Florida State ranked No. 3 in arts research

By Libby Fairhurst

The Florida State University is one of the nation’s most prolific research institutions in the arts, according to rankings recently released by Science Watch that place Florida State third among the universities with the most published papers in the field of performing arts between 2003 and 2007.

Science Watch also ranked five other arts-related Florida State institutions in the nation's top arts.index academic institutions, according to leading scholarly journals in the arts.

The Florida State University is one of five ranked in the top five arts-related Florida State institutions, according to leading scholarly journals in the arts. The other universities included in the top five arts-related Florida State institutions are City University of New York, New York University and Indiana University (tie), Columbia University and the University of Texas-Austin.

It's no secret that the arts have long enjoyed an outstanding national reputation and been integral to the history and culture at Florida State. Still, Florida State’s College of Music Dean Don Gibson and Dean Sally McRorie, who heads the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, say it’s nice to get it in writing from such an objective, respected source as Science Watch. Distributed by Thomson Reuters, Science Watch gathers and analyzes data on scientists, journals and publications to track basic research trends and performance.

“Science Watch...continued on PAGE 2
From archaeologist to university president

Self-confidence drives Bense to excellence

By Kim MacQueen

Growing up on a farm in Panama City, Fla., Judy Bense developed such a love of archaeology that she originally planned to study in Egypt. But then she got to Florida State as an undergraduate, and she realized there was no reason to leave. What she has dug up all over Northwest Florida has fascinated her ever since.

“It’s a good thing she stayed. Bense was tapped for the presidency of the University of West Florida in July 2008, after an impressive career that included building that university’s Archaeology Institute from the ground up, and founding the nation’s largest community archaeology program.

Like her brother Allan, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, Judy Bense has always known she can do what she puts her mind to — so if she’d wanted to be in Egypt, you can bet she’d be there now.

“I think my mother really built this drive into us,” she said. “My brother and I have talked about this a lot, the fact that we have this great self-confidence. We don’t ever think that we can’t do something. It’s just a question of what hill to climb.”

Bense started as an undergraduate in the archaeology program at The Florida State University in 1963, when the state’s western Panhandle was a largely untouched land of swamp and dunes. There had never been a professional archaeologist in the area.

“My undergraduate career prepared me very well for my career as an archaeologist: lots of field work experiences, hands-on experiences, difficult projects and supervision experiences,” she said. “I also earned my master’s degree at FSU; I found that I was very well prepared for a doctoral program, and I finished in record time.”

Fast-forward to 2009, and you’d think development would have erased most of the artifacts left over from Indian settlements and Spanish shipwrecks. But to the delight of Bense and an increasingly engaged community, “we’re still finding stuff,” she said.

“The archaeologist who took my place in the department just found a Spanish mission site from the 1600s that hadn’t even been plowed,” Bense said. “There are two shipwrecks in Pensacola Bay from 1559. Pensacola has incredible, untouched archaeology. People thought it had to be all gone by now. They couldn’t believe it. They believe it now.”

It was the thrill of constant discovery that gave Bense the impetus to start the archaeology department at UWF. She said that when she got to the university following her Ph.D. work at Washington State University in the early 1970s, “there was nothing here. There wasn’t a salary, there wasn’t a program — nothing. I love to dig, and I love finding things. I wanted to see if I couldn’t build a program around that idea, to engage this community in the enjoyment of archaeology.”

The idea also eventually led Bense to form the Florida Public Archaeology Network at UWF, which is dedicated to bringing archaeology to the general public through a series of regional centers throughout the state, each staffed with professional archaeologists. The effort is coordinated by the university, which also hosts the network’s northwest regional center. It is one of only a handful of statewide public archaeology programs in the country.

So when she was asked to consider stepping in as president, after teaching in and leading the university’s Archaeology Institute for 28 years, Bense said she had to think about it for a couple of days. Ultimately, though, she called being picked for the presidency “the biggest compliment of my life.”

“I had been executive director of a successful archaeology program, and the same drive that got Bense to the presidency is helping her feel grounded there, in a grueling schedule that often sees her working 12- to 14-hour days, starting with appearances at 7 a.m. meetings in which “not only do I need to be there, I am on the program. Often, I am the program . . . and I’m not even supposed to be awake yet.

“I have not been this busy in 25 years,” she said. “People say to me, Judy, you’re 64. You’re supposed to be slowing down, not speeding up!”

Evidence that The Florida State University’s music programs rank at the very top tier of music programs across the country and stand out as among the most forward-looking institutions. In music education, the Science Watch national rankings, McRorie said. “This latest ranking encompasses a broad swath of the performing arts realm at Florida State, an area of historic and continuing strength derived from the combined impact of our top-tier music, dance and theatre programs,” McRorie said. “In the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, along with the national recognition earned by faculty and students for creating and performing the arts, we also have an amazing array of top researchers in the history and criticism of the arts as well as those who explore related educational and therapeutic applications.”

Serious research isn’t limited to studying old masters or ancient art forms, she said. Among the publications cited in the Science Watch ranking was a paper by Professor Sally Sommer of the Florida State University School of Dance that investigated contemporary salsa dancing.

“The salsa dance form has been called a perfect dance for the 21st century because it is the product of the fusions of peoples, languages, music, movement and styles that define the times,” McRorie said. “‘Salsa’ literally means ‘sauce,’ a spicy mixture that gives flavor. The Florida State University is noted for the same kinds of fusions growing from our commitment to the performing and other arts. The whole campus, community and indeed the world are energized, spiced up so to speak, by our creation, performance and research in the arts.”
Faculty venture a world away to train Indonesian teachers

By Dave Fiore

Indonesia, the world’s fourth-most-populous nation, is working to decentralize and improve its education system — and is relying heavily on a team from The Florida State University to help it through the process. After decades of political oppression and the lasting effects of a devastating tsunami that killed 130,000 of its citizens in 2004, the Southeast Asian nation is focusing on improving the quality of teaching and learning in its primary schools.

Florida State has received $1.5 million to conduct research in conjunction with three not-for-profit organizations — the Education Development Center, the Academy for Educational Development and the Research Triangle Institute — as well as two other universities, the University of Massachusetts and the University of Pittsburgh.

The grant is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and is part of a five-year project that builds upon successful aspects of several recent educational initiatives in Indonesia. The project, which is a partnership between the governments of Indonesia and the United States, seeks to implement a more comprehensive system of teacher development at seven Indonesian universities in the provinces of Aceh, Banten, North Sumatra and West Java.

Florida State University Associate Professor King Beach and Jeff Milligan, both from the College of Education’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, have taken key roles in the project.

“In Indonesia, kids are getting educated and going to school, but the teachers usually have just one to two years of college,” Milligan said.

“In a modern, complicated world, higher education is needed, and the teachers must use distance learning as a capacity to make better teachers.”

Luschei’s work is focused in the region. He is working with those preparing to be a part of Florida State’s role as a major research institution, Milligan said.

“Recent policy changes in Indonesia require that more than 1 million classroom teachers upgrade their qualifications to a four-year bachelor’s degree by 2015,” he said.

“Given the scale of this challenge, as well as the location of many teachers in remote locations, Indonesia must use distance learning as a primary strategy to upgrade teacher qualifications.”

Open University and its faculty have been enthusiastic and grateful recipients of the assistance, according to Luschei.

“The university has treated us extremely well, and all faculty members we have worked with have been generous with their time and other resources,” he said. “Their hospitality has been truly remarkable. The Open University has also given FSU a strong vote of confidence by sending six of their faculty members to earn graduate degrees in FSU’s College of Education.”

