

STATE

Volume 42 ■ Number 11

January 7 - 20, 2008

THE FACULTY/STAFF BULLETIN OF FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

MODERN LANGUAGES

Gonzalez cataloging world's vanishing native languages, **4**

STROZIER LIBRARY

Round-the-clock service in place five days per week, **5**

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Interested in teaching abroad? Apply now, **7**

SPREAD THE WORD

Supported by \$5.15 million in grant money and state matching funds, Florida State University has announced a new initiative designed to give a major boost to math and science education in Florida schools by recruiting more math and science majors into the teaching profession.

Roberts named Fellow of American Physical Society

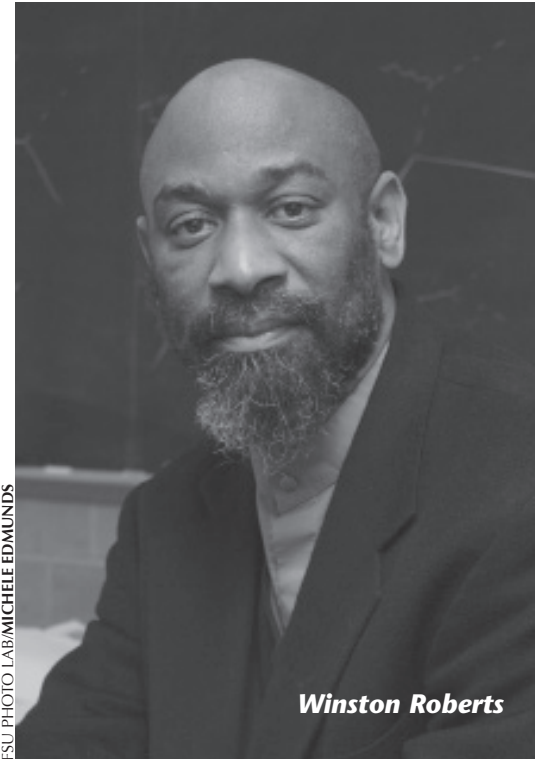
By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A researcher in Florida State University's Department of Physics has received one of the top honors in his field. Professor Winston Roberts has been named a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

"It is indeed an honor to be recognized by my peers in this manner," Roberts said of the announcement. "The American Physical Society is our nation's premier organization for the advancement of physics research, so I am happy to have been elected."

A theoretical nuclear physicist, Roberts carries out research on a number of aspects of hadron physics. (Hadrons are strongly interacting subatomic particles that are composed of quarks, which are among the basic constituents of matter.)

Please see **FELLOW, 8**



Winston Roberts

ESU PHOTO LAB/MICHELE EDMUNDS

Yancey to head National Council of Teachers of English

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As the new president of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Kathleen Blake Yancey is leading a charge to update and expand the means by which student writing is taught and assessed in a digital age that has redefined "literacy."

Director of Florida State University's graduate program in rhetoric and composition, Yancey is focusing her own research and considerable clout on innova-

tive approaches to writing assessment that take into account more fully the diverse literacies of 21st-century students. She believes that students should write the way they always do — on computers — when taking national standardized writing tests, and promotes the use of "digital portfolios" to better gauge their progress in the classroom. She's already widely recognized and often quoted as an expert on the ways that a now-ubiquitous



Kathleen Yancey

ESU PHOTO LAB/MICHELE EDMUNDS

Please see **YANCEY, 8**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"I do not have a death wish. But I am building a boat in my backyard. With tools from Home Depot and used sails. I'm going to sail around the world. Alone. My naval architect quit because he thinks I'll die. I'm not going to die. I'm going to come back and tell the story." David Vann, a Florida State University assistant professor of English, as quoted from "The Tin Can, Part I," an article he wrote for the December 2007 issue of *Esquire* magazine. The quote above plunges the reader into the six-page article about his construction of Tin Can, a 50-foot trimaran, and subsequent plan for a January-to-April voyage around the globe.

FSU makes headlines around the world: www.fsu.edu/~unicomm/news

Making TraCS: Spainhour helping keep Florida's roads safe

By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In dozens of communities throughout Florida, law enforcement officers are finding their jobs have become both safer and more efficient, thanks to a computer software system that a Florida State University researcher is working to distribute and implement statewide.

Lisa K. Spainhour, an associate professor of civil engineering in the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering, leads a program that distributes the software, at no charge, to local law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Called TraCS Florida (TraCS being short for "Traffic and Criminal Software"), the software enables officers to prepare and transmit a variety of reports from laptop computers located in their patrol cars.

"Speed and accuracy are critical when officers are preparing documents," Spainhour said. "For example, an officer who is on the scene of a vehicular accident needs to be able to prepare a crash report quickly and get back on the road in order to reduce the risk of a secondary crash. TraCS enables the officer to do that."

Agencies using the software are seeing other benefits as well. Officers no



Lisa K. Spainhour

longer have to travel back and forth to a central office to deliver paper reports or pick up books of traffic citations, enabling them to spend more time on their primary function — protecting the public. Some agencies, such as the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, are realizing savings in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, thanks to the efficiencies that TraCS brings.

Other, commercially available software applications can perform similar functions, Spainhour said, but she sees several reasons why law enforcement agencies in Florida increasingly are turning to TraCS.

"First, larger agencies can find them-

selves spending tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in licensing fees and upgrades for commercial software systems," she said. "But TraCS is funded by the State Safety Office of the Florida Department of Transportation for the purpose of increasing traffic safety through quality data collection, so there is no cost for law enforcement agencies or other government entities that choose to implement it.

"What's more, the software is easy to learn, and it can be customized according to each agency's specific needs. Also, the TraCS Florida team helps agencies with implementation and training, and we provide ongoing phone, Web and e-mail support — all at no charge."

