Atwell named president of FSU Alumni Association

Florida State University Vice President for University Relations Lee Hinkle has announced the appointment of Scott Atwell as president of the university’s Alumni Association.

Atwell has served as the chief of staff in University Relations and as director of Special Projects over the past two years.

The Florida State University Alumni Association has 27,000 active members and serves 270,000 alumni worldwide.

“I have worked closely with Scott for many years now, and he has a solid track record of success,” Hinkle said. “He is exceptionally talented and has the will and ability to provide outstanding leadership for the Alumni Association.”

With extensive credentials that include a lengthy career in broadcasting,

Please see ATWELL, 12

Eppes Professor to receive prestigious mathematics prize

Florida State University Professor Max Gunzburger will receive a prestigious mathematics prize in recognition of his work in computational mathematics and developing mathematical models of science and engineering problems.

Gunzburger, a Francis Eppes Professor and director of the School of Computational Science, will receive the W.T. and Idalia Reid Prize in Mathematics July 8 at the annual meeting of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in San Diego, Calif., and deliver the Reid Prize Lecture the following day. The prize includes an engraved medal and a $10,000 cash award.

“Joining the list of the very distinguished mathematicians who have previously been awarded the Reid Prize is truly a great honor,” Gunzburger said. “It is extremely gratifying to be recognized by my peers. At the same time, I recognize that my work has very much depended on the help of many colleagues, postdoctoral researchers and especially students,

Please see GUNZBURGER, 8

Nine months after graduation, 99.6 percent of the Florida State University College of Law’s Class of 2007 was employed, pursuing a graduate degree or not seeking work, according to the official data released by the National Association for Legal Career Professionals.
Prepare for a Secure Retirement!

Free Report and DVD Explains How

Four Issues Most People Ignore When Planning for Retirement

It's been said that every 10 seconds, a Baby Boomer turns age 60. 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 60 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. 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 outlive 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 are 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?

#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 to CD's paying 3% interest and inflation is at 3% 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!! FSU Faculty and Staff who are Members of the IRS Pension, IRS Investment Plan, and CRP will learn how to avoid these four pitfalls and Prepare for a Secure Retirement. Call Toll Free 1-800-398-4585 x 7711, 24 hours a day for a Recorded Message. Your FREE Report and DVD will be sent to you right away.

John Curry earned his Master 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@ellic.com, or visiting his website www.johncurry.com.

North Florida Financial Corporation

GUARDIAN
From the article:

When it comes to costuming students for the theatrical and operatic productions of Florida State University, Lucy Ho has it all sewn up. The renowned Tallahassee seamstress has been crafting costumes for FSU since 1968 and, prior to that, did so for the theater department of Indiana University while her husband, retired FSU professor Ting Jui “John” Ho, was finishing his doctorate in anthropology. But what most people don’t know is that Mrs. Ho, who also is a local restauranteur, regularly cooks lunch for on-the-go FSU students who might be an ocean away from home and feel isolated. Much more than costumes are made in her shop in the basement of the Kuersteiner Music Building — fellowship and a sense of belonging that grow out of heartfelt hospitality are Mrs. Ho’s specialty.

LH: What happened, in beginning this lunch thing, was I realized that students have no time to eat out. One thing is the cost, another thing is the time concern. So when students finish a class, they come here and they can eat and run. I prepare extra food at night for 10 or 20 people, depending on the day. I know which days that more students are likely to come. It’s nothing fancy, just very simple. Most of the time it’s chicken. Sometimes beef stew, sometimes fried noodles. Mostly its College of Music students, some business school students, and there is a nice mix of Chinese, Japanese and American people, and my assistants here. I was born in Taiwan, so that’s why Chinese and Japanese people come here. I listen to the students, and they talk about their examinations and tell me about their problems. They think of me like a mother to help them and guide them.
NSF awards physics department $4.4 million for nuclear research

By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Florida State University’s internationally renowned nuclear physics program will now expand its experimental capabilities with a new $4.4-million grant from the National Science Foundation.

FSU’s Department of Physics (www.physics.fsu.edu) has just received a three-year grant from the NSF to fund a research project titled “Studies of Nuclear Reactions and Structure.” The project will support fundamental research in experimental nuclear physics and the training of doctoral students for service to the nation in scientific research, education and national security, as well as the enhancement of economic competitiveness.