While Luschei focuses on working at the university level on distance-learning programs in one of the largest cities in the world, Milligan is working with those preparing Indonesia’s teachers in six outlying, rural provinces. He is working on what he describes as education faculty capacities in action research.

ACTION research is practical, problem-focused inquiry,” Milligan said. “It is identifying problems, gathering data associated with those problems, implementing the solutions and then recording the feedback.”

The movement to decentralize the education system from government control stems from the collapse of the country’s oppressive dictatorship in 1998, Milligan said.

“Dezentralization of education goes hand in hand with the reconstruction of democracy,” he said. “Action research is consistent with that policy change — a way for people to be involved in their communities.”

One of the universities in the province of Aceh, which bore the brunt of the 2004 tsunami, lost 400 faculty members and untold number of students on that fateful day. The disaster has created an opportunity for Milligan and his team to have a tangible effect on the future of the region.

“It has been gratifying to make a small contribution to rebuilding education in a devastated area,” Milligan said. “It also is helping to foster a positive image of Americans. Through education, we are a small contributor to improving relations in the Muslim world.”

Acting globally should continue to be a part of Florida State’s role as a major research institution, Milligan said.

“There is important work to be done in the United States, but there also are international problems that go across borders,” he said. “They need faculty and researchers, and we bring that. We are bringing expertise and insight to students — working in a global, interdependent world.”

Receiving insight is a two-way street, according the FSU professors.

“So much of what I learn is not the exotic, but the familiar in the exotic,” Milligan said. “The ordinary decency of the people strikes me. My favorite part is probably to share that with folks here at home. It puts things in perspective.”

For Luschei, it is a process of give and take that will result in positive change.

“I truly appreciate the opportunity to experience the country’s striking beauty and culture,” he said. “I also feel very optimistic about future prospects for educational and economic development in Indonesia.”

It’s a future in which The Florida State University will have played a significant role.
Provost wins top award from advising group

Florida State University Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lawrence G. Abele has won a top national award in recognition of his support of academic advising initiatives that have improved retention and graduation rates at the university.

Lawrence G. Abele

Abele will receive the Pacemaker Award from the National Academic Advising Association in San Antonio during its annual conference this month. The award is presented annually to one administrator who exemplifies a commitment to academic advising, and who has proven to be a true advocate for students and advisors.

“Dr. Abele’s recognition of the importance of academic advising is rooted in his desire to help students make the most of their college education and earn the degrees for which they have worked,” said Dean of Undergraduate Studies Karen Laughlin in a letter nominating Abele for the award. “This dedication to the students includes a firm belief that academic advising plays a key role in students’ academic satisfaction and success. The many innovative programs that he has shaped and supported put this belief into action on a daily basis.”

Since Abele was appointed provost in 1994, he has supported several unique initiatives that have contributed to a steady increase in retention and graduation rates as well as in the overall quality of the student body, Laughlin said. Over the past 10 years, retention has increased from 83 percent to nearly 90 percent, even as enrollment has increased.

Heritage Protocol accepting historical items

The Florida State University’s Heritage Protocol program is dedicated to identifying, acquiring, cataloging and preserving items related to the institutional history and cultural heritage of the university and its predecessor institutions. To that end, the program is accepting donations of artifacts from alumni, former faculty and staff members, and friends of the university. Photographs and ephemera are of particular interest, but nothing is off limits. To donate an item or make arrangements to have the item picked up, send an e-mail to Eddie Woodward at ewoodward@fsu.edu or call (850) 645-7988.

Group awarded $1 million to study nuclear fuels

A Florida State University researcher has received a $1 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for a study that could lead to the design of better nuclear fuels and safer and more efficient reactors to generate nuclear power.

Amar El-Azab, an associate professor in the Department of Scientific Computing, and his Computational Materials Science Group at Florida State University will work to understand microstructural changes in fuel in the extreme nuclear reactor environment.

Film restoration project seeks old campus footage

In the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s, The Florida State University had a campus cinematographer named Werner Vagt. The Heritage Protocol is trying to track down any copies of Vagt’s films that might still exist. A few have been found and are being reformatted from film to digital video. Alumni who have or know of any Florida State University-related films are asked to send an e-mail to Eddie Woodward at ewoodward@fsu.edu or call (850) 645-7988.

Anter El-Azab

State will conduct research as part of a new $10 million EFRC Center for Materials Science of Nuclear Fuels. The Department of Energy established the EFRC, or Energy Frontiers Research Centers, program in an effort to spur breakthroughs in fundamental energy science.

The mission of this particular center, led by the Idaho National Laboratory, is to use better computational models to learn more about nuclear reactor fuels. Florida State is a member of the center’s team along with the University of Florida, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Colorado School of Mines and the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

“The Computational Materials Science Group at Florida State routinely conducts research on the microstructure of a wide range of materials,” El-Azab said. “Thus, we have the experience, tools and manpower to do first-rate research on fuel materials microstructure with this new $1 million grant. This funding complements other major research grants we already have in related areas of materials research.”

With the grant, El-Azab and the Computational Materials Science Group will develop new theoretical and computational models to study the microstructure changes in fuel in the extreme nuclear reactor environment.

Myron Rolle to build free clinic in Bahamas

Florida State University alumni and current Rhodes Scholar Myron L. Rolle (B.S. ’08, Exercise Science) has announced plans to build the Myron L. Rolle Medical Clinic and Sports Complex in Stevenson, Exuma, in the Bahamas, where his family originated.

In addition to providing free health services to residents and a state-of-the-art wellness and training facility for athletes and visitors, the complex will provide educational opportunities for Florida State medical students.

The project will be executed in conjunction with the Bahamas Ministry of Health and Florida State’s College of Medicine. As a Rhodes Scholar, Rolle plans to earn a master’s degree in medical anthropology from Oxford University in England during the 2009-2010 school year. Afterwards, he plans to enter the National Football League draft to pursue a professional football career and, later, a career as a surgeon.

“Myron’s experiences in Exuma are critical to the project,” said Dr. Alma Littles, senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs for the College of Medicine. “This mission trip would be Florida State’s initial presence in Exuma, similar to what our faculty and first- and second-year students do each year in Panama and at other international sites for one week over spring break as a cross-cultural elective.”

The College of Medicine also is helping to advise the Myron L. Rolle Foundation in establishing the clinic.

“What Myron has asked the College of Medicine to do is to provide some assistance in coordinating with the local medical community and the Bahamas Ministry of Health as he gets things set up,” Littles said. “Being the avid FSU alumni that he is, Myron wants to give the College of Medicine an opportunity to be in the ground floor of the development of the clinic. After it gets built and has a full-time medical staff, we would have some other opportunities to potentially set up other experiences for our students in the form of international, elective four-week rotations for our fourth-year students,” Littles said.

What’s more, the Myron L. Rolle Foundation is offering to pay for these educational opportunities.

Antarctic research facility wins $2.5 million NSF grant

The Florida State University’s Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility has received a five-year, $2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant is double the facility’s previous funding from the NSF, which established the ice-cold curatorial and research center at Florida State in 1963.

“The Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility has been a signature feature of the sciences at Florida State for many years, and this recognition by the National Science Foundation guarantees that it will remain so for years to come,” said College of Arts and Sciences Dean Joseph Travis.

Beneath the plain exterior of an annex to Florida State’s aging Carraway Building, the research facility serves as the national repository for the world’s largest collection of marine piston- and drill-core sediment samples extracted from deep below Antarctica’s Southern Ocean floor. The premier collection resides in a 6,000-square-foot refrigerated vault — a library of sorts for visiting scientists from around the world who “check out” the cores in order to conduct further analyses.

