

# STATE

The Faculty-Staff Bulletin of Florida State University

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## Freshman class is bright spot in fiscal crisis

By Jeffery Seay  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This fall, the profile of freshman students who were accepted to Florida State University is brilliant. The average freshman boasts a high-school grade point average of 4.0, an SAT score of 1261 (in critical reading and math) or an ACT score of 28.

The state of Florida's current budget crisis led to FSU reducing the number of freshmen it accepted this year, from 6,300 to 5,200. Naturally, fewer slots made acceptance standards much more competitive and proved the axiom "Every cloud has a silver lining."

"Among the students who have actually enrolled at FSU on the basis of their acceptance, this has translated into a much sharper, more prepared student body," said Janice Finney, director of Ad-

missions, who has heard this sentiment repeated by many on campus.

Furthermore, the number of applicants clamoring to become Seminoles is not expected to decline, despite the fact that Tallahassee, relatively speaking, is more remote than other Florida cities with state universities, and gasoline prices and airline fares continue to rise.

"We're working on ways to make attending FSU even more attractive for Floridians and out-of-state students," Finney said.

Despite the state's budget woes, FSU's fiscal health is in good shape because of the administration's careful, strategic planning. In mid-September, Florida's Legislative Budget Commission transferred \$672 million out of the state's reserve funds to keep state government

functioning. Figuratively speaking, this amounted to using the state's savings account to cover its checking account, according to Kathleen Daly, FSU assistant vice president for Governmental Relations.

The stopgap measure still leaves a deficit of nearly \$800 million for this fiscal year. To help make ends meet, the Legislature is funding state agencies — including universities — at 24 percent of their budgetary allotment per quarter, instead of at 25 percent. This is the reason for this year's four percent budget shortfall.

"The state's fiscal situation is going to get worse before it gets better," Daly said.

Faculty and staff members are encouraged to do their part to conserve energy when they can and use resources wisely.



Winnie Adolph

## Adolph among national award recipients

By Jeffery Seay  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Hören auf, der Florida State Universität fakultät und des personals.

An associate professor in the FSU Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics has been chosen as one of seven teachers of German in the nation to receive a 2008 Certificate of Merit for outstanding achievement in furthering the teaching of German for more than 20 years from the American Association of Teachers of German and the Goethe-Institut New York.

Winnie Adolph, who also serves as the associate chairwoman of the department, will receive the Certificate of Merit at the annual meeting of the AATG and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 22, in the company of approximately 250 of the association's members.

"As I'm nearing the end of my career, this award is a real highlight," Adolph said. "I'm grateful that my colleagues have noticed what I've been doing for the past 25 years."

Please see **ADOLPH, 8**

## SPREAD theWORD

Florida State University has launched its Global Pathways Initiative to promote understanding of global issues and collaboration between people who hold differing world views. To that end, a Global Pathways Certificate has been instituted by the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

# *The 7 Mistakes People Make When Planning for Retirement and How to Avoid Them*

## Free Report Available

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 seven mistakes:

- **Underestimating Life Expectancy**
- **Paying Too Much in Taxes**
- **Ignoring Inflation, The Silent Thief**
- **Relying Too Heavily on Government and Employer Retirement Plans**
- **Not Planning for Health Care and Long Term Care Services**
- **Not Saving Enough Money on a Personal Basis**
- **Focusing on Financial Products Instead of Strategic Planning**

Well, there you have it: the seven mistakes 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. Check out my self-study DVD at [www.SecureRetirementDVD.com](http://www.SecureRetirementDVD.com).

**Free Report available!!** Learn how to plan for and avoid these seven mistakes and Prepare for a Secure Retirement.

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Visit my website [www.JohnHCurry.com](http://www.JohnHCurry.com) for more information or to sign up for my free newsletters and articles.



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@glic.com](mailto:john.curry@glic.com), or visiting his website [www.JohnHCurry.com](http://www.JohnHCurry.com).



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**FLORIDA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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## How best to help African-American caregivers

By **Doug Carlson**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Love and compassion typically are the motivating emotions for someone who takes on the responsibility of caring for a family member suffering from dementia or old age, according to Rob Glueckauf, a professor of medical humanities and social sciences in the FSU College of Medicine.

But taking on such a responsibility often comes with a heavy cost. A caregiver often experiences a mix of seemingly incompatible feelings ranging from satisfaction to isolation, frustration and depression.

Glueckauf has received a \$743,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health and the Johnny Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute to study the most effective methods to provide skills training and support to African-American caregivers of dementia patients.

"Recent research estimates that from 30 percent to 50 percent of dementia caregivers

have clinically diagnosable levels of depression," he said.