“This grant expresses a great vote of confidence in our laboratory by the NSF,” said Samuel L. Tabor, the Norman P. Heydenburg Professor of Physics at FSU and director of the university’s John D. Fox Superconducting Accelerator Laboratory. “We are excited about the opportunities it will provide for developing forefront research and for training students.”

Within Tabor’s laboratory, the NSF grant will increase the capabilities of the new RESOLUT rare ion facility, which enables researchers to fire a beam of atomic particles through a steel tube at speeds approaching 60 million miles per hour — roughly one-tenth the speed of light — and then to observe the nuclear reactions that occur. Knowledge of such reactions is critical to the field of astrophysics and the interpretation of observations made by new astronomical observatories around the world.

“Using RESOLUT, we are able to study how the most fundamental property of nuclear structure, the shells, changes with increasing imbalance in the proportion of neutrons to protons,” Tabor said. “The accelerator laboratory also is an ideal hands-on training ground for Ph.D. students. We look forward to being able to provide even more students with these unique research opportunities.”

Nineteen students currently are pursuing doctoral research in experimental nuclear physics at FSU. They come from as close as Florida and as far away as India, drawn to FSU by research opportunities unavailable at all but a handful of U.S. universities.

The past two years have been a period of substantial growth for FSU’s nuclear physics program. In addition to the development of RESOLUT, a nuclear theorist, Professor Winston Roberts, has joined the physics faculty. And in 2007, the physics department was chosen as the host site for the National Nuclear Physics Summer School — a significant honor typically accorded to the top nuclear physics programs at U.S. universities.

“As a member of the experimental nuclear group myself, I am obviously very pleased with this wonderful news — but as the chair of the department, I am doubly pleased,” said Mark Riley, the Raymond K. Sheline Professor of Physics at FSU. “This renewal award is a most significant vote of confidence by our peers and the NSF of the continued vitality and impact of the research carried out by the outstanding nuclear faculty and students at FSU.”
New research center debuts name, mission

A new research center at Florida State University will use research to support successful learning and assessment.

As a pioneer in the design of multimedia instructional materials and customized assessments, the aptly named Center for Advancement of Learning and Assessment (CALA) will seek and develop alternatives that both inform policymakers and provide practical applications for educators. Formerly part of the Center for Information, Training and Evaluation Services, CALA is located at the university’s research and development complex and begins operations July 1.

“We take a holistic approach to instruction, learning and assessment,” said Faranak Rohani, the director of CALA. “Our goal is to help our clients consider the entire cycle of learning without sacrificing any one element. To that end, we collaborate with them to set goals and develop research-based training and assessment tools.”

CALA’s roots reach back to 1972, when it began as the Career Education Curriculum Laboratory, created to assist the Division of Vocational Education with establishing career education in Florida. Throughout the years, the center has provided products and services for assessment, evaluation, training and multimedia development to government, nonprofit and private-sector agencies.

Past and current clients include the Florida Departments of Education, Environmental Protection, Transportation, Law Enforcement, and Children and Families, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee Fire Department and Behavior Analyst, Inc.

To learn more about CALA, visit www.cala.fsu.edu or call (850) 645-CALA (2252).

FSU recognized for efforts in loss prevention

Florida State University’s Department of Environmental Health and Safety has received the “Award of Distinction for Loss Prevention” from the state of Florida’s Interagency Advisory Council On Loss Prevention.

Dave Wiggins, chairman of the Interagency Advisory Council, and Alex Sink, Florida’s Chief Financial Officer, presented the award during a May 7 ceremony to Environmental Health and Safety’s director, Tom Jacobson, and assistant director, Paul Burress.

In addition, “FSU Headlines” television show highlights Florida State University’s Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement, known as CARE, and features a story about a unique College of Business program: The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities. “FSU Headlines” debuts on WFSU-TV channel 11 (Tallahassee Comcast Cable channel 5) July 16 at 7:30 p.m.

“FSU Headlines” also can be seen beginning July 16 on 4-FSU (Tallahassee Comcast Cable channel 4) on Mondays at 6 p.m., Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m., and Fridays at 7 p.m. The program is seen statewide on the Sun Sports network (Tallahassee Comcast Cable channel 28) every Tuesday and Thursday each month on Sun Sports at 7:30 a.m.

