universities and fourth among publics. In addition, the real estate program ranked 11th among all universities and eighth among public universities.

"This is another high mark for our risk management and insurance faculty," said College of Business Dean Caryn L. Beck-Dudley. "They continue to build on the college's strong history of providing top-notch education for those tasked with reducing uncertainty and offering protection from catastrophic loss."

## FSU makes commitment to need-based aid

Florida State University will set aside 30 percent of the fall 2009 tuition increase for need-based aid to students. That totals about \$952,000.

Moreover, FSU — which allocates an additional \$4.6 million for need-based financial aid — will maintain its longstanding commitment to programs that assist economically disadvantaged students, such as CARE (the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement).

"We recognize that 30 percent of our freshmen will be the first members of their families to go to college," President T.K. Wetherell said. "That's why we have made such a significant investment in a number of unique programs, in particular CARE, that are specifically designed to recruit, retain and graduate economically disadvantaged students."

To learn more about CARE, visit [www.care.fsu.edu](http://www.care.fsu.edu).

# International experiences abound with Global Pathways

By Bayard Stern

*Managing Editor*

Florida State University students don't have to travel far to become internationally savvy. With students and faculty from all over the world on campus, global connections can be readily acquired without stepping onto a plane.

The FSU divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, with support from the Claude Pepper Center for Intercultural Dialogue, have teamed up to "internationalize" the campus by encouraging FSU's domestic undergraduate students to interact more with international students and to seek out diversity through the

Global Pathways Certificate program.

"FSU is the first university in Florida to develop this type of program," said Cadence

Kidwell, FSU's Global Pathways and Exchange coordinator. "In order to earn the certificate, students will participate in a wide variety of cross-cultural, international experiences and courses right here

on campus or elsewhere in Florida. There are also many opportunities for our students to go abroad while earning the certificate. We have some of the best study-abroad programs in the country, and FSU has over a dozen exchange agreements with

other universities around the world where our students can go and study using FSU tuition. Conversely, students from other universities can come here on their home tuition. It's a terrific program."

Students working toward the certificate are required to take a foreign language, attend approved international events and write reflection pieces on their experiences.

"Some universities have similar programs, but they're either all academic or require an overseas component," Kidwell said. "FSU students can get credit for studying overseas, but they can also perform cross-cultural service, research and internships locally. FSU provides a rich environment on campus for cross-cultural interactions."

Italian-born Marco Barbieri is a current student who is

one of the first to be earning a Global Pathways Certificate. A junior majoring in international affairs, he is interested in learning about international human rights and economic development.

"Intercultural dialogue is a crucial asset to successful interstate relations," said Barbieri, who speaks Italian, English, Hungarian and Spanish. "I believe that this certificate could only improve my chances to improve intercultural exchange personally, as well as for FSU."

Barbieri traveled abroad through FSU and witnessed historically significant legal events while receiving credit toward the certificate.

"This (past) summer, I was fortunate enough to be a part of an international program that focused on observing human rights trials," he

said. "My professors were (President Emeritus) Sandy D'Alemberte and (executive director of the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights) Terry Coonan. We were able to experience history as we saw Charles Taylor, a head of state convicted for crimes against humanity, be put on trial in the special court of Sierra Leone. The class also was able to take part in seeing trials in the International Court for the former Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice. Representatives from the International Bar Association, the European Parliament and the International Criminal Court all took time to lecture to us and discuss recent issues facing each organization."

For information about FSU's Global Pathways Certificate, visit [www.global.fsu.edu](http://www.global.fsu.edu).



Marco Barbieri

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# GO TO GABBY

## Alumna shines as fitness and beauty icon

By Gary Fineout

For Gabrielle Reece, life isn't about spiking, blocking and soaring above the net anymore.

But that doesn't mean the Florida State University alumna known as "Gabby" is slowing down. Far from it.

Reece, a professional volleyball player who has graced the covers of sports and beauty magazines, is attempting to do what most working women do: balance the demands of her family and her career while also maintaining a vibrant and healthy lifestyle.

Reece, 38, took a break from professional volleyball after giving birth to her second daughter, Brody Jo, this past January.

But the athlete and fashion icon has moved ahead with countless other projects. She recently put out a series of exercise videos that show people how to get fit with a 15-minute workout, as well as another set of DVDs for pregnant mothers. Reece also now runs her own Web site, [www.gotogabby.com](http://www.gotogabby.com), which includes a fitness-training regimen known as Train 360.

Reece, who also

regularly writes articles and blogs about health and fitness, hopes to expand the concept featured on her Web site into a television program. She said one of her main goals for the Web site — which features everything from nutrition information and recipes, to practical living advice — is to help women keep a sense of balance as they try to stay healthy, take care of their family and work at the same time.

"It's just trying to put in a modern but realistic spin

on stuff that millions and millions of women are trying to finagle every day," Reece said. "Women don't have any time — they are doing reconnaissance for everything their family needs to do."

Reece said it's important for women to learn how to reduce the stress in their lives and keep themselves healthy.

"If you take care of yourself, everything is better," said Reece, who spends half of the year in California and the other half in Hawaii.

Part of Reece's everyday routine is helping take care of her family. She has been married for more than 10 years to professional surfer Laird Hamilton, and together they are raising three children. Along with Brody Jo, there's 4-year-old Reece Viola and 13-year-old stepdaughter Bela.

The 6-foot-3 Reece catapulted to fame while playing volleyball at FSU, becoming a professional model while she was still in college and earning the title of one of the "five most beautiful women in the world" from Elle magazine while she was still a sophomore. She was so successful in her outside modeling career that she gave up her volleyball scholarship but kept on playing anyway.

While at FSU, Reece set school records for single-season and career solo blocks. It was during her junior year that she helped lead the Seminoles to a Metro Conference championship. In 1997, Reece was named to the FSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Her years in Tallahassee set the stage for a stunningly successful career as a supermodel, professional beach volleyball player and spokeswoman for Nike shoes. Reece was the first female athlete to help design a shoe for Nike. She has appeared in films and on television and in countless magazines, including *People*, *Shape*, *Self* and *Vogue*.

But Reece, who grew up in the Virgin Islands before moving to St. Petersburg, Fla., during her junior year in high school, said it is unlikely she would have achieved this type of success if she had not come to FSU. Reece, who didn't start playing volleyball until she was in the 11th grade, was offered a scholarship after she was spotted at a Florida club tournament.

"I don't think I would still be at it right now if I hadn't gone to FSU," said Reece, who credited the school for teaching her about "hard work" and "responsibility."

Reece, who admits she "bounced around" during her childhood, said she "never had the notion" of going to college until she was offered a volleyball scholarship at FSU. But she said once she got to FSU, she was given the tools that helped her prepare for her career and professional life. She said Tallahassee was a place where students and student-athletes are "embraced."

"Everyone gets something different from college, and for me it created a really stable environment," Reece said. "It gave me some time to grow up. Playing volleyball there ... it gave me a really strong support system and kind of a family, if you will. That time in my life and being there at Florida State was really pivotal, I think, to my success."

Gabrielle Reece



Photo by Andrew McPherson

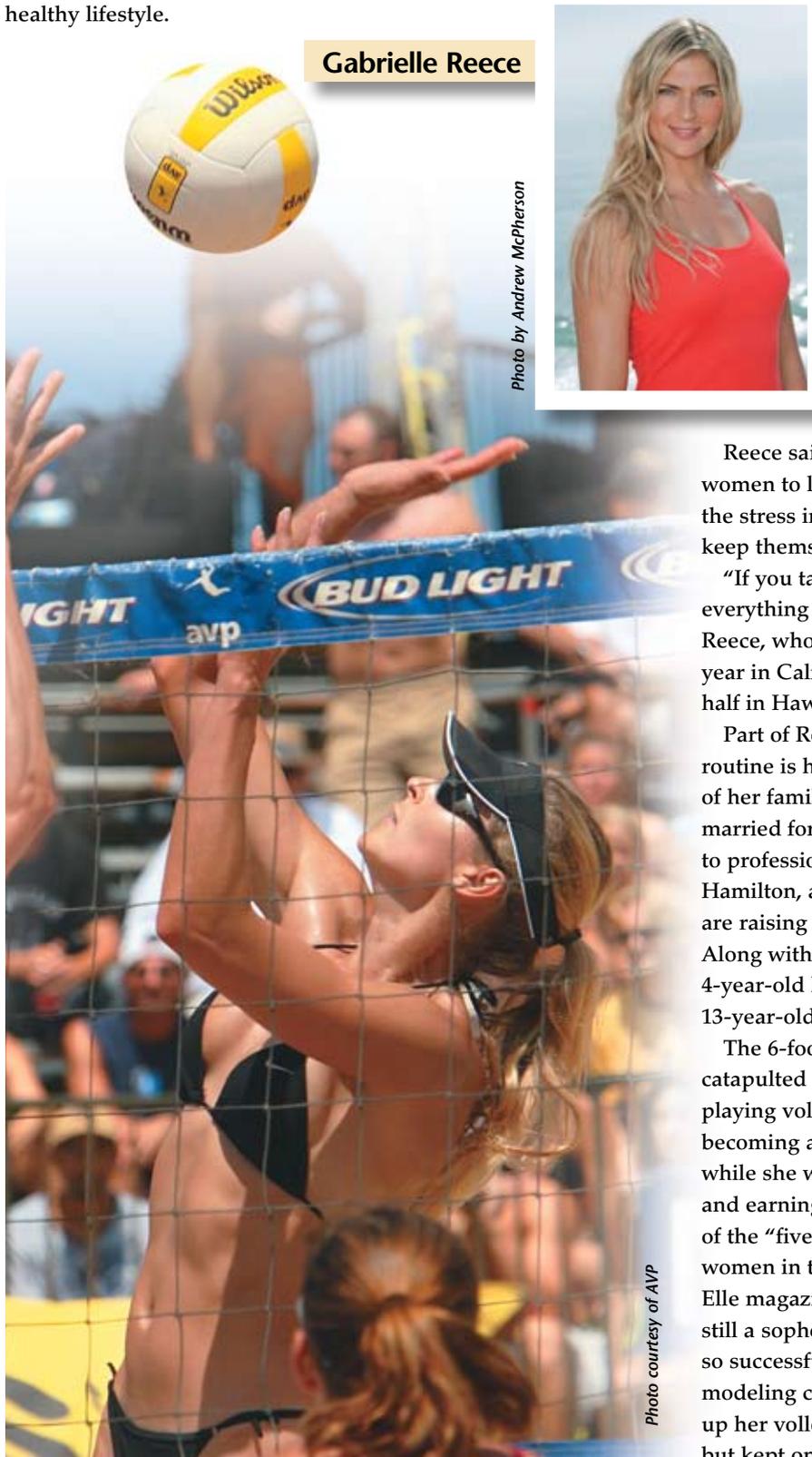


Photo courtesy of AVP

# Jim King Life Sciences Building already gaining national attention

By Maria Mallory White  
University Communications

Florida State University's diverse areas of biological science have a new home in

the \$55 million, 181,000-square-foot James E. "Jim" King Jr. Life Sciences Building.