Mounting evidence shows caregiving demands vary considerably for African-American caregivers, who are substantially more likely than other caregivers to perform the most demanding caregiving tasks, including toileting, bathing and dealing with incontinence or diapers. African-American caregivers also spend a disproportionately higher percentage of their monthly income for the care recipient's needs, bearing a higher economic burden than other caregivers.

Glueckauf's research will compare the effects of telephone-based versus in-person skills building and support for African-American dementia caregivers on changes in emotional distress and health status over time. The study is a collaboration of FSU, Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Florida International University.

"The study holds great promise for better distribution of limited state resources for dementia caregivers," Glueckauf said. "If the study finds telephone intervention as effective as face-to-face intervention, and that's what initial findings suggest, skills training and support can be offered to a wider range of caregivers at substantially lower costs."

For his African-American Alzheimer's Caregiving Training and Support (ACTS) research, Glueckauf is seeking African-American adult caregivers who care for a loved one with dementia at least six hours a day and have a strong need to reduce their

stress. Those interested in participating should call the ACTS project staff at (850) 645-2745 or (866) 778-2724 (toll-free), or e-mail [william.davis@med.fsu.edu](mailto:william.davis@med.fsu.edu).



**Rob Glueckauf**

## NewsMakers

**"The body can really fool you ... we can't always discern where a sensory message is coming from."** Karen J. Berkley, a Florida State University professor of psychology, as quoted in *The New York Times* on Sept. 15. Berkley was discussing researchers' understanding of how the nervous system works and how "referred pain" can cause pain in an area of the body other than where it originates. She also was quoted by the *International Herald Tribune*.

**FSU makes headlines around the world: [www.fsu.edu/~unicomm/news](http://www.fsu.edu/~unicomm/news)**



# Power partnership

*Ching-Jen Chen, left,  
and Steinar Dale*

FSU Photo Lab/Michele Edmunds

## NSF-funded research center to speed renewable electric-energy technologies

**By Barry Ray**  
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering and FSU's Center for Advanced Power Systems (CAPS) have been chosen by the National Science Foundation as partners in a new national research center that will work to revolutionize the nation's power grid and speed the arrival of renewable electric-energy technologies into every home and business.

"Energy is an urgent issue for our nation as well as globally," said Ching-Jen "Marty" Chen, dean of the College of Engineering. "The college has worked to contribute to the solution of the energy crisis. This research center comes at the right time for the college to strengthen its research efforts to enhance sustainable energy and work on energy storage."

The NSF's Engineering Research Center (ERC) for Future Renewable Electric Energy Delivery and Management (FREEDM) Systems, to be headquartered at North Carolina State University, will partner with universities, industry and national laboratories from 28 states and nine countries. The center will be supported by an initial five-year, \$18.5-million grant from the NSF, with an additional \$10 million in institutional support and industry membership fees. More than 65 utility companies, electrical equipment manufacturers, alternative energy start-ups and other established and emerging firms have committed to joining this global partnership.

"We are very pleased to be part of this prestigious NSF-sponsored engineering research center," said Steinar Dale, the

director of CAPS and the FSU campus director for the ERC. "Our researchers will use the unique power-systems research, simulation and test facilities established at CAPS to contribute to core aspects of the research program at N.C. State. And researchers from the other university partners will come to FSU to utilize the real-time digital power-system simulator at CAPS and the power test facility to meet the objectives of the ERC."

The new center will work to develop technologies to transform the nation's century-old, centralized power grid into an alternative-energy-friendly "smart grid" that can easily store and distribute energy produced from solar panels, wind farms, fuel cells and other energy sources. This "Internet for energy" would enable millions of users to generate their energy from renewable sources and sell excess energy to the power companies. Researchers envision consumers using this "plug-and-play" system anytime, from anywhere.

Please see **RENEWABLE TECH, 5**

"The center's multidisciplinary and system-level approach is key for a successful integration of the various new component technologies into the next-generation power system," said Mischa Steurer, senior scientist and principal investigator of power systems at CAPS. "The center's cutting-edge research on individual subsystems such as renewable electrical power sources, 'intelligent' energy storage elements, smart grid controllers and advance system protection is necessary to enable all of the desired features of the next-generation power system and will allow the nation to migrate toward real independence from fossil fuels. Moreover, the integrated system approach is what makes this center so unique and what will eventually enable the long desired 'plug-and-play' functionality that guarantees a more flexible and resilient power grid of the future."

Transforming the nation's power grid is vitally important as alternative-energy technologies prepare to flood the marketplace. Center researchers foresee widespread adoption of plug-in hybrid cars over the next several years, for example, but today's power grid would not be able to handle energy demand during peak charging times, such as when people return home from work in the evening. The smart grid developed at the center will also allow consumers to sell energy back to the power companies when demand is low, preparing the utilities for times when demand is greatest.

