



FLORIDA STATE

A newspaper for Florida State University alumni, friends, faculty & staff

September 2010

Times

\$57.1 million for research

\$13.6 million

How best to improve low-performing high schools

\$17.5 million

Chemical analysis

\$26 million

Science of reading comprehension

Florida State awarded three monumental grants

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

The ability to attract external funding for research is a prime indicator of a capable and relevant faculty.

Over the course of a few short weeks in June and July, The Florida State University announced that three teams of researchers had each landed big-dollar grants to further the science of reading comprehension (\$26 million), chemical analysis (\$17.5 million) and how best to improve low-performing high schools (\$13.6 million).

While the dollar amounts are highly impressive, the significance of the grants is the effect they will have on society, according to Vice President for Research Kirby Kemper.

"The grants are large enough to make a difference in areas where we must have significant change for the United States to continue to compete on a global scale," Kemper said.

Aside from the scientific gains that stand to be made, the grants reflect the prominence of Florida State as a major player among research universities.

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Andy Haggard

Attorney takes helm of university trustees

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

When asked why he is so enthusiastic about The Florida State University, alumnus William Andrew "Andy" Haggard is never at a loss for words. He exhibits a genuine excitement as he talks about the institution's achievements. The Miami native, who was named chairman of the university Board of Trustees this summer, was first impressed at the friendliness of the people on campus beginning with his time as a student in the early 1960s.

"Every time I heard a 'hello,' it was just a great thing," said Haggard (B.A. '64, History), senior partner of The Haggard Law Firm of Coral Gables, Fla. "I just never knew you could really fall in love with a place as much as I did. Of course, I realized the benefits of going to school in the state capital,

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Fall semester ripe with promise, opportunities

By Fran Conaway
University Communications

As more than 6,000 freshmen arrived on campus for the 2010 fall semester, the traditionally warm

Seminole welcome had edged up a couple of degrees.

While the activity-filled Seminole Sensation Week is a tradition, this year's events, held Aug. 18-22, included not only the formal Convocation ceremony, replete with regalia-clad faculty and torch-passing rites, but a first this year — a backyard barbecue hosted by FSU President Eric Barron and his wife, Molly, at the President's House and sponsored by the Student Alumni Association.

Clad in Florida State T-shirts designating

their college of choice (and for the as-yet-undecided, an "Exploratory" version), thousands of freshmen had the opportunity to say hello to like-minded students and college deans.

"We decided to throw the barbecue and hand out college T-shirts to give students a head start on making friends and building bonds with other students who share similar interests," said Barron, who is experiencing his freshman fall semester as president, while recalling his 1969 fall semester as a freshman student at Florida State.

Building bonds is key to Barron's mission of supporting the hopes

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Social media index debuts

New index categorizes FSU's social media opportunities;
New mobile app is a hit among alumni ...

more on PAGE 3



Foundation.fsu.edu



Mary Beth Lovingood

Director,
Special Events
FSU Foundation

FSU Foundation plans for an eventful year

The Florida State University Foundation recognizes our generous supporters by hosting various events in their honor throughout the year. Individual donors who support Florida State provide invaluable opportunities for students, faculty and staff to make a difference in the world, and the Foundation is excited to publicly recognize those who help the university achieve excellence.

This fall, the Foundation will partner with the Florida State University Alumni Association and Seminole Boosters to host various donor recognition and stewardship events in conjunction with away football games. On Saturday, Sept. 11, there will be a tailgate party in Norman, Okla., before the 3:30 p.m. kickoff of the FSU vs. University of Oklahoma game.

There will be an evening reception in Fort Lauderdale on

Oct. 7, the Thursday before the FSU vs. University of Miami game, with special guest Bryan Norcross. Norcross, a Florida State alumnus, is best known for his coverage of Hurricane Andrew in 1993 and his tenure as meteorologist and hurricane specialist for WFOR-TV in Miami, and as chief hurricane analyst for CBS News in New York.

Finally, the Foundation, the Alumni Association and Seminole Boosters are partnering with the D.C. Noles to host an event in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, Nov. 18, before the FSU vs. University of Maryland game. This event will include the awarding of the D.C. Noles' annual Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Foundation will also host small gatherings in Jacksonville, Atlanta and South Florida to introduce FSU President Eric Barron to major supporters in the area. These events will be hosted in donors' homes or private clubs, providing the opportunity for one-on-one conversation with Barron and personal recognition of Florida State's most active supporters. The gatherings will be a continuation of

the president's receptions in Tampa, Orlando, Coral Gables, Clearwater, Pensacola and Tallahassee held this past spring.

The Foundation has several celebrations planned for 2011, including the fifth annual James D. Westcott Legacy Society Luncheon. Hosted by the Office of Planned Giving, the luncheon recognizes those who have included Florida State in their estate plans. The event, which is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, at the Alumni Center Grand Ballroom, features a "meet and greet" at the President's House before the luncheon, giving guests an opportunity to talk to the president and tour the home. Afterward, students from the College of Music will perform as guests enjoy a plated lunch served by Andrew's Catering. As is customary, the program will highlight a planned gift that has had a major effect on a college, program or other university initiative, showcasing the importance of and appreciation for those who invest in Florida State's future.

Finally, the Women for Florida State University, an



Westcott event guests enjoying masks provided by the School of Theatre.

organization for women who support FSU, recently hosted its inaugural event, which it called the "Backstage Pass to the Very Best of Florida State." From a private dance class with world-renowned ballerina and dance professor Suzanne Farrell to a role-playing session with students from the College of Medicine, the exclusive, two-day event gave attendees a behind-the-scenes look at some of Florida State's finest programs and traditions. The Foundation and the Women for Florida State University plan to host this event again — tentatively scheduled for March

2011. Stay tuned for more details.

Whether you're attending a dinner recognizing your contribution to Florida State University academics or athletics, hosting a game-watching party with your local Seminole club or networking with fellow Seminoles at an Alumni Association get-together, events such as these are a great way to stay involved with your university. To learn more about upcoming events and access our new events calendar, visit www.foundation.fsu.edu, call me at (850) 644-2313, or send an e-mail to mblovingood@foundation.fsu.edu.

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FSU social media now easy to locate

By Bayard Stern
Managing Editor

Social-media websites like Facebook and LinkedIn have become extremely popular means of communicating between those who have similar interests and connections. That popularity is due in part to how easy it is for individuals and organizations to establish a presence on these sites. For some organizations, though, that ease has also resulted in the setting

up of more than one Facebook page, for example, to represent the organization.

To help make the "official" social-media presence for FSU organizations easier to find and connect to, the University Communications office developed an online Social Media Index, www.fsu.edu/socialmedia. By following the index' links, users are able to more easily find and connect to the Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and

LinkedIn pages they are interested in.

Currently the index has FSU units sorted into the following categories: Colleges; Research Centers and Institutes; Academic Support; Student Engagement; and a collection of miscellaneous others.

"With the number of FSU colleges and departments now utilizing social media to communicate," said Reinhart Lerch, director of marketing in University Communications, "we realized that setting up this index — which was done in collaboration with Information Technology Services —

would facilitate connections to the university sites that provide the most accurate and current information."

Listings on the Social Media Index currently reflect the topmost presence of each unit. For example, the social-media sites associated with a college are listed, but departments or majors within that college are not.

"As social media continues to evolve, we'll likewise continue to modify and refine the index to provide on- and off-campus supporters with easy access to the official presence of their favorite Florida State University pages," Lerch said.

Mobile app popular among tech-savvy 'Noles

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

The high demand for downloads tells the story plainly: The Florida State University's newly released multiplatform mobile application, or "app," is a hit. In June and July alone, more than 6,100 people downloaded the app to their "smart" phones and other mobile devices, largely after finding out about it while participating in Summer Orientation or by visiting the university's Visitor Center.

Now that the fall semester has begun, the number of downloads is expected to explode to 20,000 or more, according to Jay Wirth, the director of digital media for University Communications. Wirth was one of two project managers who shepherded the mobile app through its development with Blackboard, the company that Florida State uses for its online course management system.

"The folks at Blackboard say our app is very hearty, meaning it provides a lot of information," Wirth said. "One of Florida's other state universities is coming online with Blackboard soon, but they're not going to have nearly as much capability as Florida State's app."

"Florida State is the first public or private university in the nation to have a multiplatform app, which means it works with Apple, BlackBerry and Android devices, and it shows that Florida State's information technology staff is really on the ball," Wirth said. "In talking to the people at Blackboard, they seem really excited for Florida State because we are leading the charge in this way."

"FSU Mobile will put Florida State in the hands of students, faculty, staff, alumni, fans and parents," said Debbie Kelly, co-project manager for the FSU

Mobile app and assistant director, Web Services, for the university's Information Technology Services. "For those who don't have an iPhone or BlackBerry mobile device, they will still be able to use the app by going to <http://m.fsu.edu> from their web-enabled mobile device."

The free app offers amazingly convenient access to the latest university news, as well as information on campus dining locations and hours, and much more.

"I think it's great FSU took the time to develop it," said iPhone user Missy Baker Escobar of Atlanta, whose son, Corey Paul Escobar, is a freshman in the College of Music this semester. "This summer, we came for Orientation. Corey and I both used the app's map feature to find our way around."

"I have the app on my BlackBerry, and I use the directory daily to find people and to check on Seminole sports," said university Trustee Les Pantin Jr. (B.S. '70, Business) of Miami.

"I still want to be connected with the university," said iTouch user and alumna Liz Owens (B.S. '09, Recreation and Leisure Services Administration) of Fort Myers, Fla. "The news tab allows me to pull up just FSU news stories, as opposed to going through other routes. All in all, I am very impressed with the ease and simplicity of the application."

In the near future, a version for Android-compatible phones also will be available. What's more, there is a mobile website (www.m.fsu.edu) for smart-phone users who don't have an iPhone or a BlackBerry, and even Android owners can use it while waiting for the Android app to be released.



The index is available at www.fsu.edu/socialmedia.

Researchers work to extend battery life in mobile devices

So, your smart phone lets you play music, send text messages, check e-mail, surf the Web, access apps and play games, but somehow it's not quite smart enough to keep from running out of juice when you actually need to make a phone call.

