T.K. Wetherell shares his thoughts about where he’s been and where he’s going.

A PRESIDENT REFLECTS

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Thomas Kent “T.K.” Wetherell — always colorful — never fit the stereotypical mold of a buttoned-down academician.

But in his nearly seven years as president of The Florida State University, a time in which the state’s economy grew increasingly worse, Wetherell proved not only to be an outstanding steward of the institution, but frequently provided leadership to the entire state university system.

Wetherell is the first alumnus of Florida State to serve as its president. And he earned the job, beginning with the completion in 1974 of his doctorate in education administration. He would go on to become the institution’s first alumnus president.

Supporting graduate students
Looking for dissertation support? Check out the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards.

more on PAGE 4

The rites of fall: Students embark on new adventure

IGNITED BY TRADITION
HOMECOMING 2009
The Florida State University

By Fran Conaway
University Communications

It’s fall semester 2009 at The Florida State University, and the Class of 2013 — 6,100 of the state’s very best students — have settled into new homes and new routines as they embark on the adventure of higher education. It’s also back to school for about 25,000 returning undergraduates and 8,500 graduate students in Tallahassee, across Florida and around the world.

Offering the campus’s traditional warm welcome to freshman, Seminole Sensation Week helped new students mark their entrance into the life and traditions of Florida State University.

The New Student Convocation ceremony brought the freshman class together — perhaps for the only time — in a formal academic ceremony to introduce and celebrate the history and unique heritage of Florida State. Students committed themselves to live by the values shared by members of the university community as embodied in the torches on the university seal: “Strength, Skill, Character.”

“The new freshman class promises to live up to the accomplishments of our upperclass students if the three essay winners featured at Convocation are any indication,” said Mary Coburn, Florida State’s vice president for Student Affairs. “Matthew Imen Haddadin, Ajori Spencer and Geoff McLatchey of the Class of 2013 were recognized for their wonderful essays that explained what ‘Strength, Skill, Character’ mean to them. It is rewarding to work with such outstanding students.”

Students came to a campus in the process of searching for a new president to fill the shoes of T.K. Wetherell, who is retiring after nearly seven years in the position.

They came to a campus with a new college: The College of Communication and Information—a merger continued on PAGE 6
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By Bayard Stern

Managing Editor

Bill Helms knew he had an important decision to make after earning a bachelor’s degree in physics from The Florida State University in 1966. “My choices were either to start graduate school or go work for NASA and launch moon rockets,” said Bill Helms, who worked on some of the most important space programs in history, including the Apollo 11 lunar landing, the space shuttle program and the International Space Station.

In all, Helms spent 35 years with NASA, retiring in 2002 as a senior manager. He worked primarily on mobile launch platform operations, specializing in the design and monitoring of instruments that detected leaking hazardous gasses around the rocket engines and propellant tanks prior to lift-off.

“I started in launch operations,” Helms said. “I really enjoyed working on detection devices and eventually became the agency’s expert on those systems. I was the lead system engineer starting with the Apollo 9, and was the NASA guy on the console for all the subsequent flights, including Apollo 11. I worked on every moon rocket and the Skylab launches. I also was the lead design and operations engineer for all the gas detection equipment for the space shuttle launch complex.”

Helms, 65, said that manning the launch console at the Kennedy Space Center for the Apollo 11 lunar landing mission on March 16, 1969, was a moment he will never forget. “It was an incredible time for NASA and the American people,” Helms said. “That mission really changed how the world saw the space program and many young people were inspired to become scientists and engineers after that.”

Helms was awarded two NASA Exceptional Service Medals. He is credited with establishing and managing Kennedy Space Center’s instrumentation development laboratories. Used prior to launch, the instruments detected hazardous gas around rockets and for the space shuttle program. They are credited with preventing five shuttle missions from being launched with dangerous hydrogen leaks. The labs grew to include not only explosive and toxic gas detection, but also sensors, data acquisition, control systems, landing aids and weather instrumentation, payload contamination monitoring, field inspection of flight hardware and optical instrumentation. “Every launch was critical,” Helms said. “No two situations were ever the same, and the importance of every mission made me realize how fortunate I was to be a part of it all.”

Helms was a technical manager at the labs for 20 years before he retired. “I saw some amazing things over the years,” he said. “Many were awe-inspiring and some were heart breaking.”

In 1972, Helms also earned a master’s degree in management from Florida State University.

Today, Helms is serving his fourth term as president of the Alachua Astronomy Club in North Florida and plays percussion in the Gainesville Community Band. He occasionally speaks publicly about the conspiracy theories related to the Apollo 11 mission. “We landed on the moon,” Helms said. “There is plenty of proof, and it always amazes me when people question it. We brought back 840 pounds of moon rocks, 26,000 photographs and deployed 99 scientific instruments. No professional scientist or engineer, to my knowledge, has ever expressed the slightest doubt about the validity of the lunar landings.”

**NASA scientist launched career from Florida State physics program**

**New space vehicle gets boost from alumnus**

“I came to Florida State to get an engineering degree so I could work on the space program,” said Alan Rhodes, deputy director of NASA’s Post-landing Orion Recovery Tests (PORT) program.

He’s doing just that. Rhodes, a 2001 Florida A&M University–Florida State University College of Engineering alumnus, is the PORT testing lead at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. He helped fabricate the first full-scale mockup of the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle, pictured in the background.

Rhodes is charged with studying the vehicle’s environment for astronauts and recovery crews after an Orion splashdown.

“The first portion of PORT testing was a great success, giving NASA an early look into the motions crews inside and outside Orion will feel after landing,” Rhodes said. “This will allow us to modify the design to aid in the recovery of the vehicle and crew.”

Rhodes returned to Tallahassee to display the capsule at the Challenger Learning Center in August. The capsule was being transported from the Kennedy Space Center to the Johnson Space Center for further testing.

According to NASA, the Constellation Program is developing the nation’s next-generation human spaceflight system that will carry astronauts to the International Space Station, back to the moon and to destinations beyond. The United States’ next space fleet includes the Orion crew exploration vehicle, the Ares I rocket that will launch it, the Ares V cargo launch vehicle and the Altair lunar lander.
Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards debuts this fall

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Anthropology student Bryan Rill is currently in Japan. Musicology student Peter Hosing will be traveling to Uganda in January. Both Florida State University graduate students are in the process of writing their dissertations, and both have won prestigious Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad awards, which provide money for travel to other countries to conduct research.