FSU President T.K. Wetherell and the Board of Trustees hosted the Sept. 12 dedication of the

King Life Sciences Building, which is located at 319 Stadium Drive, in the northwest quadrant of campus. The new building, completed in June, is part of the leading-edge scientific teaching

and research facilities that make up FSU's new Science Quadrangle, which includes the College of Medicine, Psychology Buildings and the Chemical Sciences Laboratory as well.

Through its Pathways of Excellence initiative, Florida State has invested more than \$700 million in construction related to the University's medical,

psychology, chemistry and life sciences programs. In the process, the university has emerged as a leader in the construction of new hard-sciences facilities — despite the severe

economic realities facing U.S. higher education.

FSU's science departments couldn't be more excited about this investment. "Let's remember that it's been a very long time since a real science building has been built on campus ... meaning like 40 years," said FSU Arts and Sciences Dean Joseph Travis, who is also a professor of biological science. "Science has changed quite a bit. (The new Science Quad) represents a fabulous opportunity to move ahead — not just catch up. When I step back and look, I see state-of-the-art buildings that are pretty much as close to ideal as you can get."

The 21st-century design features of the King Life Sciences Building already are earning it national attention, Travis said. "In fact, one of our alumni, who is essentially a building designer for the National Institutes of Health, had heard the news of this building and came to see it to get ideas for the new buildings they are planning," he said.

No one will benefit more, however, than the students and researchers who now call the King Life Sciences Building home. Inside and out, the building boasts a pleasing visual aesthetic combined with state-of-the-art scientific functionality.

Its bright interior boasts a sunlit main lobby that features

artwork illustrating department's history, and a whimsical mosaic floor that depicts cell structures, double helix DNA, a dragonfly, a snail and ants. Its upper level is home to four greenhouses.

Dramatically benefiting teaching and research, the King Life Sciences Building's labs feature a flexible design that allows them to be transformed into research labs upon demand. Most of the labs are flooded with natural light and are equipped with workstations with flexible fume hoods, laboratory utilities and power to the benches.

"That means students can do a lot of things at their stations that they couldn't do before," Travis said. "The King Life Sciences Building is not just beautiful. It's strong. It has the kind of equipment and laboratory facilities that you need for modern biological teaching and research."

All of this is befittingly reflective of the namesake of the structure, Sen. Jim King (B.A. '61, Business; M.B.A. '62), R-Jacksonville, served for 12 years in the Florida House of Representatives. Elected to the Florida Senate in 1999 and subsequently re-elected, he was the Senate Majority Leader from 2000 to 2002 and Senate President from 2002 to 2004. Known for his longtime dedication to not only higher education but also biomedical research, King was instrumental in securing funds for the new building.

Students have much to love about the new King Life Sciences Building, Travis said. Each student teaching section is designed with lots of space dedicated for student interaction. The reading areas include comfortable chairs, and they were created to give students places to read and work, study together and talk to one another.

"Typically, when you walk through classroom buildings, you don't see a lot of places where students can hang out," Travis said. "This is a great building for students. I wish I were a biology major here again."



FSU Photo Lab/Bill Lax  
FSU President T.K. Wetherell lauds Jim King during the Sept. 12 dedication of the James E. "Jim" King Jr. Life Sciences Building. Inset: Linda and Jim King and Wetherell.



FSU Photo Lab/Michele Edmunds  
**The Morcom Aquatic Center**, Florida State University's sparkling new training and competition facility for its swimming and diving teams, opened this semester beside the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course in southwest Tallahassee. Made possible by the leadership contribution of FSU alumnus Russ Morcom (B.S. '69, M.S. '69, Electrical Engineering) and his wife, Genie Morcom, the new facility includes an NCAA-compliant competition pool, a dive pool, a separate warming spa, and a dry-land training facility. In addition, there is a 10,000-square-foot administration building that houses locker rooms and offices named for former FSU swimmers who made donations. Enjoying their new "home away from home" are FSU swimmers (from left) Chelsea Hendry, a 19-year-old communication major from Augusta, Ga.; Rob Holderness, an 18-year-old business major from Somerset, England; Kylan Huntwork, a 21-year-old marketing major from Apex, N.C.; Ed Denton, a 22-year-old business management major from Maidenhead, England; and Jessie Carr, a 21-year-old pre-med student from Prattville, Ala.

## Revel in



HOMECOMING 2008

UNCONQUERED LEGACY  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

## at Homecoming

By Bayard Stern  
Managing Editor

A two-time Olympic medalist, a nationally syndicated columnist and a former Florida State University president will be among the people honored during FSU's "Unconquered Legacy" Homecoming celebration.

"Homecoming is the pre-eminent alumni event for FSU," said Scott Atwell, president of the FSU Alumni Association. "It's a time when all alumni are encouraged to return to campus and take part in the rich tapestry of FSU history. We have activities planned for alumni at whatever stage of life they are in. There's something for everybody, from the parade to the game."

The theme, "Unconquered Legacy," was selected by the Homecoming Committee, composed of 17 student volunteers and two faculty advisers.

"We chose 'Unconquered Legacy' as this year's theme because we wanted to incorporate the fact that alumni

have left a proud legacy for current FSU students, and they, in turn, will leave their legacy for future generations," said Jessica Redling, director of Homecoming, who is a public relations major from Morristown, N.J. "We also wanted to pay special homage to

the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

Walter Dix, who became a national star at the Beijing Olympics by sprinting his way to two individual bronze medals, will be the grand marshal of this year's Homecoming Parade.

The Clock and Seal banquet — a popular favorite of returning alumni — will celebrate leadership, devotion and service to the university on Nov. 14. It provides an opportunity for current students, alumni, faculty and friends of FSU to meet and share their common experiences and memories.

Back this year by popular demand, after a four-year hiatus, is the Alumni Association's Homecoming Breakfast, to be held Saturday, Nov. 15, before the football game against Boston

College. Omicron Delta Kappa's "Grads Made Good" — alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen fields — will be formally recognized and honored that morning. They are Martha Connor "Kathleen" Parker, a nationally syndicated columnist who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973 and a Master of Arts degree in Spanish in 1976; Jonathan King, executive vice president of production for Participant Productions, who earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the FSU College of Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts in 1992; Neill Howard McKee, who received his Master of Science degree from the FSU College of Communication in 1988 and is the regional director for Asia and Russia at the Center for Communication Programs at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University; and Manuel H. Johnson, who received a Master of Science degree in 1975 in economics and a doctoral degree in economics in 1977. He is co-chairman and senior

partner of the investment and consulting firm of Johnson Smick International.

FSU President Emeritus Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte is the recipient of this year's Bernard F. Sliger Award, the Alumni Association's highest honor. Named for FSU's 10th president, it recognizes a member of the university community whose efforts have made a major contribution toward the fulfillment of the mission of the university. D'Alemberte is known as a tireless advocate for the legal rights of all. Before becoming president of FSU on Jan. 3, 1994, he served as the fourth dean of the FSU College of Law (1984 to 1989) and continues to teach as a member of its faculty.

Finally, the surprise recipient of Garnet and Gold Key's Ross Oglesby Award will be announced at the Homecoming Breakfast.

For the latest schedule and event information about Homecoming, visit [www.alumni.fsu.edu](http://www.alumni.fsu.edu) or [www.homecoming.fsu.edu](http://www.homecoming.fsu.edu).

ODK  
Grads  
Made  
Good

Parker



McKee



Johnson

## Bernard F. Sliger Award



D'Alemberte



## Attorney-lobbyist is chairman of Alumni Association

By Jeffery Seay  
Editor in Chief

As a newly transferred Manatee Junior College student in 1973, Maury Kolchakian fell in love with the Florida State University campus — the setting, the people, the classes and the professors. Thirty-five years later, Kolchakian (B.A. '75, Political Science; J.D. '78), a Tallahassee attorney and lobbyist, is serving as the chairman of the FSU Alumni Association.

As the new chairman, Kolchakian intends to promote membership and participation in a variety of ways. An energized alumni constituency not only benefits the Alumni Association, but the Seminole Boosters, the FSU Foundation and the university's individual colleges and deans through

reunions and special events.

"We want to grow our membership by reminding all of the people who've gone here of why they should be proud of FSU or, if they are already proud, give them an opportunity to display

that pride by getting involved," he said.

Involvement can include donating financial resources for the betterment of FSU or performing volunteer service for the university. For example, alumni might serve as ambassadors to the outside world or return to campus to volunteer time with students and campus organizations, or as a guest lecturer.

Kolchakian also intends to reinvigorate the Seminole Club network and expand the diversity of voices on the association's board of directors.

"We are in the process of amending our bylaws to formally include on our board the presidents of both the FSU Emeritus Society and the FSU Black Alumni Association, as well as a representative from

the Seminole Tribe of Florida," he said.