Don't blame the phone;

blame inefficient processor pipelines that have failed to keep pace with emerging mobile technology, according to Florida State University computer science professors David Whalley and Gary Tyson. But for millions of users struggling to keep their cell phones and other mobile devices charged, help is on the way.

Whalley, Tyson and a colleague at the University of Pittsburgh have been awarded a \$1.2 million, four-year grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a more energy-efficient processor for mobile embedded systems that will perform as well as traditional pipelined processors. Mobile embedded systems involve computer processors that are embedded in cell phones, handheld game consoles, e-book readers and other devices that can be carried and run on batteries.

"Minimizing energy consumption is very important to these systems because it is vital to extend the life of the batteries that power them," Tyson said.



Gary Tyson and David Whalley



SHORT TAKES



College of Music receives \$5.6 million gift



Albert H. Cohen

The Florida State University College of Music is the beneficiary of a \$5.6 million gift from Albert H. Cohen of Sarasota, Fla. It is one of the largest gifts ever bestowed on the college.

Cohen is a classical music critic with a special interest in Baroque masterworks, particularly those of Johann Sebastian Bach. With Cohen's gift, the College of Music will enhance, expand and provide additional support for Baroque music at Florida State by establishing The Albert H. Cohen Endowed Fund for Excellence in Baroque Music Performance and Scholarship.

"Baroque music — in particular, the music of J.S. Bach — is a great legacy today that too few people understand," Cohen said. "My hope is this gift will help in that regard."

Cohen's interest in the College of Music began last October in Sarasota as he listened to a performance by one of its undergraduate string quartets playing Beethoven at the inaugural Ringling International Arts Festival.

"Al told me he was impressed with our student's passion, communication and commitment to the music," said College of Music Dean Don Gibson. "Later, this positive view of our program was confirmed when he heard the University Symphony Orchestra perform Beethoven's 5th Symphony."

A classical music critic since 1976, Cohen spent 18 of those years writing for the Asbury Park Press, one of New Jersey's largest

newspapers. For 12 years he was the managing director of the Music Critics Association of North America.

Cohen was the president and CEO of Edison, N. J.-based Metex Corporation from 1961 to 1987, and from 1982-1987 he also served as chairman of the board of the company, which provides engineered products to aviation, industrial and automotive markets worldwide.

Since 1987, Cohen has been self-employed as an investment management consultant and asset manager.

Event will benefit Women's Scholarship Endowment

Florida State University alumna Kim Batten (B.S. '93, Social Work), a track and field athlete who won a silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles during the 1996 Olympic games, will be the guest speaker at the second annual "Let Us Play" dinner and auction, a benefit for the Florida State University Women's Scholarship Endowment. The event will be Friday, Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m. in the University Center Club Ballroom, University Center Building B.

To order tickets, visit Seminole.com and click on the "Let Us Play" link at the bottom of the webpage.

'Cradle of Hope' earns patent

Florida State University alumna Rachelle McClure (M.F.A. '08, Interior Design) and National High Magnetic Field Laboratory facilities engineer Sean Coyne have received a patent for their prototype of a portable cradle perfect for infants in family homeless shelters.

The aptly named "Cradle of Hope" is a space-saving, environmentally sensitive baby bed that combines form and function in a novel way. McClure and Coyne designed a cradle atop a unique cantilever base, which can slide underneath a shelter bunk and out of the way. The cradle can suspend immediately above the parent's bed, making for a design that uses little floor space.

McClure and Coyne began their collaboration in the summer of 2007 as classmates in a Graduate Furniture Design class led by

Associate Professor Jill Pable, whose research and instructional focus had long included projects for the homeless.

"I am proud of Rachelle and Sean for many reasons, but first and foremost, their project holds the potential to literally avert a premature accidental death," Pable said. "Shelter staff tell us how often parents sleep with their children, and how smothering is a clear and immediate danger."

"It is exciting to see the power of a good idea, especially from my students," Pable said. "Design has the potential to make the 'built environment' a better place for everyone, and this cradle is a prime



Sean Coyne and Rachelle McClure



Jill Pable

3,638: The number of Florida State University alumni living in Atlanta. This is the largest concentration of alumni outside of Florida.

The first father-son Seminole football players were Phil Abaira (1967-1969) and Garth Jax (1982-1985). Abaira married Jax's mother and adopted him. Abaira was drafted by the Chicago Bears in 1970; Jax was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in 1986.

example of that."

The goal now, said Pable, is to locate a manufacturer that could make the Cradle of Hope a reality for shelters across the country, and even the world.

McClure is the business manager of Onyx Group, a Tallahassee design firm, and serves on the board of Rainbow Rehab. Coyne crafts both traditional and modern furniture in his Tallahassee shop, Sean Coyne & Daughters Cabinetmakers, where he and McClure constructed the Cradle of Hope prototype.

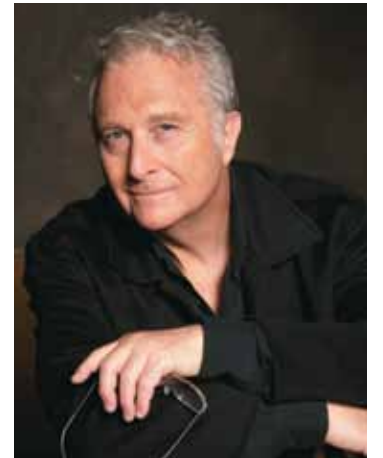
Legendary performers scheduled for 2011 arts festival

A dazzling lineup has been announced for the 13th season of The Florida State University's annual festival of the fine and performing arts.

Seven Days of Opening Nights, Feb. 11 to Feb. 21, will offer a unique combination of performances and exhibits ranging from beloved entertainer Bill Cosby to acclaimed singer-songwriter

Randy Newman, and from tap-dancing virtuoso Savion Glover to celebrity chef and bestselling author Anthony Bourdain.

For the complete schedule, including the Oct. 2 B.B. King and Nov. 15 Joanna Newsome concerts, visit www.sevendaysfestival.org or call (850) 644-7670. Ticket sales for Seven Days members begin Sept. 14 and run through Oct. 4. (See www.sevendaysfestival.org for details.) Tickets for the general public go on sale Oct. 5.



Randy Newman

Students play in style at new intramural fields

The thousands of students every semester who play softball, soccer, flag football, lacrosse or any number of other sports on the Florida State University's 108-acre Rec SportsPlex may not be aware it is one of the largest single outdoor collegiate recreational facilities in the nation or that it has been ranked one of the best in the country. What they do know is that it's awesome.

"It is great to have a state-of-the-art complex here at FSU," said Alexandra Alvarez, a student who uses the facility. "The Rec SportsPlex is simply huge. It allows so many different people to be involved in a variety of sports and activities, all at the same time."

The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), the national association for collegiate recreation programs, announced that the Rec SportsPlex is a NIRSA Outstanding Sports Facilities national award winner for 2010.

"With the addition of the Rec SportsPlex, the students of Florida State University finally have a facility that can support the quantity and quality of participation our students have long needed and deserve," said Alicia Crew, director of Campus Recreation. "Our students can now enjoy one of the absolute best and biggest outdoor sports facilities in collegiate recreation."

Opened in 2007, the facility features 12 flag football fields, four soccer fields, five softball fields, three participant support buildings and a maintenance building. It is located on Tyson Road in southwest Tallahassee.



Ruby Diamond Auditorium

to reopen as a premier performance space

By Bayard Stern

Managing Editor

The Florida State University's historic Ruby Diamond Auditorium, built in 1955 as an addition to the Westcott Building, has been the venue for countless musical performances, as well as serving as a movie theater, a general performance hall and an enormous classroom for introductory biology classes.

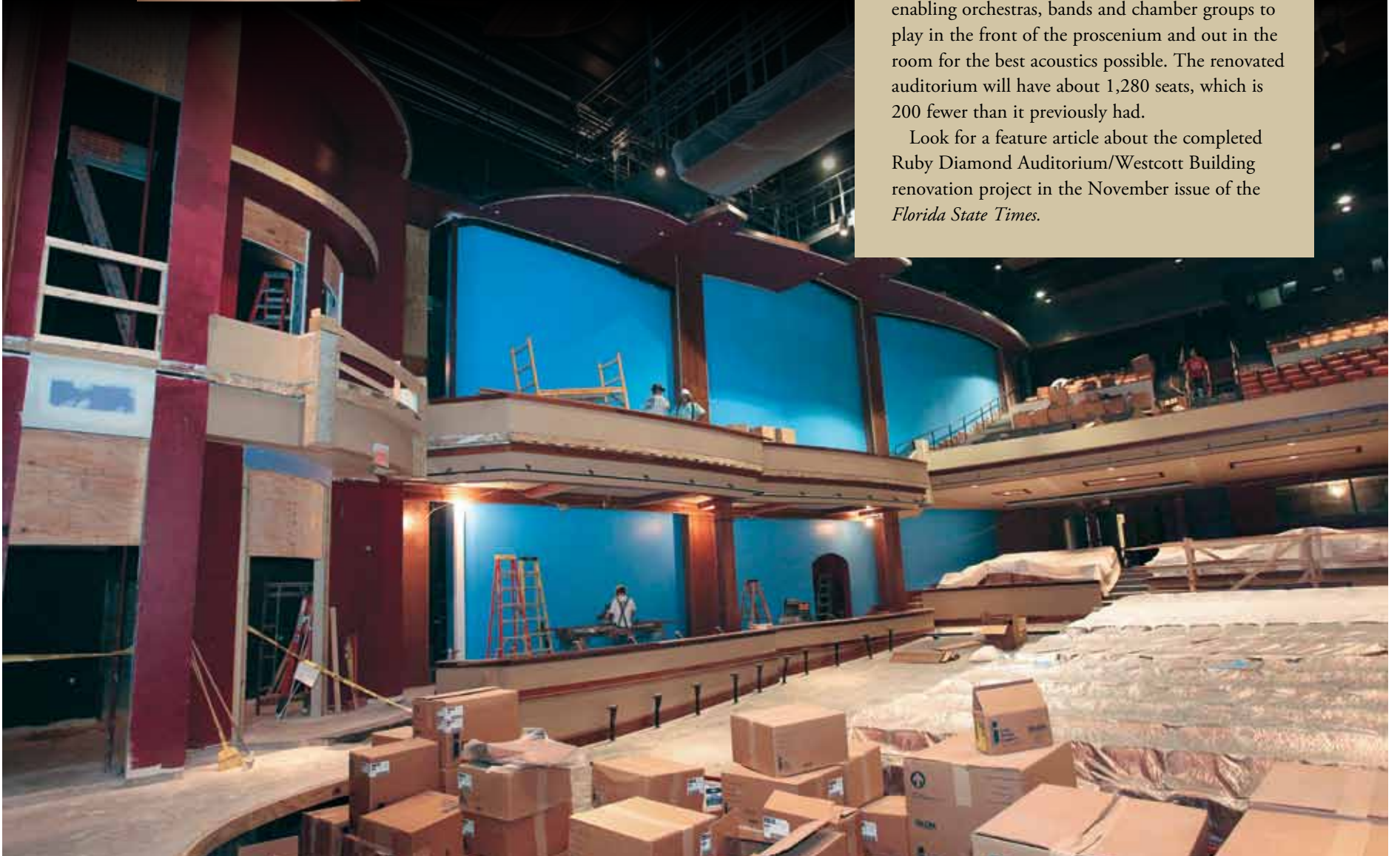
Now, after a two-year renovation, the grande dame has been carefully, lovingly and completely transformed into a landmark for the ages. It will soon reopen its doors, this time as a world-class concert hall — a first of its kind at Florida State.