In an effort to help many other Florida State graduate students win this and other awards in the future, the university’s Graduate School has created the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (www.fsu.edu). The office will assist graduate students in searching for and obtaining everything from fellowships to awards for research and travel — all from external, off-campus foundations, libraries or institutes. This support supplements the university’s robust guidance of its graduate students toward internal, on-campus resources.

In addition, as the graduate students complete their proposals and applications, the office will help them perfect the materials prior to submission, to increase their chances of success.

"The new Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards is a way we can ensure that our graduate students become aware of the resources that are available for their areas of study," said Nancy Marcus, dean of The Graduate School. "The establishment of this office ties into one of The Florida State University's top objectives — the support of graduate education."

Florida State alumna Anne Marie West (B.A. '98, English; Ph.D. '09, French) is the director of the office.

"My main goal is to provide graduate students with possibilities, helping them find resources to fund their research projects and studies," West said.

"Not all graduate students are aware of the many opportunities that are either just within sight or slightly farther down the path."

Initially, the office will focus on more than 50 awards, many of which provide support for graduate students to pursue their individual scholarly projects, including thesis and dissertation research. The awards, divided by graduate level, are listed on the office’s Blackboard Web site, https://campus.fsu.edu. The site is accessible only to students, faculty and staff.

"For instance, if a student is finishing his master’s degree and is about to become a doctoral student, he can go to our Blackboard Web site to see the pre-dissertation awards that would best fit him," West said.

What’s more, the Blackboard Web site offers tips to students on how to write proposals and search for funding. Faculty and advisers will find tips on how to support student proposals and write letters of recommendation for proposals.

This fall, the office will offer free workshops on dissertation research, dissertation completion (the final year of writing), and the humanities. The workshops, open to graduate students, faculty and staff members, will be held in the instructional classroom of Strozier Library’s ScholarsCommons, where the office is housed.

Graduate students can make an appointment with West by calling (850) 644-8132 or by sending an e-mail to amwest@fsu.edu.

Nation admires Florida State’s “Strength, Skill, Character”

“Strength, Skill, Character” is back, with three new faces.

In a follow-up to last year’s national TV commercial, seen during Seminoles football games, The Florida State University’s 2009 ad features three new standouts: Myron Rolle, Ashley Danley and Carly Naehi.

Football audiences will recognize Rolle. In 2008, he became Florida State’s third Rhodes Scholar in four years while earning All-American football honors playing safety for Bobby Bowden’s Seminoles. Rolle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in exercise science in 2008.

Danley is a 2009 Udall Scholar and Florida State senior double-majoring in environmental engineering and civil engineering. The Udall Scholarship is given to college undergraduates who are working to preserve and protect their national heritage through studies in the environment. Danley founded the group ‘Date to Love: Project Hain,’ which is working to improve water quality in two small Haitian villages.

Recent graduate Naehi earned a dual degree in international affairs and religion. She also received a Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship — an extremely competitive award for students seeking careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. The Pickering Fellowship will cover two full years of tuition, as well as room and board, at New York University, where Naehi plans to do graduate work in public policy with an international specialization.

In the original 2008 spot, recent Florida State graduates and Rhodes scholars Garrett Johnson and Joe O’Shea teamed with Florida State undergraduate student and Goldwater Scholar Rebecca Stone to proclaim the university’s values. That office ties into one of The Florida State University’s top objectives — the support of graduate education."

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Ringing in the school year

On Aug. 25, the day before the beginning of the fall 2009 semester, incoming Florida State University freshmen and their families attended Convocation, a ceremony that gives students an "official welcome" to their college careers. The students were given explanations of the university's traditions, and were challenged by Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lawrence G. Abele to take full advantage of the academic opportunities before them.

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Unique center takes lead in partnering dance with research

By Bayard Stern
Managing Editor

Celebrating its fifth year on campus, and keeping in perfect step with The Florida State University’s nationally top-ranked liberal arts programs, the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC) is the first center of its kind in the United States — and the only one in the world located in a university setting.

MANCC (pronounced “MAN-see”), is a dance and choreographic research and development center that provides visiting artists with access to a wide range of resources designed to further the art of contemporary dance.

“Florida State has led the way in pioneering a new model of support for choreographic research and development located within a comprehensive research university setting,” said MANCC Director Jennifer S.B. Calienes.

MANCC is unique in the nation because its artists in residence have assets available that are specifically designed to foster their creative and intellectual processes with an emphasis on research and development.

“The center offers artists top-notch facilities that are among the finest in the country,” Calienes said. “But the people at Florida State are what make the center so special. Artists who come to this remarkable place have access to the students and faculty from one of the best dance programs in the nation. This arrangement allows for the artists to exchange ideas and knowledge, and that of course goes both ways with the students, faculty and audiences.”

In its first five years, MANCC has worked with nearly 50 artists. Calienes said that work developed at the center has won the prestigious New York Performance Award, known as a Bessie, for her work “What We When We.”

The visiting artists benefit from MANCC’s resources, which include the completely renovated and renamed Montgomery Hall, formerly Montgomery Gym. The building has six dance studios, a fully equipped 380-seat proscenium theatre, a black box studio, an audio lab, a computer lab, a media lab, a costume shop and workout rooms.

MANCC offers several different programs for visiting artists. “Free to Rep” provides subsidized research and development time for one U.S.-based repertory company and three to four choreographers annually who have not previously worked together. Choreographic fellowships are available to professional choreographers to aid them in conducting their own creative research. The center also has “The Living Legacy” program, which offers recognition and support for American artists of national or global significance.

The collaborations that occur during the residencies at MANCC have fostered real-world relationships between the artists, students and faculty members from Florida State’s School of Dance. In addition, visiting artists have partnered with students and faculty members from other programs such as the art and philosophy departments, The Film School and the School of Theatre.

“Many successful opportunities have come about from the center,” Calienes said. “The students and artists work closely together, and that experience often results in them getting an opportunity to work, dance or apprentice with specific artists, their companies or organizations.”

Calienes notes that with the unparalleled support the center provides, artists can better develop their projects, as opposed to constantly figuring out how to handle all of the logistics required for any type of performance, which often includes housing, stages, sets, lighting, music and multimedia components.

“MANCC gives contemporary dance artists the facilities and the resources they need, so their artistic work can be their complete focus,” Calienes said.

To learn more about MANCC, visit www.manncc.org.

MAGGIE ALLESEE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY

Eiko & Koma’s “Cambodian Stories” being performed at MANCC in 2006 as a work in progress, prior to the show’s successful tour.