Among the more recent acquisitions is a nearly quarter-mile-long core sequence drawn from 3,000 feet beneath the Ross Sea that provides an almost unbroken record of sedimentary rock beneath the Ross Ice Shelf, the largest floating ice body on Earth.

“The NSF Office of Polar Programs likes the job we do here at The Florida State University,” said Sherwood W. Wise Jr., a longtime professor of geological sciences at Florida State and faculty principal investigator for the Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility. “Hence, they have doubled our budget for the next five years, which fortunately coincides with our installation of mobile shelving in the ‘Cold Room’ to make space for the arrival of new Antarctic cores.”

Florida State Times

The editors of the Florida State Times invite our readers to take a survey about this publication at http://tinyurl.com/FSTimes-Survey. The survey will remain posted through the end of September and can be taken at any time until then. Results will be published later this year in the Florida State Times.
Scientist studies effect of chronic infectious diseases

By Paul Marcotte

Like being in a den of lions in a Roman circus.
That is how one of Nancy Nicolson’s professors described the scientific community to her when she was a doctoral candidate in molecular biophysics at The Florida State University in the early 1980s. As a woman, it would be even more so.

"From the moment I set foot on campus, there was definitely a kind of silent discrimination, but it wasn’t personal and it wasn’t done in a negative way,” said Nicolson (Ph.D. ’82, Molecular Biophysics), who counts the long, grueling hours she spent studying at Florida State’s Institute of Molecular Biophysics as invaluable in preparing her for a career spent developing an understanding of how chronic infectious diseases affect people.

“My professors knew I had to perform at 1,000 percent if I was going to be taken seriously as a female scientist,” she said. “My doctoral committee understood the social prejudices built into our society, so they really made me go the distance, like running a marathon. In retrospect, that kind of rigorous training put me over the top so that I could withstand anything.”

Nicolson, 56, is now chief executive officer of the Institute for Molecular Medicine (www.immm.org), which she and her husband, Garth Nicolson, founded in 1996. She also is president of the Rhodon Foundation for Biomedical Research Inc., located in South Laguna Beach, Calif.

The Institute for Molecular Medicine’s mission is to contribute to the understanding of and the prevention and cure of catastrophic human chronic diseases — from autoimmune diseases and fungalizing illnesses to rheumatic diseases, cancer and AIDS — emphasizing basic and translational research programs.

The den of lions analogy certainly could be applied to Nicolson’s fight against the nasty bugs that cause chronic infectious diseases. The institute’s goal is to apply basic and translational molecular research approaches to better understand and eventually treat catastrophic human chronic diseases.

One of the Institute for Molecular Medicine’s current projects is working with the National Institutes of Health, the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security on a prototype of a detection device to locate microorganisms in the air in the event of a terrorist biological attack or other biological illnesses correlating to unusual stealth infections, airborne infections that hide inside the cell of an affected individual.

Her institute’s work on Gulf War illnesses and other chronic illnesses affecting veterans resulted in her and her husband being given the rank of honorary colonel of the U.S. Army Special Forces and designated as honorary U.S. Navy SEALs.

Nicolson’s passion for finding answers to some of medicine’s most difficult questions was born of her own bout with a chronic fatigue illness, which struck 25 years ago.

“These illnesses make you so sick that you’re chronically exhausted no matter how much you sleep, even though you don’t really look sick,” Nicolson said.

“If you go for routine blood testing, you can’t find the culprit because the infections are stealthy. When our troops came back from the first Gulf War, I had already suffered from this type of illness. It can hit any part of a person’s body, depending upon what the particular genetic propensity is. That is what’s so odd about them.

“I call these infections the ‘great impostors,’” she said. “If they hit the nervous system, the person will present with a catastrophic type of multiple sclerosis, and they don’t really have the typical form, but an atypical form. In my case, the infection hit my pancreas. I presented with what seemed to be diabetes, and it was not really. People might be misdiagnosed with systemic lupus or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), for instance.”

If such stealth infections are diagnosed quickly, permanent damage to an individual’s health can be avoided, according to Nicolson. Unfortunately, because of scientific limitations and flaws in testing methods, many people do not receive a correct diagnosis.

The Institute for Molecular Medicine has patents pending on more thorough screening methods that target stealth infections in blood.

Beyond her research, which has resulted in more than 50 scientific papers, Nicolson has been honored as among Who’s Who Women in the World, the Who’s Who Executives in the World, and shared the Albert Schweitzer Award in 1998 for humanitarian work done in Africa.

Nicolson defines her time at Florida State as more than mere studying.

“I loved Seminole football and really enjoyed going to the games,” said Nicolson, who still follows the team on television.

She also credits five faculty members — Michael Kasha, William C. Rhodes, Randolph Rill (her major professor), Harold Van Wart and Kurt G. Hofert — for providing her with the breadth and depth of knowledge and methods to attack scientific problems that she has subsequently used throughout her career.

“We received extensive training in cross-disciplines so that you could examine a scientific problem from different perspectives,” she said. “It was a type of training that I found other researchers lacked when I went to other institutions. It was a privilege to know these scientists at Florida State.”

— Jeffery Seay contributed to this story.

Curiosity underpins career of multitasking musician

By Dave Fiore

Florida State University College of Music alumnus Cliff Colnot is a distinguished conductor, accomplished musician, master arranger and respected educator. And the fact that he does it all at the same time doesn’t seem to bother him a bit.

“I don’t consider any of my various responsibilities to be work — all are equally enjoyable,” Colnot said. “It is not exactly an onerous task to go from one to another. I just have to organize things, so that not too many things are demanding me at the same time. It is working out great.”

Those tasks include serving as principal conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s contemporary MusicNOW series, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Contempo at the University of Chicago and the DePaul University Symphony Orchestra, as well as orchestras at Indiana University.

Colnot also teaches advanced orchestration at the University of Chicago and film scoring at Columbia College.

And in between he arranges music for the likes of Richard Marx, Hugh Jackman, Leann Rimes and ShidDry.

In 1995, Colnot received the Ernst von Dohnányi Certificate of Excellence, given by the Florida State University College of Music to its alumni who display excellence in performance or composition. Since the certificate’s inception in 1903, there have been only 14 recipients.

Cliff Colnot Music Inc., a business he formed to bring his various clients under one umbrella, lasted almost 20 years.

“I offered composition, arranging and writing for television, commercials, individual artists, film scores and radio,” he said. “I kept the business until the cycle ran its course. But I continued to teach and conduct the entire time.”

A major impetus for Colnot pursuing arranging was the influence of the late Charlie Carter, resident arranger for the Florida State University Bands for 40 years.

“He’s class in arranging prompted me to be interested in arranging and composing,” Colnot said. “He is the main link in my increased interest in that area. In fact, the modern arranging. I do is an extension of what I learned from Charlie, with an emphasis in pop and rock.”
Florida State graduates make flight forecasts for Delta

By John Woodward Cox

Thirty years ago, Nigel Fitzgerald (B.S. 78) and Don Stewart (B.S. 79), fresh from the halls of The Florida State University’s Department of Meteorology, accepted jobs within six months of each other as meteorologists with Delta Air Lines in Atlanta.

Back then, they mapped our flight plans by hand on broad sheets of paper, steering planes around potential turbulence and directing them to sky lanes that would boost their air speed and save fuel. Delta’s meteorologists used a handful of weather models to chart the courses, and they fed data into a single IBM mainframe computer.