In addition, “FSU Headlines” video stories can be viewed anytime on the Internet by logging on to www.fsu.com/video.

‘Diversity’ office takes new name, continues vital mission

Florida State University’s Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, formerly known as the Office of Diversity and Compliance, has a new name but will continue to provide the same vital services.

Located within the FSU Office of Human Resources, the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity is responsible for advancing and monitoring the policies and procedures that affect the university’s Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Affirmative Action (AA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives.

In addition to conducting statistical analyses to ensure compliance with government reporting obligations, the office’s responsibilities also include:

• Investigating complaints of harassment, discrimination and/or retaliation;
• Assisting with informal dispute resolution through the Employee Ombudsperson Program;
• Evaluating requests for reasonable accommodation pursuant to the ADA;
• Monitoring campus accessibility to include disabled parking, structural compliance of buildings, alert systems, university common areas, telecommunication and transportation;
• Conducting standardized or customized training for employees in the areas of EEO and diversity;
• Monitoring University employment practices to ensure non-discrimination; and
• Developing programs and initiatives that promote and support a diverse work and educational environment.

For more information or assistance, employees are encouraged to call the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, 645-6519, or go visit www.diversity.fsu.edu.
‘New’ ancient Antarctic sediment reveals climate change history

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Recent additions to the premier collection of Southern Ocean sediment cores at Florida State University’s Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility have given international scientists a close-up look at fluctuations that occurred in Antarctica’s ice sheet and marine and terrestrial life as the climate cooled considerably between 20 and 14 million years ago.

FSU’s latest Antarctic sediment core acquisition was extracted from deep beneath the sea floor of Antarctica’s western Ross Sea, the Earth’s largest floating ice body. The new samples — segments of a drill core that measures more than 1,100 meters in length — offer an extraordinary stratigraphic record of sedimentary rock from the Antarctic continental margin that documents key developments in the area’s Cenozoic climatic and glacial history.

By correlating that stratigraphic record with existing data and climate and ice sheet models, scientists from FSU and around the world will be able to learn how local changes in the Southern Ocean region relate to regional and global climate events.

“Such knowledge will significantly increase our understanding of Antarctica’s potential responses to future global-scale climate changes,” said Sherwood W. Wise, Jr., an FSU geological science professor and co-principal investigator at the Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility. “This is critical for low-lying regions such as Florida that could be directly affected by the future behavior of the Antarctic Ice Sheets and any resulting sea-level changes. By studying these glacial records of the past, geologists and climatologists seek to better predict the future.”

The new cores came to FSU compliments of ANDRILL (ANtarctic geological DRILLing), an international collaboration among more than 120 scientists — plus drillers, engineers, educators and technicians — from Germany, Italy, New Zealand and the United States. FSU’s Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility and its staff and associated geological science faculty play a key ANDRILL role, providing both on-the-ice curatorial services during the drilling season and a permanent repository for the core samples recovered during the project.

In fact, earlier this spring, some 100 ANDRILL scientists and educators, including seven from the FSU “on-ice” curatorial team, converged at the Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility core repository. They re-examined the latest core acquisitions to refine
their descriptions of the material and took additional samples for tests to extract even more information about their history and the conditions under which the sediments were deposited.

Those hard-won, deep-sea sediment cores may be millions of years old, but the scientists found them in mint condition at FSU. The Antarctic research facility carefully curates the samples in its large, 6,000-square-foot refrigerated “Cold Room,” which is maintained at 34 F, temperatures generally found at the bottom of the sea.

“The sediment cores recovered during this year’s successful ANDRILL expedition have filled in a major gap in the most direct record of the ice activity yet recovered from the period of about 20 to 14 million years ago,” said Wise, who serves ANDRILL as a participating (off-ice) scientist and member of its U.S. advisory committee. “The 1,139 meters of core retrieved, 98 percent intact, records the critical transition from times warmer than today to the onset of major cooling between about 14 to 13 million years ago when a semi-permanent ice sheet formed across most of Antarctica.”

That record was created, said Wise, because sediments deposited close to or beneath grounded glaciers alternate with marine sediments, providing clear evidence of cyclical ice advances followed by substantial retreats and reflecting variations in sea-level, glacial and climate fluctuations. The new stratigraphic section housed at FSU will allow scientists to devise more accurate models of the timing of past ice-sheet movements, volume changes and variability, and paleotemperature fluctuations, and will enable a better understanding of the development of Antarctica’s terrestrial and marine life.

The Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility was established at FSU in 1963 through the National Science Foundation’s Office of Polar Programs and now serves as the national repository for geological material from the Southern ocean. It functions as one of the university’s two user facilities (the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory is the other) for visiting researchers from around the globe.

**FSU, U. of Michigan to share $7 million grant to study autism early intervention**

**By Doug Carlson**
**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

Researchers know that early intervention is the key to better outcomes for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), but the effectiveness of intervention with very young toddlers is not yet known.

With a $7 million grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health, Florida State University and University of Michigan researchers aim to find out how effective early intervention is for children diagnosed with ASD by the time they are 18 months old. The study is one of the largest of its kind and one of the first to explore intervention in children that young.

Amy Wetherby, professor of clinical sciences and director of the FSU Autism Institute in the College of Medicine, is principal investigator on the NIMH grant, along with UM Professor Catherine Lord.

“A preliminary study at FSU demonstrated the feasibility and promising results of this early intervention,” Wetherby said. “With the new funding from NIMH, we will be able to train researchers at the University of Michigan on early intervention and conduct a large-scale study to examine the impact on toddlers with ASD and their families. The findings will underscore the importance of early detection of ASD leading to early intervention.”

Wetherby and Lord, the director of UM’s Autism and Communications Disorders Center, will recruit 100 toddlers younger than 18 months old who have been diagnosed with ASD. Previous research has shown that children 3 to 5 years old with ASD have the best outcomes if they are actively engaged in intervention at least 25 hours a week. Because children with ASD typically are not diagnosed prior to age 3, research is not available on the effectiveness of earlier intervention.

“The future for children with ASD is changing every day as we create more services to support their strengths and address or prevent difficulties,” Lord said. “As we develop ways of identifying ASD in younger and younger children, we must develop treatment methods and family supports that are appropriate for toddlers. This is the purpose of this study.”

The researchers expect that the study will provide important evidence of parent-implemented intervention for toddlers and will substantiate that autism screening for toddlers is crucial for families to access early intervention.

Symptoms of ASD at 18 months old include a lack of appropriate gaze; lack of using eye gaze with sounds, gestures and facial expression; lack of sharing interest or enjoyment; lack of response to name; lack of warm, joyful expressions; lack of showing or pointing gestures to get others to notice objects or things of interest; unusual melody of speech or babbling; and repetitive movements with objects or with the body.

No single red flag indicates that a child has ASD, and a child with ASD may not show all of these characteristics, according to Wetherby and Lord. However, children who show several should be screened for possible ASD.

Parents of 16- to 20-month-old children suspected of having ASD who are interested in participating in the study should call the FSU FIRST WORDS Project at (850) 488-5780 or the UM Autism and Communication Disorders Center at (743) 936-8600.
Low grades, bad behavior?
Siblings may be to blame

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We all know the story of a man named Brady and the group that somehow formed a family. But if the iconic '70s sitcom about a “blended” family reflected reality, the Brady Bunch likely would have been dealing with much more than silly sibling squabbles.

Here’s the real story: On average, adolescents living with half- or stepsiblings have lower grades and more school-related behavior problems, and these problems may not improve over time, according to Florida State University Assistant Professor of Sociology Kathryn Harker Tillman.

“These findings imply that family formation patterns that bring together children who have different sets of biological parents may not be in the best interests of the children involved,” Tillman said. “Yet one-half of all American stepfamilies include children from previous relationships of both partners, and the majority of parents in stepfamilies go on to have additional children together.”

Many studies have focused on the structure of parent-child relations in connection to academic achievement, but Tillman’s study is unique in that it focuses on the composition of the entire family unit. Tillman studied data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, a nationally representative study of more than 11,000 adolescents in grades 7 through 12 in the United States. Her study is published in the journal Social Science Research.

All stepfamilies are not equal — at least in terms of their impact on children’s academic performance. Surprisingly, teens who live in the most seemingly complicated family arrangement of all — those with both half- and stepsiblings fare better than those who live with only stepsiblings or only half-siblings. Tillman theorized that perhaps the decision of the parents in these families to have a biological child together reflects a stable relationship or one in which child rearing is especially important. Only 1 percent of youth in Tillman’s study lived in this so-called complex blended sibling composition, however.