The project is scheduled to be completed by Saturday, Oct. 2, when legendary blues performer B.B. King will perform for its grand reopening. The concert is a preview performance for the 2011 season of Seven Days of Opening Nights, the university's popular annual festival for the performing arts.

To enhance the acoustics of the auditorium, the proscenium above the stage has been enlarged, allowing more music into the hall. The renovation also reshaped the hall to be wide in the front and narrow in the back, allowing the sound to reverberate in a way that will allow all audience members to hear more clearly.

Further improvements to the stage include an enlarged orchestra pit with space for 80 musicians, enabling orchestras, bands and chamber groups to play in the front of the proscenium and out in the room for the best acoustics possible. The renovated auditorium will have about 1,280 seats, which is 200 fewer than it previously had.

Look for a feature article about the completed Ruby Diamond Auditorium/Westcott Building renovation project in the November issue of the *Florida State Times*.



International students find niche at 'The Globe'

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

After spending four years in the United States, Jeonghyo Kim still doesn't feel confident speaking English. Fortunately for the 36-year-old art education graduate student who hails from South Korea, there is a place



Zhao Jian Hua



Yana Lokteva



Jeonghyo Kim

at The Florida State University where she doesn't have to feel self-conscious while she improves.

The university's Center for Global and Multicultural Engagement — dubbed "The Globe" by students — does more than provide immigration assistance to the 1,250 international students, as well as professors and scholars, who come to Florida State. The new facility, located on the west side of campus, provides them with a place to feel comfortable and find camaraderie.

"I come here to improve my English and to become more familiar with this culture," Jeonghyo said. "It gives me a place to meet with and talk to American people."

After a year at Florida State, Kazakhstan native Yana Lokteva, a graduate student studying integrated marketing, has found The Globe to be a second home.

"It's not easy to make friends

when you come from another country, especially when your English isn't so good," Lokteva said. "The Globe offers a conversational English club. I think this was the first place I started to feel really comfortable with people in conversation."

From concerts to vegan lunches and bazaars, there are many opportunities for social interaction. Around 100 international students regularly gather at The Globe on Fridays for a twilight coffee social.

"I met a lot of friends there last fall, and we still hang out," Lokteva said. "This is our hour to meet and talk. After, we usually go someplace to hang out."

For Jeonghyo and Zhao Jian Hua, 44, a visiting scholar from China's Three Gorges University who has never before been abroad, the attraction of The Globe is both social and academic.

"I come here because I can

meet a lot of international friends and test my ideas to see whether they are good or not, and get a new point of view," Zhao said. "I want to get to know a lot of friends and experts. Then maybe I can build cooperation and outreach."

"Being here allows me to communicate with people in the field of art education," Jeonghyo added. "I want to learn more about the school system and the educational policies of the United States, and compare the Korean educational system with the American system."

As soccer's World Cup played out over the summer, it was easy to see why students gave The Globe its nickname. Representing many nations, scores of students gathered in this one building on the Florida State campus to cheer on their countries' teams during the international sporting event.

"We had students packed into our theater and in the student

lounge watching the games," said Cynthia Green, director of the Center for Global Engagement, one of two offices headquartered in the building. (The other office is the Center for Multicultural Affairs.) "All nationalities, even Americans, have been in here, yelling and screaming. When a team would score, all the students would just erupt, so it's been really neat."

On a daily basis, the Center for Global Engagement offers academic classes related to its mission — to facilitate international diversity and foster global understanding and awareness with the university community. What's more, there are workshops given on subjects ranging from taxes and cross-cultural adjustment to plagiarism and choosing a major professor.

"We also provide what we call Optional Practical Training that teaches internationals how to remain in the country for a year to work after they have finished their studies," Green said.



FSU Photo Lab/Bill Lax

A home away from home: Florida State students relax in The Globe's authentically decorated Turkish Room.

The Center for Global and Multicultural Engagement

Opened earlier this year, the Division of Student Affairs-run facility is home to two separate offices:

- **The Center for Global Engagement** (www.cge.fsu.edu) provides to international students various intercultural programs and cross-cultural exchanges, the Global Pathways Certificate program and collaborative efforts with other academic and administrative departments at Florida State. Its staff advisers provide immigration and other support services for prospective and enrolled international students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty and staff members.
- **The Center for Multicultural Affairs** (www.cma.fsu.edu) strives to create a welcoming environment that is inclusive of all students. It provides advocacy, support services and culturally based programs that educate students on diversity and multiculturalism, and empower them to be agents of social change in an increasingly diverse and global community.

The building is the first on the Florida State campus to earn the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification of the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is intended to provide building owners and operators with a concise framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.



Alumnus seeks justice for the wrongly convicted

By Bayard Stern
Managing Editor

Legal theory quickly became reality for a group of Florida State University law students in 2003 when the state Legislature passed a law establishing a six-month deadline for felons to appeal their convictions using now-commonplace DNA testing. The students and their professors got busy reviewing thousands of cases, looking for instances in which a single piece of evidence might make all the difference for an innocent person who had been wrongly convicted.

Out of that ambitious undertaking sprang the Innocence Project of Florida. Today, the Innocence Project carefully selects prisoners from all over the state who may have been wrongly convicted and works to obtain their freedom by researching their cases and representing them. When the attorneys and staff of the Innocence Project work on a

case, they secure DNA testing (when biological evidence exists); help to secure the release of each exonerated inmate; and advocate for criminal-justice reform to avoid wrongful incarcerations in the future.

"The project in Tallahassee began in response to a filing deadline for post-conviction DNA motions," said Florida State University College of Law alumnus Seth Miller (J.D. '04), executive director of the Innocence Project of Florida. "As students, we worked night and day reviewing criminal cases. We were looking for the ones whose irregularities met the criteria for evidence to be re-examined using DNA techniques.

"I always knew that there were innocent people in prison," he said. "But I never knew that there was this opportunity to find them and free them until I was a student at Florida State. What we learned in our classes about admitting evidence and the appeals process became

immediately useful."

The group of students didn't have an assigned area to work and review the cases, so they set up tables in a hallway in the College of Law next to the college office of then-FSU President Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte. D'Alemberte, a founding board member of the

Innocence Project of Florida, remains active both on its board and in representing clients whose convictions have been overturned and who are seeking compensation.

Miller, 30, said he has always been interested in what he calls "good work," or helping people who may not have the resources

for further legal representation. He started interning for the Innocence Project and working for D'Alemberte as a student. After graduating magna cum laude, Miller worked as a project attorney with the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Moratorium

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Innocence Project of Florida Executive Director Seth Miller (directly behind microphones) at a press conference with Jamie Bain (wearing "not guilty" T-shirt). As the result of DNA proof of his innocence, Bain was exonerated of a 1974 rape and released on Dec. 17, 2009, after spending 35 years in prison.

alumni.fsu.edu



Scott Atwell

**President,
Alumni
Association**

Welcome home to Tallahassee in September, the month of new beginnings on our campus — a time when students have just returned for classes and alumni retrace familiar steps for the rites of autumn. It is a month when sultry, afternoon air is punctuated by rehearsal notes of the Marching Chiefs, resonating across campus and filling us with energy — and reminding us why we fell in love with The Florida State University. September also is the beginning of your Alumni Association's open houses and road-game rallies as we celebrate what each of us has in common: our Seminole Spirit.

And there is much to celebrate this September. Campus has been abuzz with excitement over our two newest leaders, President Eric Barron and Coach Jimbo Fisher, who this month will begin their first FSU football season. When Barron graduated from Florida State in 1973, little did he know that the

A month of new beginnings on campus

Seminole would stumble into a winless season the following fall. But the president inherits a far different program from the one he left and, as a fan of the game, he will be among his team's most ardent supporters.

In that regard, it's fitting that the first welcome mat in your path on a fall football Friday is at the doorstep of the old President's House, where the Alumni Association hosts festive open houses from 5 to 7 p.m. There's food and drink, camaraderie and lots of garnet and gold, with alternating themes that will make each open house an event to remember. Tommie Wright, who wrote the music for the *FSU Fight Song* in 1950, will take a seat at the piano and offer up his most famous composition and, since the new President's House is right next door, you never know when Dr. Barron and his wife, Molly, will drop in to say hello. I hope you will join us.