TraCS was first developed by the state of Iowa, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, beginning in 1994. In 2002, the Florida Department of Transportation began developing and deploying the software in Florida, and Spainhour received grant funding for the project. Today, she leads a team of about 10 people, including Associate Professors Ren Moses and John Sobanjo of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, in continuing to refine the software and provide assistance to those law enforcement agencies that currently use it.

Florida State University Board of Trustees

Chair
JIM SMITH
Vice Chair
HAROLD KNOWLES

DERRICK BROOKS
SUSIE BUSCH-TRANSOU
EMILY FLEMING DUDA
DAVID FORD
MANNY GARCIA
WILLIAM "ANDY" HAGGARD
RICHARD MCFARLAIN
E. ANN MCGEE
JOE O'SHEA
LESLIE PANTIN JR.
JAYNE STANDLEY



Vol. 42 • No. 11 • www.fsu.edu/~unicomm

The deadline for the
Jan. 21 - Feb. 3, 2008 issue is
4:30 p.m. on THURSDAY, JAN. 10.



**Vice President for
University Relations**
LEE HINKLE
**Assistant V.P. and Director of
University Communications**
FRANKLIN D. MURPHY
**Director of
News and Public Affairs**
BROWNING BROOKS

Editor in Chief
JEFFERY SEAY
Writers
JILL ELISH
LIBBY FAIRHURST
BARRY RAY
BAYARD STERN
Graphic Design
ED AUGUSTYNIK

State is the faculty/staff bulletin of Florida State University. It is published 20 times annually — biweekly during the fall and spring semesters, and monthly in the summer — by the Florida State University Communications Group.

Submissions should be e-mailed to jseay@fsu.edu.

Underwriting is handled by the Florida State University Communications Group. Inclusion of underwriting does not constitute an endorsement of products or services. For rates, call Deborah McDaniel at (850) 487-3170, ext. 352.

People with disabilities who require special accommodation for any event listed in *State* should call the unit sponsoring the event, or for the hearing or speech impaired, use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Requests for accommodations must be received at least five working days before the event. *State* is available in alternative format upon request.

DISAPPEARING *native* LANGUAGES

**... going extinct faster than
plants and animals**

By Molly Smith and Barry Ray
VISUAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS and NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Carolina Gonzalez

It is her passion for language that makes one Florida State University researcher feel glum about a recent bit of news. Carolina Gonzalez, an assistant professor in FSU's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, is concerned because hundreds of native languages around the world are facing extinction.

"It is very sad," Gonzalez said. "Depending on the count, there are between 5,000 and 7,000 languages in the world. As you may have read in the media recently, the estimate is that half of them will be extinct in 100 years."

A September article in *The New York Times* said "83 languages with 'global' influence are spoken and written by 80 percent of the world population. Most of the others face extinction at a rate ... that exceeds that of birds, mammals, fish and plants."

At FSU, Gonzalez works on documenting some of those endangered languages while there is still time. Among her research interests is the study of Panoan (pronounced "pan-OH-in"), a family of languages spoken by indigenous peoples in Peru, Bolivia and western Brazil that are facing extinction.

"Panoan comprises some 30 languages," she said. "They are extremely endangered and, in general, not well documented. Out of those 30 languages,

11 are now thought to be extinct. Seventeen have fewer than 500 speakers, including three that have fewer than 35 speakers. Some of these languages will only survive one or two generations, at most."

Gonzalez is making plans to study other native languages of the Amazonian rain forest and to look at how rhythmic patterns compare to Panoan and other languages.

"What first attracted me to Panoan languages was the fact that rhythm affects speech sounds in ways that are not common in other languages," she said. "Consonants, vowels, and even whole syllables alternate in odd- or even-numbered positions in words, making up for the lack of other ways to create contrasts between syllables, such as stress — or even in apparent conflict with it. I am still fascinated by this property, and I believe that studying rhythmic patterns in Panoan and other Amazonian languages will provide us with a better understanding of the possible ways in which rhythm is encoded in languages."

"In the future, I expect to conduct fieldwork in the area, probably in Peru or Brazil, to gather primary data on the sound patterns of these languages," Gonzalez said.

At FSU, Gonzalez is sharing her enthusiasm for language with her stu-

dents.

In addition to a course on Spanish phonetics, she teaches "Descriptive Linguistics," which shows how sounds, words and sentences in languages vary, and how they are connected.

"We look at examples from languages from all over the world," she said. "It is a very exciting class for me to teach. The current students of this course are pursuing original linguistic projects, many of which involve work with native speakers of languages such as Hindi, Hungarian and even Muskogean Creek, which is still spoken in North Florida, southern Georgia and Alabama."

"I tell my students that the first class they take in linguistics is going to be hard, because we are not used to many of the concepts that are used in this area," Gonzalez said. "But even a general or descriptive course like the ones we offer will give students the opportunity to know more about languages in general, as well as the languages they speak."

Learning about other languages — even those that are in danger of extinction — offers students a window into the human condition, she said.

"They need to learn about the richness of all of these languages," Gonzalez said. "They can tell us about the human mind and culture."

Burning the midnight oil: Strozier now open '24/5'

By Jill Elish

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

There will be no more last call at one of Florida State University's most popular night spots now that it will serve students around the clock.

Strozier Library has become the first university library in Florida to be open 24 hours, five days a week, according to Julia Zimmerman, director of University Libraries.

The library now opens at 10 a.m.

on Sundays and operates around the clock until 8 p.m. on Fridays. It also is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Saturday.

"Libraries around the country are finding students really want these late-night and early-morning hours, and they really use them," Zimmerman said. "Students operate on a different clock than other people, and there aren't too many safe and comfortable places that they can go at night to study."