This new energy paradigm will speed the development of vehicles, appliances and other devices that can both store energy and send it to the grid. By merging advanced battery technology with windmills and solar collectors, the researchers will combine renewable energy production with electric energy storage in a network. Research will focus on storage technology with longer life.

In addition to FSU, FAMU and N.C. State, researchers from Arizona State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, RWTH Aachen University in Germany and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology will collaborate on the project. Industry partners supporting the research will work directly with the center's faculty, students and unique facilities, speeding innovations developed at the center to the commercial marketplace.

## FSU joins coalition working to improve nation's power grid

Florida State University's Center for Advanced Power Systems (CAPS) has joined a prominent national coalition that seeks to transform the nation's electric power systems. CAPS is now a member of the GridWise Alliance, a group of 69 leading companies and academic institutions whose goal is to combine their knowledge and innovation in an effort to increase the safety, reliability and capacity of the U.S. power grid.

"CAPS looks forward to contributing to this important effort to achieve a more resilient, reliable and secure power system," said Steinar Dale, director of the center.

Founded in 2003, the GridWise Alliance ([www.gridwise.com](http://www.gridwise.com)) advocates a vision of an electric system that integrates the infrastructure, processes, devices, information and market structure so that energy can be generated, distributed and consumed more efficiently and cost-effectively. Its members include utilities, IT companies, equipment vendors, new technology providers and educational institutions.

According to Dale, "FSU CAPS' resources will support the GridWise Alliance by helping to develop, analyze, demonstrate and 'de-risk' new technology and new approaches to power delivery."

In addition to CAPS, members of the GridWise Alliance include ABB, Accenture, Aegis Technologies, Alcatel-Lucent, the Ambient Corporation, American Electric Power, Arcadian Networks, AREVA-T&D, Austin Energy, Autodesk, BC Hydro, Beacon Power Corp., the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Cellnet+Hunt, CenterPoint Energy, Cisco, CMEA Ventures, the Computer Sciences Corporation, Con Edison, Constellation Energy, Consumers Energy Company, Cooper Power Systems, Current, Duke Energy, Eka Systems, Electricite de France, Elster Integrated Solutions, Energy Insights, EnergySolve, the EnerNex Corporation, Environmental

System Research Institute, GE, GridPoint Inc., Hewlett-Packard, IBM, the Institute of Electric Power Engineering, Itron,

KEMA Consulting, Lockheed Martin, MainNet Communications, the Microsoft Corporation, Midwest ISO, Milsoft Utility Solutions, National Grid, Open Systems International, Optimal Technologies International, Progress Energy, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, PJM Interconnection, RockPort Capital Partners, RuggedCom, SAIC, SAP, Sempra Energy, SensorTran Inc., the Serveron Corporation, Siemens Power Transmission & Distribution, Site Controls, SmartSynch, Solar Integrated Technologies, Telvent, Tendril Networks, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Tollgrade Communications, the Utilities Telecom Council, VELCO, Washington State University and ZIV USA Inc.

"These companies and academic institutions strengthen the coalition and broaden our impact by bringing their knowledge and innovation to our efforts to transform the electricity grid," said Guido Bartels, chairman of the alliance and general manager of IBM's Global Energy and Utilities Industry. He added that "the diversity of the GridWise Alliance continues to grow, further demonstrating that the development of a smart grid is a truly collaborative effort."

GridWise Alliance members are gathering at GridWeek 2008, being held this week in Washington, D.C. This annual meeting examines smart grid successes, their role in carbon reduction, alternative distributed generation, and implementation of the Energy Act of 2007. For more information on GridWeek 2008, visit [www.gridweek.com](http://www.gridweek.com).

The Center for Advanced Power Systems ([www.caps.fsu.edu](http://www.caps.fsu.edu)) was founded in 2001 under a grant from the Office of Naval Research to undertake research for the Navy's All-Electric Ship Program.



# FSU, black churches to address heart disease, stroke

By Libby Fairhurst  
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A \$1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will fund a Florida State University-led study that will enlist the help of four African-American churches in Leon and Gadsden counties to develop and implement programs aimed at reducing cardiovascular disease risk factors among their members.

With the five-year grant from the NIH National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, FSU researchers and co-investigators from Florida A&M University and Iowa State University will study the efficacy of faith-based interventions in the black community that address nutrition and lifestyle issues such as elevated blood pressure, cigarette smoking, high cholesterol, excess body weight, sedentary lifestyle and diabetes.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for African-American men and women. National data show that they experience both higher frequency and higher mortality rates than their Caucasian counterparts for both heart disease and stroke. The state of Florida is included in what is known as the "stroke belt" because of its higher-than-average incidence of stroke among black residents.