Home, of course, is where the heart is, and even when our football team plays away, your Alumni Association packs its bags with Seminole spirit and takes it on the road. This year, we will coordinate with Seminole clubs from North Texas (for the University of

Oklahoma game), Virginia, Miami, the North Carolina Research Triangle and Washington, D.C., to deliver pregame activities for away games. Typically, the agenda includes a Friday-night welcome reception and game-day rally, bringing together local Florida State grads and visitors who travel far and wide to follow their team on the road. To stay in touch with these events and others throughout the fall, bookmark our website at www.alumni.fsu.edu.

Of course, you may elect to stay up to date with another of Florida State's new beginnings, the FSU Mobile smart-phone app, available for iPhone or BlackBerry. (The m.fsu.edu site can be accessed by any mobile phone with a Web browser.) From your mobile phone you can stay in touch with every aspect of campus life, including news, calendars and videos.

September also welcomes the next generation of Seminoles. This year, more than 6,000 freshmen — statistically among the brightest classes in university history — have made their way to campus for the first time, and in their hands is a brand-new *Seminole Experience*

Book, published by the Student Alumni Association in conjunction with the Student Government Association. As the name implies, it's a book filled with tidbits of FSU history and traditions, tales of the famous "kissing bench," and time-honored customs such as birthday baths in the Westcott Fountain. I am proud to say that my oldest daughter, Savannah, has one of these books. She is a Florida State freshman, and I look forward to the coming four years as she experiences the traditions of her new collegiate home.



Open House
The Old President's House rolls out the welcome mat and war paint for open houses on fall football Fridays.



Included in the book is a photo that captures the spirit of September in Tallahassee. It is a black-and-white image from the 1950s. Two coeds are peering from the window of an automobile on a tour of campus, and one of them is pointing out a landmark to the other — a freshman, no doubt. It is easy to imagine the conversation taking place, a kindred passing of the torch, tempered by the butterflies of a new beginning.

The newcomer has a wide-eyed smile, and reflected in the glass window above her shoulder is a spire of the Westcott Building — like a beacon, showing the way home.

Looking back in time, the traditional September return to campus.

Students continue to capture competitive fellowships

By Bayard Stern

Managing Editor

An impressive number of Florida State University students were awarded nationally competitive grants, scholarships and fellowships in the 2009-2010 academic year. These include a record number four National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships and 10 Fulbright Scholarships.

Part of the remarkable level of success of Florida State students selected for fellowships and grants can be attributed to the high caliber of the applicants. But another secret to their success is the help and guidance they receive from Florida State's Office of National Fellowships (for undergraduate students), and the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (for graduate students).

The offices were established in order to provide specific resources for students interested in applying for fellowships and scholarships. Both serve a number of functions, including campus outreach, advising, and helping students navigate the extensive application process, which can take anywhere from six weeks to a year.

The recipients of these awards are afforded unique opportunities to further their educational and research interests. However, many students who apply but aren't selected still call it a valuable experience, and they often start looking right away for other fellowships or grants for which they can apply.

"Our goal is to focus on the entire process and the students' development," said Craig Filar, director of the Office of National Fellowships. "We want every student that we work with to walk away with a surer sense of who they are and what they have accomplished at FSU. When we focus on the application process and the students' development, some of the students will in fact be successful in receiving these awards."

During the 2009-2010 academic year that ended in June, 10 Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarships were awarded to FSU students. Through the Fulbright program, the students will be given the resources to travel abroad to further their

education or do research.

"We are proud of the exceptional work done by our Fulbright recipients," Filar said. "They represent a cross-section of our students at Florida State University. Having students from the creative arts, humanities, education, social sciences, human sciences and natural sciences receive Fulbright grants demonstrates the talent and commitment of our entire academic community on campus."

"Hearing a graduate student's plans for their research and helping them make it a reality with a fellowship is always inspiring," said Anne Marie West, director of the Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards. "I work with students from all disciplines, and I serve as an adviser and mentor for them. This may include identifying opportunities, brainstorming, reviewing résumés, helping them with their writing, or explaining campus policies for awards. Students reach out to us for different types of assistance, and we're here to help."

Artrease Spann is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and was named a 2010 Florida Gubernatorial Fellow. The nonpartisan program is designed to immerse students from public and private universities in key areas of state government where they can interact closely with Florida's political leaders. During a fellow's nine months in Tallahassee, he or she receives on-the-job training as well as a front-line view of the inner workings of state government.

Specializing in physical chemistry, Spann is doing her dissertation research on the creation of a "novel self-healing material that contains carbon nanotubes" under the guidance of Sir Harold W. Kroto, Florida State's Francis Eppes Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

"Dr. (Anne Marie) West asked me if the Florida Gubernatorial Fellowship might be something I was interested in since I may go into a policy type of job after I graduate," Spann said. "Out of all the fellowships I applied for, I wanted to win this one the most. I couldn't have done it without Dr. West and the Office of Graduate Fellowships and

"Hearing a graduate student's plans for their research and helping them make it a reality with a fellowship is always inspiring."

Craig Filar



Anne Marie West



Anne Marie West
Director of the Office
of Graduate Fellowships and Awards

**Fulbright Scholar
Shaina Hyder**



During the 2009-2010 academic year that ended in June, 10 Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarships were awarded to FSU students.

Awards, because they supported me every step of the way. I am looking forward to applying for more fellowships this year, and I'm going to need their guidance."

"We've had a remarkable year with our students receiving numerous grants and fellowships," West said. "We had an increase in the number of Florida State students named as Florida Gubernatorial Fellows, and we had a record number of students who have received National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships."

Shaina Hyder, 20, majored in women's issues in the Department of Sociology and graduated in 2010 as part of the honors program. She soon will be traveling to Bangladesh using the Fulbright scholarship she applied for while earning her bachelor's degree.

"It was really helpful to have the Office of National Fellowships on my side during the Fulbright application process," Hyder said. "It took me about five months to put my application together. I was given a tremendous amount of support from everyone at FSU. That is what the Office of National Fellowships was for me — it was my team."

While Hyder was a freshman in 2008, she worked with Florida State faculty members to help arrange her first trip to India, where she taught English and received class credit. After that experience, she was determined to go back to India to conduct research, and the Fulbright is now giving her the opportunity.

"I will be in Bangladesh for nine months," she said. "I'm going to be studying garment workers and women's 'financial independence' as evidenced by the use of their salaries. I want to see who is really in charge of their wages. Are they taking their paychecks home to their husbands? Is someone else in charge of it? Or are they in charge of distributing it?"

"In Bangladesh, I have partnered up with a garments factory, a university and a research institute, and I am hoping to interview about 100 people," she said.

For more information on the **Office of National Fellowships**, visit www.onf.fsu.edu. To learn more about the **Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards**, visit www.ogfa.fsu.edu. In addition, Florida State assists its faculty members in gaining national acclaim for their teaching and research through the **Office of Faculty Recognition** (www.ofr.fsu.edu).

Sweet job: Hershey executive excels at management

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

As the vice president of The Hershey Company's Grocery Division, Connie Cooper Shepherd is responsible for \$1.6 billion in annual sales and an army of 86 salespeople. For Shepherd, however, corporate life is not entirely about the bottom line in selling some of the most iconic brands of chocolate on the planet. She also puts a great deal of emphasis on enabling and empowering her employees.

"My leadership style is based on the 'servant leadership' model, which is less about position, title and status, and more about making a difference and encouraging others to use their gifts and talents to reach their full potential," said Shepherd, 44, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations from The Florida State University in 1987. "I want to understand what my employees' strengths are and put them in jobs where they can be successful. I want to help them get where they want to go."

Much of Shepherd's leadership is based on "The Platinum Rule," a moral principle that calls for treating others the way that they want to be treated.

"By setting clear standards, expecting the best and encouraging others, people will feel valued, the company's standards are reinforced,

and extraordinary results are achieved," she said.

The result is a less hierarchical, flatter corporate structure that allows Shepherd the latitude to better break down barriers to efficiency and leverage an individual's strengths so that both people and the organization win.

"My goal is to always create a high-performance, self-directed team, where literally, I'm not needed in the day-to-day responsibilities," she said. "Rather, I am able to focus on developing a future vision and ensuring that the organization has the tools to deliver. Not that I'm trying to work myself out of a job. If everybody is clear on their roles and responsibilities and focused on the same purpose, then the team can operate at a higher level."

Prior to joining Hershey in September 2009, Shepherd began working for Kellogg in 2002, eventually rising to vice president of Western regional sales for its Morning Foods Division. In that role, she was responsible for \$710 million in annual sales and a sales force of 55. She also learned the difference between managing and leading.

"When I got to Kellogg, there were people three levels below me who knew more about the business than I did," Shepherd

Connie Shepherd

said. "Perhaps in the past, it was more common for a manager to have done every job that reports up the chain. But now, there are multifunctional teams where someone in a specific function knows more about finance or product supply than the general manager of the business. So I had to learn how to unleash each person's potential to benefit the whole team."

As a newly minted Florida State graduate in 1987, Shepherd began learning the ropes of sales management in a position with Procter & Gamble. Over the next 15 years, she would sell everything from health and beauty products to paper, soap, snacks and cereal — all told, more than 20 distinct categories. She honed her ability to think strategically and solve

problems while breaking sales records and coming up with innovative ways to get Procter & Gamble products into new markets.

Her experience at Procter & Gamble and Kellogg prepared her well for her current work at The Hershey Company.

"People underestimate the complexity of what we do and ask, 'What's so difficult about selling candy?'" Shepherd said. "It's a

feel-good, impulse item. The more places you can get it in front of the consumer, the more they'll buy. And guess what: The more they eat, the more they come back. However, we cannot leave the product up to sell itself. Instead, we need to ensure that the product is within an arm's reach of desire."

Shepherd says her motivation to keep Hershey's astronomical sales moving upward is her desire to be the very best she can be.

"If I'm going to play, I want to win," she said. "I always want to be learning, growing and asking questions so that I can do the very best job wherever I am at any given time and make a difference."

Veteran receives award for voluntary service

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

A 30-year Army veteran who began her career in the Women's Army Corps and retired as a colonel working in the Special Operations/Counterterrorism Policy Office of the Department of Defense in the Pentagon has received the second-highest award given to a civilian employee of the Army.