Under the direction of President T.K. Wetherell, FSU is using a portion of the money generated by a midyear tuition increase to hire additional staff to cover the extended library hours, according to Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lawrence G. Abele.

"Everyone agreed that the library should be our first priority," Abele said.

The new schedule was established in response to students' requests for longer hours after budget cuts forced the university to reduce library hours for the fall 2007 semester.

More than 2,000 students joined a Facebook.com group calling for restoration of library hours after the library began closing at midnight on Sunday through Thursday instead of 2 a.m., according to Student Body Vice President Clifford Counts.

"We were having to kick people out at midnight, and they just weren't ready to go," Zimmerman said. "We wanted to not only restore service to the previous levels, but expand library hours to even better meet student needs."

Counts admitted that the fall semester was difficult for students.

"The reduction in hours forced students to find other places to study during the midnight hours. Now, with the library open 24 hours a day, I believe students will use the library more than ever before."

To ensure a safe study environment, only the first floor of Strozier will be open during the late-night and early-morning hours, Zimmerman said.



FSU PHOTO LAB/BILL LAX

Julia Zimmerman

Exhibit commemorates women on the FSU campus

A photographic exhibit now on display in Strozier Library's Special Collections highlights the many buildings on Florida State University's main campus that are named for prominent women from the university's history.

"Where My Girls At? Commemorating Women on the FSU Campus," curated by FSU Museum Studies Certificate Program graduate student Kaci Kelly, will be on display through Jan. 16, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

While the exhibit focuses on the

buildings, it also tells the stories behind the women whose names are synonymous with their namesake buildings. Many people do not realize that some of the buildings they walk into everyday were dedicated to hardworking women — faculty members and administrators — who graced the campus in years past.

The exhibit hopes to bring to light the many women who have added prestige to FSU's legacy. It also offers information about current women at

FSU who are continuing to pave the way for future generations. Female students and faculty members alike are increasing in numbers and accomplishments. According to university records, in 2006 there were nearly 900 full-time female faculty members and almost 200 executive, administrative or managerial positions held by women.

Kelly is curating the exhibit with the help of the Special Collections staff members and the guidance of Museum Studies Coordinator Lana Burgess.

Zeigler to lead off 2008 Teaching Excellence Series

Florida State University College of Communication Assistant Professor Mark Zeigler, a 2007 Undergraduate Teaching Award winner, will make the presentation "Those Who 'Can' Teach: How to Make Your Classroom Better," during the Jan. 24 session of the Teaching Excellence Series. The session, which is open to all faculty and staff members, and graduate teaching assistants, will take place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Starry Conference Room, 214 Rovetta Business Building.

The classroom carries tremendous responsibilities and pressures, according to Zeigler, but instructors always can look for new opportunities to enhance teaching and learning. This ses-

sion will examine good teaching as a calling, and provide specific suggestions for making classes enriching for both teachers and students.

Zeigler teaches the fundamentals of speech and public speaking courses. His research interests include communication and grief, the portrayal of grief in the media, and public speaking portfolios and their effect on communication apprehension. He has won numerous teaching awards from both the university and various student organizations. In

addition to his teaching responsibilities, he is the summer director for the FSU London study-abroad program.



Mark Zeigler

The Teaching Excellence Series is sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning in Academic and Professional Program Services. It is an opportunity for faculty members and graduate teaching assistants to join Teaching Award winners for discussions on important topics relevant to the FSU teach-

ing community.

To register, visit ctl.fsu.edu.

Center for Teaching and Learning announces January workshops

Academic and Professional Program Services' Center for Teaching & Learning sponsors collaborative learning opportunities at no cost to FSU faculty members and teaching assistants. To sign up for workshops and browse online materials to support teaching effectiveness, visit <http://ctl.fsu.edu>.

•**Blackboard: Getting Started** (Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2 to 4 p.m.): Discover how to support learning in on-campus or online courses with a learning management system (Bb) Web site — from using the new features of the "My FSU" page to managing users.

•**Blackboard: New Features** (Thursday, Jan. 10, 9 to 11 a.m.): This workshop is designed for those who have been using the learning management system (Bb) for a number of semesters and introduces the new features of the updated version.

•**Mentor Training** (Thursday, Jan. 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m.): Mandatory certification course for persons to serve as mentors for online courses. The workshop covers the nature of online students and online instruction, the mentor role and

job description, and techniques for success. The course has a required online component to be completed after the live workshop.

•**Blackboard: Getting Started** (Monday, Jan. 14, 9 to 11 a.m.): Discover how to support learning in on-campus or online courses with a learning management system (Bb) Web site — from using the new features of the "My FSU" page to managing users.

•**Facebook: Social Networking for Learning** (Thursday, Jan. 17, noon to 1 p.m.): Are you on Facebook yet? This workshop will either inspire faculty members to connect and collaborate with their students and colleagues in exciting new ways, or leave them shaking their heads in wonder. Do social networking sites like Facebook have any real academic uses? Discuss how students use social networking and ways these technologies might be applied to instruction.

•**Blackboard: New Features** (Thursday, Jan. 17, 2 to 4 p.m.): This workshop is designed for those who have been using the learning management system

(Bb) for a number of semesters and introduces the new features of the updated version.

•**Blackboard: Facilitating Communication** (Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2 to 4 p.m.): Explore strategies for using learning management system (Bb) tools to facilitate student collaboration and course interaction.

•**Teaching Excellence Series** (Thursday, Jan. 24): See article above.

•**Blackboard: Content Collection Feature** (Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2 to 4 p.m.): Customize content areas, populate multiple course sections efficiently, link to folders and course tools, and make sites "content ready."