Boys living with half- or stepsiblings appear to have the hardest time coping, with average GPAs one-quarter of a letter grade lower than boys who live with only full siblings. Girls with half- or stepsiblings also had lower GPAs than those living with only full siblings, but the difference was much smaller. Boys and girls in these types of families also had more school behavioral problems, such as trouble paying attention, getting homework done and getting along with teachers and other students.

Tillman looked at how long children had been living with their half- or stepsiblings and found that it didn’t really matter. Things did not tend to improve with time.

“We cannot assume that over time, children will naturally ‘adjust’ to the new roles and relationships that arise when families are blended,” she said. “This research indicates that the effects of new stepsiblings or half siblings may actually become more negative over time or, at the least, remain consistently negative.”

To date, this story, produced by FSU News and Public Affairs, has been viewed by 953 reporters on the Eurekalert! online science news service.

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so I feel the prize also belongs to them.”

SIAM established the Reid Prize in 1993 to recognize outstanding work in, or other contributions to, the broadly defined areas of differential equations and control theory. The prize, one of the most coveted in the field of applied mathematics, is awarded annually and may be given either for a single notable achievement or a collection of achievements.

Gunzburger came to FSU in 2002 from Iowa State University where he served as a distinguished professor and chair of the mathematics department. As an Eppes professor, Gunzburger is among the university’s most eminent scholars.

His research involves developing, analyzing, implementing and applying computational algorithms to help engineers and scientists solve problems in areas including aerodynamics, materials, acoustics, climate change, groundwater, image processing, risk assessment and superconductivity.

For example, he has developed algorithms for controlling fluid flows in order to reduce the drag around moving objects, such as airplane wings. The practical implications of such research could mean a reduction of fuel consumption in commercial aircraft.

Before Iowa State, Gunzburger was on the faculty of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Carnegie Mellon University; and the University of Tennessee. He began his career as a research scientist and assistant professor at New York University and followed that with research positions at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory and the Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering.

He received his doctorate in 1969 from New York University, where he also earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Gunzburger is a member of SIAM and has served as editor-in-chief of the SIAM Journal on Numerical Analysis and as chair of the Board of Trustees of SIAM. SIAM is an international community of more than 11,000 members, including applied and computational mathematicians, computer scientists and other scientists and engineers.
Honoring Holocaust educators

During Florida State University’s 15th annual Holocaust Institute for Educators, which was held June 22-28, four educators were recognized for their long-term commitment to its success by Neil Betten, FSU’s Dorothy and Jonathan Rintels Professor Emeritus of History, who has served as the institute’s director since its inception. Jan Karl Tanenbaum, an FSU professor emeritus of history, was recognized for 14 years of participation. The other three, recognized for 15 years each, were Susan Carol Losh, an FSU associate professor of educational psychology and learning systems; Monte S. Finkelstein, a Tallahassee Community College professor of history and dean of the TCC Division of History and Social Sciences; and Mark Goldman, a TCC professor of history and chairman of the TCC Honors Program. Pictured above, from left, are Tanenbaum, Betten, Losh, Finkelstein and Goldman. Over the past 15 years, 588 current and prospective teachers have been given instruction in how to teach the Holocaust in schools and colleges throughout Florida and the Southeast.

btw by the way

The Florida State University Police Department Foundation will hold its third annual William Tanner Golf Tournament July 24 at the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course, 2550 Pottsdamer Road. Tee time will be at 8 a.m., with each of the 32 four-person teams competing for cash prizes and awards. All proceeds from the tournament will go toward benefiting the FSUPD Foundation. To learn about team registration, call Sgt. Herb Sweeney, (850) 644-1234, or visit www.police.fsu.edu.

The Office of University Communications holds a regular meeting for campus public information officers and development professionals on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 8:30 to 9 a.m. in 211 Westcott Building. Chaired by Assistant Vice President Frank Murphy, the “Comm Group” gives each person the chance to discuss upcoming events, campus initiatives or projects, or relevant issues as they pertain to media exposure or notification.

Employees who would like to receive a reminder to attend the meetings may e-mail Mary Elizabeth Fox at mefox@fsu.edu.
Tim Burke (University Police, Panama City Campus) was recognized by the administration of Gulf Coast Community College with the Being There Award for his work on a stolen property investigation that resulted in an arrest and confession. The FSU Police Department has an agreement to help police the campus of Gulf Coast Community College, which is across the street from the FSU Panama City Campus.