The first Seminole Tribe member to sit on the board is FSU alumnus Kyle Doney.

"We want to enhance the scope of our representation through people and academic areas," Kolchakian said. "Helping Florida State University is the big-picture goal. If we go out and encourage people to participate in the Alumni Association, that will help the university."

As an FSU undergraduate, Kolchakian was inducted into Gold Key, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. He served as president of the FSU Rotaract Club and received the Coyle Moore Jr. Award for Outstanding Leadership. While attending the FSU College of

Law, Kolchakian served as president of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity and won the Phi Delta Phi Outstanding Freshman, Second Year Student and Graduate Student awards.

In addition to serving as this year's chairman, Kolchakian is a Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association. He also is a member of the FSU President's Club, was a Seminole Boosters Fund Drive Top War Chief, and has served as a WFSU-TV and radio volunteer broadcaster. What's more, Kolchakian has served as an adjunct professor in the FSU College of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Kolchakian's wife, Diana, earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from FSU in 1976. Their son, Griffin, is a senior in the FSU College of Business.



Maury Kolchakian

# Alumna's star is on the rise in professional golf

By **Tony L. Starks**  
*PGA Magazine*

Alison Curdt always considered herself an overachiever, and for good reason.

"When I was in high school, it was all about trying to be perfect," Curdt said. "Getting straight As, being the best golfer and being in all the honor societies — I was putting it all on me. I set those standards for myself."

While a student at Florida State University, Curdt was a member of the women's golf team, majored in both PGA Golf Management and psychology, and belonged to multiple clubs and organizations, including the Student Athletic Advisory Committee.

It took Curdt (B.S. '05, Professional Golf Management; B.A. '05, Psychology) just three years to complete the program, which normally takes students four-plus years. In similar fashion, Curdt completed the requirements for her

second major, psychology, at an accelerated pace within her first two years at FSU.

In order to fully complete the PGA Golf Management Program, a student is required to fulfill 16 months of internship work. Curdt spent the majority of her time as an intern at

Westin Mission Hills Resort near Palm Springs, Calif. After graduating, Westin Mission Hills offered Curdt an assistant

professional position.

"Literally within 24 hours of walking across the stage, I was on the road out to Palm Springs again," Curdt said.

Curdt attained full PGA membership in 2005 while working at Trilogy Golf Club at La Quinta (Calif.). Within the next year, disaster would strike and Curdt would endure the most traumatic experience of her life.

In 2006, her apartment caught fire and all of her worldly belongings, including her golf clubs and collegiate memorabilia, were gone. For the first time, the self-described perfectionist felt totally helpless. At that point she left her job at Trilogy, returned home to St. Louis and quit playing golf.

After four months of coping with clinical depression, Curdt came to an epiphany: Her life needed golf.

"I thought to myself, 'I've spent 19 years playing golf,' she said. "I can't just give it up because one bad thing happens to me."

She then began searching for jobs in California and landed a position with GolfTEC in El Segundo.

While working at GolfTEC, Curdt posted her resumé on Career Links, where Ian Langford and Chris Kaczke, PGA director of golf and PGA head professional, respectively, at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif., spotted it and called her for an interview.

"I really didn't know much about the facility at the time," Curdt said. "But a non-golfing friend told me how prestigious the club was, and I thought if someone who doesn't golf knows about this place, then it must be a big deal."

Curdt was hired as an assistant professional and head teaching professional. She came to learn that Sherwood has a long list of celebrity members, including Will Smith, Kenny G., Craig T. Nelson, Bruce Jenner and Justin Timberlake.

"At first, it was a bit intimidating to work with such well-known figures," Curdt said. "But after a while, I realized that they want the same thing everybody who plays golf wants, to get better at this game. It's been amazing for me having the opportunity to help them accomplish that."

"Alison has been a

tremendous plus to our facility," Kaczke said. "She is very well liked by the membership, and has really been a breath of fresh air as the first woman teaching professional we've had here at Sherwood."

Just as she did as a student, Curdt continues to compile accomplishment after accomplishment. She has gone through the PGA's Certified Professional Program and has become certified in instruction. She aspires to achieve PGA Master Professional status and is planning to write her thesis on the relativity of body type to the performance of the golf swing. Curdt also is taking a swing at the LPGA Tour. Sherwood member Janet Gretzky, wife of hockey great Wayne Gretzky, sponsored Curdt's entry into the LPGA's Qualifying School this year.

"I want to test myself and see how I stand up against the highest levels of competition," said Curdt, who started every event at FSU for each of her last three seasons. "But without a doubt, I also want to keep working at Sherwood and teaching the game to others. That's a definite priority of mine."



Photo by Erika Alghafari

Alison Curdt

**Having a great time ... wish you were here!**



FSU Photo Lab/Ryals Lee



This group of Florida State University alumni, future alumni and die-hard Seminole fans enjoy the Seminole Pre-Game Tailgate at Dick Howser Stadium before the Wake Forest football game on Sept.

20. At the event, which was replete with food, beverages and a rollicking preview of the Marching Chiefs' halftime show were (kneeling, from left) Lauren Burrell, Paul Tenewitz and Alana Tenewitz, and (standing, from left) Ed Tenewitz (B.S. '75), Marilyn Rosetti (B.S. '83), Chase Tenewitz, Leigh Tenewitz, John Tenewitz (B.S. '78), Greg Files (J.D. '96) and Bruce Jeroslow (J.D. '95). The Seminole Pre-Game Tailgate, co-sponsored by the FSU Alumni Association and the Seminole Boosters, begins three hours before each home game. The good news is that there still is plenty of pre-game partying to be done when the Seminoles take on Clemson (Nov. 8), Boston College (Nov. 15, Homecoming) and Florida (Nov. 29).

# Artist accepts 'call of duty' in computer-game design

By Melanie Yeager

A Thanksgiving fire helped Chris Ellis define his life course. A volunteer firefighter, Ellis was battling a trailer blaze when the structure collapsed in on him, severely burning his right hand.

"It was my drawing hand, my computer hand. It was definitely one of those moments of clarity," said Florida State University alumnus Ellis (B.A. '03, Studio Arts), who had been serving as a volunteer with the Holley-Navarre (Fla.) Fire Department on weekends for six years while going to school.

The next Monday, Ellis was in the office of an FSU adviser discussing how to pursue a major in studio arts. Now, despite his earlier injury, the 29-year-old FSU alumnus is a technical artist in Los Angeles doing 3-D scanning for leading game publisher Activision Blizzard. The company's portfolio includes such video game greats as "Guitar Hero," "Call of Duty" and "Spider-Man."

Ellis creates virtual models through structured light or laser 3-D scanning for the company's 14 studios. Because he's working with huge data sets, he sometimes must program code to organize the data into recognizable models.

He also must add the needed artistic touches, such as filling in the bridge of a person's nose. He finds that the 3-D scanner is never forgiving.

"The computer is just a tool, a fancy paintbrush," he said.

Ellis' new career takes him nationwide and abroad to scan human beings and real-world objects ranging from vehicles to weapons for use in upcoming Activision products.

He can't divulge most details about his work because, much like a movie's premiere, new games retain top-secret status until their release dates. He can say he's flown to London to scan movie props, actors and their wardrobes for "Quantum of Solace," the new James Bond game in the works based on Bond films "Casino Royale" and "Quantum of Solace"

featuring actor Daniel Craig. The newest James Bond film opens in U.S. theaters on Nov. 7. Ellis also has worked on the new game "Spider-Man: Web Of Shadows," also due out this fall.

Ellis' favorite scanning project so far, however, was for "Call of Duty: World at War," which will be released by year's end. The fifth game in this popular series takes gamers into World War II to test new tactics while portraying U.S. Marines and Russian soldiers. Ellis' work involved scanning authentic gear borrowed from World War II collectors and trips to the library to study the epic conflict.

"It was a great history lesson," Ellis said. "It's definitely a game that's done its research."

Ellis got his start in scanning at FSU's Master Craftsman Program, where he operated the program's Minolta Vivid 3-D Laser Scanner. His projects included helping FSU anthropologist Dean Falk recreate a virtual internal image of an ancient skull

and consulting on Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering projects, including 3-D translation software.

Ellis stepped up to tackle the 3-D scanner when it was new to the craftsman program. Robert Bischoff, the program director, said Ellis' tenacious problem-solving skills then and now have led to his success.

"He stays with a problem no matter how long it takes," Bischoff said. "The biggest problem with Chris is getting him to stop."

Ellis said he has found his niche in the more technical side of computer animation and design. His lifelong interest in computer science and artistic skills go hand in hand.

"I never saw them as two separate things," Ellis said. "What is art but observation? What is science but observation? Life is like the scientific method. Try this out. If it doesn't work, design it some other way."