•**Podcasting: New Technologies for Learning** (Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.): The Apple iPod is a ubiquitous technology on campus. This workshop looks at the process of podcasting and some possible uses in instruction.

•**Blackboard: Assessment and Grading** (Thursday, Jan. 31, 2 to 4 p.m.): Discover learning management system (Bb) features that streamline the recording, converting and publishing of grades.

By the way ...

•FSU faculty and staff members are encouraged to visit <http://lan.fsu.edu> to nominate students for the university's annual **Leadership Awards Night**, which will be Tuesday, April 8, at 6 p.m. in the Oglesby Union Ballrooms.

Information: Angela Myers, 644-0612 or ammyers@admin.fsu.edu.

•The Center for Leadership and Civic Education invites FSU faculty and staff members, and students to participate in the **'Noles Leadership Book Club**, a leadership learning program. The spring 2008 book is "Com-

mon Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World" by Laurent A. Parks Daloz. The semester's first meeting will be Jan. 17, from 8 to 9 a.m. Additional sessions will be Feb. 21 and March 20. A continental breakfast will be provided. **Registration:** Visit lead.fsu.edu.

Faculty members can apply to teach abroad in 2009, 2010

Florida State University International Programs will be accepting applications until Jan. 31 from faculty members who would like to teach abroad for summer 2009, fall 2009, and spring 2010.

International Programs is soliciting applications for courses that lend themselves to the effective use of the academic and cultural resources available at a certain international location. Courses of broad general interest or that meet the liberal studies credit requirement or the multicultural requirement are of particular interest. Faculty may apply to teach in one or more of any combination of locations and semesters.

Faculty members who wish to teach upper-level or major-specific courses should consider submitting a proposal for a curriculum-focused program. Such programs can be located in any country (or countries) and should be geared toward majors or professionals in a specific field. Generally, the programs must attract at least 12 participants and faculty members are expected to lead in designing the program and recruiting participants. Faculty members selected to direct curriculum-focused programs at locations where

there is no year-round study center are responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day program operation overseas, which can include academic advising, student disciplinary processes and emergency response.

Faculty members will teach courses listed in the current FSU General Bulletin and are expected to guide and oversee any directed individualized studies (DIS) students majoring in their academic disciplines. In addition, all faculty members teaching at year-round study center locations are expected to assist the director of the study center with other duties associated with the program.

"We send students and faculty to live in the midst of incomparable academic resources such as art works, architecture, museums and libraries, institutions of government and commerce," said Jim Pitts, director of International Programs. "Resources and meeting places far beyond the classroom are available, and we encourage faculty to take full advantage of the program's location."

The undergraduate programs are non-funded programs that do not generate FTEs, or full-time equivalencies. During the fall and spring, faculty

members will continue to be paid by their home departments while teaching at an international study center. Faculty members are encouraged to seek additional support from their home departments. During the summer, faculty members are paid a stipend and provided accommodation by the Office of International Programs and must offer a minimum of two courses.

The Council for International Education and Programs (CIEP) and the academic director of the particular study center will review the applications. The nominations then are submitted to the director of International Programs for approval.

International entry clearance, work permit and visa requirements change frequently. If selected, faculty members must be prepared to work closely with International Programs staff members to meet these requirements for themselves and their families, including providing copies of their university degrees. In some cases, family members may not be permitted to accompany a faculty member for the entire length of the program due to immigration regulations.

Faculty members can find the application at www.international.fsu.edu.

CRC names Small Grant recipients

The Florida State University Council on Research and Creativity has awarded Fall Small Grant Proposal awards to four faculty members in the fall 2007-2008 round.

The award provides up to \$3,000 in research planning support not typically available at the departmental level. Of the eight proposals received, four were funded for a total of \$11,868 in support.

•**Karen Bearor** (Art History), "Design Laboratory: Modernism and Progressive Education in the Arts";

•**Charles Connerly** (Urban and Regional Planning), "Planning and the Southern Black Community in Transition";

•**Linda Hirst** (Physics/Martech), "Impact of Cholesterol & Polyunsaturated Lipids on Cell Membrane Structure: A Synchrotron X-ray Diffraction Study"; and

•**Jill Pable** (Interior Design), "Homeless Shelter Cradle Prototype."

For information on all programs of the Council on Research and Creativity, visit <http://www.research.fsu.edu/crc/crc.html>.

Exercise program made for employees

Campus Recreation's Leach Center and Human Resources' Wellness Program have partnered to offer a new fitness program developed exclusively for university employees.

The Faculty/Staff Fitness Sampler, a 12-week exercise program, will give employees an opportunity to participate in a variety of fitness activities, including step, body toning, resist-a-ball, Pilates, yoga and sports conditioning. The program is ideal for people who want to try several different fitness options to best meet their personal fitness needs.

Two class sessions will be offered: Session I, with weekly classes meeting on Monday and Wednesday mornings, from 7 to 7:45 a.m., starting Jan. 28 and ending April 16; Session II, with weekly classes every Tuesday and Thursday, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., starting Jan. 29 and ending April 17. Employees also may attend both sessions. All sessions will be held at the Leach Center and taught by its fitness staff.

As an extra incentive, a weekly bonus pass will be given to participants who attend two exercise classes during that week. The pass can be used at the Leach Center at any time.

The 12-week program costs \$48.75, payable by cash or check at the Leach Center. Pre-registration is required. To register, e-mail Lynn Grasso at lgrasso@admin.fsu.edu, or call 644-0546 no later than close of business Jan. 18.

FELLOW, from page 1

“Nuclear and high-energy physicists know that more than 99 percent of the matter that we see around us is composed of quarks,” he said. “They also know the theory that we should be able to use to understand how quarks combine into the protons and neutrons that make up our world and ourselves. However, that theory is very difficult to calculate and remains one of the outstanding intellectual challenges of the 21st century.