“It was pretty laborious,” Fitzgerald said.

“You had to back it up,” Stewart added about the computer. “Kind of ‘dinosaur.’”

In spring of 2005, then-25-year-old Heather Heitzman graduated from the same Florida State meteorology department and soon after took the same job Fitzgerald and Stewart had in 1979 — but something was different. “Now I’m sitting in front of eight flat-screen monitors,” said Fitzgerald, noting that each serves a vital role. “It’s like a theater in front of me.”

Heitzman laughs when she envisions that pre-computerized world and the effort Fitzgerald and Stewart exerted every hour of every day to design those flight plans. “I can’t imagine,” she said. “You had to work for your forecast back then.”

The way in which meteorologists predict the weather may have changed since Fitzgerald and Stewart moved to Atlanta three decades ago — both admit they miss the old ways — but the quality and success of graduates from Florida State’s meteorology department has sustained through the years. In fact, the department is so well known for academic excellence that six alumni have jobs with Delta’s Operations Control Center, either in the meteorology department or as aircraft dispatchers in the flight control department. The Operations Control Center is the nerve center of Delta’s worldwide operation.

“FSU has always had a very strong meteorology program,” said Jeffrey Hubright, a 1980 graduate and current Delta dispatcher who came to the company 20 years ago. “Meteorology is a pretty specialized skill, and there are not that many universities that have strong meteorology departments.”

Working with so many other Florida State alumni is not only a point of pride, Hubright said, it’s also a bit of a bonding experience in the fall when football season arrives.

“When the operation allows us to have that kind of down time, we’re all yelling across the room at each other because we’re all tracking the scores,” he said. “I even have an FSU football shirt that I wear sometimes.”

Once, Hubright said, he even plotted a flight plan for one of the football team’s charters to an away game. “I know Coach Bowden is going to be sitting in first class on this aircraft,” he recalled thinking. “I’m gonna make sure this plane has a good flight plan.”

Besides their link on Saturdays in the fall, they each share common, but also unique, memories about how Florida State prepared them for their parallel careers.

“I think it’s just a good program that continues to turn out good, quality people, and that’s why they end up here,” said Michael Whelchel, a 1981 graduate who took the same path as Hubright from Delta’s meteorology division into flight control.

A 1998 graduate who started as a Delta meteorologist two years ago, Dan Ciminelli said he remembers competing in a departmentwide competition that forced students to predict the highs and lows for cities around the country every weekend. “That was something that definitely prepared me for what I’m doing now,” he said, adding that he still regrets barely missing out on beating more than 60 other students in his last semester. “I came close. I was in first up until the last week, and I look back and I’m still upset about it.”

“If it weren’t for his connection to the university, Stewart said it’s unlikely he would have ever had a chance to work for Delta. He applied for 150 positions and had few responses, but the late Clarence Joe Emmons Jr., a 1958 Florida State graduate and a manager at Delta until 1984, saw Stewart’s application, interviewed him and offered him a job.

Fitzgerald, who moved to the United States from England in 1967, said he had loved weather since he was 11, but Florida State gave him the chance to make it a career.

They don’t often make it back to Florida to visit their alma mater, but all six alumni all say it’s never far away in their memories.

Even now, when Hubright occasionally calls Tallahassee Regional Airport, it’s a special experience for him. “It’s unlike calling any other city,” he said. “It’s kind of like you’re calling home.”

By Libby Fairhurst

News and Public Affairs

Since 2005, The Florida State University has produced three Rhodes Scholars. No other state university in the nation can make that claim.

The groundwork began in late 2004, when Florida State established its first Office of National Fellowships. Finally, students had a one-stop shop — equal parts recruiter, teacher, coach, navigator and advocate — that would help them to compete with Ivy League students for prestigious fellowships, and win.

And win they did. In the past four years, the Rhodes triple play at Florida State has been bestowed by only nine schools — a rarefied group composed of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Duke, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the University of Chicago. During the same period, a mere six schools have managed to march the Rhodes record of Florida State. That stellar cadre includes Columbia, Brown and Georgetown universities.

Among the renowned institutions who have garnered “only” one or two Rhodes Scholarships since 2005, while Florida State was nabbing three: Dartmouth College; Cornell University; the universities of Virginia, California Berkeley, Michigan-Ann Arbor and Texas-Austin; Washington University in St. Louis; the U.S. Air Force Academy; Northwestern University; and the California Institute of Technology.

G. Craig Filar is the director of Florida State University’s Office of National Fellowships. He has noticed that word is really getting around about its rapid-fire succession of wins on the national front.

“Our students have always been amazing, but until recently, they simply didn’t have a centralized conduit on campus to the wealth of national fellowships out there,” President T.K. Wetherell said. “Now that they do, it goes to show that at a large public institution in the South such as The Florida State University, outstanding individuals with Rhodes potential can shine and win just as they could at an Ivy League college in the Northeast — and sometimes, as we’ve demonstrated here since 2005, even more so.”

Not surprisingly, the Rhodes Scholars of Florida State — recipients of the most distinguished student award in the academic world — epitomize extraordinary achievement and exceptional potential for more on the national and world stage. They are accomplished student and NCAA shot-put champion Garrett Johnson (2006), the university’s second Rhodes Scholar but the first in the 30 years since Caroline Alexander’s 1976 win; former student body president Joe O’Sha (2008), a community leader whose good works have helped the sick and needy from Tallahassee to Rwanda; and Myron Rolle (2009), a college football All-American and an aspiring surgeon who plans to open a free medical clinic in the Bahamas, where his parents were born.

But also extraordinary: The more than 40 other nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships collected by Florida State students — clearly among the nation’s best — since the 5-year-old Office of National Fellowships opened for business.

So far, these honors include three Truman Scholarships, a trio of Goldwater Scholarships, a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship and Udall Scholarship, and an impressive total of 26 Fulbright Fellowships.

For more on the Office of National Fellowships, visit www.oonf.fsu.edu.
Archaeologist documents submerged treasures

By Bayard Stern
Managing Editor

An avid scuba diver for four decades, Daniel Lenihan has become one of the world’s best-known underwater archaeologists. He is the founder of the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit, an elite team of divers charged with finding, evaluating and documenting sunken historic vessels in America’s parks and around the globe.

Learning about submerged artifacts and places while diving fascinated him, Lenihan said, and he was particularly intrigued with these aspects while caving diving in Florida. He enrolled as a graduate student at The Florida State University, earning a Master of Science degree in archaeology in 1973.

“Studying at Florida State gave me a very positive orientation,” Lenihan, 64, said. “I learned that life didn’t have to be a battlefield. Some very exciting opportunities opened up for me there. (Anthropology emeritus professor) Tony Paredes and Bruce Grindal both really inspired me and fueled my interest in anthropology.”

While a student at Florida State, Lenihan started working for the National Park Service as a park ranger and archaeologist under George Fischer, the Florida State University emeritus staff member who helped found Florida State’s Program in Underwater Archaeology. After graduation, Lenihan moved to Santa Fe, N.M., in 1974 to take a full-time position with the park service as an underwater archaeologist.

“I was sent to work on the National Reservoir Inundation Study,” he said. “That was the genesis for the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit, because it brought the people and the funding together.”

Consisting of five to eight divers, the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit was established in 1975 by the National Park Service to explore, survey and protect historic shipwrecks and other sites important to American heritage. During Lenihan’s tenure as leader, the team went on hundreds of dive operations all over the United States and around the world — wherever the U.S. Department of Interior had jurisdiction. He stepped down as chief in 2000 but continued as one of the team’s archaeologists until he officially retired on July 4, 2009.