Florida State University alumna Lettie Bien (B.S. '76, Political Science), 55, was given the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Award for her work in helping to rebuild Iraq's infrastructure during a voluntary nine-month tour of duty from March 2009 to January 2010. Working with the U.S. Department of State, Bien was assigned to the Multi-National Corps – Iraq under the command of Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby.

"I worked on developing

everything associated with infrastructure, from socioeconomic to political and educational, as well as the bricks and mortar," said Bien, who retired from active service in 2007. "My goal was to help the Iraqi people increase their capacity to be able to move forward with a functioning government and a civil society — all the things we take for granted here in the United States."

Because of the conditions in Iraq, Bien found that the work could be both extremely frustrating and very satisfying.

"No matter what happens, even when things are going bad, you gain an amazing perspective," she said. "Those times were still made for growth, still made for expanding one's knowledge base and understanding of the global universe."

In 2005, Bien received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious



Lettie Bien

service in a combat zone. In recognition of her distinguished military career, she is currently featured in an exhibit at the Jewish Museum of Florida, "Florida Jews in the Military." The Miami Beach exhibit runs through January 2011.

Syndicated columnist wins Pulitzer for commentary

Florida State University alumna Martha Connor "Kathleen" Parker (B.A. '73, M.A. '76, Spanish), a syndicated columnist with *The Washington Post*/Writers Group, has been awarded the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for commentary. The Pulitzer jury cited Parker's "perceptive, often witty columns on an array of political and moral issues, gracefully sharing the experiences and values that lead her to unpredictable conclusions."

Florida State honored Parker during Homecoming 2008 as an Omicron Delta Kappa "Grad Made Good" and named her as one of the Florida State University Alumni Association's 100 Distinguished Graduates in 2009.

A celebrated journalist and nationally syndicated columnist, Parker started her twice-weekly commentary column in 1987 as a staff writer for *The Orlando Sentinel*. The column, in which she writes on politics, gender and culture in America, has been syndicated by *The Washington Post* Writers Group since 1995, and appears in more than 400 newspapers and about a dozen websites.

Parker has contributed to magazines such as *Time*, *The Weekly Standard* and *National Review*, and is a member of *USA Today's* Board of Contributors, writing frequently for the paper's op-ed page. She has won numerous professional honors, including the 1993 H.L. Mencken Writing Award from the *Baltimore Sun*, which praised her for "attacking ignorance and stupidity with vividness and originality."

Parker wrote the book "Save the Males: Why Men Matter, Why Women Should Care" (New York: Random House, 2008). She is a consulting faculty member at the Buckley School of Public Speaking, and is a regular guest on television shows such as "The O'Reilly Factor" and "The Chris Matthews Show."



seminole-boosters.fsu.edu


Charlie Barnes
**Executive
Director,
Seminole
Boosters**

When talking realignment, keep your eyes on Texas

Texas was a country before it was a state. You should understand that Texas' ancient sovereignty is the central article of faith taught to every schoolchild in the Lone Star State. Knowing the sentiment behind Texas' view of itself will help you navigate the long and convoluted process of athletic-conference realignment.

Back in the day — *way* back — the old Southwest Conference was a stout icon of college football. Anchored in the Cotton Bowl, then one of the four or so elite bowls, they comprised all the Texas universities plus Arkansas.

Explosive growth of America's college campuses in the 1960s began to exaggerate differences between the haves and the have-nots, and by the mid-1980s the SWC model became unworkable. Visiting Texas Longhorn fans literally overwhelmed Rice Owl fans at their own homecoming. The differences in

scale within the conference began to tear apart the fabric of the rivalries.

The Longhorns were unhappy with the schedule, with the money and with the general atmosphere, and so the University of Texas began to seek options.

Twenty years ago, the stars aligned and an earthquake wracked the landscape of college athletics. It was triggered when Penn State joined the Big 10 in 1990. Texas, Texas A&M and Arkansas entertained overtures to join the Southeastern Conference. That stopped when the Texas Legislature told the Longhorns and the Aggies that abandoning the SWC would cost them their oil money.

Arkansas did jump to the SEC, and the Texas Legislature was only able to hold the Southwest Conference together for a few seasons after that. The Longhorns continued to make overtures west to the PAC 10 and east to the Big 10, but in 1994 the four big Texas schools turned the Big Eight into the Big 12, and the rest of the old SWC teams scattered in all directions.

It all happened quickly. Old

leagues realigned and new ones formed and, suddenly, the Florida State Seminoles had options of their own.

The Seminole Boosters organization surveyed our supporters by mail, asking what they thought the Seminoles should do.

A large and vocal segment of our fans insisted that the Seminoles should remain an independent. Independent schools at that time comprised a fairly handsome collection: Notre Dame, Miami, Penn State, Syracuse, South Carolina, West Virginia, Boston College and Virginia Tech were all independents, and the three U.S. service academies were not too far removed from their glory days.

But the days of the Big Independents were over. Notre Dame would remain the last and only exception.

Florida State had long been an applicant to the Southeastern Conference, and the informal understanding was that an SEC invitation extended would be accepted. I supported joining that league; however the Booster survey

revealed a surprising hostility toward the SEC on the part of many fans.

The Atlantic Coast Conference appeared late in the day but seemed to be a sincere suitor for the Seminoles' hand.

Five years after Florida State joined the ACC, we conducted another professional survey of our fans to test their satisfaction with the new league. Again, I was surprised at the results. There had been controversy over ACC football officiating those first five years, and not even one ACC team's fans had filled the 10,000-seat "hole" that we have in our stadium to accommodate visits from the Gators and Hurricanes. Our basketball team did well, and that was certainly a big plus, but I anticipated that there would be general fan unhappiness with our fit in this league.

In fact, something close to 92 percent of Boosters expressed satisfaction with membership in the ACC. Of course, winning helped.

ACC television revenue in 2009 was greater than the PAC 10 and the Big East, but far behind

the Big 10, SEC and Big 12. A return by Florida State to national prominence in football will be the best way for the ACC to strengthen its bargaining hand.

For an intense few weeks this spring, the question was this: Where is FSU going to go now?

All that talk stopped when the Texas Longhorns elected to remain in what is left of the Big 12, and the seas were calmed for the moment.

Texas was promised its own television network and much more. No one really knows what all Texas has been promised; the remainder of the Big 12 can only hope that it falls short of human sacrifice. But it's clear that Texas has to be accommodated at all costs or the league will evaporate.

If Texas becomes unhappy, the landscape is unstable, and before too long we could see another nationwide upheaval. Perhaps next time, if the Seminoles can post a few big seasons, Florida State will find it has some fresh, new opportunities.

So if you want to know when the next seismic wave of realignment will hit, keep your eyes upon Texas.

The simplest way to support scholarships

Academic scholarships for Florida State University students are funded through a variety of sources and chief among these are donations from supporters and friends of the university.

As the current economic climate continues to strain other funding sources, personal contributions for academic scholarships are more important than ever.

One of the easiest ways to show your support is by requesting a Florida State University license plate when you register your vehicle. The dollars generated by your FSU tag not only sustain the academic goals of deserving students, but also provide a prominent display of your pride in your alma mater.

Online, through the mail, or at your Florida vehicle-registration office — be sure to ask for an FSU license plate and **BRAG WITH THE TAG.**



Seminole bylines

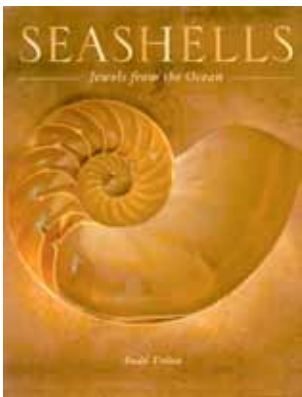
Books and CDs by Florida State faculty and alumni

The Florida State Times only accepts commercially published books and CDs, and reserves the right to decline any submission. Please send one copy to Florida State Times, c/o Seminole Bylines, 1600 Red Barber Plaza, Tallahassee, FL 32310-6068.

"Seashells: Jewels from the Ocean"

Budd Titlow (B.S. '70)
Voyageur Press

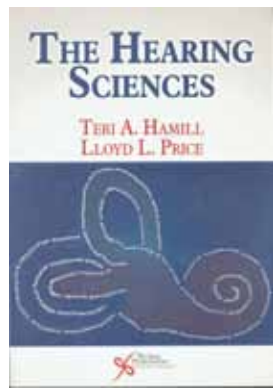
Seashells have inspired artists, architects and ancient civilizations, and this book explores these fascinating pieces. Using zoological and practical seashell information and richly detailed photography, Titlow pulls the reader into the world of seashells and mollusks, offering advice and tips to aspiring shell-hunters and beachcombers.



"The Hearing Sciences"

Teri A. Hamill (Ph.D. '86) and Lloyd L. Price (FSU professor emeritus, audiology)
Plural Publishing, Inc.

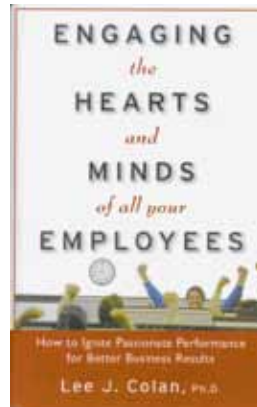
Published as a helpful supplement to undergraduate students of hearing science, this book serves as a guide for a wide range of topics related to audiology, including acoustics, speech perception, physiology and even psychoacoustics. The use of straightforward language allows students to more easily grasp the more basic concepts and this foundation is used to delve into the more complex ones.



"Engaging the Hearts and Minds of All Your Employees"

Lee J. Colan (B.A. '84)
McGraw Hill

Lee Colan's book seeks to help bosses in companies improve their competitive advantage by actively engaging their employees. The proven strategies outlined in this book focus on viewing employees as human beings and fulfilling their intellectual and emotional needs. According to Colan, following the simple formula outlined will create energetic, innovative employees who will perform at the pinnacle of their ability.