Juan R. Guardia, Ph.D. (Multicultural Affairs), has been named as the recipient of the Outstanding Young Professional Award from the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Guardia will receive the award in October.

Michael Rodes, Justin Maloy, Scott Barrett, Ben Buckley and Hank Jacob (University Police, Motor Unit) recently competed in the Motorcycle Rodeo, a competition involving 20 teams and more than 80 riders, Charleston S.C. Rodes, Maloy, Barrett, Buckley and Jacob were awarded 4th place for the overall team competition and 5th place for the team Slow Ride competition. Rodes and Maloy received 4th place honors for the Tether Rode, and Barrett received 9th place in the Advanced Road King individual competition.

Friedrich K. “Fred” Stephan, Ph.D. (Curt P. Richter Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience), received the Sleep Research Society’s Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award for his seminal discovery of the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus (SCN) as circadian pacemaker, which is credited with helping to launch the field of circadian rhythm research. For this major scientific contribution to the field, Stephan, along with Robert Moore and Irving Zucker, received the award that included a plaque and a $1,000 honorarium at the 22nd annual meeting of the Sleep Research Society, Baltimore, June.


Carol Anne Clayson, Ph.D. (Meteorology, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Institute), gave the invited talk “Using a New Storm Surge Index to Evaluate Changes in Surge Associated With Possible Climate Changes” to a symposium of the American Geophysical Union at its meeting of the America’s Joint Assembly, May, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. At the same symposium, the FSU Geophysical Fluid Dynamics’ Program for Excellence in Geophysical Education was presented an award that recognized its founding, operation and continued participation for more than 50 years, in which time more than 500 student-fellows and 1,000 visitors and staff members have studied fundamental concepts of fluid dynamics in oceanography, meteorology, Earth sciences and astrophysics. The program has been held at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute since 1959, during a 10-week summer session. One of the four founders was Melvin Stern, Ph.D. (Ekman Professor Emeritus of Oceanography), recently retired from the FSU Department of Oceanography and an associate of GFDI.

Marin Dell, J.D., M.L.I.S. (Law), and Elizabeth Farrell, J.D. (Law), presented “When to Jump on the IT Bandwagon, When to Jump Off … and When to Keep a Wary Eye on the Side Lines” at a conference of the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Md., June.

Christine Franzetti, M.Ed. (Thagard Student Health Center), presented “Bobby’s TRUE Seminole Tailgate: Alcohol-Free Tailgating Celebration at Home Football Games for College Students” at the 2008 annual meeting of the American College Health Association, Orlando, Fla., June; and will serve as the 2008-2009 chair-elect for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Coalition of the American College Health Association; and will serve as chairwoman of the Florida Higher Education Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention until May 2010.

Elizabeth Goldsmith, Ph.D. (Human Sciences, Fulbright Scholar), presented the seminar “Skyrocketing Gas and Food Prices and the Real Estate Downturn: How U.S. Couples and Families are Managing” at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, June.

Amy Magnuson, M.S. (Thagard Student Health Center), presented “Diet and Exercise Behaviors of College Students” at the University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Md., June.

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TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

>>TRAINING CLASSES: The Office of Human Resources’ Training and Organizational Development summer schedule of classes is available on the HR Training Web site: hr.fsu.edu.

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

- ADA/EEO: Avoiding Minefields in Employment Practices (for supervisors and BSP) (4314): July 30-W, 2-4:30 p.m.;
- Compensation Processes (4161): July 21-M, 1:30-4:30 p.m.;
- Building A Healthy Financial Lifestyle (certificate series), session III (4374): July 12-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-noon;
- Business Writing Certificate Series (certificate series);
- Recording Meeting Minutes: The Art of Note Taking (4174): July 16-W, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;
- DROP (Metlife) (4358): July 2-W, 10-11 a.m.;
- Family Medical Leave Act (4300): July 22-T, 8:30-10:30 a.m.;
- FSU Culture and Ethics (for supervisors and BSP) (4318): July 9-W, 9-11 a.m.;
- HR Faculty Processes (4298): July 17-R, 1-4 p.m.;
- Interview Techniques (for supervisors and BSP) (4166): July 16-W, 1:30-5 p.m.;
- Leading a Team (for supervisors and BSP) (4321): July 10-R, 2-4:30 p.m.; and
- Team Dynamics (for supervisors and BSP) (4329): July 17-R, 8:30-11 a.m.