Maggie Allesee is dance center’s original cheerleader

She was the captain of The Florida State University’s first cheerleading squad in 1947. While Maggie Strum Allesee (B.A. ’49, Social Sciences), may not be on the field anymore leading the crowds, she has continued for decades to support her alma mater by donating her enthusiasm and resources to athletics, academics and the arts at Florida State.

In 2004, Allesee endowed the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (MANCC) by donating a $1.5 million gift to the Florida State University School of Dance.

As a cheerleader, Allesee received the first sports letter that Florida State awarded to a woman. She is one of the 10 original founders of the university’s Varsity Club. To honor her father, the late international sportsman Al Strum, she commissioned the “Sportsmanship” statue, located outside of the west stands of Doak Campbell Stadium.
Alumni will be feted as ‘Grads Made Good’

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Three distinguished alumni of The Florida State University — a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Systems’ Board of Governors, an English professor-turned-administrator and a former U.S. Navy judge advocate — will be recognized for their career accomplishments by the Alumni Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa during this year’s Homecoming celebration.

The 2009 “Grads Made Good” will ride in the Homecoming Parade on Friday, Oct. 30, beginning at 2 p.m. In addition, they will be honored during the Homecoming Breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 9 a.m., at the Florida State University Alumni Center, 1030 W. Tennessee St. The doors will open at 7:30 a.m. Tickets can be purchased through the Alumni Association’s Web site at www.alumni.fsu.edu.

Carol J. Cooper

In 27 years serving with the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate General Corps, Cooper (B.S. ’73, M.S. ’76, Accounting; J.D. ’77) held many positions, both state-side and overseas. The one constant was the skillful way she performed her duties. Her honors speak for themselves. She received two Navy Achievement Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals and two Meritorious Service Medals. What’s more, she received three Legion of Merit Medals — the second-highest non-combat award that can be earned.

As an attorney, Cooper served for both the defense and the prosecution, being involved in military justice cases that ranged from felony thefts and assaults to major drug cases, attempted murder and rape. One case even dealt with a matter of national security. She would become the first female Navy judge advocate to be appointed to the Appellate Court of the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. Later, she would become the first woman to be appointed as the director of Appellate Defense for the Navy, where she supervised 13 other active-duty appellate attorneys and another 20 reserve attorneys.

Cooper, who rose to the rank of captain, was appointed as an appellate judge to the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Appeals. However, she served only one year of her three-year term because her expertise was needed elsewhere — as the commanding officer of the Naval Legal Service Office-Pacific.

To cap her military career, Cooper became the senior counsel for the surgeon general of the Navy. Cooper, who retired from military service in 2005, now is the deputy general counsel for TRICARE Management Activity, the organization that develops the policy and implements the programs for the nation’s entire military health-care system.

Manuel H. Johnson

In the 1980s, Johnson (M.S. ’75, Ph.D. ’77, Economics) was one of the most influential policy figures in world economic affairs.

President Reagan appointed Johnson in 1986 to serve on the Federal Reserve System’s Board of Governors. Johnson subsequently was appointed vice chairman under Chairman Alan Greenspan. As vice chairman, he coordinated monetary policy with the central banks of Europe and Japan.

During Johnson’s tenure at the Federal Reserve, the nation enjoyed one of its most stable economic periods since World War II, with one exception: the stock market crash of October 1987. In the aftermath, Johnson played a key role in preventing systemic economic damage and in the coordination of international monetary policy by the Group of Ten major industrial counties.

Prior to his tenure with the Fed, Johnson served as both deputy assistant secretary and assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury, from 1981 to 1986. He was responsible for the formulation of economic policy initiatives and the development of the Reagan administration’s economic forecast for the budget.

The Treasury honored Johnson for his distinguished service with the Alexander Hamilton Award, its highest honor.

In addition to his public service, Johnson also worked as an economics professor at George Mason University, where he held the Koch Chair in International Economics.

Today, Johnson is the co-chairman and senior partner at Johnson Smick International, which provides information services on important economic and political policy changes in major countries that affect global financial institutions.

Barry V. Qualls

Qualls (B.A. ’67, English) is as synonymous with Rutgers University as the school’s nickname, the Scarlet Knights. A veritable force on campus for undergraduate education, Qualls is known as Rutgers’ single best citizen, according to its president, Richard L. McCormick. Beyond teaching, he has mentored generations of students and colleagues, and has overseen the most significant reorganization of undergraduate education in Rutgers’ history.

Beginning in the classrooms of the Rutgers English department in 1971, Qualls’ career was founded on his love of teaching Victorian literature. His first administrative foray was as the associate director and then director of graduate studies in English, followed by service as the chairman of the English department. In 1997, he became dean of humanities in Rutgers’ Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Since 2006, Qualls has been Rutgers’ vice president of undergraduate education. McCormick asked him to take on the job after the reorganization of undergraduate education. His task was to ensure that undergraduates shared in the benefits of a research university.

In 2006, Qualls was named New Jersey Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. He credits his Florida State mentors, Fred L. Standley (professor emeritus of English) and Robert Spivey (former religion professor), as his models for what constitutes an outstanding college professor.

In his 38 years at Rutgers, Qualls has received every teaching award that Rutgers has to give, most notably its Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching, in 1985. The award is Rutgers’ highest honor for outstanding and innovative performance in the classroom by a tenured faculty member.

Rites of fall... continued from page 1

Despite painful budget cuts and consolidations and reductions in academic programs, the university still welcomed about 76 new faculty members, including several full professors.

Also new on campus this fall, the scaffolding was coming down, and the new Center for Professional Development and attached parking garage were soon to open for business.

Renovation of Ruby Diamond Auditorium and its associated rehearsal hall continued apace.

Work was continuing on the Johnston Building renovation and expansion, construction of the new Student Wellness Center, and creation of Strozier Library’s Learning Commons.

Fresh landscaping greeted newcomers and returning students and faculty.

And football season, as well as men’s and women’s cross-country, golf, women’s soccer and other championship athletics, were promising their usual thrills for Seminole fans everywhere.

Despite uncertain times, for students, faculty, alumni and fans, fall 2009 kicked off like so many past fall semesters, warm with the traditions, spirit and high hopes of The Florida State University.
Jim King remembered: ‘Friend of Florida State, Forever’

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

The Florida State University and the Florida Legislature paused on Aug. 4 to remember and celebrate the life of James E. “Jim” King Jr. during separate memorial services on campus and at the state Capitol. (An Aug. 1 memorial service was held in Jacksonville, Fla.) King, 69, who was one of the university’s most politically prominent alumni, succumbed to pancreatic cancer on July 26 after a three-month battle. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his daughters, Monta Bolles and Laurie Ann Dolan; his sons-in-law, Chuck Bolles and Rick Dolan; and three grandchildren.