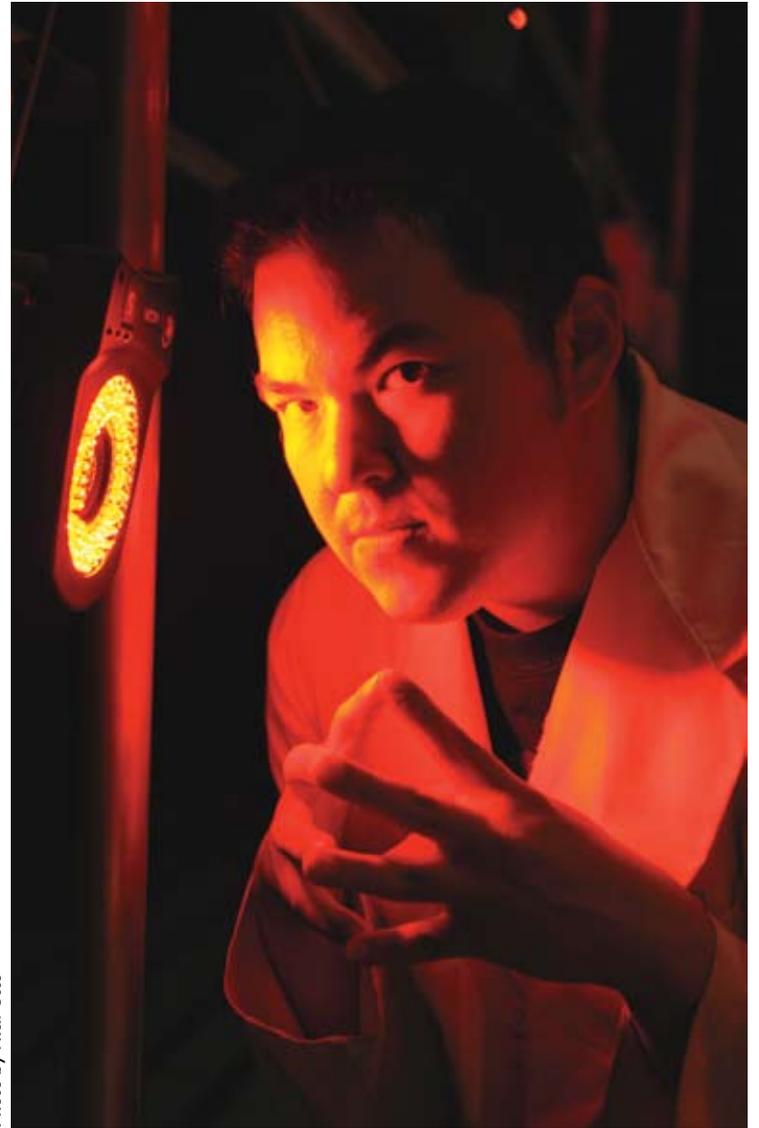


Photo by Nick Otto

Chris Ellis in the red light glow of a Vicon motion-capture camera at Activision Capture Studio in Los Angeles.

alumni.fsu.edu



**Scott Atwell**  
President,  
Alumni  
Association

## This spring, Alumni Association is taking its show on the road

As I made rounds across campus last summer, pitching the idea to our academic deans and distinguished faculty, I was prepared for a difficult sales presentation. As it turned out, I had them at hello.

"I'm at your service," said Arts and Sciences Dean Joe Travis.

"I'm your man," said Creative Writing Director Mark Winegardner.

"We've been wanting to do that for years," said Film School Dean Frank Patterson.

What Travis, Winegardner, Patterson and others agreed to is organizing programs that put faculty in front of alumni in key cities, hosted by our network of Seminole Clubs. In addition to the academic

programming, the bandwagon is bolstered by our friends at the FSU Career Center, who will conduct career workshops, and in the Admissions Office, who will offer boot camps for prospective students.

For years, our arts programs have taken their shows on the road, spending part of a week each spring performing in New York City. This May, the Alumni Association is organizing a travel program for alumni and friends to come along for the ride. On May 4-6, you can enjoy FSU music faculty performing at Carnegie Hall, tour art museums with our Ph.D. graduates, revel in the success of our Broadway stars and view FSU student films in the heart of the

Entertainment Capital of the World.

And we don't plan on slowing down for summer. When the heat begins to bake Florida to a crisp, many of our alumni settle in for a few months of mountain life in North Carolina. The Alumni Association plans on traveling down that road as well, with the help of our vibrant Emeritus Society and a program that brings together our Summer Seminoles in the Carolina mountains.

Years ago, Bobby Bowden showed us that FSU plays well on the road. Stay tuned — we're coming to a city near you.

# Engineer pursues science in paradise

By **Barry Ray**

*FSU News and Public Affairs*

It can't be said that a degree from the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College

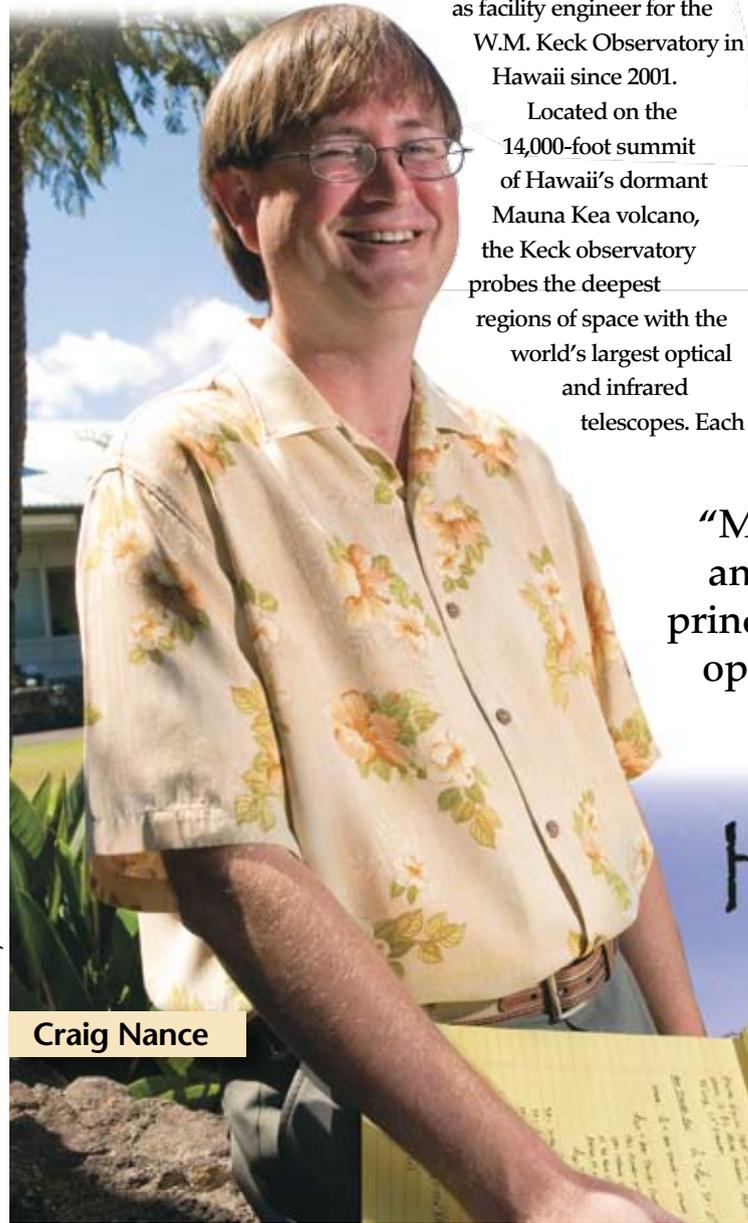


Photo by Sarah Anderson

**Craig Nance**

of Engineering won't take you places. Just ask Craig Nance. "There are certainly worse places to live," said Nance, a College of Engineering alumnus (B.S. '91 and M.S. '94, Electrical Engineering) who has served as facility engineer for the W.M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii since 2001.

Located on the 14,000-foot summit of Hawaii's dormant Mauna Kea volcano, the Keck observatory probes the deepest regions of space with the world's largest optical and infrared telescopes. Each

telescope stands eight stories tall and weighs 300 tons, yet operates with nanometer precision. Keeping both of them in perfect working order is Nance's responsibility.

"The meat and potatoes of my work is the telescope machinery — such things as the telescope cooling systems, power distribution, hydraulics, pneumatics, domes and shutters, cryogenic refrigeration, vacuum chambers and thin-film optical coatings," he said. "I supervise a crew that performs maintenance, repairs and improvement to these systems.

"The other half of my work involves ongoing upgrades to the observatory."

The education he received at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering was "essential" in preparing him for his career, Nance said.

"My undergraduate education provided an understanding of core engineering principles — mechanics, forces, electricity, optics, mathematics, thermodynamics, and so much more," he said. "Some things in the engineering curriculum I thought I would never use in my career turned out to be important things to understand. For example, I never imagined I would use thermodynamics as I have. We use a lot of vacuum chambers and cryogenics in astronomy.

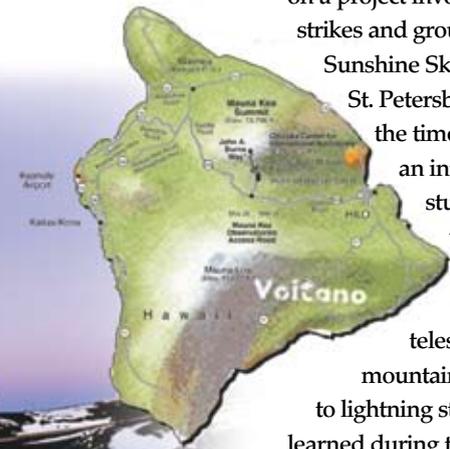
**"My undergraduate education provided an understanding of core engineering principles — mechanics, forces, electricity, optics, mathematics, thermodynamics, and so much more."**

"Second, the college's educational demands taught me to be diligent and methodical, and to ensure that I understand things in a deep way," Nance said. "These are good traits for an engineer to have. Graduate school taught me what it takes to become expert in a technical area quickly. Much of what we do in astronomy has never been done before.

"And as a graduate student, I had the opportunity to teach undergraduate labs and classes. This taught me how to communicate technical information in a logical, and hopefully entertaining, way. The ability to communicate is a powerful skill for an engineer."

Nance cited several examples of hands-on research he was able to participate in at college that were directly applicable to his job at Keck. Among them: "I worked with professors Leonard Tung and Bing Kwan on a project involving lightning strikes and grounding of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg," he said. "At the time I considered it an interesting thing to study but doubted it would be relevant to my future. However, since telescopes sit on tall mountains and are subject to lightning strikes, what I learned during that project has been used regularly in my over 10-year career in astronomy."

HAWAII



## New faces of research ... *continued from page 1*

at Duke University and did post-doctoral studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

From her new post in the FSU Department of Oceanography, Baco-Taylor's work takes her some 600 feet under the ocean's surface. An assistant professor of biological oceanography, Baco-Taylor investigates the ecosystem that emerges around and within the decaying carcasses of fallen whales.