“People already knew how to survey and document sites on land, but applying these methods to the underwater realm is what our unit offered,” Lenihan said. “The team now has expanded its mission to study more types of natural sites. Since 2000, they have been called the Submerged Resources Center.”

Over the years, the team has received significant national media attention, particularly for its underwater mapping of the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor, excavation of the Confederate submarine Hunley, and the re-survey of 12 ships and two submarines that were sunk in atomic-bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in 1946.

“The World War II vessel the USS Arizona is a major American war relic, and it has tremendous symbolic importance,” he said. “Up until 1983, when we first started looking at it, people weren’t really sure what was down there. I tried to approach the assignment as just a job and to isolate myself from its memorial aspects. But I didn’t dive on the Arizona for long before it really started having an effect on me. It still has the remains of over 1,000 young men in it. By the end of that first field season, I knew I was just kidding myself saying, ‘Oh it’s just another dive.’”

Lenihan explained that the team’s mission was to carefully document all aspects of an underwater site by using mapping experts, archaeologists, scientists and photographers. They would assess potential dangers such as leaking fuel, toxic chemicals, radioactivity, unexploded munitions, sharks or treacherous diving conditions. In addition, they would determine if human remains were present, as well as provide pertinent ecological information about the area.

The team would then submit detailed reports about the site to the National Park Service. The results of the reports would help determine if a site should be open to public diving, restricted, or protected in some way.

With their reports, the park service could then make determinations about how best to manage the site and describe it to the public.

Lenihan and his team have been the subject of many articles, national TV specials and documentary segments produced by CBS, PBS, the BBC, CNN, the Discovery Channel and National Geographic. He has written numerous articles for Natural History magazine, wrote the book “Submerged: Adventures of America’s Most Elite Underwater Archaeology Team,” and co-wrote “Underwater Wonders of the National Parks.” He also co-wrote the novels “Wake of the Perdido Star,” “Justice for None” and “Escape from Andersonville” with his friend, Academy Award-winning actor Gene Hackman.

“I struck up a friendship with Gene Hackman, and we started talking about books that we liked to read,” Lenihan said. “In the mid-’90s we started working on a sea tale that became ‘Wake of the Perdido Star.’ We stayed friends and wrote two more books together.”

Just the ticket: Alumni Web site shines spotlight on theater grads

“Memphis” cast by fellow Florida State alumnus Kevin Covert (B.F.A. ‘92), one of no less than nine Seminoles currently living out our dream on Broadway in productions such as “South Pacific,” “West Side Story,” “9 to 5,” “D’Amn Yankees,” “Happiness” and “Finian’s Rainbow.”

Glover’s ascent to Broadway stardom has given rise to another debut: a Web page tracking our FSU grads in the theatre community — those who have been out in the world, and those who are getting ready to go out — and get everyone reconnected.”

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“It was really special to have three FSU grads in the same dressing room,” said Fletcher, whose college experience included training in London with members of the Royal Shakespeare Company. “It says a lot about the FSU program.”

After a short run in Japan, “A Chorus Line” returns to North America this fall with stops in Memphis, Tenn. (ironically); Charlotte, N.C.; and Louisville, Ky., before heading to Canada. Alumni Association bylaws require us to maintain “among former students a spirit of fellowship and regard for one another.” As this spotlight program matures, our network of Seminole Clubs will organize FSU Nights at the Theatre, complete with social gatherings after the shows, featuring our alumni stars. You can follow Fletcher, Glover (“Memphis” previews begin Sept. 23) and all our Seminoles at the Florida State University Alumni Association home page: www.alumni.fsu.edu.
High-Performance Materials Institute

By Gary Fineout

It may appear at first that Jerry Horne gets paid to play with toys.

Horne, an engineer who works at The Florida State University High-Performance Materials Institute, builds lightweight, radio-controlled airplanes and then takes them out for test flights.

But Horne isn’t doing this for fun. He is part of the high-flying research that is going on at the institute’s home, located on Florida State’s Southwest Campus in Tallahassee. His goal is to use composite materials that can be turned into small compact planes that can be used by the U.S. military for anything from weapons to surveillance.

Sometimes his planes fly with no problems. And sometimes they crash.

“Even when we crash them, it’s good information,” said Horne, who on a recent day was working on a plane that weighed less than 3.5 pounds.

And that’s one of the key goals at the High-Performance Materials Institute. Researchers and professors there are seeking to unlock the potential that exists with composite materials, which could in the future replace the aluminum, steel and other materials now used to build cars, airplanes and computers.

Ben Wang, director of the High-Performance Materials Institute, and an assistant vice president for research in engineering at Florida State, explained the No. 1 mission of the institute this way: “It’s really to push the envelope, understand the materials from the atomic level all the way up to the macroscopic and systems level.”

One of the most amazing composite materials researchers are working on goes by the colorful name of buckypaper. Buckypaper is a sheet made using carbon nanotubes, an extraordinary material that is 10 times lighter than steel but up to 500 times stronger. These nanotubes are fibers that are 50,000 times smaller than a human hair.

Buckypaper gets its unique name from buckminsterfullerene, or carbon 60, a molecule that has the shape of a soccer ball. Discovered in 1985, its name was inspired by famed architect and futurist Buckminster Fuller. Sir Harold Kroto, who shared the 1996 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for helping discover the molecule, joined the Florida State University faculty in 2004.

Researchers at the institute are using buckypaper and other composites in a variety of ways, whether it’s to build small airplanes for the military, make body armor or construct hybrid wind-solar turbines. There also is research going on to determine whether buckypaper could one day be the main material used on the fuselage of jets.

Students at the High-Performance Materials Institute spent four months creating an electric car made out of other high-tech composite materials that was driven by Florida State University President T.K. Wetherell during the 2008 FSU Homecoming Parade and this past spring at the Daytona International Speedway. The institute also has embarked on research designed to improve the production process for fiberglass boats so that it’s less stressful on the environment.

This research could transform automobiles and airplanes since a lighter, yet stronger, material is more energy-efficient to use. And because buckypaper is an excellent conductor of electricity, it could help revolutionize energy production since it could be used in fuel cells. The institute also is researching how its composite materials could help save lives, whether it’s to make materials that emit less smoke when they are on fire or build cars with bumpers that can absorb an impact three to four times that of regular aluminum bumpers.

All of this research goes on at the new, 45,000-square-foot home that the institute moved into late last year, right down the street from the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. The $21 million, two-story building consolidated 13 labs that were spread out over four locations.

The High-Performance Materials Institute — which has seven professors on staff and up to 55 students — got its start under a different name back in 1995. But now the institute is an umbrella organization that also includes the Center of Excellence in Advanced Materials, which won a $4 million grant from the state back in 2006.

The institute’s $4 million annual budget comes from a combination of both federal grants and contracts with industry partners. Companies can either work one on one with the institute or become a partner that gets to share in the research results. Wang notes that some companies also are talking about starting businesses that capitalize on some of the discoveries made by the institute.

Wang, however, stresses that the High-Performance Materials Institute has another key mission besides its research: to train and educate the next cadre of engineers who will go out into the world and build on the advances that have already been made at Florida State.

“Educating students is really a lot of fun,” he said. “This is a job that I would not trade for anything else. Every year you have a new group of students; every year you graduate a group of students who become your lifelong friends.”