King was a beloved, larger-than-life character. Always easygoing and young at heart, this “king” would famously “hold court” wherever he was, attracting all with his playfulness, compassion, charisma and wisdom. To enliven the often mundane proceedings of the Legislature, he was known for playing good-natured pranks. However, when it was time to legislate, he could hold serious debates without taking himself too seriously. His commitment to his principles remained steadfast.

A native of New York City, King moved with his family to Florida when he was in first grade. He earned two marketing degrees from Florida State: a Bachelor of Arts in 1961 and a Master of Business Administration in 1962. Throughout his life, King remained fanatical about the Florida State Seminoles.

After college, King — a self-made businessman — formed a temporary-employment company in Jacksonville, Fla. Politically, he was a staunch supporter of both Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan, and he liked to say that he “was Republican when Republican wasn’t cool.”

King 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. The Republican lawmaker represented District 8, which includes all of Flagler County and parts of Duval, St. Johns, Volusia and Nassau counties.

The first memorial service, held in the chamber of the Florida House of Representatives, was attended by King’s family, as well as Florida Gov. Charlie Crist and Florida Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, his House and Senate colleagues, and a throng of friends who packed the gallery. There, current Florida Senate President Jeff Atwater eulogized King as a statesman who conducted himself with civility, always showing compassion and a genuine concern for all of his constituents and the legislators with whom he served.

The second memorial service — an intimate gathering for family and close friends — was held on the Florida State campus in the lobby of the James E. “Jim” King Jr. Life Sciences Building.

A string quartet from the College of Music played the “FSU Fight Song,” and alumna Caroline Buechner (B.M.E. ’09) reprised her a cappella rendition of the “Hymn to the Garnet and Gold” from the September 2008 building dedication ceremony. The hymn was a favorite King’s.

“Jim” King Jr. Life Sciences Building, which features an exhibit case containing a bust, memorabilia and a plaque in his honor that reads: “Voice of the Florida Senate, Giant of State Government, Friend of Florida State Forever."

‘Alumni Tailgate’ a new Homecoming treat

Howser Stadium as a meeting place for alumni to reunite with their academic college. But it’s hardly a buttoned-down affair.

Yes, it will be a chance to catch up with old classmates and faculty, or an opportunity to chat up the dean about activities students enjoy today. But the tented site will also feature live entertainment, all-you-can-eat food, adult beverages and, in the spirit of the holiday, Halloween candy for kids of all ages.

The Homecoming Court will make an appearance, as well as a “Grid Made Good” food, restrooms and many more surprises that are still being planned.

With such a large campus (including 15 individual colleges and more than 200 majors of study), the Florida State University community seldom has the opportunity to unite in a single cause. For many years, Homecoming has provided an opportunity for colleges to host individual events. Social Sciences’ legendary chili gathering comes to mind — but for the first time ever, each college will call their alumni to a single site, where the whole most certainly will be stronger than the sum of the parts.

The All-College Alumni Tailgate begins three hours prior to kickoff in the grassy enclave where Howser Stadium faces Doak Campbell Stadium. Look for tents and a white picket fence. A modest $5 cover charge will buy you all the food you can eat, so arrive hungry. Alumni Association members will receive a free drink coupon by showing their membership cards.

The location puts you in the neighborhood to enjoy the Marching Chiefs’ pre-game showcase — known as their “skull session” — on the baseball field, which begins two hours prior to kickoff.

The 2009 Homecoming theme is “Ignited By Tradition.” Your college is planning a special welcome, so make the All-College Alumni Tailgate a new part of your Homecoming (and this year, Halloween) tradition and rekindle the flame. See you on the green.

alumni.fsu.edu

Scott Atwell
President, Alumni Association

Once in a blue moon, Homecoming and Halloween rise on a single weekend at The Florida State University. Fall 2009 delivers such an occasion as gridiron, ghosts and goblins haunt the final weekend of the October calendar. It’s the perfect setting for a scary undertaking: gathering the entire university family under a single tent.

With more than 280,000 alumni, 40,000 students and some 4,000 faculty and staff, it would seem quite a trick to pull off such a treat, but your Florida State University Alumni Association and college partners will do just that on Saturday, Oct. 31, when the Seminoles host North Carolina State in the annual call for alumni to return to their college home.

It will be a scaled-down gathering, but no less encompassing as this first-ever event sprouts up outside Dick
Alumni working to improve the world around them

By Gary Fineout

Mary Partridge knew as a young woman that she wanted to be somewhere where she would get a chance to start a career in business.

That’s why more than 40 years ago she chose to come to The Florida State University.

“These were some of the best years of my life until I had kids,” said Partridge, who eventually graduated with both a bachelor’s degree and an MBA. “They were wonderful years — I just found opportunity after opportunity.”

Florida State provided Partridge the springboard that took the Mobile, Ala., native to a lengthy and successful career in business and in volunteer work. Partridge now runs her own management and leadership consulting company in Austin, Texas, and this past July she became chairwoman of the American Lung Association’s national board of directors.

Partridge, 64, first joined the American Lung Association in 1979, motivated in part by her own memories of watching a childhood friend struggle with a respiratory illness. In addition, her father, a heavy smoker, eventually died from lung disease, while her mother, a heavy smoker, eventually was expressing concern about air quality in Houston or pushing for more regulation of tobacco products. Partridge remains concerned about keeping young people from starting smoking, noting that very few people become regular smokers after they have turned 18.

“The passion for the mission just grew and grew,” Partridge said.

New role as the head of the association’s board of directors will thrust her more into the national spotlight as she testifies before regulatory bodies about air pollution, or meets with members of Congress to share with them the viewpoints of her organization. But part of her work with the group also includes asking for support from donors and visiting regional offices.

When Partridge arrived on the campus of Florida State back in the 1960s, she said she only knew one person. But her time at the university forged her identity and prepared her for the challenges of being a woman at a time that men dominated the world of business management.

She did her master’s dissertation on the employment of women in management and technical jobs with Fortune 500 companies.

“I began to shape some of my thoughts about how women would be successful in the business world,” said Partridge, who received her MBA in 1967. But she also got a chance at Florida State to serve on student boards and in leadership positions that would set the stage for her future.

“FSU really gave me an opportunity to try my leadership wings,” Partridge said.

Angela Fortunas tried to sell real estate for two-and-a-half years.

But the Florida State University alumna (B.A. ’92, History) soon realized that she wanted to spend time helping others in a different way.