"Ours is a critical mission because the health of any one group affects us all," said Professor Penny Ralston, the study's principal investigator. Dean Emeritus of FSU's College of Human Sciences, she also directs the Center on Better Health and Life for Underserved Populations ([www.bhlcenter.fsu.edu](http://www.bhlcenter.fsu.edu)) — the organization that helped secure the NIH grant and now will play a central role in the research.

"Changing individual health behavior improves the health of the entire family as well as future generations, and a healthier society benefits the whole nation by lowering health care costs," said Ralston, who is well known for her decades of scholarly research on community-based programs for older adults and issues affecting the minority elderly.

"Historically, research in minority populations has been scarce, but this comprehensive new study is going to help change that," said FSU Professor Jasminka Ilich-Ernst, who will work with Ralston as a co-investigator. A faculty member in the Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences in the College of Human

*Penny Ralston, left, and Jasminka Ilich-Ernst will use a \$1.7 million National Institutes of Health grant aimed at reducing cardiovascular disease.*



Sciences, her own research has focused on the effects of nutrition and physical activity on body composition and bone health.

The NIH-funded study will target a total of about 300 men and women 45 and older who live in the selected Leon and Gadsden County communities and attend the participating churches. Its specific goals for participants include improving their intake of fruits, vegetables and calcium-rich foods; decreasing their consumption of fat, sugar and salt; and emphasizing habitual physical activities such as walking, stair-climbing and gardening.

Researchers will ask each church to use intervention approaches that have proven effective in African-American communities, such as the formation of a large support group or "health ministry," pastor announcements, kick-off events, small-group educational sessions, partnering with church auxiliaries (e.g., Sunday School, women's ministry), and modeling (e.g., serving of healthy-choice items during church meals). The interventions will be supplemented with motivational strategies such as individual coaching and recognition activities.

## Florida State University Schools get new director

By Connie Harris  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The board of directors of Florida State University Schools has selected Lynn Wicker as the new director of the 1,600-student charter/developmental research schools. She succeeds Florida State University Schools' interim director William E. "Bill" Johnson.

As director, Wicker must provide leadership and guidance to the schools' administration, faculty and staff regarding comprehensive and strategic planning, while developing cutting-edge research programs. She will work closely with the schools' board of directors to develop, administer and evaluate programs related to operations, improvement, staffing and community involvement. She also will serve as the primary external representative to the public and the liaison to the FSU administration.

"Dr. Wicker is a proven leader and was highly recommended from outside



the College of Education," said Robert Broome, chairman of the Florida State University Schools board of directors. "She met or exceeded all the general board needs for the director, especially in this critical time of shrinking budgets."

Broome said that the schools are facing some challenges as a result of recent state budget cuts and that it needs a director who can work to build resources from other sources and make critical decisions to move FSUS to a higher level, even in the face of those challenges.

# FSU professor inducted into Florida Tourism Hall of Fame

By Barry Ray  
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Florida State University scholar already recognized as one of the world's top tourism researchers has received an honor a bit closer to home.

Mark Bonn, the Robert H. Dedman Professor in Hospitality Administration in FSU's College of Business, has been inducted into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame by the Florida Commission on Tourism. He becomes the first educator ever selected for this honor.

"Dr. Mark Bonn has been on the frontlines of tourism, serving the industry through education and research," said Richard Goldman, senior vice president of Amelia Island Plantation and chairman of the VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors. "He is a remarkable man who recognizes challenges, identifies solutions, and



Mark Bonn

pursues them with perseverance and passion. He has an extraordinary, meaningful legacy that is carried on by so many students who he inspired

to become hospitality professionals. Members of the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame inspire all of us in Florida's tourism industry to build legacies of our own."

Bonn was inducted during a dinner attended by 1,200 tourism leaders at the Governor's Conference on Tourism, held in Orlando on Aug. 17. He was selected from a field of nine nominees.

"On behalf of the Florida Commission on Tourism and the Florida tourism industry, I am very honored and extremely humbled to have been inducted into the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame," Bonn said. "By giving me this award, they have acknowledged and validated the importance that university-level scholarly tourism research, teaching and service have upon the state of Florida's economy and specifically its tourism industry.

"I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to T.K. Wetherell, president of Florida State University, its administration, the College of Business and the Dedman School of Hospitality for supporting my tourism research passion over the past 20 years and into the future as we face new issues related to travel, environment and tourism development," Bonn said.

Begun in 2001, the Florida Tourism Hall of Fame acknowledges contemporary and historic figures whose vision, creativity and drive have had a positive and significant impact on the development of Florida as a desirable visitor destination. Inductees are chosen annually and announced during the Governor's Conference on Tourism. Selection is made by a panel representing the state's various tourism industry associations and other key industry representatives.

Bonn is frequently called upon to develop marketing plans for resorts and restaurants, service models for hospitality employees and curriculum models requiring strategic and creative thinking. Bonn has used entrepreneurial spirit and hard work to take a key leadership role in Florida's movement to make Florida a premier "green" visitor destination.