Researchers and Florida State professors work are engaged in a mix of scientific research that has the wind doesn’t blow constantly — and the force of the wind can vary if wind turbines are spread out across a large landscape.

But at the same time, an electric utility using wind power can’t plunge its customers into the dark if the wind dies down. The center is helping with research that can help design a predictable system — which may include a backup power source — so that the wind power project is a success.

“If you have hundreds of these wind sources out there, how do you best connect them together and optimize power delivery?” Dale said. “One of the things we are looking at is what happens when the wind suddenly stops. Where’s the power going to come from?”

The Center for Advanced Power Systems was established in 2000, and its home is a 36,000-square-foot facility that sits across the street from the university’s brand-new High-Performance Materials Institute, located on Florida State’s Southwest Campus in Tallahassee. The center, which has a roughly $5 million budget, has 40 people working there, including 22 students.

What may be a fairly ordinary...
By Gary Fineout

As corny as it may sound, the Applied Superconductivity Center is a place where scientists are making magic. But this magic isn’t some sleight-of-hand trick or an illusion meant to fool people. The Florida State University research center, working closely with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, is focused on the magic that comes from superconductors.

Superconductors are compounds or alloys that can conduct “frictionless” electricity, meaning they don’t give off heat and can keep an electric current going and going. They have amazing properties, such as the ability to defy gravity and repel magnets — characteristics that are at the heart of magnetic levitation trains. Superconducting magnets are used every day by doctors and physicians using magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, machines, which can give highly detailed images of the inside of the human body.

But David Larbalestier, the director of the Applied Superconductivity Center and chief materials scientist for the magnet lab, points out that the “mysterious quantum phenomenon” is that superconductors only work at extremely cold temperatures. Also, superconductors have not been able to produce the same powerful magnetic fields that can come from more traditional magnets that rely on tremendous amounts of electricity.

And it’s those challenges that the scientists and researchers at the center are working on.

Larbalestier said the center was first asked to become part of the magnet lab in the early 1990s, but the proposal called for the research out to move to Gainesville, Fla., and it didn’t seem “compelling” at the time.

Three years ago, Florida State was able to lure the center from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to a new home on its Southwest Campus, located only a few miles from the university’s main campus in Tallahassee. Nearly every one of the professors and technicians working with the center decided to come to Florida State to work in concert with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, which is located just across the street.

“One of the reasons for us to come to the Magnet Lab was the future of very high field magnetic technology would be greatly enhanced if you could use these new and enhanced superconductors,” said Larbalestier, who also is a professor of mechanical engineering at the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering.

“Such a test has never been done by anybody before or since,” Dale said.

The simulator allowed researchers at the center, for example, to test the 5-megawatt power system as if it were aboard a large warship being buffeted by 50-foot waves. “Such a test has never been done by anybody before or since,” Dale said.

The center replicated the conditions of rough seas because it is part of a consortium of universities sharing a five-year grant from the U.S. Navy’s Office of Naval Research to create an all-electric warship. The center was part of an initial $50 million grant that has been extended for another five years and $42.5 million. The goal is to create a ship that has everything on board run by electricity, whether it’s the propulsion motors, the lights or electromagnetic weapons.

Dale says that about 70 percent of the research being done at the center is on behalf of the Navy. But the center also is doing work to help keep the lights on across the nation. In 2005, researchers won a major grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to improve the reliability and security of the electrical grid that provides power to homes and businesses.

Last fall, the Center for Advanced Power Systems and the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering were selected to become partners with a national engineering research center headed by North Carolina State University working to incorporate emerging technology — including renewable and alternative energy — into everyday use.

“Most of our work deals with looking at new technologies and how you use new technology to improve the reliability of the grid, so you don’t have brownouts and blackouts,” Dale said. In other words, Dale’s lab is making sure that the lights keep coming on whenever someone flips a switch.

For superconductors and figure out where electrical currents flow freely and where they are blocked. These microscopes can yield intricate details on a sample that is no wider than three human hairs.

The center is also working on research designed to create more powerful superconducting magnets. The National Science Foundation gave the center a grant to design and build a superconducting magnet that would shatter previous records. If successful, it could open the door for a series of new magnets that create powerful fields without the sky-high electric bills that now come with other types of magnets. Larbalestier estimates that a standard high-powered magnet costs as much as $2,400 an hour in electricity to operate.

And if superconductors can be created at higher temperatures than now exist, it could make them even more commercially viable. The five main materials used for superconductors require extremely cold temperatures that are well below zero degrees Celcius.

Larbalestier, for example, suggests that some day, superconductors could be used to replace copper wiring, an accomplishment that could greatly reduce power consumption. He compared the efforts of scientists at the Applied Superconductivity Center to those of car engineers who took the power of a Formula 1 race car and then used its technology to create a BMW or a Porsche. Scientists at the institute, it follows, try to find the absolute limits, scientifically speaking, so that working devices can then be made safely from superconductors.

“If it can be done, people will use it,” said Larbalestier, adding that the challenge is to create a “superconductor that is inexpensive to buy, has the properties and can operate at a temperature even well below room temperature.”
New books and CDs by Florida State faculty and graduates

“American Revolution: People and Perspectives”
Andrew K. Frank (associate professor of history)
ABC-Clio

This book looks at the American Revolution not through the eyes of its least famous and least-studied participants—ordinary citizens. They are revealed through new research, letters and diaries. What’s more, the roles of women, African-Americans, Native Americans, immigrants and others are revealed.

“Libertad”
Jock Young (B.S. ’90)
Chook Island Books

Young’s second novel finds two recent Florida State University graduates embarking on a deep-sea fishing adventure. Unfortunately for them, instead of a leisurely weekend of casting fish, they find themselves consumed in a deadly web of peril. Pirates, the CIA and a cooler containing $2 million are just the beginning of a trip that finds the two graduates fighting, not just for their own freedom, but to expose the dark secrets of the American and Cuban governments.

“Everything Matters, Nothing Matters”
Gina Mazza Hillier (B.S. ’98)
St. Lynn’s Press

Written for anyone by a woman who has felt overworked, under-inspired and lost amid the demands of life, this book offers a seven-step plan to help the reader understand what is truly important in life. Hillier shares her personal story and how these concepts helped her in choosing to divest her heart of desire and everyday practicality.

“Mom’s Night Out: Even Her Heart’s Desires”
Kathleen Hamman (B.A. ’97)
Blair Slate Productions

Hamman, who was named a “Most Remarkable Woman” on ABC-TV’s “The View,” discusses an epidemic that is sweeping the nation: mothers “imprisoned” by motherhood. This book explores the experiences of mothers, every bit of their time is sucked away by a never-ending to-do list of maternal duties and obligations. Hamman, with the help of 76 stories from mothers across the country, illuminates ways to tackle that list, leading to an improvement in family dynamics and personal sanity.

“Seminole bylines”
New books and CDs by Florida State faculty and graduates

Seminole bylines

“Cantwood Crest: Take the Reins”
Jessica Burkhart (B.A. ’97)
Aladdin Mix

The first in the new “Cantwood Crest” series, this book follows Sashas Silver and her horse, Chomp, during their first semester at Cantwood Crest Academy. After Sashas is able to demonstrate her skill in the arena, she immediately becomes the target of a particularly nasty group of girls who have already established themselves as the school’s elite. Her determination to hold her own will be put to the test and readers will be held in suspense as she strives to make the advanced riding team before the semester ends.