"Pure"

Terra Elan McVoy (M.A. '02)
Simon and Schuster Children's Publishing

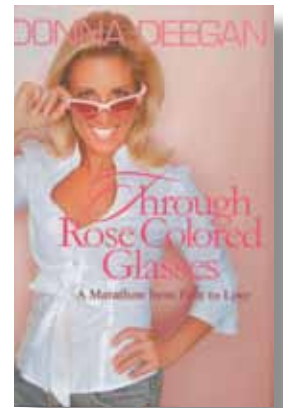
While in the 'tween stage of their lives, Tabitha and her four friends made pledges to maintain their virginity until marriage and sealed the deal with five purity rings. The rings not only symbolize their pledges, but also their bonds with each other as well. When one of the girls admits to breaking the pledge, an avalanche of broken friendship and betrayal ensues. The girls must now reevaluate themselves, their friendships and their faith to figure out just what being pure means.



"Through Rose Colored Glasses — A Marathon from Fear to Love"

Donna Deegan (B.S. '84)
Closet Books

Only months from launching the nation's first national breast cancer marathon, Donna Deegan was diagnosed with the disease for the third time. While still committed to the race, she began searching for answers beyond the conventional. Deegan takes us along on her journey with great candor and humor, from the creation of a race that now draws thousands from all over the country and the world, to her very personal marathon from fear to love. The book is a must read for anyone who has ever struggled to overcome fear.



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FSU Alumni Association



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**



IN MEMORIAM

1930s

Edna Moon Hall (B.M. '37)
Edwinola J. "Eddie" Daniels
(B.S. '38)

1940s

Evelyn L. Cochran (B.S. '41)
Maxine Houser Lichtenwalter
('44)
Mary Oakley McRory (B.A. '45)
Juanita Birdwell Driggers ('47)

1950s

Rachel McInnis Thomas (B.A.
'50)
Edward E. Sikes (B.S. '51)
Yvonne L. Morrow (B.S. '51)
Charles F. Biersborn (B.A. '55)
Ronald E. Jutila (B.S. '55)
James S. Ralston (B.S. '57)
Frank W. "Rocky" Petruzzelli
(B.S. '58)
Laurie Hugh Reams (B.S. '58)
Glen R. Garrett (B.S. '59)
Kenneth H. Robinson (B.M.
'59)
Ada L. Soles (B.A. '59)

1960s

Dwight D. Brown (B.S. '60)
John F. Bistrick Sr. (B.S. '61)
Milton R. Pierce (B.A. '62)
Marie I. Riley (Ph.D. '62)
Carole A. Reussow (B.S. '64)
Elizabeth H. Nuznoff (B.S. '65,
M.S. '83)
Evan Jennings III (B.S. '66)
Mary Jo Weale (Ph.D. '68,
M.S. '68)

1970s

Marcus J. Hepburn III (B.A. '70)
Benjamin H. Grooms (Ph.D. '71)
Lillian Tolhurst Trubey (Ph.D. '72)
Ronald Schoff (B.S. '74)
Thomas M. McDougal ('76)
William P. Sawyer ('77)
Kerry R. Simmons (B.S. '78)
Susan K. Smith (B.A. '78)
George A. White II (B.S. '78)
James T. Harris (B.S. '79)
Zachary A. Harris (B.S. '79)
Charles E. Peters Jr. (B.S. '79)

1980s

Raymond J. Bewley (B.M.E. '81)
King S. Jackson (Ph.D. '81)
Norman R. "Bud" Adams (B.S. '82)
John L. Cheek ('82)
Janine W. Baumgartner (B.S. '83)

1990s

Bernadette M. Gudson-Collins (B.A. '91)
Robert M. Hilbert (B.A. '94)
Ronald Jones (B.S. '95)
Joseph Beasley Williams Jr. (B.S. '99)

2000s

John C. Hamilton (B.S. '02)
Valerie Clines Mullally (B.S. '09)

Faculty/Staff

Marcus H. Ansley
Arthur Cofield
Albert Collier
Gordon Allan Dean
William L. Hatcher
John McMillan "Mac" Hall (B.S. '78,
M.B.A. '82)

NEWS NOTES Alumni

Got News?

To submit items for Alumni News
Notes, e-mail shayes2@fsu.edu.
Please write "Alumni News Notes" in
the subject heading of the e-mail.

1950s

Terry E. Lewis (B.A. '65, M.A.
'66, J.D. '78) of Lewis Longman
& Walker P.A., has been named
one of *Florida Trend* magazine's
"Legal Elite" 2010 in the area of
environmental and land use law.
Lewis also has been selected for
inclusion in the 2010 edition of
Florida Super Lawyers in the area of
environmental law.

William Lloyd "Bill" Garrison (M.S.
'67) received the Silver Buffalo
award from the Boy Scouts of
America in May 2010.

1970s

Lonnie N. Groot (B.S. '73) of the
law firm of Stenstrom, McIntosh,
Colbert, Whigham and Partlow
P.A., served as judge for the Mock
Congressional Hearings High
School State Finals held in January
at the University of Central Florida.
He also received a President's
Volunteer Service Award from the
President's Council on Service and
Civic Participation for his volunteer
service as a board member of the
Florida Law Related Education
Association.

Bruce A. Gingras (B.S. '77) was
elected to a two-year tenure as
president of the Illinois Society for
Microbiology in 2009.

Anne Longman (J.D. '79) of Lewis
Longman & Walker P.A., has been
selected for inclusion in the 2010
edition of Florida Super Lawyers in
the area of environmental law.

1980s

Russell K. Skowronek (M.A. '82,
M.A. '83) is now a professor of

anthropology and history at the
University of Texas Pan American in
Edinburg, Texas.

1990s

Jason Cornell (B.S. '92) has been
elected partner in the Wilmington, Del.
office of Fox Rothschild LLP.

Patrick D. "Rick" Warren (B.S. '92)
has been appointed principal of the
risk consulting practice at Crowe
Horwath L.L.P., a public accounting
and consulting firm.

Edward L. Birk (J.D. '95) has been
elected to the executive council of the
Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
at the Jacksonville-based law firm of
Marks Gray P.A.

Gigi Rollini Thomas (B.A. '97, J.D.
'03, M.S. '03) of Holland & Knight,
has been installed as president of
the Florida Association for Women
Lawyers at the annual meeting of the
Florida Bar, Boca Raton, Fla.

F. Joseph Ullo Jr. (M.S. '98, J.D. '06)
has been named a "Rising Star" in the
area of environmental law in the 2010
edition of Florida Super Lawyers.

2000s

Perry S. Agbuya (B.S. '03) graduated
from the West Virginia School of
Osteopathic Medicine with the Doctor
of Osteopathic Medicine degree in
May 2010.

Sonja E. Ardoin (B.S. '06) received
the Mortar Board Diane Shelby
Fellowship in the amount of \$5,000.

Joyce C. Soler (B.S. '06) graduated
from the West Virginia School of
Osteopathic Medicine with the Doctor
of Osteopathic Medicine degree in
May 2010.

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Justice for wrongly convicted ... *continued from page 7*

**"The project
receives thousands
of requests
to represent
cases a year,"
Miller said.**

Implementation Project and
then as a staff attorney with the
First District Court of Appeal in
Tallahassee. He became director
of the Innocence Project of
Florida in 2006.

"The project receives
thousands of requests to
represent cases a year," Miller
said. "But we only take about a
dozen cases a year that meet our
criteria. In order for us to take
a case to an appeals court, the
case history undergoes a careful
review from our attorneys and
FSU student interns. We have
to feel confident that there is
usable and admissible DNA
evidence available and that the
person may have been incorrectly
prosecuted for any number of
reasons.

"People can be wrongly
convicted because of an error
made by an eyewitness or a
mistake made when crime-scene
materials were analyzed," he said.
"By using DNA evidence, we can
successfully prove if the wrong
person has been convicted."

To date, the Innocence Project
of Florida has helped exonerate
and free nine people from prison
by successfully appealing their
convictions.

In addition to representing
clients, the project lobbies
the Florida Legislature on
public policy that would help
improve the judicial system.
For example, attorneys with the
Innocence Project of Florida
successfully worked to overturn
the deadline for filing appeals
using DNA evidence that was
established by the Legislature
in 2003. They also review cases
in which convictions have been
overturned, and publish their
opinions about what went
wrong and how the process
can be improved. For his part,
D'Alemberte filed a petition
with the Florida Supreme Court
in December 2009 to create an

Actual Innocence Commission
that will study cases of wrongful
conviction, find out how and
why they happened, and make
recommendations for reform
based on those findings.

"We have limited resources,
so when we decide to represent
a case, prosecutors' offices, state
attorneys and judges are usually
open to hearing the evidence,"
Miller said. "Sometimes the
evidence proves our clients
are innocent, or guilty, or it
is inconclusive. We always are
looking for the truth, so when
the evidence proves our client is
innocent, the judicial system as a
whole is better off for it."

According to Miller, the
technology used for DNA testing
has gained a remarkably high
level of accuracy as new ways of
analyzing the DNA in different
forms have been developed. Over
the past decade, vastly improved
methods have been developed
that can analyze minute traces
of biological evidence and
determine with virtual certainty
whether it came from a specific
individual — or whether it could
not have.

Fall semester ... *continued from page 1*

and dreams of these freshmen and all Florida State students. Understanding that difficult economic times bring major challenges for the university, Barron is focused on private philanthropy and the role alumni and friends can play in helping deliver those dreams. He's particularly proud, he says, of the up-and-coming Women for Florida State University organization, which highlights female involvement and philanthropy.

Also bringing new warmth and fresh dreams to the fall semester is another leader in his first term, football Head Coach Jimbo Fisher. And beyond football, hopes are high for all of Florida State's athletic teams, based on last year's record-setting season, marked by a fifth-place finish in the Directors' Cup — an award given annually by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics to the colleges and universities with the most success in collegiate athletics — and all teams advancing to NCAA postseason competition.

And it's the first term for new faculty members, who have come to Florida State from all over the country. Among the noted

academicians who are settling into Tallahassee are Richard Nowakowski, new chairman of the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the College of Medicine, who most recently served as professor of neuroscience and cell biology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, N.J., and the New Jersey Professor of Spinal Cord Research; and Lawrence Scharmann, assistant dean and director of the School of Teacher Education in the College of Education, who served as chairman of the Department of Secondary Education at Kansas State University.