"The College of Business is proud of Professor Bonn's accomplishments," said Dean Caryn L. Beck-Dudley. "This honor is a testament to the benefits of university and industry collaboration."

## Retired faculty celebrate 30th year

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the Florida State University Association of Retired Faculty has joined the national Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education. What's more, it now has opened its ranks to retired FSU administrative staff.

"Although we have elected to retain our name, 'Association of Retired Faculty,' retired administrative staff are automatically eligible for membership and do not need to be nominated to participate," said association President Marie Cowart. "We welcome this inclusiveness."

In addition to Cowart, the association's 2008-2009 officers are Max Carraway, vice president; Charles Nam, treasurer; Sandra Rackley, secretary; Freddie Groomes McLendon and Marilyn Young, members at large; and Fred Standley, immediate past president.

This year, the association has scheduled six events:

- *Fall Luncheon*: Wednesday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 2900 N. Monroe St. (\$18 per person);

- *FSU Foundation Seminar, "Important Tips on Retirement or Estate Planning"*: Friday, Nov. 7, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., FSU Foundation Board Room;

- *President's House Social*: Hosted by FSU first lady Ginger Wetherell, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 4 to 6 p.m., 1030 W. Tennessee St.;

- *President's Valentine Brunch*: Wednesday, Feb. 11, University Center Club;

- *Bar-be-que*: Wednesday, April 1, noon to 1:30 p.m., J. Lee Vause Park, 6024 Old Bainbridge Rd. (\$7 per person);

- *Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting*: Wednesday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Ramada Inn and Conference Center (\$18 per person).

Reservations and payment are required for every event, and can be mailed to Charles Nam, Treasurer, 820 Live Oak Plantation Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32312. Nam's home telephone number is (850) 385-3323. Membership is \$5 per person or \$7 per household.

In 1979, the Association of Retired Faculty was founded under the leadership of FSU President Emeritus Bernard F. Sliger. Retired FSU English Professor Griffith Pugh was its first presiding officer. Over its 30-year history, the association has provided a venue for retired faculty and administrative staff to meet with each other and engage in the life of the university.



**>>This year, the “most wonderful time of the year”** will be a little brighter for employees of Florida State University. President T.K. Wetherell has approved a five-day winter break from Friday, Dec. 26, to Friday, Jan. 2. These holidays are in addition to Thursday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day), and Thursday, Jan. 1 (New Year’s Day), and will not require the use of annual leave.

**>>Florida State University’s departments of Interior Design and Art Education** will be the hosts of a national symposium that will focus on how the tools and inherent abilities within the areas of art and design can be

used to address issues that confront special populations and the less advantaged on local, regional or global scales.

The 3rd annual Art and Design for Social Justice Symposium will be Jan. 19, 2009. The event is intended to generate synergy, spawn collaborative projects among participants, create new scholarly initiatives, and allow examination of the role that art and design play in the telling of a broader social narrative.

Papers must be submitted electronically by Oct. 15. There is a separate category for graduate paper submissions.

“This national symposium has proven to be a welcoming forum for graduate students,” said Eric Wiedegreen, chairman of the FSU Department of Interior Design.

To learn more, visit <http://interiordesign.fsu.edu/symposium>.

## **ADOLPH**

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Adolph will receive the Certificate of Merit specifically for the key role she played in developing the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations for German, which is a requirement for anyone seeking to teach German in Florida. The exam is one of the first of its type to incorporate proficiency levels. In addition, the certificate recognizes her work in writing a textbook for beginning and intermediate students.

“The German Program at FSU is small, but growing,” said department chairman William J. Cloonan, the Richard Chapple Professor of Modern Languages and Linguistics. “To a great extent, its continued growth is due to Winnie’s commitment to the program. A simple example of this commitment is that in her 29 years at FSU, Winnie has never applied for a sabbatical, and has

often taught an overload. I am not at all worried about getting a person to replace Winnie when she retires. What concerns me is convincing the dean we will need three.”

Over the years, Adolph has taught

***“To a great extent, its continued growth is due to Winnie’s commitment to the program.”***

***— William J. Cloonan,  
Richard Chapple Professor of  
Modern Languages and Linguistics***

beginners through graduate students.

“When you teach a beginning class, the fun thing is seeing them go from zero to a place where you can talk to them in German and they realize, ‘Wow, I’ve learned so much,’” Adolph said. “In

3,000- and 4,000-level classes, I try to help them keep whatever enthusiasm that made them continue past the basic language requirement.”

Adolph helps students see where they can improve in language development.