“Yes, it’s nice to help people find a home or business, but teaching someone and offering something that will help them for the rest of their lives is more meaningful,” Fortunas said.

Fortunas, 41, returned to Tallahassee in 2007 to become the executive director of the Big Bend Hospice Foundation and chief development officer for Big Bend Hospice. The foundation is the fundraising arm for Big Bend Hospice, which provides care as well as support for those who are terminally ill in an eight-county region in North Florida.

The foundation has a special role because it raises money from private donations for programs that aren’t covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance.

This includes the Caring Tree program, which provides counseling for children and teenagers who have lost a loved one. The foundation also pays for music therapy that is provided both to hospice residents and some of the volunteers.

This special service is run with assistance from Florida State’s music therapy program in the College of Music.

Fortunas says she spends a great deal of her job working in the community and explaining to people what services Big Bend Hospice provides to patients and their families. She also keeps in touch with people whose lives have been touched by hospice.

“You can’t expect other people to be passionate and donate to your own organization if you aren’t passionate,” Fortunas said. “I’m passionate about making sure people have good end-of-life care.”

Fortunas, who was born in Tallahassee, has deep roots at Florida State. Her mother, Paula Fortunas, spent 30 years working at the Florida State University Foundation before stepping down to take over as president and CEO of the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation.

Fortunas said she not only got a “great education” at Florida State but also bonded with her professors.

“I just really built wonderful relationships with my professors that have lasted all of this time, which is really important because they are still teaching me,” she said.

Fortunas left Tallahassee after getting her degree, moving first to Ocala, where she worked at the Appleton Museum of Art. While working at Appleton — which at the time was affiliated with Florida State — she began her first efforts at fundraising. She recounts how Jerry Draper, then the dean of the School of Visual Arts and Dance, encouraged her.

“He said, ‘If you can find the money, it’s fine with me,’” Fortunas recalled.

Fortunas moved from Ocala to Lakeland, where she worked for the Polk Museum of Art before turning to teaching at Auburndale High School. She then made the switch to real estate to make more money — but that’s when she realized her life needed to go a different direction.

“Helping people in this kind of environment just makes my life better,” Fortunas said.

Thirty years ago, Lynn Rosenthal was in a Florida State University classroom debating how to change things in society.

Now she is trying to carry out that mission as part of the administration of President Barack Obama. This past summer, Rosenthal was chosen by Obama and Vice President Joe Biden to become the first-ever White House Adviser on Violence Against Women.

“This issue really inspires and brings people together,” said Rosenthal, who received a degree in social work from Florida State in 1980. “If we can address domestic violence, we really address a lot of other social problems.”

Rosenthal’s job requires her to act as a liaison with those organizations that respond to domestic violence, coordinate with federal agencies on...
...about homelessness

Shannon West isn’t hesitant to say that she has a fantastic job. “I love it,” said West, the regional homeless coordinator for the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition. “I get paid to do what I would do for free.”

West has been in her position for three years, but it’s the latest destination on a career of community service that first began when she took a job as a counselor at a runaway shelter in Tallahassee while she was attending The Florida State University.

Since leaving college, West has held a variety of jobs that have required her to tackle youth and gang violence, manage a community mediation center, and help run a county department that oversees parks, animal control and other neighborhood services.

West, 42, said many of her jobs grew out of her academic life at Florida State, where as a political science major she focused on how to get young people interested in campaigns.

“It circles back to my roots and interests when I started,” she said.

“How do you get folks involved in their community? How do you engage citizen?”

It wasn’t surprising that West graduated from Florida State. Both parents attended the school, and her father, Thomas West, played football for the Seminoles. He later became a major general in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed for a large part of his career in Nevada.

Shannon West jokes that her father told her she could go to any school she wanted, but that if she went to Florida State he would help pay for it. West remains such a big fan of her alma mater that she helped start a Seminole club in Las Vegas.

But her connections to Florida State go further than just football.

West said she learned a valuable lesson from a professor who challenged her with the notion that “if your politics don’t match the way you live your life, there’s probably something wrong with your politics and not the way you are living.”

“I have tried to make sure that what I believe and what I’m about are aligned,” said West, who graduated in 1991.

West said the lessons she learned during her community service career have been needed as she has tackled homelessness in an 8,000-square-mile swath of Nevada that includes both urban Las Vegas and rural areas. She is responsible for helping coordinate the Help Home Plan to battle homelessness, manage a shelter program and conduct homeless counts.

West said that while the number of the homeless has increased over the past year, the number of homeless living on the streets has gone down. She has managed to do her job even though at the same time she has been battling cancer for a year and a half. But she sounds determined to keep doing it as long as she can.

“I get paid to go to work every day and do God’s work,” West said. “That’s a fantastic job to have.”
There were other, spirited hearts that beat here on these grounds more than three centuries ago. In fact, what those ancient hearts contributed to the tradition of college football may astonish!

Football is a uniquely American sport and, perhaps more than any other, truly reflects our national character. I have always assumed that football evolved from English rugby, but now it looks as if that may not be completely true. In fact, documents provided by Seminole Boosters Senior Vice President Joel Padgett, plus some additional help from our friends at the Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs, suggest that football may owe more to our American Indian namesakes than we ever dreamed.

Padgett pointed to a work detailing the culture and customs of the Apalachee tribe. The book is: “Apalachee, The Land Between The Rivers,” by John Hann (1988). Documents provided by the Governor’s Council describe the Apalachee as “very tall, very valiant, and full of spirit.” When the Apalachee lived in what is now Tallahassee, one of the prominent features of their culture was sports and “particularly one of their ball games.”

It was called simply The Game. Hann writes, “Considerable information on this game survived” because of Friar Juan de Paiva, pastor of San Luis Mission, who developed a strong animosity toward the game itself. The Leturiondo Visitation Record of 1677-1678 contains compiled writings and descriptions of The Game.

Consider these excerpts from the translation of the Visitation Record, and how they echo in the context of American college football today:

“The basic components of the game were a tall goal post … a small hard buckskin ball … and two teams of varying size. No instruments but the human hand were used to propel the ball. … They painted their bodies in nature of their dreams.”

“… They painted their bodies in colors associated with the dominant clan …”

One point was awarded each time the goal post was struck with the ball when it was propelled by a player’s foot. If the ball struck an eagle’s nest positioned on the top of the goal post, two points were awarded. Victory went to the first team to achieve eleven points. Violence often was not confined to the game itself,” wrote a disapproving Friar Paiva, noting frequent fights among spectators. He also mentioned that those who defended the game argued that this was merely healthy competition between villages.