The new teachers and researchers join a celebrated faculty, a number of them currently in the international media spotlight, based on their expertise on the Gulf oil spill.

Freshly open and ready for use by the campus community are the recently opened Center for Global and Multicultural Engagement, nicknamed "The Globe" (see story on page 6), and the new Center for Professional Development and adjoining parking garage. Several new food outlets have also opened their doors across campus.

Eagerly awaited is this semester's grand opening of the newly renovated Ruby Diamond

Auditorium concert hall (see story on page 5), featuring a special Seven Days of Opening Nights performance by the legendary B.B. King.

Other construction sites include those for a spacious new student wellness center, to replace the outmoded Thagard Student Health Center; renovation of the Johnston Building; and the planned Heritage Museum in Dodd Hall's Werkmeister Humanities Reading Room.

And for students who are still finding their way around campus — and alumni in search of their old stomping grounds in the midst of new buildings — there are maps and a vault of other useful university news and information available via

Florida State's new mobile app for smart phones (see story on page 3).

The Seminole Sensation Week barbecue offered just a taste of Barron's overall focus on making Florida State University the most student-centered university in the nation.

Supporting the academic goals of this year's class of high-achieving incoming freshmen is key, the president said. To this end, the university is offering enhanced mentoring and tutoring outreach, targeted advising services, and the new Strozier Library Learning Commons, tailored for undergraduates — all aimed at keeping students on track for timely graduation. With graduation rates steadily improving over the past

decade, and now at a noteworthy 70 percent, the trend is for even higher numbers in coming years.

Enhancing the academic experience, incoming freshmen are being encouraged to round out their education by participating in service activities, leadership development, undergraduate research, internships and international experience — all areas in which the university currently provides special support and is planning for additional efforts. Barron said he sees this year's freshmen graduating with unique certification of these experiences beyond the classroom.

With all this and much more, it's an extra-warm, welcoming fall 2010 semester at The Florida State University.



Parents' Weekend



What do three days of exciting events, students getting to show their parents around their new digs, and everyone ending up at a football game add up to? For thousands of people every year, the answer is a heck of a good time, thanks to Florida State University's Parents' Weekend. Since being reorganized in the 1980s, Parents' Weekend has become an increasingly popular and well-attended tradition at Florida State, second only to Homecoming.

"Parents' Weekend is a great time for parents to come visit their children and see what their lives are like as college students, many for the first time since they started at FSU," said Mark Striffler, senior associate director of Oglesby Union and chairman of the Parents' Weekend committee. "Students always enjoy showing their parents around campus — where they live, eat and just hang out. The events are always a lot of fun, and there is usually something for everyone to enjoy. Last year, we had the highest attendance ever, and we hope that it increases this year."

Multiple events are planned this year from Friday, Oct. 15, to Sunday, Oct. 17. Among them are two performances by the FSU Flying High Circus, a picnic on the Oglesby Union Green, a 5K Fun Run, educational programs and an address to parents by President Eric J. Barron. The weekend's events always lead up to a football game — this year, it's Boston College on Oct. 16.

For a complete list of events, visit www.union.fsu.edu/pw.

Museum seeks rare items on 'Save Our History' day

From heritage-themed drink cups and T-shirts to a special halftime show, fans at the Florida State-Wake Forest football game on Saturday, Sept. 25, will be treated to a slice of The Florida State University's past during "Save Our History" day. It's all part of an effort to build awareness of the new Florida State University museum, which will be housed in the current Werkmeister Humanities Reading Room in Dodd Hall. (The renovation of the reading room was reported in the August 2010 issue of the *Florida State Times*.)

During the football game, fans will be asked to search their attics, closets and garages for memorabilia representing every era of the institution's history, all the way back to its beginnings as the Seminary West of the Suwannee.

With all of the changes the university has gone through in its history, older items have proven to be difficult to locate. The museum's curators are asking all alumni and friends of the university to search their homes for any Florida State-related memorabilia.

"The museum is being designed to enlighten visitors about Florida State's rich history," said Donna McHugh, assistant vice president for University Relations. "It's important that our displays are the best that they can be, and we need the public's help so we can share the most interesting and rare items possible."

For more information or to find out how to donate items, contact Eddie Woodward at (850) 645-7988 or ewoodward@fsu.edu.

Attorney takes the helm ... *continued from page 1*

and the academics were what sealed the deal in regard to what I wanted to do with my major."

Today, Haggard's appreciation for his alma mater has broadened to include the growth and accomplishments of its student body, faculty and alumni.

"At our July Board of Trustees meeting, we went over the list of major fellowships, scholarships and awards that our students have recently received, and it was just overwhelming," Haggard said. "Lately, I don't think I could pick up a newspaper without reading about Dr. Ross Ellington and other Florida State faculty members who have led the way in monitoring and assessing the Gulf oil spill, and offering remedies.

"Our faculty has been winning huge grants for research that helps people in their daily lives. That is such a huge part of what a major research university is about."

Haggard was first appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2002 by Gov. Jeb Bush and served as vice chairman in 2004-2005. He was re-appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist in 2007. With that amount of time and experience as a trustee

under his belt, two things are clear to Haggard: the direction the university needs to take and the challenges it must overcome to find greater success.

"Florida State is known as an arts and cultural university," Haggard said. "We must lift up the university by advancing the arts and culture, and attempt to transform this new generation of students to be even better than the last.

"The greatest challenge today to any university, particularly Florida State, is the lack of adequate funding," he said.

As board chairman, Haggard's enthusiastic willingness to talk about Florida State is his secret weapon to ensure that alumni and friends feel that they have a real stake in what's happening on campus. To that end, he stands ready to discuss the university's excellence to civic groups and alumni clubs, and encourages his fellow trustees to do the same.

"If you have a university like Florida State that you're so proud of, which I am, then you need to go out and talk to people and tell them about it," he said. "It's not enough to simply attend trustee meetings, learn what you learn,

and then go home. We need to be talking to those groups, presenting our strategic plan that will guide us as we meet the challenges of the future. People need to know what that plan is."

Certainly, Haggard is comfortable discussing the virtues of Florida State in front of a crowd. When he served as president of Seminole Boosters in 1988, he traveled the country talking to Booster groups about FSU's athletics program.

"People can read the alumni magazine, the Report to the Boosters, Foundation reports, and so forth," he said. "But it is not the same thing as having a trustee, a faculty member or our new, enthusiastic president visiting with, and telling people about, what is going on at Florida State."

To keep the university charging forward, Haggard knows the No. 1 priority must be private fundraising, and he lauded President Eric J. Barron's goals toward that end.

Haggard praised his fellow trustees as "really outstanding people" upon whom he is depending to give 110 percent as board members.

"Being on any board is not only

a great honor but a tremendous responsibility," he said. "Trustees need to attend every meeting, every committee meeting and really get involved. All trustees need to do their homework, research the issues, conduct fact finding, talk to our constituents, and work very diligently for the benefit of Florida State University to lead it down the right path and support President Barron. I know we will do just that." Haggard is convinced that if the Trustees are diligent in keeping

alumni and friends informed about how far the university has advanced, they will develop a greater sense of ownership over the university and respond with support.

"Our alumni and friends are tremendously dedicated to the university," he said. "They have the same love for it that we trustees do. Our alumni and friends provide us with a wealth of talent, ingenuity and creativity. We want them right there with us, approaching this next decade with their enthusiasm and energy."

Florida State's newest trustees

- **Margaret A. "Peggy" Rolando** (M.A. '74, English; J.D. '78, Law): Since 1984, has been a partner with the Shutts & Bowen law firm. She lives in Coral Gables, Fla.
- **Brent W. Sembler** (B.S. '80, Communication): Serves as vice chairman of The Sembler Company, one of the nation's most recognized shopping center and management companies. He lives in St. Petersburg, Fla.

To view the complete directory of The Florida State University's 13 trustees, visit www.trustees.fsu.edu.

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\$57.1 million for research ... *continued from page 1*

By Kristen Coyne
FSU Learning Systems Institute

More than a dozen Florida State University reading experts have been awarded a total of \$26 million to help solve one of education's most pressing, impenetrable problems: why some students may be able to decipher words on a page, yet still struggle to comprehend them.

The money, awarded to the Florida Center for Reading Research (FCRR), is part of a nationwide, five-year initiative by the Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education. Dubbed Reading for Understanding, the initiative has allotted \$100 million to six projects involving 130 researchers from an array of institutions who will examine reading comprehension from pre-K through high school.

Florida State professors are participating in three of these projects. The largest is a \$20 million grant led by Christopher Lonigan and Carol Connor, professor and associate professor, respectively, in psychology, that will study pre-K and elementary readers.

"The fact that Florida State was awarded a federal grant of this size and is playing a key role in two others is testament to the university's depth in the field as well as the international reputation of the Florida Center for Reading Research," said Florida State President Eric Barron.

In addition to the \$20 million grant to FSU, two other faculty members have been awarded Reading for Understanding

subcontracts from other partners. Barbara Foorman, the Francis Eppes Professor of Education and director of the FCRR, was awarded a \$4.5 million grant to develop reading comprehension assessments in collaboration with the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. And Jeanne Wanzek, an assistant professor in the College of Education, was awarded a \$1.5 million grant to study middle- and

\$26 million

Will to help children better understand what they read



Connor and Lonigan

high-school readers in collaboration with four universities in Texas.

Lonigan, associate director at the FCRR, said researchers and educators over the past three decades have focused on "decoding" — teaching students to translate print into words. Although important progress has been made in this

critical area, it is not the only factor related to actually understanding what one reads.

"As a field, we do not know why it is so difficult to improve students' comprehension," Lonigan said. "This is what we hope to figure out."

\$17.5 million

Will advance state of the art in chemical analysis

By Susan Ray
National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at Florida State University is planning to build a state-of-the-art magnet system that will transform the study of complex environmental and biological samples. A better understanding of fossil and biological fuels, for example, could lead to applications for reducing carbon emissions and the development of new, sustainable fuels.