Baco-Taylor's research brings into focus a unique underwater community. When the body fat of these great sea mammals decomposes, it creates hydrogen sulfide, "the stink that comes out of anything that's rotten," Baco-Taylor said. Because some

deep-sea ecosystems are chemosynthetic, meaning they are fueled by chemical energy, certain animals, who use the chemicals to make energy in a way similar to the how plants use light, are attracted to these environments, she said.

### Baco-Taylor's research brings into focus a unique underwater community.

Using submersible crafts and remotely operated underwater rovers, Baco-Taylor explores how the animals of these "whale-fall" ecosystems fit into the evolutionary sequences of those

found in other habitats.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Baco-Taylor studied marine biology and molecular biology as an undergrad at Florida Institute of Technology. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of Hawaii and worked six years at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts before coming to FSU.

Jimmy Yu, assistant professor of Buddhism and Chinese religions, comes to Florida State from Princeton University, where he completed a Ph.D. in the Buddhist studies area of the department of religion. Building upon his dissertation, "Bodies and Self-inflicted Violence in 16th- and 17th-century China, Yu continues to research ascetic practices, observing their use in

Buddhist monastic communities as well as in other religious and cultural settings that are non-Buddhist.

### Yu continues to research ascetic practices, observing their use in Buddhist monastic communities.

Blood writing, the practice of copying or writing text with one's own blood, is one example. Demonstrating their religious devotion, Buddhist monks would cut the tips of their own fingers and use their blood to

copy scripture. As time went on, the practice migrated to the mainstream, Yu said.

"If the Emperor claimed you did something, the way to claim you were innocent ... you'd write a letter to the Emperor in your own blood," he said. "It started out being religious circles that practiced it, but by the 16th and 17th century, this was the way that you demonstrated your sincerity."

Yu, who was born in Taiwan and lived there until age 10, grew up in the New Jersey-New York area. He attended art school, then studied Buddhism at the University of Kansas, where he completed a master's degree. He finished his Ph.D. in June 2008.

Forget stuffy and staid. FSU's Department of English is laden with hip, incisive writers who move and shake their profession.

# The write stuff

**By Libby Fairhurst**

*FSU News and Public Affairs*

With apologies to Lake Wobegon, the Florida State University Department of English is where the faculty is exceedingly strong, the achievements are really good-looking (stunning, even), and the graduate students are way above average.

It has been an especially fine year for the department.

*The Atlantic* ranked the already famous Creative Writing Program among the nation's top five for creative-writing Ph.D.-seekers. Professor Kathleen Yancey, director of the graduate program in rhetoric and composition, became president of the National Council of Teachers of English. In Hanoi, a government-approved publisher finally released a Vietnamese-language version of "A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain," the Pulitzer Prize-winning 1992 book by Francis Eppes Professor of English Robert Olen Butler, which gave voices to Vietnamese refugees who fled the Communist regime. The book had been banned until recently in the country that inspired it.

Also this year, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded a \$25,000 Literature Fellowship in creative writing to assistant professor and intrepid sailor David Vann, who has penned "creative nonfiction" about his sailing adventure covering more than 40,000 offshore miles. And world-renowned literary scholar Stanley Gontarski (known as "the dean of Samuel Beckett studies") was named the 2008-2009 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor — the highest honor bestowed by the FSU faculty upon one of its own.

Meanwhile, professors David Kirby and Gary Taylor and Associate Professor Julianna



FSU Photo Lab/Ryals Lee

**David Kirby, Gary Taylor & Julianna Baggott**

Baggott helped draw attention to a truly above-average place.

## DAVID KIRBY

In fall 2007, *Entertainment Weekly* declared David Kirby one of "5 reasons to live" — and no wonder. The author or co-author of 29 books, hundreds of articles and individual poems, and dozens of *New York Times* book reviews had once again landed on the short list for a major literary prize.

This time, Kirby was one of five finalists for the 2007 National Book Award for Poetry for his latest collection, "The House on Boulevard St.: New and Selected Poems," which was judged to be "laugh-out-loud funny." That another poet ultimately nabbed the award put nary a dent in Kirby's extraordinary resume.

"He's created this new form," former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins said in 2007 in the *Tallahassee Democrat*. "You can recognize a David Kirby poem from across the room."

While Kirby may be best known for his distinctive poetry about life in and out of academia — marked by his wry appreciation for popular culture — he is lauded as well for his critical studies of 19th- and 20th-century American literature, meditations on modern culture, children's stories and pedagogical works.

A representative sampling can be had in "Ultra-Talk: Johnny Cash, The Mafia, Shakespeare, Drum Music, St. Teresa of Avila and 17 Other Colossal Topics of Conversation," a 2007 collection of previously published Kirby essays.

A member of the FSU faculty since 1969, Kirby is one of the reasons *The Atlantic* ranks the FSU Creative Writing Program alongside the likes of those at Cornell University, Johns Hopkins and others of that ilk. A sought-after teacher of writing workshops (he can also make less popular classes engaging), he was the 2003-2004 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of English and the 2006-2007 University Distinguished Teacher.

Kirby considers FSU a perfect lab for his creative activity, and he has evidence to prove it. There are the four Pushcart Prizes, two appearances in "Best American Poetry," the Guggenheim, the Brittingham Prize, and the list goes on and on.

## JULIANNA BAGGOTT

Baggott is the indefatigable author of works that critics have called eccentric, beguiling, insightful, tender and just plain funny. Roald Dahl, Flannery O'Connor and David Mamet rank high among her favorite authors, and it shows. Pulitzer

Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo once put it this way: "Julianna Baggott enjoys living on the knife edge between hilarity and heartbreak."

She launched her meteoric career with a best-selling novel in 2001, and by 2008 there were four more. Her latest, "My Husband's Sweethearts," was published in August (under the no-longer-secret pen name Bridget Asher) and has drawn rave reviews.

Between novels, Baggott wrote three poetry collections, including "Compulsions of Silkworms and Bees," published in March. Not for the first time, her poems appear (or will soon) in the hard-to-get-into *American Poetry Review*.

Then there are the five fantastical novels for young readers, with a sixth on the way: "The Prince of Fenway" is due out in 2009, "during spring training," Baggott said. Two books were published last fall — a prequel to the film "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium" and "The Slippery Map," winner of the 2007 Florida Book Awards silver medal for children's literature.

Truth be told, Baggott's alter ego "N.E. Bode" writes all the kid stuff, including the trilogy that began in 2004 with "The Anybodies" and culminated in 2006 with "The Somebodies," the latter of which took home a gold medal in the 2006 Florida Book Awards.

Over the past year, busy Bode has made regular appearances on XMRadio's "XMKids." Baggott (as herself) has read her work on National Public Radio.

She also teaches fiction writing (and this fall, for the first time, a poetry workshop) in the celebrated Creative Writing Program.

More? Baggott is the coffee-drinking, late-night-writing mother of four young children.

## GARY TAYLOR

Once upon a time, Taylor considered studying law but chose literature instead. Today, he is not only a world-renowned editor and expert on Shakespeare (he is the general editor of the Oxford editions of Shakespeare's "Complete Works") but also the go-to guy for everything anyone ever wanted to know about the bawdy works of "our other Shakespeare" — Thomas Middleton.

The year 2007 saw the debut of Taylor's 2,016-page editing tour de force, "Thomas Middleton: The Collected Works." Critics deemed it "epochal" and "monumental." It comprises the first complete compilation of plays, poems and stories by Middleton, a once-popular 17th-century playwright and poet whose politically contentious, frankly sexual work exposed the gritty underbelly of London life. His work was later banned, burned or, until now, simply overshadowed by "Will" (the more famous English bard).

The Nov. 7, 2007, European edition of *Time* magazine included a feature story on "The Collected Works" — and a special essay by Taylor in which he confessed that while "married to Shakespeare," he'd been "having an affair with Middleton" for two decades.

Still, the marriage works. Among the host of editing, co-editing and "single-author" writing achievements by Taylor, four appear on the Random House/Modern Library list of the world's best 100 books on Shakespeare.

An expert in contemporary literary theory and criticism, Taylor also is an authority on the history of text technologies. He is the founding director of the interdisciplinary History of Text Technologies "cluster" — a prized part of FSU's Pathways of Excellence initiative.

"Thanks to the Pathways cluster of faculty we've hired from around the world, we're attracting a greater number of those above-average graduate students," said Taylor, who teaches in his department's Literature Program.

## AHEAD OF SCHEDULE: **The building of strength, confidence, experience**

seminole-boosters.fsu.edu



**Charlie Barnes**

Executive Director,  
Seminole Boosters

Einstein said the universe is not only stranger than we imagine, it's stranger than we *can* imagine. Now, in late summer comes the discovery of some sort of streaming cosmic flow in distant space. Clusters of galaxies each containing billions of stars are being pulled along in a uniform direction at two million miles per hour by some unknown dark force *apparently located outside the observable universe.*

Wow.

One bewildered astrophysicist said, "We're wondering just what the hell is going on in our universe."

The quote made me smile because I've been hearing versions of that very sentiment from fellow Seminole football fans: "Gosh, what the heck is going on in our Seminole universe?" (or words more or less to that effect).

Early on, we lost to Wake Forest who then promptly lost to Navy. The next week we beat Colorado who was undefeated. More than any other season I can recall, this 2008 rollercoaster defies all attempts to predict.

After the victory over Colorado, Coach Bowden said, "I've been doing this enough to know what 3-1 can turn into. It can turn into something good, and it can turn into something that isn't as good." And right now, no one has a clue which way it's going to go.

These words are being written in September, following the victory over Colorado and before we fly to Miami for our annual battle with the 'Canes. By the time you read this in November the fate of this 2008 Seminole football season will have revealed itself in full.