“In my research, I try to gain some understanding of quarks and their relatives, the subatomic particles known as baryons and mesons, by doing calculations that simplify the complexity of the problem,” Roberts said. “I then compare the results of these calculations to the results of experiments carried out at a number of laboratories around the world.”

The overarching goal of his research is to help develop a better understanding of the properties of matter.

“The fundamental reason I do it is curiosity about nature, how things work, and how we as humans can understand this,” Roberts said. “It never

ceases to amaze me that we are able to understand the world around us in terms of numbers (with some equations thrown in).”

He credits a particularly skilled science teacher with kindling his interest in the composition of matter.

“I was inspired by my high school teacher in Trinidad, the recently deceased E. Norman Lambert, many moons ago,” Roberts said. “At the time, I had been taught that the constituents of matter were protons and neutrons, and I wondered how protons and neutrons were held together in the nucleus against the very strong repulsive force that exists between protons. (‘Like’ charges repel. An oxygen nucleus has six protons; why, then, do they stay together?) Mr. Lambert provided some reading materials that I didn’t quite understand at the time, but which caught my interest enough to make me want to pursue this when I went to university.”

Roberts joined the FSU faculty in January 2006. He previously taught physics at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., where he also was a member of the Theory Group at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility. Roberts also has been a program officer

in the Physics Division of the National Science Foundation and a program manager in the Office of Nuclear Physics at the U.S. Department of Energy. He received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Guelph (Guelph, Ontario, Canada) in 1988.

With 46,000 members, the American Physical Society (www.aps.org) is the nation’s largest and most prestigious professional society dedicated to the advancement of physics research and knowledge.

“Being elected an APS Fellow is a hard-earned and highly cherished honor,” said Professor Mark Riley, chairman of FSU’s physics department. “This is a wonderful recognition of Winston’s significant and sustained contributions to nuclear physics and the understanding of hadronic matter. As chair, I am especially pleased since this adds to the growing list of Fellows on our faculty — a number which is often looked upon as an important indicator of a department’s research prowess.”

Roberts becomes the 17th faculty member from the physics department — and the 21st FSU faculty member overall — to be chosen for the honor. Go to www.fsu.edu/faculty/fachonors.html#aps to view the complete list.

YANCEY, from page 1

text-messaging lexicon affects other forms of written expression.

Yancey — FSU’s Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English — officially took the NCTE presidential reins during its annual convention, held Nov. 15-18 in New York City. As the council’s president-elect, she served as chairwoman of the convention program. The theme for 2007 — “Mapping Diverse Literacies for the 21st Century” — helped draw more than 8,000 attendees, a record for the 97-year-old event.

“Today, literacy — the ability to read and write many different and diverse kinds of texts — is undergoing significant change,” Yancey said. “We read books, create Web logs or ‘blogs,’ e-mail resumes to apply for jobs, and present our credentials in multiple texts that could include word-processed documents, streaming videos, podcasts and more. When it comes to reading and writing these new texts, it’s literally a

new world, and most of us will need considerable help navigating it.”

The intersections of 21st-century culture, literacy and technologies — “diverse literacies” — have fashioned Yancey’s own research. She is examining the role played by the means of delivery (e.g. through digital technologies) in shaping or misshaping students’ use of syntax, organization and evidence in college compositions.

The news isn’t all bad, according to Yancey.

“Text messaging does encourage a certain distillation of thought,” she said. “It’s like shorthand, in that you don’t really need your vowels, which is great in terms of helping someone create a very short and very succinct kind of message.” Still, as the text-messaging lexicon creeps from cell phone screens into serious schoolwork, she acknowledges “There are English teachers who aren’t happy to see ‘LOL’ (‘laugh out loud’) in the middle of a paper.”

In addition to studying the effects of texting on more formal written expres-

sion, Yancey is looking at new ways to assess that writing: digital portfolios. She serves as co-leader of the International Coalition on Electronic Portfolio Research and as a member of the Advisory Board for the American Association of Colleges and Universities VALUE initiative, which is focusing on the use of digital portfolios to illustrate student progress and achievement.

Yancey also has served on the Steering Committee for the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Writing Exam — and her service may change the face of testing in ways 20th-century teachers and students could never have imagined.

“This particular writing test is given every four years to selected students in fourth, eighth and 12th grades, and the results are published as the ‘nation’s writing report card,’” she said. “As the steering committee, we helped to develop a new framework for writing assessment that reflects current theory and research. My role was to advocate for digital technology.”

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

◆ **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:** The Office of Training and Organizational Development has posted its Spring/Summer 2008 schedule of classes at www.hr.fsu.edu/train. Employees may register online for these classes (reference the 4-digit Class ID). **Information:** 644-8724.

◆ **TRAINING CLASSES:** The following classes are free to employees and are held at the Training Center, Stadium Place, unless otherwise indicated:

- **BSP: Orientation Session** (for supervisors and BSP) (4155): Jan. 15-T, 9-10:30 a.m.;

- **Domestic Security Awareness** (for classroom professionals) (4193): Jan. 31-R, 8:30-11 a.m.;

- **DROP (Metlife)** (4354): Jan. 23-W, 1:30-2:30 p.m.;

- **Faculty/Staff Fitness Sampler:** Weekly exercise classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-7:45 a.m., starting Jan. 28-M; or Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., starting Jan. 29-T, all at the Leach Center. **Registration:** Lynn Grasso, 644-0546, no later than Jan. 18;

- **FSU Culture and Ethics** (for supervisors and BSP) (4162): Jan. 23-W, 9-11 a.m.;

- **Fundamentals of Communication** (4178): Jan. 30-W, 1:30-4:30 p.m. (part of the Communication in the Workplace Certificate Series);

- **Introduction to Pilates Bi-Weekly Exercise** (4276): Jan. 7-M, 11 a.m.-noon. (This class is a pre-requisite for attending the Pilates Bi-Weekly Exercise classes; see below.)