“… In preparation for the game, an elaborate series of rituals was observed … Players assembled in the main council house, or around the goal post to maintain a vigil during the night before the game, talking very quietly, and occasionally howling like wolves.”

The players sat on low, flat benches during the game. The exact positioning of these seats was determined by “interpreting the dreams of several elderly men who would be awakened early in the morning to be questioned on the nature of their dreams.”

Some of this recounting sounds eerily familiar to us. A new fire would be lit before the game. “This fire was carried out onto the playing field … and the Chief was to advise the players, exhorting them to risk their very lives in the quest for victory.”

The book also contains this wonderful passage: “If Friar Paiva is to be believed, not all the prospective players were eager to participate. They often had to be coerced into play by entreaties or by a gift of something with which to wager. Skilled players were especially pampered. To keep them in the village, they were given a house, their fields were planted for them, and their misdeeds were winked at by the village authorities.”

It is not unreasonable to speculate that The Game was played on the very grounds where Doak Campbell Stadium now stands. Our Seminole players of today differ in many ways from those Florida State College lads of 04, and they were in turn very different from the young Apalachee men of 1678.

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1930s
Dorothy Ruth Tennesham (L’32)
Beney Anderson Kelley (B.S. ’35)
Olave Dame Peterson (B.A. ’37)
Lillian Lakem Yansey (B.A. ’39)

1940s
Norma McRee Brown (B.S. ’44)
Losie Barnes Willbomer (B.S. ’44)
Jean Phillips Brown (B.S. ’45)
Ania Thompson Trumbower (B.S. ’45)
Nordna Chaffee Cop (B.A. ’47)
Martha Brown Devine (B.S. ’47)
Margaret Cook (B.S. ’48)
Emil and win Stump (B.S. ’48)
Janis Kinneman Stipes (B.A. ’48, MS ’49)
Margaret C. Glasgow (B.S. ’49)
Ben McCray (B.S. ’49)
Nellie Leta White (B.S. ’49)

1950s
Wesley C. Cone (B.S. ’50)
Chesly D. Dale (B.S. ’50)
Kathleen Slaughter Wakefield (B.S. ’50)
Will A. Cairns (B.S. ’51)
Jeanne Bouma Gdulits (B.S. ’51)
Alice Greer Lancaster (B.S. ’51)
Andrew Steiger III (B.S. ’51)
Jane Fred Simon (B.S. ’52)
Lynden Tinkler Mead (B.S. ’54)
Anna R. Turner (M.S. ’55)
Marion B. Emmons (M.S. ’56)
Janice Elkhart Anstattam (B.S. ’57)
Winn G. Allen Sr. (B.S. ’58)
John Legge (B.S. ’57)
Donald R. Zuchelli (B.S. ’58)
Albert H. Stephens (B.S. ’59)

1960s
Martha Smtn Bryson (B.S. ’61)
Mary Farnier Dement (B.S. ’61)
Thomas P. English (B.S. ’61)
Winn G. Allen Sr. (B.S. ’62)
Yashe E. Gerber (B.S. ’63)
Dorothy Milton Hogg (B.S. ’64)
Donald F. Glass (B.A. ’65)
Ruth L. Kiefer (M.S. ’65)
Larry L. Monroe (M.S. ’65)
Rocky T. Latham (B.S. ’66)
Donald F. Bizzaro (M.S. ’67)
James P. Curren (B.S. ’67)
Albert H. Stephens (B.S. ’67)
Jacob F. Till (M.A. ’67, PH.D. ’70)
Linda M. Gaskan (M.A. ’68)
Lewis G. Mitten (M.S. ’68)
Woodrow W. Heing Jr. (B.S. ’68)
James Lewis Segrave (B.S. ’68, M.S. ’62, J.D. ’74)
William S. Sisk (B.S. ’68)
Carol Barel Wichman (B.S. ’68)
Charles L. Ellington (Ph.D. ’70)

1970s
Lyle H. Cannon (B.S. ’70)
Maryjane Smith Emargin (B.S. ’70)
Thomas G. Herring (B.S. ’70)
Kenneth Howard Jones (B.S.W. ’70)
Christine Shepheard Powell (B.S. ’70)
David C. Stead (B.S. ’70)
Buster Edwards (Ph.D. ’73)
Audrey L. Flynn (B.S. ’71, M.S. ’72)
John Andrew Keckman (B.S. ’71)
Donald M. Hall (Ph.D. ’72)
Patricia K. Murphy (M.S. ’72)
Phillip A. Skiles (B.A. ’72)
Kathleen A. Haverty (B.S. ’73)
Charles M. Mishna (J.D. ’86)
Nancy L. Chinn (Ph.D. ’82)
Thomas G. Henn (B.S. ’75)
Phillip A. Skiles (B.A. ’72)
Linda N. Bayer (Ph.D. ’76)
Michael T. Mether (B.S. ’76)
Monte R. Schneider (B.A. ’77, M.F.A ’91)
Louis E. Long (J.D. ’79)
Kenneth A. Woodham (B.S. ’79)

1980s
Warren E. Miller (E.D.D 80)
Kristy D. Fikle (J.D. ’81)
Nancy L. Chinn (Ph.D. ’82)
Amy L. Hodge (B.S. ’82)
Larry L. Allen (M.A.C.C. ’84)
Vicki Efim Dessenbaum (B.S. ’84)
Pamela J. Shtein (B.S. ’85)
Charles M. Mlshe (J.D. ’86)
Janice R. Sharp (B.S. ’87)
Michael Rakestraw (B.S. ’88)

1990s
John Loren Highsmith (B.S. ’93)
Chernon L. Hahn (B.A. ’93)
Leonard Holmes Sr. (M.Ed.)
Byron Dixon Camp (B.S. ’97)
Meghan Jane Grey (’99)
Kristin Marie Hatkens (B.S. ’99)

Faculty and Staff
Denise L. Highsmith
Herman R. Lowe
William Naracan

OBITUARIES

Don Fehring Driggs

Don Fehring Driggs, 92, a World War II veteran and former member of the Florida State University psychology faculty, died Feb. 11. Driggs taught at Florida State from 1962 to 1986. Over his academic career, his research focused on group processes and political psychology.

Driggs earned his doctorate in psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1952, while working on the psychology faculty at Auburn University. He was the recipient of a postdoctoral Guggenheim Fellowship.

Sydney R. Grant

Sydney R. Grant, 83, professor emeritus of educational foundations and policy studies, died June 5. Grant came to The Florida State University in 1969 to head the newly established Office of International Education in the College of Education. Before retiring in 1994, he served the College of Education as professor and head of the Department of Educational Foundations and international-cultural development, and as associate dean for graduate studies and research.