“I point out where they’re getting better, and if they get stuck on a plateau, where they need to work a little harder to progress,” Adolph said. “There are cycles in language learning, and different people develop different skills at different times. Some people learn the grammar right away, and then you have others who want to talk and develop that skill fairly quickly but who need to work on their grammar to make it more comprehensible.”

The Certificate of Merit has been presented annually since 1978 by the AATG and the Goethe-Institut to a select group of educators in the field of German.

In this month’s “FSU Headlines” television show, Florida State University officially opens the doors of its \$55 million dollar, 181,000 square foot James E. “Jim” King Jr. Life Sciences Building, and christens the brand new Albert J. and Judith A. Dunlap Student Success Center. It is the home of The Career Center, the nation’s flagship university career center. “FSU Headlines” debuts on WFSU-TV channel 11 (Tallahassee Comcast Cable channel 5) Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

“FSU Headlines” also can be seen beginning Oct. 15 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 show is seen statewide on the Sun Sports network (Tallahassee Comcast Cable channel 28) Tuesdays and Thursdays during October on Sun Sports at 7:30 a.m.

In addition, “FSU Headlines” video stories can be viewed any time at [www.fsu.com/video](http://www.fsu.com/video).

**FSU** ♦ ♦ ♦  
**HEADLINES**



# Discovery sheds light on

## molecular mechanics of evolution

By Barry Ray  
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Florida State University researcher who uses high-powered computers to map the workings of proteins has uncovered a mechanism that gives scientists a better understanding of how evolution occurs at the molecular level.

Such an understanding eventually could lead to the development of new and more effective antiparasitic drugs.

Wei Yang is an assistant professor in FSU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and a faculty member in the university's Institute of Molecular Biophysics. Working with colleagues from FSU, Duke University and Brandeis University, he recently produced remarkable computer models of an enzyme that carries the unwieldy name of inosine monophosphate dehydrogenase, or IMPDH for short.

IMPDH is responsible for initiating certain metabolic processes in DNA and RNA, enabling the biological system to reproduce quickly.

"In creating these simulations of IMPDH, we observed something that hadn't been seen before," Yang said. "Previously, enzymes were believed to have a single 'pathway' through which they deliver catalytic agents to biological cells in order to bring about metabolic changes. But with IMPDH, we determined that there was a second pathway that also was used to cause these chemical transformations. The second pathway didn't operate as efficiently as the first one, but it was active nevertheless."

Why would an enzyme have two pathways dedicated to the same task? Yang and his colleagues believe that

the slower pathway is an evolutionary vestige left over from an ancient enzyme that evolved over eons into modern-day IMPDH.

The finding is significant for several reasons, Yang said.

"First of all, this offers a rare glimpse of evolutionary processes at work on the molecular level," Yang said. "Typically when we talk about evolution, we're referring to a process of adaptation that occurs in a population of organisms over an extended period of time. Our research examines such adaptations at the most basic level, which helps scientists to develop a fuller picture of how evolution actually occurs."

"This also represents a big step forward in our efforts to create computational simulations of biological processes," Yang said. "In this case, we first made a prediction of the enzyme structure via computer and later verified it through direct observation in a laboratory, rather than the other way around. This is a most unusual accomplishment, and one that indicates we are becoming more advanced in our ability to answer questions relating to biological functions at the molecular level."

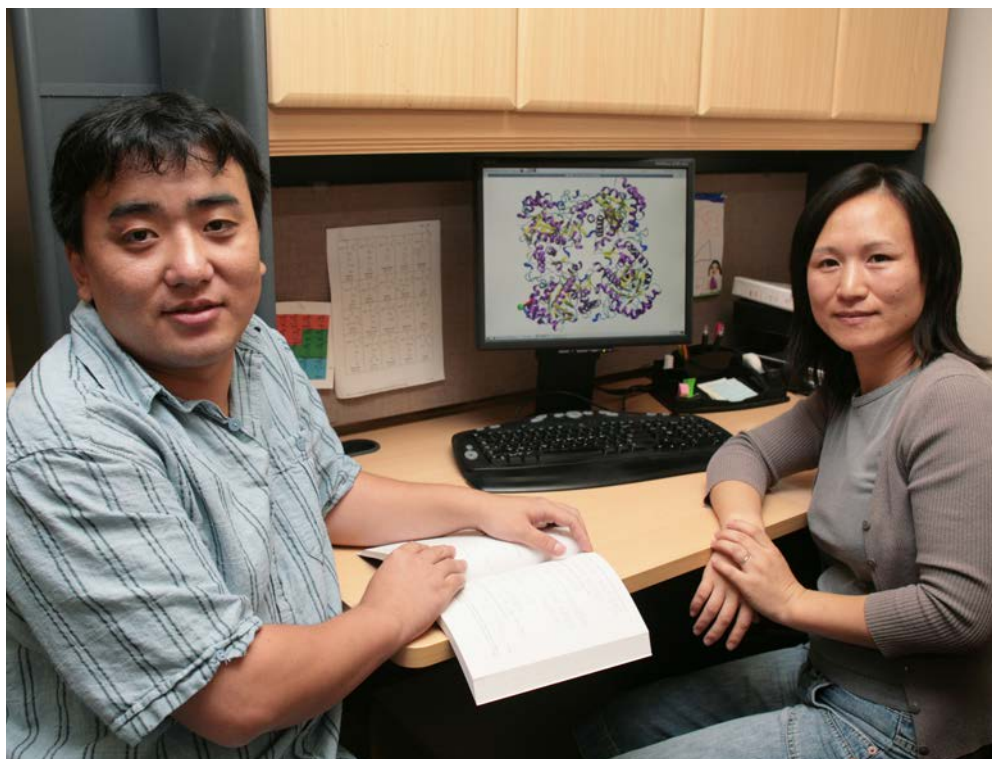
"Because of the key role that IMPDH plays, scientists have focused on developing new antiparasitic drugs that target it," Yang said. "Our research will certainly contribute to this process."