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

>>OMNI TRAINING:

- OMNI-GL-1000, Accounting and Budgeting Concepts (4215): July 23-W, 9 a.m.-noon;
- OMNI-GL-3000, Advanced General Ledger - Reporting and Using Optional Chart Fields (4474): July 30-W, 8:30-11:30 a.m., A6301 University Center;
- OMNI-HR-3100, eTime for Time and Labor Representatives and Supervisors 8.9 (4228): July 16-W, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;
- OMNI-TE-2589, Travel Card (4446): July 17-R, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;
- OMNI-TE-2589, Travel Card (4447): July 31-R, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;
- OMNI-TE-2189, Travel and Expense for Representatives and Approvers (4440): July 15-T, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.;
- OMNI-TE-2189, Travel and Expense for Representatives and Approvers (4451): July 29-T, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.;
- HR-PCARD-100, PCARD Proxy Training - New Proxies (4390): July 18-R, 2-4 p.m.; A6301 University Center;
- OMNI-SP-2089, Sponsored Programs Proposal Development (4237): July 22-T, 9-11 a.m.; 301 Student Services Building;
- OMNI-SP-2189, Compliance for Sponsored Programs (4243): July 22-R, 2-4 p.m.; 301 Student Services Building; and
- OMNI-SP-2489, OMNI Inquiry for Sponsored Projects (4252): July 24-R, 2-4 p.m.; 301 Student Services Building.

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

>>NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION: New employees can meet the orientation requirement either online or in a classroom. To register for either version, visit hr.fsu.edu.

- The online option is easy to access, self-paced and always available. Each participant must certify their completion of online New Employee Orientation by faxing a completed copy of the “Certification of Completion and Evaluation of Orientation” form to the Office of Training and Organizational Development, as indicated on the form.
- For those who prefer a classroom session, a schedule of the on-site New Employee Orientation sessions are available, as well as the registration form and location information, at hr.fsu.edu. Select the “New Employee Information” link to access information on each of these options. Information: Pat Mullins or Sandra Dixon, 644-8724.

>>A&P PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS: A&P employees must have their performance evaluated annually by their supervisors. It is important that these performance evaluations be completed in a timely manner. The evaluations ensure that employees receive feedback on their performance and are a constructive tool to promote improvement and development.

Evaluations for the 2007-2008 academic year, ending Aug. 7, should be completed and forwarded to the Office of Human Resources by Aug. 29. Performance evaluations are not required for A&P employees who have been employed for less than three months.

Employees with questions regarding the evaluation procedure can reference Section OP-C-7-G1 of the Division of Finance and Administration/Human Resources’ Policies and Procedures, or call Employee and Labor Relations at 644-6475.

Frank P. Tomasulo, Ph.D. (Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts), chaired a panel on ethnic identities at the “The Sopranos’ Wake” conference held at Fordham University, New York City, and delivered the paper “The Gangster as Guinea Hero: The Complex Representation of Italian Americans in ‘The Sopranos’”, Tomasulo gave a keynote address, “Marty” (1954): A Bronx Tale or an Everyman Story?” at the first annual Made in the Bronx Film Festival, Bronx Community College.

SERVICE

Dan Moore (Thagard Student Health Center) served as the 2007-2008 statewide coordinator for the national BACCHUS Network, an acronym for Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students.

STATE • June 30 - August 3, 2008 • 11
Sunflower debate ends in Mexico, researchers say

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ancient farmers were growing sunflowers in Mexico more than 4,000 years before the Spaniards arrived, according to a team of researchers that includes Florida State University anthropologist Mary D. Pohl.

In an article published in the journal *PNAS* (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences), Pohl and lead author David Lentz of the University of Cincinnati said their evidence confirms that farmers began growing sunflowers in Mexico by 2600 B.C. The paper is in response to scientists who still believe that sunflowers were first domesticated as an agricultural crop in eastern North America and that the Spaniards introduced the sunflower to Mexico from further north.

“The evidence shows that sunflower was actually domesticated twice — in Mexico and then again hundreds of miles away in the Middle Mississippi Valley,” Pohl said.

In fact, the researchers argue that after the Spanish Conquest, the Spaniards tried to suppress cultivation of the sunflower because of its association with solar religion and warfare.