- **Pilates Bi-Weekly Exercise:** Bi-weekly exercise classes on Mondays, 5:15-6:15 p.m., C3300 Miller Hall, University Center, starting Jan. 28-M. **Registration:** Harriette Hudson, 644-7943. (Must have attended the Introduction to Pilates Bi-Weekly Exercise class (4276); see above.)

- **Retirement Income Solutions** (AIG Retirement) (4295): Jan. 24-R, 10-11 a.m.;

- **Sexual Harassment Policy Information Training** (4326): Jan. 30-W, 2-3 p.m. (also available online) **Contact:** Pat Mullins, 644-4579; and

- **Weight Management: Making Changes Series** (4266): Jan. 18-F, 11 a.m.-noon. Employees can attend the following class sessions: Jan. 24 and 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28; March 6 and 13 — all Thursdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m., 313 Thagard Health Center.

Registration: hr.fsu.edu/train (reference the 4-digit class ID). **Information:** 644-8724.

◆ OMNI TRAINING:

- **OMNI-AM-1000 – Asset Management Overview** (4196): Jan. 2-W, 9 a.m.-noon, A6301 University Center;

- **OMNI-AM-1500 – Intermediate Asset Management Overview and Inventory Training** (4204): Jan. 2-W, 1:30-4:30 p.m., A6301 University Center;

- **OMNI-BUD-1000 – Ledger Reconciliation** (4143): Jan. 9-W, 1-4:30 p.m.;

- **OMNI-GL-1000 – Accounting and Budgeting Concepts** (4212): Jan. 16-W, 9 a.m.-noon, A6301 University Center;

- **OMNI-GL-2000 – General Ledger Journal Processing and Reporting** (4216): Jan. 16-W, 1:30-4:30 p.m., A6301 University Center;

- **OMNI-HR-3100 – eTime for Time and Labor Representatives and Supervisors 8.9** (4223): Jan. 16-W, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;

- **OMNI-PCARD-100 – PCard Proxy Training – New Proxies** (4384): Jan. 24-R, 2-4 p.m., A6301 University Center;

- **OMNI-PUR-1589 – Purchasing** (4302): Jan. 17-W, 8:30-11:30 a.m., A6301 University Center;

- **OMNI-SP-2089 – Sponsored Programs Proposal Development** (4231): Jan. 29-T, 9-11 a.m., 301 Student Services Building;

- **OMNI-SP-2489 – OMNI Inquiry for Sponsored Projects** (4247): Jan. 31-R, 2-4 p.m., 301 Student Services Building;

- **OMNI-TE-2189 – Travel and Expense for Representatives and Approvers** (4257): Jan. 15-T, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; and

- **OMNI-TE-2589 – Travel Card Training** (4261): Jan. 17-R, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

◆ **ONLINE TRAINING:** The following free training courses and/or programs can be taken online at anytime.

- **Online New Employee Orientation;**

- **Online Core Curriculum for Supervisors;**

- **Online Fundamentals of Discipline;**

- **Online Internal Controls;**

- **Online Performance Evaluation Training;**

- **Online Sexual Harassment Policy; and**

- **Online Sexual Harassment: What You Need to Know** (for supervisors and BSP).

Registration and information: Pat Mullins, 644-4579.

◆ **NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION:** New employees now can go through the required university orientation by using the Human Resources Web site at hr.fsu.edu. Click the “New FSU Employee Checklist” link for registration and instructions for all sessions. For those who prefer a classroom session, New Employee Orientation will be offered on Wednesday, Jan. 2, and Mondays, Jan. 14 and 28, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in A6244 University Center. **Information:** Harriette Hudson, hhudson@admin.fsu.edu or 644-7943.

◆ **CERTIFICATE SERIES TRAINING:** The Communication in the Workplace Certificate Series, composed of four courses, will begin with *Fundamentals of Communication* (4178), Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1:30-4:30 p.m. To earn a certificate, participants must register and attend this course, as well as *Nonverbal Communication: Unspoken Messages in the Workplace* (4180), Thursday, Feb. 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m.; *How to Deal with Difficult People* (4179), Thursday, Feb. 7, 8:30-11:00 a.m.; and *Conflict Communication Skills* (4177), Wednesday, Aug. 13, 8:30-10:30 a.m. **Registration:** www.hr.fsu.edu/train. **Information:** Martha Scott, 644-6162.

◆ **BSP TRAINING:** The Basic Supervisory Practical (BSP) is a training program specifically developed for new supervisors at FSU. The program consists of 12 classes (four of which may be taken online) and includes a pre- and post-test. This program is self-paced, with participants having up to a year to complete all courses. Upon completion, participants will receive a certificate. Supervisors who wish to register can go to hr.fsu.edu/train. The “Enroll in the BSP: Orientation Session (4155)” will be Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 9 to 10:30 a.m., at the Training Center, Stadium Place. **Information:** Pat Mullins, 644-4579.

◆ **NEW ABE SCHEDULE:** The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program is offered free to any employee who wishes to brush up on fundamental skills in reading, writing and/or math. Participants attend a three-hour class, once a week, on either Tuesday or Thursday, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Training Center, Stadium Place. Tuesday classes begin on Jan. 15 and Thursday classes on Jan. 10. If class meets during an employee’s regular work hours, supervisory approval is required; it is not required for any employee who attends class during off-work hours. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is requested. **Contact:** Martha Scott, 644-6162. **Information:** hr.fsu.edu/train, click “Professional Skills.”