Joseph Schlenoff, the chairman of FSU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, praised Yang's computational methods as "extremely powerful because they are rigorous, make few assumptions and approximate the complexity of the real world. The accurate predictions that result represent success that has been promised to us for so long by scientists using computers."

Among those collaborating with Yang on the project was Gavin J.P. Naylor, an associate professor in FSU's Department of Scientific Computing.

Together the researchers wrote about their findings in a paper, "An Enzymatic Atavist Revealed in Dual Pathways for Water Activation," that was published this summer in *PLoS Biology*, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal published by the Public Library of Science.

Dan Herschlag, a professor of biochemistry at Stanford University, edited the paper for *PLoS Biology*. He praised it for its innovative approach.



**FSU Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor Wei Yang**, left, and Donghong Min, a postdoctoral associate in the Institute of Molecular Biophysics, produced computer simulations showing evidence of biological evolution at work on the molecular level.

## RECOGNITIONS

**Robert C. "Bobby" Bowden** (Athletics Administration) coached his 500<sup>th</sup> football game on Sept. 27 — a 39-21 win over the Colorado University Buffaloes. The game brought his total career wins to 376.

## BYLINES

**Lawrence S. Krieger**, J.D. (Law), wrote the symposium article "Human Nature as a New Guiding Philosophy for Legal Education and the Profession," published in the *Washburn Law Journal*, Vol. 47.

**Mark Seidenfeld**, J.D. (Patricia A. Dore Professor of Administrative Law), wrote the article "In Search of Robin Hood: Suggested Legislative Responses to Kelo," published in the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law*, Vol. 23.

**Scott J. Steppan**, Ph.D. (Biological Science), co-wrote the paper "Phylogenomic Evidence for Multiple Losses of Flight in Ratite Birds," with John Harshman, Edward L. Braun, Michael J. Braun, Christopher J. Huddleston, Rauri C. K. Bowie, Jena L. Chojnowski, Shannon J. Hackett, Kin-Lan Han, Rebecca T. Kimball, Ben D. Marks, Kathleen J. Miglia, William S. Moore, Sushma Reddy, Frederick H. Sheldon, David W. Steadman, Christopher C. Witt and Tamaki Yuri, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 105, No. 36.

**Eddie Woodward**, M.A. (Heritage Protocol), wrote the article "Social History and Local Records: Historical Methods, Archival Theory and the Library of Virginia," published in the *Journal of Archival Organization*, Vol. 6.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Dayton Michael Cramer**, J.D. (General Counsel), presented "Cyberbullying and Other Cyber Issues in Education" to the Education Law Commit-

tee of The Florida Bar and the Florida School Board Attorneys Association.

**Dino Falaschetti**, Ph.D., M.B.A., C.P.A. (Law and Economics), presented "Auditor Independence and Earnings Quality: Evidence for Market Discipline vs. Sarbanes-Oxley Proscriptions" at the International Society for New Institutional Economics, University of Toronto, June.

**Brian Galle**, LL.M., J.D. (Law), presented "The Nuts and Bolts of Research and Writing" at the annual conference of the the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Fla., July; and presented "Do Hidden Taxes Increase Welfare?" at a conference of the New York University Law School Junior Tax Scholars, June; and presented "Do Hidden Taxes Increase Welfare?" at the annual Law and Society meeting, Montreal, Canada, June; and presented "Federal Grants, State Decisions" at the annual meeting of the American Law and Economics Association, Columbia Law School, May.

**Adam J. Hirsch**, Ph.D., J.D. (William and Catherine VanDercreek Professor, Law), presented "Stale Wills: Should the Law Provide a New Approach?" at the Georgia Fiduciary Law Institute, July.