“Bridge of Sand”
Janet Burroway (English professor emeritus; Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor)
Houghton

This political thriller that centers around Green May, a major in the Army National Guard, who, while on active duty in Iraq, sustains a head injury that causes him to lose most of his memory. While recuperating at Walter Reed Medical Center, he is angered by the poor treatment he receives. Disillusioned, he takes to the streets, but unknowingly carries with him a device that holds damning evidence of a crime ring involving ruthless government contractors and officers. May is hunted by people who will stop at nothing to protect their power, prestige and wealth.

“Sullivan Road”
Pierce Lehmbrock (B.S. ’88)
Authorhouse

Set during World War II, this novel follows Parallel Sullivan and his nephew, Bo, as they settle in backwoods Georgia. Less-than-reputable inhabitants populate the rural community, but it proves a fertile ground for the cultivation of a relationship between Sullivan and his nephew as they struggle to survive.

“First Christmas at Muddy Creek”
Richard A. Bartlett (Professor Emeritus of the American West)
Emerald Book Company

Barlett, an award-winning author and professional emeritus at Florida State, publishes this story of Jess Falter Dementia de Mara as she travels to a Montana boomtown on Christmas Eve with the hopes of performing a midnight Mass. This charming, poignant and wonderfully heartfelt book promises to bring the Wild West a Christmas to remember.

“Empire’s Last Casualty: Indian Subcontinent’s Vanishing Hindu and Indian Minorities”
Sachit G. Dasdird (Ph.D. ’75)
Ferma KLM/Private Lending

As a whole, this book delves into the effects of religion, community on a pluralistic, tolerant and multicultural society. Specifically, it focuses on the loss of the indigenous Hindu population and changes brought about since a multiethnic progressive region of Colonial British India was partitioned in 1947, and the effect on Hindus at the hands of Muslim, Hindu and indigenous cultures.

“Magic and Grace”
Chad Hautmann (B.A. ’90, M.A. ’98)
Astute Publishing

This adult comedy/drama tells the story of Gillie Chapman, a writer who seems to have everything until his ego overpowers him and he loses the love of his life. The quirky and heartfelt story follows Chapman as he transitions into middle age and finally deals with long-standing issues.

“Implied Consent”
Cody Fowler Davis (J.D. ’94)
Parker Books

Suspense is in no short supply in this sequel to Davis’ first novel, “Green 61.” The book chronicles another chapter in the life of likable and optimistic attorney, Andrew Parker, who is once again pitted against his sneaky, conniving rival Justin Cartwright III. Justin sends an amateurish dastardly scheme, but at the same time successfully takes on a number of intense, topical cases.

“Wife Shopping”
Marin B. Bartlett, an award-winning author

The journey of a remarkable millipede named Lily P. Badilly. This exceptionally bright, talented and piano-playing insect embarks on a unique, hilarious travel adventure into the fertile Costa Rican rainforest, learning about its geography, culture, plants and animals. She eventually faces her biggest fear to save the lives of her family. A CD is included that features a recorded narration of the book complete with music and songs.

“The Marshal Takes a Bride”
Bartlett’s second book brings the story of a romance between U.S. Marshal Trey Scott and Katherine Taylor, a schoolteacher with an orphanage full of children and a five-year-old son who depends on her. Katherine is having second thoughts about their impending marriage because of Trey’s obsession with avenging the murder of his first wife. Will Trey make the ultimate sacrifice for his first wife, or let go of his past and gain redemption with his second?
You never know what a season will bring

with no football to distract us and all we have is the clever predictions of colorful pundits and their pre-season magazines. College football fans tend to have unusually short memories. Perhaps it’s part of the emotional infrastructure of team loyalty. The personalities of universities and their fans are shaped by their histories. Some have a chip on their shoulder while others view glory as an entitlement.

The timeless clock of college football like Notre Dame, Southern California, Alabama, Oklahoma, Nebraska and the like all fall into passages of dreadful dispair from time to time only to re-emerge and act as if they’ve always been at the top of the pyramid.

That self-assured attitude can be a dependable source of strength. Believe that your program is innately exceptional and the boisterous confidence that no matter how dark the night, tomorrow the sun will shine more brightly than ever.

In August 1998, the Harris Poll announced their national survey showing Florida State to be the second most-popular team in America behind Notre Dame. Rounding out the top five were Penn State, Michigan and Tennessee.

Yes, the great names do endure but not without difficulty. The sun will be up for the Seminoles before too long. Ambitious programs like Utah and Boise State are often treated dismissively, yet here they are in 2009 pre-season, clutting up the Top 20 and acting to shove the prima donnas programs into the dirt. The ESPN Top 25 this August includes TCU, Boise State and Utah, all three ranking ahead of Notre Dame and Florida State, which are #23 and #24 respectively. Michigan doesn’t appear at all, having been nudged out by #25 Rutgers. Miami is absent as well.

Rivals.com ranks both Oregon and Oregon State among their Top 25, but there’s no Michigan and no Maimi. Boise State and Utah are there, and also the South Florida Bulls. Florida State comes in at #16. That’s not the cover of Gamleplan Magazine 1979 featured Bobby Bowden and his dual quarterbacks Jimmy Jordan and Wally Woodham. In 1979, FSU began the season ranked #7 by Gameplan; no ACC teams were listed among that pre-season Top 20.

Gameplan’s Top Five in 1979 included Southern Cal, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Penn State. It’s interesting that in 2009, both ESPN and Rivals.com produced a pre-season Top Five list nearly identical to Gameplan’s choices from thirty seasons ago. The difference, of course, is that the Gators top those charts in 2009.

The 2009 Gators have duplicated our 1999 Seminoles’ feat of leading nearly every pre-season poll. Ten years ago, The Sports Illustrated Top Five pre-season picks included Penn State, Arizona, Tennessee and Ohio State, as well as FSU. Our eventual opponent for the national championship that year, Virginia Tech, began down the list at #17.

In 1999, Ashlon magazine described FSU as the dominant team of the 1990s, “and in 1999 returns to entire receiving corp, its top five rushers and nine of its top ten wide outs. And the defense has a penchant for mayhem.” Our Seminoles put an exclamation point on the ‘90s by becoming the only team in NCAA history to go undefeated to a National Championship ranked #1 from pre-season to post-season, wire-to-wire.

One of the many wonderful things about college football is that each season starts fresh, all hope begins new each fall. You never know what’s going to happen. You never know.

Back in 1979, Ohio State did not appear anywhere on Gameplan’s Top Twenty. In fact, our assessment was grim, predicting OSU would finish no better than 5th in the Big 10. “They have seen the defection of too many key performers … We don’t see much more than seven wins for the Buckeyes.”

But, Ohio State went undefeated in 1979 and played for the National Championship in the Rose Bowl, barely losing 17-16 to Southern California.

Ten years ago, Virginia Tech was ranked in the pre-season right after where Florida State is this August. You never know.
Daniel S. Sames (B.S. '02) is the executive director of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce in Key West, Fla.

Melanie Shoemaker Griffin (B.S. '03, B.S. '06, J.D. '09) was named the 2009 Most Productive Young Lawyer by the Young Lawyers' Division of The Florida Bar Board of Governors. Young Lawyers in the Angel Tree Project, an annual holiday event of the Food Bank of Volusia and Flagler Counties, packing food baskets for more than 10 years, in Florida Super Lawyers. She is a Florida Rising Star, a person under 40.

Cynthia B. Wallat

Cynthia B. Wallat, a professor at The Florida State University from 1982 to 2003, passed away on July 5. While at Florida State, she served as chairwoman of the Department of Educational Foundations and Policy Studies, associate dean of the College of Education and department head and associate professor in the Department of Childhood, Reading and Special Education. Prior to her appointment as the Florida State University's associate research specialist and project officer for the U.S. Department of Education and an assistant professor in the early childhood development in the Department of Education at Florida State University in Kent State Ohio.