◆ **TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP:** The Team Building Challenge (TBC) is a customized team-building workshop offered to departments and offices interested in enhancing team dynamics. This full-day workshop includes classroom discussion, activities and a space mission simulation at the Challenger Learning Center

Please see **SOURCE, 10**

at Tallahassee's Kleman Plaza. **Workshop or scheduling information:** Martha Scott, 644-6162; or hr.fsu.edu/train, click "Professional Skills."

◆**MAKE EXERCISE A NEW YEAR'S GOAL:** Employees know that exercise has many benefits –it strengthens the heart; reduces risk for heart attack, stroke and coronary artery disease; strengthens lungs; tones muscles; increases flexibility; helps to lower blood pressure and blood sugar readings; and helps to prevent various injuries. The challenge is to take what is common knowledge about exercise and transfer it into a plan of action that is likely to become part of a daily routine.

Employees can learn different strategies to incorporate exercise into their schedules by considering the options offered through the University Wellness Program. Reference the Spring/Summer 2008 Schedule of Classes at hr.fsu.edu/train for a listing of classes and programs being offered, including: Faculty/Staff Fitness Sampler; Diabetes: Exercise Helps Control Blood Sugar; nutrition classes; a men's health series; Pilates classes and more.

Information: Harriette Hudson, hhudson@admin.fsu.edu or 644-7943.

BENEFITS/RETIREMENT

◆**FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PROGRAM OPEN ENROLLMENT:** The annual open enrollment for this program ends on Jan. 31. Payroll deduction is available. Once enrolled in the state of Florida-sponsored program, employees are locked into the cost of college at today's prices. Employees can request an enrollment handbook and an application from the Florida Prepaid College Program at 1-800-552-GRAD (4723), or visit www.floridaprepaid-college.com. To request payroll deduction, employees must complete a separate payroll deduction form and forward it to Human Resources.

◆**RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION LIMITS FOR 2008:** The IRS recently announced limitations for pensions and other retirement plans for the 2008 calendar year:

- The Section 402(g) combined annual limit for salary reduction contributions to 403(b) plans, including tax-sheltered annuities and post-tax Roth 403(b) plans, will be \$15,500. This is unchanged from 2007.

- The annual limit for Salary Reduction contributions to 457(b) plans, including the state of Florida Deferred Compensation Program, will remain unchanged at \$15,500.

- The annual "catch-up" contribution limit for employees who are age 50 or older will remain unchanged at \$5,000.

Information: IRS regulations for 2008, visit the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov.

◆**DOUBLE DEDUCTIONS FOR BENEFITS:** All nine- and 10-month faculty members enrolling in State Life and State Health plans including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Capital Health Plan, United Healthcare and other HMO plans throughout the state, will have double deductions taken from their paycheck each spring. Double deductions for health and/or life insurance begin the first paycheck in February and end with the first check in May. Supplemental insurance plans such as dental, short-term disability and hospital insurance also will be double deducted each spring. These additional deductions are taken out to prepay premiums for the months of June, July, August and September. Regular deductions will resume on the first paycheck in September. Employees can review paycheck statements during the double deduction period to insure that the deductions are correct.

◆**IMPORTANT RETIREMENT PLAN NEWS:** Due to a change in legislation during the 2007 legislative session, current partici-

pants in the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) will be given the opportunity to make changes. Under the new legislation, participants will be given a one-time window to switch from ORP to the FRS Pension Plan or the FRS Investment Plan. Informational packets were mailed to current ORP participants starting in November, outlining the details of the new legislation. The deadline for making this change will be on or before **Dec. 31, 2008**. University employees are encouraged to utilize the **My FRS Financial Guidance Line at 1-866-446-9377, option 3**, to obtain free financial counseling or to request an estimate of any "buy-in" costs. Counselors at the Division of Retirement are also available by calling (850) 487-4856, **option 2**.

◆**VISIONCARE NOW OFFERED AS A POST-TAX BENEFIT:** Effective Jan. 1, the university began offering all eligible faculty and staff employees' vision insurance as a post-tax benefit through CompBenefits. The enrollment form and brochure with more information can be found on the Human Resources Web site at www.hr.fsu.edu under faculty and staff benefits, or by calling the Benefits office at 644-4015.

◆**OCTOBER 2007 RETIREES:** James Apthorp, director, LeRoy Collins Institute; Laurine Dennis, enrollment management representative, Admissions; Cosette Lewis, administrative support assistant, Women's Studies; Martha Manasco, office administrator, Interior Design; Celeste Putnam, assistant in research, Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy; Kathryn Weaver, departmental accounting associate, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems.

◆**NOVEMBER 2007 RETIREES:** Patricia Hayward, academic administrator, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Linda Henning, business analyst, Alumni Affairs; Maureen Jackson, administrative support assistant, Physics; Barbara Perry, student program assistant, University Housing; Patricia Washington, administrative support assistant, University Business Administrators; Thomas Wright, professor and dean, College of Music.

COMPENSATION

◆**NEW FORM I-9:** The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officially announced that a new Form I-9 is now available. Effective immediately, people should use the new I-9 form when completing the form for employment eligibility verification.

Several of the "List A" documents no longer are listed as acceptable proof of identity and eligibility. Employers no longer should use the following documents:

- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (Form N-560 or Form N-570);
- Certificate of Naturalization (Form N-550 or N-570);
- The Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I0151);
- The Reentry Permit (Form I-327); and
- The Refugee Travel Document (Form I-571).

The New Employees Wizard and the I-9 Form on the Human Resources forms page have been updated.

Discard any outdated blank forms including the list of acceptable documents and instructions.

Online Information: Revised Handbook for Employers (M-274). The handbook with instructions for completing the Form I-9 can be downloaded at www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis.