José Luis Alvarado from Mexico’s Institute of Anthropology and History, Robert Bye from the Independent National University of Mexico, and UC graduate student Somayeh Tarighatis also are co-authors of the *PNAS* study. The research was funded by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society.

Pohl and Kevin Pope of Geo Eco Arc Research discovered the early domesticated remains of sunflower a decade ago during an excavation of the San Andrés site in the modern-day Gulf Coast state of Tabasco. Alvarado found more evidence for domesticated sunflower in a dry cave deposit at Cueva del Gallo in the west Mexican state of Morelos in the form of three large achenes, or shells.

“The Cueva del Gallo shells are in excellent condition and have unmistakable sunflower traits, removing all doubt about the pre-Columbian presence of domesticated sunflower in Mexico,” Pohl said.

Furthermore, the Mexican sunflower achenes are significantly larger than those from eastern North America providing further evidence that the Mexican domestication was a separate process. One of the achenes was radiocarbon dated to about 300 BC.

Ancient people used the Cueva del Gallo cave for rituals, even bringing their dead to be buried there, Pohl said. Mesoamerican people traditionally believed that caves were the conduit for the passage of the sun beneath the Earth at night and the home of fertility deities as well as the avenue of communication with their ancestors in the Underworld.

**MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS**

marketing and promotions, Atwell first joined the FSU administration in 1994 and directed its television and radio production operations.

He created the Visual Media and Promotions Department within the University Communications Division and served as its first director from 1998 to 2005.

“I have had the pleasure of working directly with Scott on several projects, and I believe he has the management skills, the people skills and the talent to help the Alumni Association grow and thrive,” said Reubin Askew, former Florida governor and currently an FSU eminent scholar. A former FSU student government president, Askew was a field secretary for the Alumni Association in the 1950s and was named Alumnus of the Century by the late President Emeritus Bernard F. Sliger.

In University Communications, Atwell managed a wide range of public affairs, marketing, and promotional opportunities, including alumni and academic internal publications and online Web content. He has worked closely with FSU presidents, vice presidents and deans on strategic communications for the university, as well as with presidents of the Alumni Association, Foundation and Seminole Boosters. And he has produced, written and directed several of Florida State’s institutional messages for national television broadcasts.

“Scott is a talented and creative leader, who has worked closely with the alumni and friends of Florida State,” said William G. Smith, chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of the Capital City Bank Group. Smith has chaired the boards of directors of the Alumni Association and the Foundation.

Atwell also managed FSU’s internal, universitywide communications during emergencies — such as hurricanes — relaying critical information to more than 50,000 faculty, staff and students and their friends and relatives.

In 1997, Atwell was the recipient of the university’s Gabor Superior Accomplishment Award for his writing and production of a two-and-a-half-hour documentary on the university’s history.

In a series entitled “My Secret to Success,” Atwell traveled extensively, interviewing high-profile alumni throughout the country for the FSU Headlines show and other promotion pieces for the university and its Alumni Association. Atwell also was the writer, producer and host for “The Credit Card Monster,” a nationally acclaimed video that offers sage advice to students trying to manage their credit while attending the university. “Scott has shown exceptional ability to work with students and alumni,” said Mary Coburn, vice president for Student Affairs.

The consummate innovator, Atwell was the co-creator and host in 1995 of the “FSU Headlines” television show, which continues to be broadcast statewide. He also was the co-creator in 1994 of the “FSU Headlines” radio program, which is still broadcast three times each weekday across northern Florida.

An accomplished speaker and presenter, Atwell has served as master of ceremonies for many of the university’s most important events, including its 150th anniversary celebration in 2001.

A native of Key West, Atwell moved to Tallahassee in 1983 and worked as a graduate assistant to former FSU Sports Information Director Wayne Hogan.

Later he would go on to become a sportscaster and the voice of the Seminoles for the CBS affiliate in Tallahassee, WCTV, where he quickly rose to the position of sports director. Atwell’s highly creative and often-humorous sportscasts became hugely popular and attracted sports fans and non-fans alike, and he became well known throughout the Tallahassee area and northern Florida.

Atwell also has served as a part-time adjunct faculty member in the College of Communication. In 2003 the Tallahassee chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association honored Atwell with its first-ever “Communicator of the Year Award.”