One sportswriter confided he was afraid that Coach Bowden and Jimbo Fisher were "sacrificing the '08 season to prepare for '09." I don't know if that's true, but if that's what it takes then I do not disapprove. Bold action was required when the post-Dynasty era bottomed out in 2006. Dramatic and decisive changes had to be made to turn the program around. Through the Seminole Boosters,

our fans gave Coach Bowden money to hire a top offensive staff of proven, professional position coaches. He completely overhauled the recruiting and strength programs.

We do have something to compare as far as the time required for recovery. In 1983 the program fell into doldrums similar to 2006. Most of the problems were on the defensive side of the ball. After the season, Coach Bowden brought in Mickey Andrews, and completely modernized the recruiting program under the direction of Gene McDowell.

Top recruits began flowing into the program and Coach Andrews worked his magic on the defense. The rebuilding took three rough years, but in 1987 ... oh my! The Seminoles finished #2 in the nation and won our first New Year's Day bowl with a win over Nebraska in the Fiesta. You already know the rest of the story: fourteen consecutive years of Top Four finishes and 10+ win seasons, and two National Championships.

If the 1983 model is our guide, it would take four years for us to return to championship form. However, I think we're considerably ahead of that

schedule. Two years after 2006 we're still in unknown territory, but the coaches are building bench strength with true freshmen and buying time for confidence and experience to take hold.

That sportswriter may be right: it may be that Coach Bowden and Jimbo and Mickey have determined that 2009 is the target season. There's too much at stake to linger along the path of our return to glory. The Dynasty made all of us less patient, less tolerant of the cycles that confront all programs. All of us — fans, coaches and players — want it now. And if it is not this year, then we want assurance that it will come in 2009.

When astrophysicists theorize about the expansion and contraction of the universe, they talk about the direction of time. I don't understand the math but it appears to be of great comfort to the scientists that time, at least above the quantum level, only moves in one direction.

Let us fans take comfort too in knowing that our arrow of time is moving in the direction we want to go. Since the arrival of the new offensive coaching staff, the Seminoles improved dramatically in terms of coaching

talent, strength & conditioning, and recruiting. Two 7-5 seasons and our disheartening loss to Wake Forest shouldn't obscure the reality that we are headed forward rather than backward.

One sidebar here. The Denver newspaper made much of a quote by Coach Bowden to the effect that "I don't care if we're mediocre; I'll just go to the beach." I wish he didn't toss out comments like that, but he does, and it's just a throwaway line to cover his real feelings. Trust me on this. Bobby Bowden is energetic, focused and extraordinarily competitive. Jimbo runs the offense and Mickey runs the defense, but Bobby runs the show. He is in charge and he holds the staff together.

No, we are not what we once were. But I believe we will be great again and soon, and I see glimpses of it in the young quarterbacks and the 22 freshmen who started the first three games.

Take heart. We are meant to be strong again. No matter what surprises — pleasant or otherwise — may have revealed themselves by November, our Seminole football arrow of time will not be diverted. It remains unsullied in its flight toward destiny.

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FSU Graduate Walter Dix  
8 Time NCAA Champion  
Olympic Sprinter

# Business grad led reorganization of humanitarian Mercy Ships

By Melanie Yeager

Cal Huge spent much of his career turning businesses around. Along the way, he has also helped to transform lives.

Huge, a 1964 graduate of Florida State University's College of Business, recently retired as CEO of Mercy Ships ([www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)), a global charity that sends hospital ships that provide health services to

the world's poorest nations.

It's no small operation. The organization boasts of \$71.5 million in assets and annual cash flows of about \$45 million, Huge said. The group provided nearly \$50 million of medical services to 52,700 patients in 2007. Surgeons have corrected blindness, removed tumors, repaired cleft palates and more.

"We want people to see the face of a loving God in what we do for them,"

Huge

said during his tenure. "To me, this organization is one of the best-kept secrets in the United States. What these people have done over the years is just amazing to me."

Mercy Ships founder Don Stephens recruited Huge to the organization in 2006 because he needed someone to ready the business operation for the future.

"He can speak like he's a colonel on the front line but also show his heart through tears," Stephens said of Huge. "That's a rare combination."

Huge led Mercy Ships' Texas-based operations and its offices worldwide through a comprehensive reorganization process that includes a new organizational chart and upgraded financial and training systems. He said his biggest

challenge was cutting through the red tape involved in getting the new 78-bed Africa Mercy ship out of England and on to Africa. The ship, which cost \$62.5 million to convert into a hospital, finally set sail in May. Africa Mercy provides a CT scan, X-ray and lab services, six operating rooms and enough space to house a crew of 450.

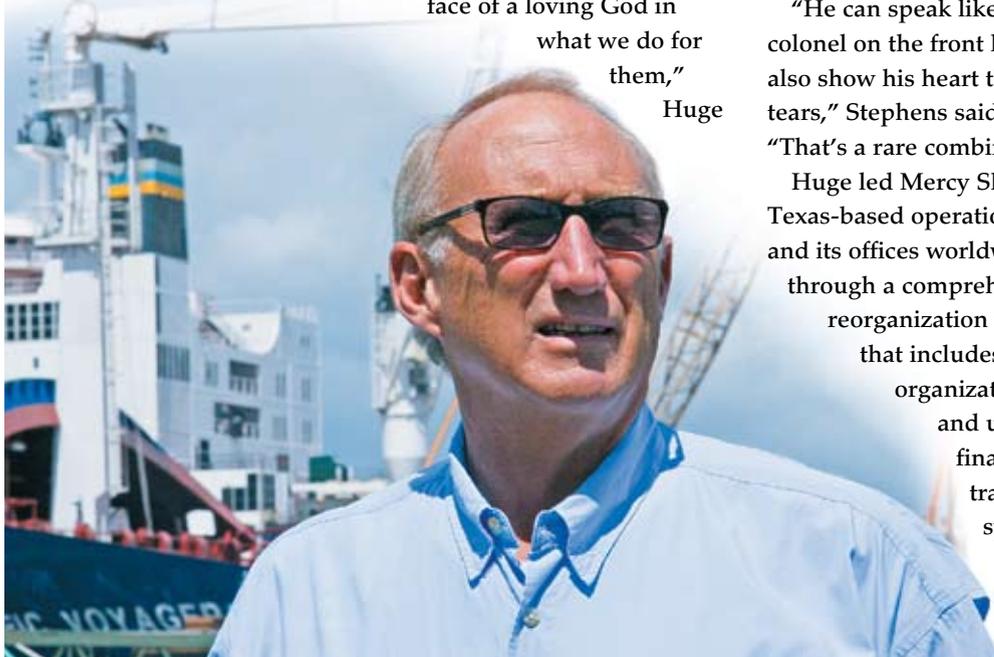
Huge said his career got a great start at FSU, which recruited him from Madison, Wis., to play basketball. He remembers living with his late wife in the then-new couples section of Alumni Village for \$70 a month. Grateful for an education, he said he signed up for the most challenging courses in finance, wanting to absorb all the knowledge he could.

"Florida State gave me the opportunity, because of my athletic ability, to do what my parents dreamed," Huge said. "My parents could not have afforded to pay to send

me to college."

Guiding Mercy Ships was just the latest stop on Huge's varied life journey. After earning a law degree in 1968 at the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, Huge worked as a financial analyst and then lawyer for the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. He also has worked as an assistant high school basketball coach, a financial administrator, president of a school in North Carolina and headmaster at a South Carolina school.

"Sometimes people like to put a lot of fancy titles on leadership and success. He's just an example of a guy who works hard," said Bobby Jones, a former Olympic basketball player who worked with Huge at Charlotte Christian School. "He's never looking for glory and never wants the glory. That's the kind of person people want to help."



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# NEWS ALUMNI

**Got News?**

To submit items for Alumni News Notes, e-mail [mrohrer@fsu.edu](mailto:mrohrer@fsu.edu). Please write "Alumni News Notes" in the subject heading of the e-mail.

## 1970s

**George L. Waas** (J.D. '70), special counsel for the Florida Attorney General's Office, was named a top government lawyer in *Florida Trend's* "Legal Elite" for 2008.

**Victoria Box Emmons** (BA '72) was named chief executive officer of Community Health Partnership, a nonprofit consortium of community health centers in Santa Clara, Calif.

## 1980s

**Jerry Roden** (B.S. '86) attended a three-day symposium for DUI defense attorneys at Harvard Law School, sponsored by the National College for DUI Defense.

## 1990s

Air Force Captain **Chateau K. Venable** (B.A. '97), former FSU cross-country and long distance track athlete, completed her first Boston Marathon in 3:50:02. In order to gain entry into the marathon, Venable ran a qualifying time of 3:33:12 in Munich, Germany.



# IN MEMORIAM

## 1920s

- Mae Reynolds Fellows Beall (L.I. '23, B. S. '24)

## 1940s

- Katherine Stickney Cowles ('46)

## 1950s

- Mary Lynn Perkins (B.S. '55)
- Burton T. Poole (B.S. '58)

## 1960s

- John H. Sytsma (B.S. '66)
- Gertrude Langford Simmons (Ph.D. '67)

## 1990s

- Russell L. Garlow (B.S. '91)

## FACULTY/STAFF

- Bobby Glen Sims



Martee Wills

## OBITUARY

**Martha "Martee" Wills**, 79, retired director of the Florida State University Media Relations Office, died Sept. 8.

Wills was born in Macon, Ga., where she lived until heading to Montgomery, Ala., to attend Huntingdon College. She continued living in Montgomery, working for the *Alabama Journal* and, eventually, meeting her husband, Paul.

The couple settled in Tallahassee, where they lived for 40 years. Before

working as director of Media Relations, Wills reported for the *Tallahassee Democrat* and the *St. Petersburg Times*. During her time with the Media Relations Office (now known as News and Public Affairs), she frequently made presentations at CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) conferences, an organization from which she received numerous editing and writing awards.

After her retirement from FSU, she and her husband

continued to serve the university by writing the book, "Seminole History: A Pictorial History of Florida State University," with Joan Perry Morris.