In addition, Grant worked on a number of overseas projects through the university’s Learning Systems Institute.

Grant earned a bachelor’s degree in education from City University of New York in 1950, a master’s degree in Spanish language and culture from the National Autonomous University of Mexico in 1951, and a Doctor of Education degree from Teachers College of Columbia University in 1961.

Donald Hodges

Donald Hodges, 85, a professor emeritus of philosophy and prolific researcher, died June 14.

Hodges began his career at The Florida State University in 1964. He would go on to write 25 books and more than 100 journal articles, and would rise to serve as chairman of the Department of Philosophy for six years. He retired in 2003.

Hodges earned his doctorate in philosophy from Columbia University. He taught at three universities prior to his career at Florida State.

Randolph Lynn Rill

Randolph Lynn “Randy” Rill, 65, a cancer researcher and professor of biochemistry at The Florida State University, died June 6.

Rill taught biochemistry, biophysics and molecular genetics for 37 years at Florida State. For 12 of them, he directed the university’s graduate program in molecular genetics. Toward the end of his career, Rill served as chairman of the Faculty Council at the university’s College of Medicine.

A respected researcher, Rill’s research grants came from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the American Cancer Society. In addition, Rill served on the board of directors of the American Cancer Society of Florida. A memorial scholarship in Rill’s name has been established for graduate students studying cancer.

Rill earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., in 1966, and earned a doctorate in physical biochemistry from Northwestern University in 1971. He completed postdoctoral work at Oregon State University in 1972.

Homecoming ...

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will headline the show. Pow Wow will be Friday, Oct. 30, at 8 p.m. at the Civic Center, 505 W. Pensacola St. Florida State University students can purchase their tickets for $17 at the Civic Center box office. Non-students can purchase their tickets online for $26.75 at www.ticketmaster.com.

• Homecoming Breakfast: The traditional Homecoming Breakfast, on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 9 a.m. at the Alumni Center, 1030 W. Tennessee St., will honor this year’s Omicron Delta Kappa “Grads Made Good” award recipients. A new tradition, the Alumni Association’s Circle of Honor will be inducted.

• All-College Alumni Tailgate: A new tradition, the All-College Alumni Tailgate, will debut three hours prior to the Seminoles’ gridiron matchup against the North Carolina State Wolfpack on Saturday, Oct. 31. The All-College Alumni Tailgate will be a grand rendezvous for alumni and their individual colleges, set up beneath tents between Dick Howser and Doak Campbell stadiums. Alumni will not only be able to meet and greet each other but also find out the latest news about their colleges.

For the latest information about the entire week of Homecoming events, Oct. 25-31, visit www.homecoming.fsu.edu or www.alumni.fsu.edu.
Serving as an interim president for an organization can be a daunting challenge. What can you accomplish in a short amount of time? What are the parameters in which you must work? These are just two of the many questions Steve Evans asked himself as he contemplated accepting the position as interim president of the Florida State University Foundation. After exploring the possibilities and then being named to the post Aug. 4, he hit the ground running.

“Moving forward, we will be reviewing our fundraising plans and the outlook of each of our development officers and the respective colleges they represent to determine the actions that will be necessary for the foundation to achieve its goals in this challenging economy,” Evans said. “The needs of the university have never been greater, and the opportunity to purposely advocate on behalf of this great institution with our alumni and friends has never been more critical.”

Evans retired from IBM in 2003 with more than 30 years of sales, operations, marketing and executive experience. During his career, he developed a wealth of knowledge and successful business practices from working with small, medium and large enterprises throughout North America, including the government, health and education industries.

In 1986, he and his family moved to Tallahassee, where he assumed responsibility for IBM’s Public Sector Industry and served as senior state executive. In 1997, Evans became IBM’s vice president of marketing and sales for North America and its Global Education division, while maintaining responsibility as IBM’s senior state executive until his retirement.

“People have been asking why I would agree to come out of retirement to take on this responsibility, and the answer is simple: I have always been impressed with the overall reputation of FSU, the breadth and depth of its programs and that of the FSU Foundation,” Evans said. “The reputation of both the university and its foundation is a direct result of the leadership and commitment of faculty, staff and our respective boards of trustees.”

In addition to serving on the boards of local, state and national organizations, Evans is a past chairman of Florida TaxWatch and serves on its board and executive committee. He has strong ties to The Florida State University, serving on the advisory board of the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship in the College of Business and previously serving as a mentor for students and business leaders in that program.

“He is recognized as a productive and effective leader who has a proven track record in helping researchers move their work out of the laboratory and into the commercial sector. We are extremely fortunate to have Steve on board,” said Lee Hinkle, the university’s vice president for University Relations and Advancement.

Hinkle added that Evans will remain interim president of the foundation until a permanent president is named, possibly within the next 12 to 18 months.
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A president reflects ... continued from page 1

on to hold positions in every segment of Florida’s post-secondary higher education system. He was an assistant professor of education at Bethune-Cookman College. Later, he served as vice president and provost at Daytona Beach Community College. Then came a stellar career as a state representative, which culminated in his service as the speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Afterward, he became president of Tallahassee Community College.

Whether in the arenas of higher education or politics, Wetherell will go down in history as one of Florida’s most accomplished sons.

In 2003, his first year as Florida State’s president, Wetherell demonstrated his personal commitment to the institution in a dramatic way. He and his wife, Virginia, donated to Florida State their 1,000-acre Oak Hill Plantation in Jefferson County, Fla., through their estate. Valued at the time at $7.5 million, it remains the largest gift given to a university by a sitting president. Leading by example, he would not ask others to contribute monetarily when he had not.

In the face of ever-declining state revenues throughout his presidency, Wetherell led with political savvy and ingenuity by proposing innovative plans to the Legislature year after year that would have allowed Florida State to exercise greater control over its financial destiny. He successfully lobbied the Legislature to give Florida State greater flexibility in setting its own tuition rates.

Wetherell also established Pathways of Excellence, an initiative that has helped to enhance the university’s standing as one of the nation’s top research and graduate education institutions. So far, Pathways has provided for the hiring of additional faculty members in clusters built around interdisciplinary academic themes, and investment in new campus facilities and graduate-level programs.

When his successor is named, Wetherell, 63, will become a tenured professor in the College of Education and president emeritus. Ahead of the day when he hands over the reins of power, the Florida State Times caught up with Wetherell to discuss his presidency.

In looking back over the past seven years, what would you say is your greatest triumph?