Wallat earned her bachelor's degree in 1962 from the State University of New York, New Ulm, Pa., and her doctorate in education from the University of Pittsburgh.

Robert Marion Morgan

Robert Marion Morgan, 78, a globally renowned professor of educational research, died Jan. 12.

Morgan came to The Florida State University to serve as the chairman of the Department of Educational Research in 1968. He headed a team from the university's Learning Systems Institute — which he founded — to establish the Korean Educational Development Institute. At his retirement in 2003, Florida State named Morgan a distinguished professor and distinguished director.
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FSU Graduate Walter Dix
8 Time NCAA Champion
Olympic Sprinter
The Women for Florida State University: Uniting for the Future

Women have long served as volunteers in the community, sharing their time and talent to improve society and the world. The same holds true today, even as women expand their roles in business, government and the nonprofit sector. Women are consistently identifying multiple opportunities for philanthropic involvement — giving time, talent and financial resources for the common good. Nowhere is this more evident than at The Florida State University, where women have played a vital role in the university’s history, dating back to the creation of the Florida State College for Women in 1905.

The Women for Florida State University was formed with this in mind. It all began in 2004 and 2005 when a group of women passionate about all things Florida State formed an ad hoc committee and held focus groups to discuss how to promote women’s involvement with the university. The Women for Florida State University was born in 2008 out of a desire to cultivate more women as leaders, advocates and donors for the university. With a mission of empowering Florida State women by increasing awareness and education, the Women for Florida State University provides opportunities for mentoring, networking and philanthropy.

Consider for a moment that:

- Women are expected to control 60 percent of the wealth in the United States by 2010;
- Women account for 56 percent of undergraduates in U.S. colleges today;
- Women currently make up 53 percent of the workforce and are increasingly moving into high-paying professional careers;
- Women generated $2.1 trillion in earnings in 1999;
- From 1997 to 2003, a total of 770 women gave independently to Florida State;
- During that time, those women gave more than 4,700 gifts to the university, totaling over $35.2 million; and
- Ten of those women independently gave gifts of $1 million or more to Florida State.

Why are women so philanthropic? Having the facts about women as philanthropists is one thing, but understanding why they give is quite another. Women wish to create new solutions to problems, serving as entrepreneurs through their philanthropy — ultimately making a difference in their community and society at large. Women commit themselves to their community and society at large. Women commit themselves through volunteerism and connect with the individual their gift affects. Through collaboration, women make efforts to avoid duplication, competition and waste with the project they fund. Finally, women are able to celebrate their accomplishments by having fun together — enjoying the deeper meaning and satisfaction of their philanthropy.

The Women for Florida State University encourages these traits. Through its core value system, women have the opportunity to expand their own knowledge via special events and workshops. In fact, in March 2010, the Women for Florida State University will be kicking off its inaugural annual event, “Backstage Pass to the Very Best of FSU.” This two-day, exclusive, in-depth tour of one of the nation’s greatest universities will give women the opportunity to get an inside peek into what makes Florida State so great.

“This is the perfect time for women to stay actively engaged in life at the university. To learn more about the Women for Florida State University and how to become involved, visit www.foundation.fsu.edu/community/womenforfsu.
### Scientist supports safer food supply with new tests

**By Libby Fairhurst**  
News and Public Affairs

The odds of contracting mad cow disease from baled or adulterated bovine protein lurking in raw or processed food for humans or meat-bone meal for livestock have declined over the past decade. So have the risks of purchasing fishy imposters billed as red snapper, ground beef that isn’t all cow, or spoiled meat that doesn’t look or smell bad ... yet.

All that consumer protection is thanks in part to improved food-testing methods — quicker, more reliable paper-strip field tests and simpler, more accurate laboratory assays — developed since the 1990s by food scientist Yun-Hwa “Peggy” Hsieh of The Florida State University. Currently, four assays in commercial use worldwide feature her patented technology.

Now, with two recent grants totaling nearly $580,000, Hsieh will begin work on the development of two new immunoassays for commercial use on both raw and processed food products. With a three-year, $280,000 award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, she’ll design a test to detect fish allergens, which cause allergic reactions in more than 6 million people each year in the United States alone. And, with a two-year, $216,000 award from a division of the Tanaka Kikinzoku Group of Japan, Hsieh will devise a rapid test to detect traces of pork fat — good news for more than 2 billion Muslims and millions of Jews who adhere to Halal and Kosher dietary laws, respectively, that forbid pork consumption.

“In 2004, the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act (FALCPA) called for mandatory labeling of the eight major allergenic foods by January 2006, but while methods have been developed to detect the presence of shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, cow’s milk and egg, currently there’s still no way to test for fish proteins in food materials,” Hsieh said.

“The increase in the production and consumption of seafood in recent years, more consumers with fish allergies are at risk of serious reactions or even death than ever before due to mislabeled or undeclared fish byproducts,” she said. “My USDA grant will enable me to develop a convenient and reliable tool to enforce FALCPA and protect those consumers.”

Hsieh expects to publish one or two papers per year during the course of the grant period. She anticipates at least one patent application for the project once it is completed.

“A fast, effective fish allergen immunoassay has the potential for immediate commercialization,” she said. “Currently, two domestic biotechnology companies, who already have licensed several of our species-specific tests for food and feed control in heat-processed products, are marketing immunoassay kits for detection of ingredients in all seven types of foods listed in the ‘Big Eight’ except for finfish. Since the FALCPA labeling mandate took effect in 2006, these companies have been eagerly seeking assays for fish detection, and they have shown strong interest in my laboratory’s research efforts to develop fish-specific ones.”

Awarded on the heels of her USDA fish-allergens grant, Hsieh’s two-year grant from Tanaka Kikinzoku Kogyo K. of Japan will help to advance her earlier research on the detection of pork products in food and feed products.

“I previously developed a rapid pork immunoassay that can sensitively detect any pork muscle in food and feed mixtures regardless of their processing conditions,” Hsieh said. “This assay was commercialized in 2000 and has been widely used internationally. However, detection of pork fat remains challenging due to the physicochemical nature of the fat. Currently available methods all require sophisticated instruments coupled with complex data analysis procedures for interpreting results. Rapid field tests of pork or any other fat are non-existent.

“With this grant, I hope to change that, because such tests are vital to practicing Muslim and Jewish populations,” she said.
Way back in 1822, Napoléon Achille Charles Louis Murat (Royal Prince of Naples, 2nd Prince Murat), nephew of Napoléon Bonaparte, began a grand tour of the United States, including a visit to the land that Congress had granted to General Marquis de Lafayette for his service as the French hero of the American Revolution—36 square miles that would become Tallahassee, the capital city of Florida.

Murat was a well-liked, colorful and opinionated man who spoke seven languages and, in publishing his observations on America and Americans, described the Tallahassee social scene as bustling with elaborate parties where its ladies were as beautiful and well dressed as any in New York.

He might have told General Lafayette, who never had the chance to visit, “You don’t know what you’re missing.”

Long story short: Prince Murat settled in Tallahassee, met and married the great-grandniece of George Washington, served as postmaster, alderman and mayor, died there, and both he and his wife are buried in the city’s St. John’s Episcopal Church cemetery.

Like Murat, Florida State alumni know that most folks who haven’t visited this capital city of Florida don’t know what they’re missing.