Wills enjoyed traveling; was a member of Tallahassee's Methodist Church, where she served on the board of trustees; was part of the Founders Circle of the garden clubs of both Macon, Ga., and Bradenton, Fla.; and was an active aerobic swimmer and bridge player.

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# Seminole bylines

New books and CDs by FSU faculty and graduates

## "The Book of Rude and Other Outrages: A Queer Self-Portrait"

Stephan Sure; edited by Charles Suhor (Ph.D. '81)  
MBF Press

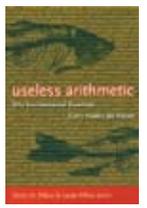


Stephan Sure never found a true home during his years in New Orleans, Florida and the Midwest, or during his sporadic hitchhikes to nowhere, but

he did keep three notebooks and recorded everything he experienced. After Sure's violent death, his father edited together those notebooks into this book. The result is a collection of poetry and short stories — including one about the residents of Tallahassee's Killlearn neighborhood — ranging from insults and puns to social commentaries and cries for help.

## "Useless Arithmetic: Why Environmental Scientists Can't Predict the Future"

Orrin H. Pilkey (Ph.D. '62) and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis  
Columbia University Press



Writing for the general, non-mathematician reader and using examples from environmental science, the authors describe how the mathematical

models that policymakers and government administrators use to form environmental policies are seriously flawed. They discuss how faith in the models can blind one to hard data and sound judgment of experienced scientific fieldwork. One example discussed is the extinction of the North Atlantic cod on the Grand Banks of Canada.

## "Three Concerti"

Harold Schiffman (FSU professor emeritus of music)  
North/South Recordings



The most recent recording on this CD, "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra," has some of the

oldest thematic material, beginning composition in 1953, but never fully finished until 2006. Another piece, "Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra" was written by Schiffman for his FSU colleague, the late Roger Drinkall.

## "Change, Choices, and Consequences: A Guide to Mega Thinking and Planning"

Roger Kaufman (FSU professor emeritus, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems)  
HRD Press

This book is the first of six in a series designed to define and



deliver measurable performance improvement. Kaufman's focus is to help the reader decide which direction his or her organization should go. Through 10 chapters, Kaufman discusses the three fundamentals for organizational success and provides tools for planning, design, development, implementation and continual improvement.

## "Guaranteeing Performance Improvement: A Purely Practical Positive Approach"

Richard F. Gerson (Ph.D. '78)  
HRD Press



Gerson's book is intended to help both individuals and organizations achieve performance improvement by focusing on a positive approach to what makes the performer tick. Gerson includes various aids and tools to accelerate improvement, as well as describing a seven-step program to guarantee this improvement.

## "Persian Perils: An American's Revolutionary Experience"

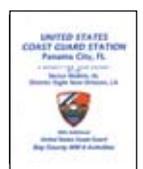
Barry Anderson (B.S. '73)  
Lulu Publications



Anderson recounts his various experiences, ranging from frightful to humorous, during the 1979 Iranian revolution that ousted the shah and set the country back a century. Whether relating a tense evacuation scene at the Mehrabad Airport or a simple description of local food vendors, Anderson's account of living through this chaos illustrates for the reader the great divide between Iran and America.

## "USCG Station-Panama City, 72-Year History and other CG WW II Activities, 1933-2005"

John C. Raffield (B.S.N. '67)  
Raffield Publishing



Raffield has written a book full of rare facts and photos of the Panama City, Fla., Coast Guard District. The first of a two-book series, it focuses on the history of the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Panama City, including the responsibilities and activities in the counties considered under this station's "area of responsibility" and the station's importance before, during and after World War II.

## "Marvin the Magnificent Nubian Goat"

Carol Hair Moore (B.S. '62)  
Iwishyouicecreamandcake.com



In this children's book, the reader accompanies Marvin the Nubian goat on a quest of self-discovery. Marvin goes to live with a human family on a farm when he is only days old, but is confused at the apparent incongruities between his own appearance and both his hominid masters and his bovine, equine and feline compatriots. Not until he meets another goat does he discover his true taxonomic identity and subsequently realize, "There is nothing better than to just be me."

## "Life's Toughest Lessons Aren't Meant For Nothing"

Terry Dodd (B.A. '64)  
Xulon Press



Perhaps one of the most difficult parts of dealing with tragedy is in the understanding of why it happens. Dodd's first nonfiction book tells the tale of how he lost his wife of 46 years to a 19-month battle with cancer. He writes about how his struggle brought him closer to God and taught him how to find joy and hope in the face of death — as well as life.

## "The Blind Eye"

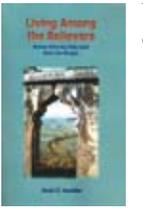
Marcia Fine (B.S. '66)  
AuthorHouse



Fine, who received the Arizona Authors 2006 First Prize for this book, writes about two fictional women who explore their identities against a backdrop of historical events in parallel stories set nearly 500 years apart. The first account, set in 15th-century Portugal, describes a family that is expelled from Spain and the second, set in the 1990s, follows a woman of Cuban descent.

## "Living Among the Believers: Stories from the Holy Land Down the Ganges"

Sachi G. Dastidar (Ph.D. '75)  
Firma KLM Private Limited



Dastidar's book is a collection of 18 victim and survivor stories told to the author as he traveled down the Ganga River. The main characters are minorities, oppressed-caste and poor and, frequently, are women. The accounts are based on stories either witnessed firsthand by the author or recounted to him. They cover such topics as human rights and cultural issues.

## "Orange Blossom Jurisprudence"

Michael Cavendish (B.S. '93)  
Dragonpublishing.net



Cavendish's book is a collection of essays that answer the question, "what is Florida law?" The chapters discuss topics ranging from Florida common law to diagonal authority. The book offers legal definitions, case examples and examinations of the history of the courts.

## "From May to December"

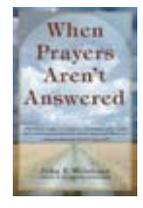
Pat MacEnulty (M.A. '86)  
Serpent's Tail



Four women find their lives collide when they become involved in a drama production for a Florida prison. Jen is a former porn star trying to be accepted into the world of academia, and her sister, Lolly, has been diagnosed with cancer. Nicole was a promising writer before ending up in prison. Sonya is a member of a family of criminals. Throughout the book, the women are forced to make dramatic decisions that affect not only themselves, but also the lives of the other women.

## "When Prayers Aren't Answered"

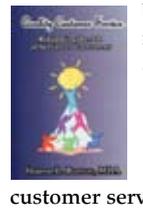
John E. Welshons (M.A. '81)  
New World Library



In this book, the author addresses the all-too-common question people may find themselves asking when faced with tragedy or seemingly unanswered prayer: "Why would God allow this to happen?" Through stories of Welshons' various life-changing experiences, the reader is presented with the idea of finding happiness not in spite of loss and disappointment, but through them.

## "Quality Customer Service: Rekindling the Art of Service to Customers"

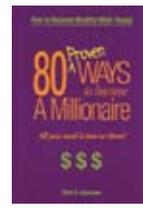
Sharon L. Burton (M.B.A. '84)  
Lulu Publications



Using seven narratives, each with a character who represents a different business entity, Burton offers a novel approach to teaching customer service improvement. Burton also offers a variety of customer service case studies, motivational quotes and thought-provoking questions.

## "80 Proven Ways to Become A Millionaire"

Paul S. Damazo (M.S. '53)  
SG and A Productions



This book offers solutions and options to teach readers to take charge of their financial futures. Damazo believes that anyone can become a millionaire, and he offers investment strategies for children,

college students, newlyweds, homeowners and those who start investing late in life.

## "Why Is Cory Brown?"

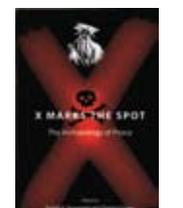
Michelle Jestice (M.S. '06)  
Priority Publishing Company



Jestice's book explores how children see racial differences in each other through their own innocent perspectives. She wrote the book, in part, to find her own answers to this simple yet significant question.

## "X Marks the Spot: The Archaeology of Piracy"

Russell K. Skowronek (M.A. '83) and Charles R. Ewen (M.A. '83)  
University Press of Florida



Were pirates seagoing terrorists or legitimate privateers? The authors visited underwater treasure sites and pirate lairs off the coast of Madagascar, the Caribbean and the United States to reveal the actual exploits of renowned pirates such as Captain Kidd, Blackbeard, Henry Morgan and Jean Lafitte. The book divulges pirate secrets, explores the anatomy of a pirate ship and examines the ways their vessels differed from modern naval crafts.

## "Florida's Museums and Cultural Attractions"

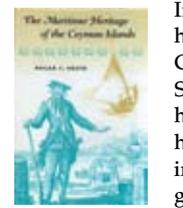
Doris Barton and Murray D. Laurie (B.S. '56)  
Pineapple Press



This book is written to be a take-along guide, featuring more than 350 museums and cultural attractions. Readers will find a description of a variety of museums, including but not limited to African-American culture, antique cars, citrus and even teddy bears. Also provided is a guide of historic neighborhoods, cafes, shops and art galleries.

## "The Maritime Heritage of the Cayman Islands"

Roger C. Smith (B.S. '61)  
University Press of Florida



In this illustrated history of the Cayman Islands, Smith describes how sea turtles helped an independent group of islanders flourish on the frontiers of the sea. He also depicts the colonial exploits of pirates and the development of island catboats and schooners, and he goes underwater to the sites of unlucky ships that have wrecked on poorly charted reefs.

Year-end giving:

# Is charitable planning in your holiday lineup?

[www.foundation.fsu.edu](http://www.foundation.fsu.edu)



**Brett Davidson**

**Camille Licklider**

Florida State University Foundation

The end of the year is always a great time to reflect upon the past and look to all that the future holds. Florida State University has provided you with enriching, memorable and unique experiences, and this time of year serves as a wonderful opportunity to give back by making a gift to your favorite college or program.