I think having FSU recognized now, by virtually every major group, as one of the nation’s premier public research universities. We clearly have made it into the top echelon of institutions. That has a lot of ramifications in terms of attracting Merit Scholars and producing Rhodes Scholars, and our faculty achieving $200 million in research grants.

In your June 8, 2009, letter to Board of Trustees Chairman Jim Smith announcing your intent to step down, you mentioned that, despite Florida’s constantly changing higher-education system, you “believe Florida State has prevailed to the greatest extent.” In light of Florida’s economic downturn, how did your expectations coming into the job match how things actually unfolded?

In the first five years, things went well. We built 50 buildings, renovated 40 more, had about $1 billion in construction, including a new medical center, a superconductivity center, two new research buildings — I think we were on a roll. Now in the last couple years, when the economy went south everywhere, it became a real challenge. How do you maintains momentum with fewer dollars? That was frustrating, to say the least. In the first five years, I think we went from a wannabe to a recognized, outstanding institution. I think we took the next step. Now trying to take the step after that has become a real challenge because of resources. If we could have had the same resources in years six and seven that we had in years one and two, it would be a different story.

How did your former career as a legislator and speaker of the Florida House help you fight for Florida State?

Well, we are a public university, funded by the public. Understanding the legislative system, I want to believe that I did as well as I could have under these circumstances. I hope some of my expertise helped. Somebody had to raise money, whether you do it for a political campaign or a scholarship program. When the Tallahassee money dried up, so we spoke, we had to look elsewhere. We had to run a successful capital campaign, find outside grants and research dollars, we had to go to Washington, to the public and to other sources to maintain our momentum.

You successfully pushed the Legislature to enact a tuition differential. Why is this a good thing for Florida State?

There are two flagship universities, Florida State and Florida. We have 30,000 people apply for 6,000 to 7,000 spots every year. Economics are willing to pay more to go to a flagship school. This higher tuition doesn’t hurt our diversity program. Our tuition, even with the 15 percent difference, is still one of the lowest in the nation. The difference is not going to put us out of reach from the rank and file. With no new dollars coming from the state, we need resources. This isn’t because we’re greedy, but because we need to provide the faculty and the classes and all the things that students want to be successful. Plus, when you look at it, it is only about $400. The reality is, No. 1, it will not hurt our recruiting; No. 2, it will not hurt the quality of students; and No. 3, it will enhance our programs and the entire university.

When you introduced the Pathways of Excellence initiative, what criteria were you sending to the faculty?

I think the signals that we were sending were that academic programs are important, interdisciplinary studies where faculty work together are important, and that we don’t just “talk the talk” — we’re willing to put money on the table and “walk the walk.” We wanted the faculty to know that if they were willing to put together a proposal for an interdisciplinary cluster, then we would do whatever it took to get them there. It made a statement internally, but it also made a statement nationally that Florida State was for real.

Our average freshmen now boast a 3.84 high-school GPA and an SAT score of 1261. Our retention rate for first-time-in-college freshmen is 90 percent. We’ve had a recent run of Truman, Goldwater and Rhodes scholars. With all this achievement, what do you say about our students?

When you start looking at the student body, from the minute they walk in the door, their SAT scores, their GPAs, the number of hours they bring with them, the programs they studied and all of their international experiences, and then you look at the Rhodes and the achievements and the community service they do, you just sit around and think, “Golly, these are some really bright kids!” When you get worried about the country and what’s going to happen, all you have to do is to start looking around at these students and you’ll come to the conclusion that we’re going to be all right. I think of myself and my classmates and how far we’ve gone, and we were nowhere near the quality of today’s students.

It seems like every year our faculty sets a new record for winning research dollars, which is a testament to what do you say about our faculty?

I don’t think we have “one of the best” — I think we have the best. When you look at what they accomplish versus funding and resource cuts, I think they are outstanding. Take our Film School, ranked No. 1 in the nation, located in Tallahassee but competing against Los Angeles and New York; a business school in the top 10; a law school that is arguably the best in the state; an outstanding Creative Writing Program; an engineering program known for the number of African-American engineers it produces; a medical school that is not even 10 years old that is producing family physicians who are practicing here in Florida. All of this is a testament to what the faculty does every day.

During your presidency, one of your priorities was to make sure the Seminole Tribe of Florida was properly honored. In 2005, you attended the ceremony in which the tribe approved a resolution formalizing our use of the Seminole name. What was that like for you?

It was special. We have always had a relationship with the tribe, going back to our students selecting the name and voting it in. Our use of their name had never been written down and formalized. For them, a handshake and their word had been enough. The resolution has really bonded us together, more so than before. It’s something that other institutions look at and say, “That’s the way to do it and do it right.”

What will you miss most about the presidency?

The parking place!

I enjoyed the job because there are no two days that are ever the same. I guess it’s mostly the people. You meet so many different people on campus. We have a great group of faculty and staff members. There are hundreds of unsung heroes around here who, every day, make this place open up to serve students and each other. They’re just great folks.

What are you most looking forward to as you head back into the classroom?

I just love being on a college campus. I’ve taught a class each year since I’ve been here. I love working with college students. They keep you young. They keep you on your toes. It’s a lot of fun. And it’s what the university is all about. In this job you get so caught up in budgets and percentages that you hardly ever see a real person. It gives you a chance to say, “This is what it’s all about.” I’ve enjoyed doing it. It will be fun to focus on it, as opposed to being only a portion of what I do.

Besides teaching, what do you plan on doing after you step down?

I’m looking forward to spending more time in Montana. We hike on our land, which backs up against the Kootenai National Forest and the Great Bear Wilderness. There are hundreds of miles of nothing out there, so I’ll spend some time resting and relaxing. Then, there are a couple of issues I’ll probably take on, such as the importance of higher education. I may also write a book.

What do you hope for Florida State’s future?

I hope that, no matter how successful we are with Rhodes Scholars and football teams, and no matter how many students with 4.0 GPAs we have, that we will remain reflective of the state, sort of a “people’s college.” I hope that students will be able to walk across campus and not get lost in the shuffle or become a number. While we may be a 50,000- or even 60,000-student institution in the future, hopefully we can continue the tradition of being a large institution with a small-college feel.

In looking back over the past seven years, what would you say is your greatest triumph?

I think having FSU recognized now, by virtually every major group, as one of the nation’s premier public research universities. We clearly have made it into the top echelon of institutions. That has a lot of ramifications in terms of attracting Merit Scholars and producing Rhodes Scholars, and our faculty achieving $200 million in research grants.
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