Alan Marshall

The 21-tesla superconducting magnet, combined with a small cyclotron spectrometer (a machine that measures the mass of molecules), is made possible by a \$17.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Division of Chemistry, \$15 million of which comes from funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"This award pushes the frontier of large molecule analyses and further strengthens our world leadership in ion-cyclotron resonance capabilities," said Kirby Kemper, vice president for Research at Florida State.

The magnet system will be housed in the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory's Ion Cyclotron Resonance (ICR) facility and will be used for Fourier transform ICR mass spectrometry — a powerful analytical technique capable of resolving and identifying thousands of different chemical components simultaneously in

complex mixtures.

The addition of a 21-tesla magnet is expected to yield major innovations in the field of chemical analysis. Going from 14.5 to 21 tesla — a 45-percent increase in field — will increase the accuracy of mass measurements by a factor of at least 2, raising it to an astonishing 50 parts per billion.

"This grant will give us the opportunity to see the chemical and molecular world in unprecedented detail — sort of like HDTV compared to ordinary TV," said Alan Marshall, director of the magnet lab's ICR User Program and the Robert O. Lawton Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Florida State. Marshall, who co-invented the FT-ICR technique and continues to develop it, is the principal investigator on the grant.

The ICR User Program facility serves more than 100 external researchers per year and leads the world in instrument and applications development for the technique. Since the technique's inception, more than 775 FT-ICR instruments have been installed in laboratories worldwide. In addition, the ICR program at Florida State has trained 32 undergraduates and 42 postdoctoral fellows, and

generated five M.S. and 21 Ph.D. graduates, for careers in industry, government and academia.

The 21-tesla magnet system will raise research already under way at the magnet lab to new heights. Areas of research include:

- **Petroleomics** — Analysis of the world's most complex mixture, petroleum. More precise analysis of crude oil samples can lead to better, faster and more efficient drilling, refining and delivery.

- **Proteomics** — The analysis and cataloging of proteins. To understand biological processes, scientists need to learn how proteins function in cells. Proteins, which compose much of the machinery of living cells, will be analyzed intact (top-down) rather than in pieces (bottom-up) as at present, a particularly promising direction for discovery of new drugs and their mechanism of action.

- **Biofuels** — Analysis of the chemical composition of biofuels. Although ethanol is the first widely used biofuel, other sources, including algae and pine trees, offer potentially better performance and less environmental impact. The new instrument will provide detailed insight into biofuels at every stage of their production and use.

\$13.6 million

Will help bring effective practices to low-performing high schools

By Nash McCutchen
FSU College of Education

High schools across the nation have long struggled to improve student achievement and reduce dropout rates. While reforms enacted over the past three decades have proven successful in some schools, transferring those reforms to others has been challenging, and many students continue to fall behind.

Education policy experts at The Florida State University will collaborate with researchers from Vanderbilt University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Education Development Center on a new \$13.6 million grant to help improve high school performance in Florida and Texas.

"Today's high schools have

discouragingly low rates of student retention and learning, particularly among students from traditionally low-performing groups: minorities, low-income students and English language learners," said Lora Cohen-Vogel, an associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies at Florida State and leader of the FSU research team.

In fact, according to Cohen-Vogel, gaps between black and Hispanic 17-year-olds and their white counterparts can exceed up to three years of learning. Gaps are wider still between native English speakers and English language learners.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the new National



Lora Cohen-Vogel

Research and Development Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools will work to bring tested practices to some of Texas and Florida's lowest-performing high schools. Researchers will partner with district and school leaders and teachers from two large public school systems — the Dallas Independent School District and Broward County Public Schools — on the five-year initiative.

"Underperformance in high school is a persistent problem

with extraordinary economic and educational consequences," said Marcy P. Driscoll, dean of Florida State's College of Education. "The policy expertise within the College of Education will contribute greatly to ensuring that all students not only graduate, but have the skills necessary to enter college or the work force."

The center's work will focus on identifying the combination of essential components and the programs, processes and policies

that make some high schools in large urban districts particularly effective. Effectiveness will be measured using value-added models to identify high schools that improve student achievement in English/language arts, mathematics and science achievement; reduce the likelihood that students drop out before graduation; and increase enrollment in advanced courses among traditionally low-performing student subgroups.

Research at WORK

How fast can microbes break down oil washed onto Gulf beaches?

Researchers examine oil degradation rates in beach sands, threats to beach ecosystems

By Libby Fairhurst

FSU News and Public Affairs

The gusher may be plugged, but much of the oil that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico this summer is still out there, somewhere. A new Florida State University study is investigating how quickly the Deepwater Horizon oil carried into beach sands is being degraded by the sands' natural microbial communities, and whether native oil-eating bacteria that wash ashore with the crude are helping or hindering that process.

What oceanography professors Markus Huettel and Joel E. Kostka learn will enable them to predict when most of the oil in the beaches will be gone. Their findings may also reveal ways to accelerate the oil degradation rate — and speed matters, because toxic crude components that remain buried on Gulf Coast beaches may seep into the groundwater below.

"This enormous oil spill affects hundreds of miles of beaches in the Gulf of Mexico," Huettel said. "We can remove the oil from the beach surface, but oil is also carried deeper into the sand, and we need to understand what happens to that oil. Preventing groundwater contamination is crucial not only to Gulf Coast residents but also to coastal management and local economies like fisheries and tourism that depend on water quality."

"We will also study the effect of the dispersant known as Corexit on oil metabolism by natural microbial communities," Kostka said. "Through contacts in the field, my laboratory has acquired Corexit and source oil from the MC252 (Deepwater Horizon) well head for use in our experiments."

St. George Island, Fla., and Dauphin Island, Ala., have served as the primary research sites since early June, when the one-year study began. In addition, the researchers have obtained heavily oiled sand from Pensacola Beach, Fla., and from a barrier island off the Louisiana coast. If warranted by the oil's movement, they will also collect

near-shore water and sediment samples from other Gulf beaches.

Funding for their collaborative research comes from a "RAPID" (Rapid Research Response) grant from the National Science Foundation.

Huettel and Kostka will analyze sediment cores collected from Gulf beaches to find out how much and to what depth oil washed onto the shore is carried into the sand; how rapidly microbes in the sand are breaking it down; and how the oil pollution may be impacting the structure and function of natural microbial communities that help to protect water quality on the coast.

"We'll also show how the oil itself alters the transport and filtration of oxygen-rich water into the beach by clogging the sand — and how this clogging and resulting reduced oxygen availability in the sand affects the microbial community and degradation of buried oil," Huettel said.

Currents and winds carry the oil, and oil combined with dispersants — chemicals that disperse the crude into very small oil droplets — to the Gulf shores, where it washes up on sandy beaches.

Larger crude-oil accumulations such as pancake oil (round, flat accumulations of heavy crude oil)

and tar balls (weathered crude oil accumulations that have been formed into ball-shaped structures) are deposited on the beach.

Meanwhile, liquid oil (in the form of an oil sheen, or small dispersed droplets) can penetrate many feet deep into the permeable beach sand.

"Oil-filled water that washes up on the beach filters through the porous sediment and carries the oil with it into the sand," Huettel said. "In addition, the water-level drop between high and low tide causes a water-level drop within the beach sediment that can transport oil that has penetrated into the beach into even deeper sediment layers."

"Crude oil is a natural component that constantly seeps out of Gulf of Mexico sediments — obviously in much smaller quantities than those now caused by the drilling accident — so native microbes have evolved that consume this oil and thereby degrade it," Kostka said. "These microorganisms include bacteria and also some microalgae that live in the water column and the sediments of the Gulf of Mexico."

Kostka said oil accumulations deposited on the beach surface are easily removed by, for example, scraping off the top layer of sand. However, the oil components that penetrate into the sand can only be removed by microbial degradation.

"If oxygen is present — as it is in the water and in the upper layers of the beach sand — the microbes decompose the oil aerobically (by using oxygen)," Kostka said. "This degradation process is much faster than the degradation under anaerobic conditions (when no oxygen is available), such as those found in deeper sediment layers of the beach. That's why at the site of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, oil can still be found deeply buried in the gravel beach sediments, because anaerobic microbial degradation is slow and, in Alaska, slower still because of the cold climate."

"Unfortunately," said Huettel, "crude oil contains such harmful substances that even small amounts can kill fish larvae — which means that oil stored in deep layers of beach sediment present a potential source of toxins to near-shore waters and groundwater."

Their NSF-funded study ("Rates and mechanisms controlling the degradation of crude oil from the MC252 spill in Gulf of Mexico beach sands") is the latest of several collaborations between Huettel and Kostka that have examined organic matter transport and degradation in Gulf sands. The current project also contributes to the energy-related research that Kostka performs for Florida State University's Institute

for Energy Systems, Economics and Sustainability (IESES), which has been heavily involved in providing information and expert advice to Florida's Governor's Office and Legislature regarding oil and gas development.

Kostka is an environmental microbiologist and microbial ecologist widely known for his studies of the services that microbes provide to humans and ecosystems. He serves as associate director for IESES, where he has developed and oversees an initiative he named SABER (Systems Approach to Bioenergy Research). A member of the Florida State faculty since 1999, Kostka has served since 2007 as the co-principal investigator of a five-year, \$15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for research on biologically mediated cleanup of radioactive waste from nuclear weapons production at U.S. DOE sites. Ongoing research in his Florida State laboratory focuses on the role of microbes in natural ecosystems in the shallow Gulf of Mexico.

Huettel, a biological oceanographer, is an expert on biogeochemical processes in coastal sediments. Central themes of his research include the influence of hydrodynamics on organic matter degradation, oxygen dynamics and nutrient cycling in coastal sediments. Before joining the Florida State faculty in 2003, Huettel was research group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology in Bremen, Germany. Research currently underway in his Florida State laboratory is addressing biological and physical processes caused by gas in the sea floor; the role of turbulence for oxygen transport to and from marine sediments; and the role of pore water flows on the decomposition of dissolved organic matter in coastal sands.

Gulf of Mexico oil spill

To follow the actions of Florida State researchers, visit FSU.com and click on the "Gulf Oil Crisis: FSU Takes Action" button.



Joel Kostka, left, and Markus Huettel at work on Pensacola Beach.