Making a charitable contribution to Florida State by Dec. 31 demonstrates your commitment to the university's values of strength, skill and character — and it can also reduce your federal

and, in some cases, state income taxes in the current tax year. Below, we have provided some ideas and concepts for your consideration as you evaluate your philanthropic and financial goals for 2008.

To start, make a list of all of the causes you would like to support, including specific areas within the university. Depending on your resources, you may want to narrow that list to those causes with the greatest needs or those for which you have the most passion. To determine your tax liability, calculate your income. If, for example, you sold appreciated assets this calendar year, or if for any reason you may owe a larger-than-normal tax bill, move some of your anticipated giving next year forward to create a greater deduction this year. Be sure to consult with your accountant or other financial adviser, as these experts are in the best position to assist you in determining

your tax liability and obtaining all deductions that are allowed by the Internal Revenue Code.

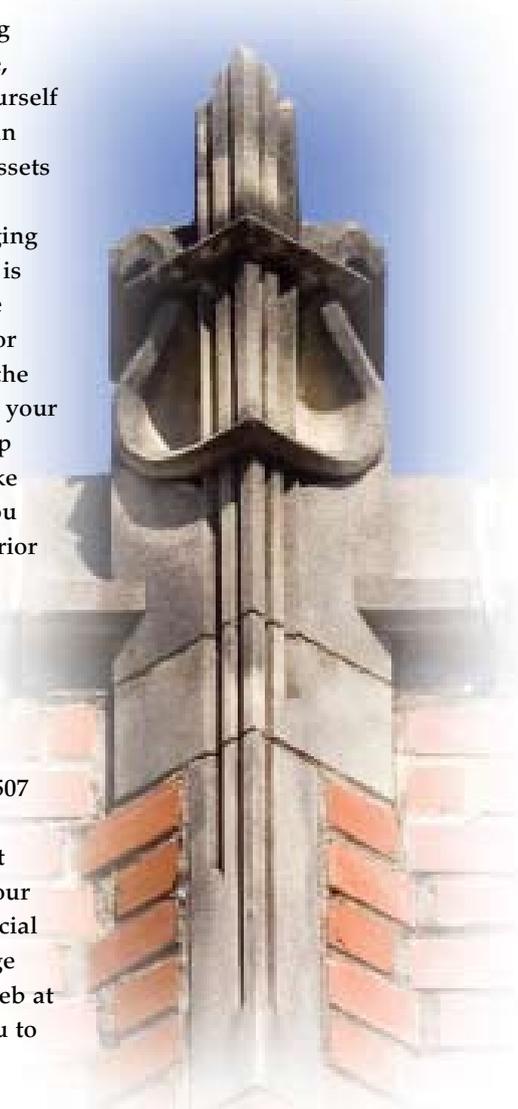
Cash, real estate, personal property and stocks are among the most popular charitable gifts; gifts of appreciated property that have been owned for more than a year offer special tax breaks. Depending on the gift, you are generally eligible for a charitable income tax deduction that can range as high as 30 percent to 50 percent of your adjusted income.

If you would like to make a gift but need the security of income, then a charitable gift annuity may be an excellent vehicle for you. You receive a tax deduction at the time you establish the gift annuity, and you will then receive a guaranteed amount of income for the rest of your life.

Finally, remember that the date of delivery of your gift is important, as it determines the year of your deduction.

With checks, the mailing date is the delivery date, and be sure to allow yourself plenty of time if you plan on donating non-cash assets such as real estate and stocks. If you are arranging for a stock gift, delivery is effective on the date the security is postmarked or physically delivered to the FSU Foundation. It is in your best interest to follow up with your broker to make sure the transfer that you requested takes place prior to Dec. 31.

If any of the ideas described in this article appeal to you, please call Camille Licklider at (850) 644-0753 or Brett Davidson at (850) 644-4507 to discuss them further. We stand ready to assist you in accomplishing your philanthropic and financial goals. We also encourage you to visit us on the Web at [www.foundation.fsu.edu](http://www.foundation.fsu.edu) to make a gift online.



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## Seminole Clubs ... continued from page 1

of social interaction, business networking and community outreach to accomplish the club's goals.

"In addition to watching the games together, we work on networking and staying connected to Tallahassee," said club president Erika Carlson (B.S. '98, Social Sciences). "We raise money for the Boosters and Alumni Association as well as local scholarships. We also focus on giving back to the community."

Outreach efforts include support for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, collecting toys at the club's Christmas party for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots drive, and packing meals for the needy through Hands On Atlanta.

In Orange Park, Fla., the flavor of the Seminole Club of Clay County meetings changes every week — literally.

"We begin each meeting with a potluck dinner," said club president Bonnie Diamond (B.S. '69, Education). "Our speakers include FSU coaches, high school coaches, former players, FSU faculty members and local news media. And we always eat well."

The club meets weekly during football season and attracts around 85 of its 200 members to each meeting, according to Diamond. They are involved in a number of community activities, including making annual donations to a local shelter for abused women, being "Seminole Santas" to families with children who have special needs, and partnering with businesses in local schools.

"We care about our community, and we are pleased to be representatives of Clay County to FSU," Diamond said. "We also love FSU and are pleased to be representatives of FSU to Clay County."

This year, the club completed a long-term goal in endowing the Leonard Voyle Academic Scholarship at \$107,000, which will provide scholarships for three to four students from Clay County to attend FSU.

The garnet and gold can be found in bluegrass country as well, at the Kentucky Seminole Club meetings in Louisville.

According to club president John Torsky (B.S. '01, Political Science), the Kentucky club has about 50 members who

get together mainly for the games but are committed to making a positive impact in their community.

"We participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program, cook dinner at the local Ronald McDonald House and organize Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the needy," he said. "We also raise money for a scholarship that benefits a student from Kentucky headed for FSU."

The reasons for getting involved in the club are pretty simple, Torsky said.

"I enjoyed my time at FSU and wanted to bring some sense of that to Louisville," he said. "I have a great group to work with."

It also can be lots of fun to be a Seminole in hostile territory. Just ask Eric Munoz (B.S. '00, Finance), president of the Miami Seminole Club.

"I love the university and am a die-hard Seminole fan, so when I saw an opportunity to help create a home away from home for Seminoles in Miami, I thought it was important to get involved," Munoz said.

In addition to varied social activities, a number of community-service projects and an endowed scholarship that

provides \$1,000 to an FSU-bound student from Miami, the club has included a unique outreach component.

"We decided we didn't know a lot about the real Seminoles and their history, and we wanted to do something about that," Munoz said. "So we reached out to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and now their elders speak to our group and we honor the tribe at our Bobby Bowden Golf Tournament. We invite them to everything we do. There is so much mutual respect between the tribe and the university that we thought this was important."

The club has grown from 150 to 235 members in two years and expects to hit 300 this year, which Munoz said is good for the club and for FSU.

"When people get more involved with the university, they are more likely to go to games and contribute to the school," he said. "Every time someone comes to one of our events and they tell me they had a great time and want to get involved, I feel like I have done my job."

To join a Seminole Club near you, call the FSU Alumni Association at (850) 644-2761, or visit [www.alumni.fsu.edu](http://www.alumni.fsu.edu).



Miami Seminole Club Secretary Tricia Miranda (B.A. '99) and fellow club member Tony Chinchilla (B.S. '92) show their Seminole Spirit during a "Young Professionals Happy Hour" event.



While camping out at a Seminole Tribe of Florida reservation, Miami Seminole Club members Nevin Grushka (B.S. '95), left, and club Vice President Adam Hellman (B.S. '94), right, pose with a member of the Seminole Tribe.

## Amazonian village ... continued from page 1

to use the forest in a sustainable way, such as eco-tourism. They built a lodge, but they have problems promoting themselves to the outside world. That's one aspect that Rebecca (Galeano) and her student helped with."

Rebecca Galeano, an assistant instructor in the FSU College of Education whose area of interest includes foreign and second language acquisition, said she found the Iquitos region of Peru to be a gold mine for linguistic fieldwork. She became convinced

of the possible impact FSU students could have working in the region.

"When we saw the deforestation and the huge areas that have been destroyed, then we all understood how critically important helping villages like San Rafael remain in its natural state is," Galeano said. Galeano organized an internship for College of Education graduate student Laura Ballard, who designed and delivered a course in English for tourism in San Rafael.

San Rafael has been able to

maintain its abundant natural resources in a way that other villages have been unable to do by constructing a lodge, a butterfly garden, and collecting and displaying the locally found electric eels. Yet it has been difficult for the village's residents to bring tourists in because of an inability to communicate with potential English-speaking customers from the nearby city of Iquitos. Galeano said that as a result of the course Ballard taught, villagers are now better able to greet potential tourists and to ask, and answer, basic questions regarding planning an excursion to their lodge.

Associate Professor Tarek Abichou and Assistant Professor Juan Ordoñez, both of the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering, and students Nick Azadian, Catherine Carella, Yomaima Gonzales, Ashley Melton and Rafael Vasquez from the FAMU-FSU chapter of Engineers Without Borders-USA, went to San Rafael with the FSU contingent to

rehabilitate a faulty water system there.

Thanks to their efforts, the village of San Rafael now has clean drinking water.

"This interdisciplinary project is an example of the kind of effect FSU students and faculty members are capable of making on an international level," Rebecca Galeano said.

"There is a lot to be done in these areas," Juan Carlos Galeano said. "It's a very rich place to learn and to contribute."

In planning to return to San Rafael to continue their work this coming summer, Juan Carlos and Rebecca Galeano and students and professors from FAMU/FSU Engineers Without Borders are already working on funding sources and their travel plans.

Members of the FSU community wishing to support or participate in future service projects in the Amazon basin are asked to call Professor Galeano at (850) 644-8183 or e-mail him at [jgaleano@fsu.edu](mailto:jgaleano@fsu.edu).



Villagers disembark at San Rafael.

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