Information: Eydie Thurston, 644-6470, or Sue Andres, 644-5052.



... will return in
the Jan. 21
issue.

Free Report and DVD Explains How To Prepare for a Secure Retirement!

Four Issues Most People Ignore When Planning for Retirement

It's been said that every 10 seconds, a Baby Boomer turns age 65. This started in January 2006. I don't know if it's every 10 seconds, 20 seconds, or 30 seconds. The point is that Baby Boomers are turning age 65 and will for the next 18 years. This will have tremendous consequences for all of us.

Most people will not be prepared for retirement. Why? I think it's because of the following four issues:

#1 – Underestimating Life Expectancy:

We're living longer as a society. In 1900, life expectancy was 47 years. Currently it is 75 years for a male and 80 years for a female.¹ Many people will live to be older than the mortality table suggests. This increased longevity will require better planning.

If we have 20 to 30 years of retirement, we will need an income stream we can never out live with increases to help offset inflation. Retirees can no longer just put their investments into a "conservative" investment program and ignore it.

Inflation will steal from them. It also means we can't be too aggressive with our retirement investments because we could end up losing money due to the stock market downturns like we saw in 2000, 2001 and 2002. We have to find that delicate balance between too much risk and being too conservative if we are to assure ourselves that we will not run out of money in retirement.

#2 – Health Care Expenses and Long Term Care:

When I ask people what their number one concern is they tell me, "The cost of health insurance and Long Term Care." Health care costs are out of control and continue to rise. As Baby Boomers retire, there will be more of a need for medical services than ever before.

If we agree that we are going to live a long life, we also have to agree that we're going to need some type of health care. Where will that care be delivered? Will it be in our home? Will it be in an assisted living facility, a skilled nursing facility, or a full-time nursing home? *Very few of us will ever live in a nursing home; therefore most of the care is going to come from our families.* In fact, most of the time children will have to care for their parents. What will be the financial and emotional impact?

¹ Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2005. Retrieved May 2, 2007 from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/pressroom/07wwwrelease/07lifeexpectancy.htm>

#3 – Inflation, The Silent Thief:

If you ask 10 people what they think the inflation rate is, you will probably get 10 different answers. In reality, we all have a different personal inflation rate because it depends on how we use our money. If you have a tendency to travel and spend money, then you have a higher personal inflation rate than someone who stays home and enjoys reading a good book.

Inflation is a silent thief. A stealth tax! Why? Because inflation is chipping away at the purchasing power of your dollars, that's why! Imagine retiring and having all of your money in CD's paying 3% interest and inflation is at 5% or higher. You haven't lost any of your principal, but you have lost purchasing power and that is a big issue in retirement. We can't just stick our heads in the sand and ignore inflation. We should look at asset allocation of our investment dollars so that we have growth of our assets, especially in inflationary times.

#4 – Relying too heavily on Government and Employer Retirement Plans:

At one time in our country's history people focused on taking care of themselves. However, today it seems we are becoming an entitlement society. How many times have you heard friends, or maybe yourself say something like the following "I have paid all of this money into Social Security, they have no right to even talk about reducing my benefits!" That's what I mean by an entitlement society. All of us expect to receive something from Social Security. Why not? We've paid a lot of money into the plan, why shouldn't we receive money back. However, I think we all realize that something has to happen with Social Security. Congress will have to eventually deal with this issue. They'll have to cut benefits for people that are already retired, or increase the tax rates for the younger generation, or a combination of the two. We must take personal responsibility for our retirement.

Well, there you have it: the four serious issues that will impact everyone in planning for their retirement. I hope that you will study these issues and I wish you much success and financial freedom.

Free Report and DVD available!! PSU Faculty and Staff who are Members of the FRS Pension, FRS Investment Plan, and OHP will learn how to avoid these four pitfalls and Prepare for a Secure Retirement. Call Toll Free 1-800-398-4565 x 7111, 24 hours a day for a Recorded Message. Your FRRS Report and DVD will be sent to you right away.



North Florida
Financial Corporation

John Curry earned his Masters of Science in Financial Services and has authored several articles and special reports. He is a Senior Associate of the North Florida Financial Corporation. John has assisted thousands of people in planning for a Secure Retirement through his retirement workshops, speaking engagements, DVD's and CD's, and personal consultations. John may be contacted by calling (850) 562-3000, e-mailing john.curry@glfc.com, or visiting his website www.johnhcurry.com.

John R. Curry, CLU, ChFC, AIF, MIF, ChIA, ChE—Registered Representative and Financial Advisor of Peak Avenue Securities LLC (PAAS), 3000 Co-Edge Court, Tallahassee, FL 32311. Securities Broker-Dealership and advisory services offered through PAAS, a registered broker-dealer and investment advisor, 1 (800) 303-9075. Financial Representative, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (Guardian), New York, NY. PAAS is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Guardian. North Florida Financial Corporation is not an affiliate or subsidiary of PAAS or Guardian.

PAAS is a member of FINRA, SIPC.


GUARDIAN



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

1600 Red Barber Plaza, Suite 104
Tallahassee, FL 32310-6068

First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
TALLAHASSEE, FL
PERMIT NO. 55

Happy New Year!



BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

The Suwannee Room



ENJOY THE HUSH AND STOP BY BETWEEN
11am - 12pm & 1pm - 2pm EXCEPT HOLIDAYS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FACULTY AND STAFF DISCOUNTS
WWW.SEMINOLEDINING.COM


Classic Fare
CATERING

LET US CATER YOUR EVENT!
WHETHER IT'S YOUR OFFICE, HOME
OR VENUE, WE'LL COME TO YOU.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MENU
WWW.SEMINOLEDINING.CATERING.COM

BOOK YOUR EVENT TODAY!

850-644-7508