**Faye Jones**, J.D., M.S. (Law), presented "Educating Lawyers: Considering the Carnegie Report" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, Portland, Ore., July.

**Lawrence S. Krieger**, J.D. (Law), presented "Can We Teach Professionalism" at the annual conference of the Southeast-

ern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Fla., July.

**Tahirih V. Lee**, Ph.D., J.D. (Law), presented "International Trade In and With China," "Technology Transfer in China," "Foreign Direct Investment in China" and "Negotiating Strategies and Business Culture in China," all at the Law Department of Nankai University, Tianjin, China, July.

**Wayne A. Logan**, J.D. (Gary and Sallyn Pajcic Professor, Law), presented "Criminal Law: Pedagogy" at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Fla., July.

**Dan Markel**, J.D., M.Phil. (Law), presented "How Should Punitive Damages Work?" and "Perils and Possibilities in Punishment and Privatization," both at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Fla., July; and presented "How Should Punitive Damages Work?" at Hofstra Law School, July; and presented "Understanding Retributivism and Recidivism" at a Rutgers Law and Philosophy conference, May; and presented "Retributive Damages" at the Cardozo New Voices in Legal Theory conference, May 2008.

**Gregg D. Polsky**, LL.M., J.D. (Sheila M. McDevitt Professor, Law), presented "Hedge Fund Tax Issues" at a Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel continuing legal education panel presentation, Atlanta, Ga., August; and presented "Private Equity Tax and Regulatory Update" at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual private Equity Tax Practices conference, Boston, June; and presented "Current Hedge Fund Tax Issues" at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Effective Hedge

Fund Tax Practices conference, New York, May; and presented "The Tax Legislative Process: Past, Present and Future" and served as a moderator at the annual meeting of the Teaching Tax Program, American Bar Association section of taxation, Washington, D.C., May.

**Jim Rossi**, LL.M., J.D. (Harry M. Walborsky Professor, Law), presented "Transmission Problems for Renewable Energy Markets" at the U.S. Department of Energy GridWise meeting, Chicago, June; and presented "Legal and Economic Barriers to Overcoming Fossil Fuel Incrementalism" at the Iowa Office of Energy Independence, July.

**J.B. Ruhl**, LL.M., J.D. (Matthews and Hawkins Professor of Property, Law), presented "Complex Systems and the Law" to the New Developments in Critical Jurisprudence panel at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Fla., July; and presented "Adaptive Management – Inevitable, Impossible or Both?" at the annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Aspen, Colo., July; and presented "Global Climate Change and the Endangered Species Act" at the Continuing Legal Education International Conference on the Endangered Species Act, San Diego, Calif., June.

**Fernando Tesón**, S.J.D., LL.M., J.D. (Tobias Simon Eminent Scholar, Law), presented "Why Countries Fail and Prosper" at the Bowling Green State University Social Philosophy and Policy Center, Bowling Green State University, July; and presented "Brain Drain" at the University of San Diego Institute of Law and Philosophy Conference on National Borders and Immigration, April.

**Manuel A. Utset Jr.**, J.D. (Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor, Law), presented "Procrastination and the Law" at the Thief of Time: Perspectives on Procrastination conference held at

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# Report: Transparency needed in computing Florida's graduation rates

By Jill Elish

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The LeRoy Collins Institute is calling for more transparency in the way Florida determines its high school graduation rates in a new report written by two Florida State University graduate students.

In the report, "Measuring Graduation Rates in Florida: Constraints and Opportunities," the LeRoy Collins Institute both congratulated and criticized Florida's method of assessing graduation rates. Florida is currently using the "gold-standard" method of collecting individual data on students, rather than relying on cohorts or classes of students. However, the state's method of determining its self-reported graduation rates is unclear.

Florida's method is at issue because the state's self-reported high-school graduation rates are much higher than the rate calculated when using other well-accepted methods of analysis. By some measures, Florida ranks dead last in the country with graduation rates around 55 percent. In contrast, Florida's own measures show fairly robust graduation rates of more than 70 percent.

"For those wishing to use graduation rates as measures of school performance, the variance is troubling," said Carol Weissert, director of the LeRoy Collins Institute and the LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar and Professor of Political Science at FSU. "We know that Florida's definition of graduation contributes to these differences, but it is not possible to analyze the exact impact since the numbers of these special diplomas and other details of the graduation rate computation are not readily available."

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the City University of New York, July.

**Donald J. Weidner, J.D.** (Alumni Centennial Professor, Law), moderated a new scholar workshop on property law at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Fla., July.

## SERVICE

**Harvey "Buck" Buchanan** (Telecommunications) has been elected president-elect of the Association for Information Communications Technology Professionals in Higher Educa-

tion for 2008-2009. Buchanan has been an active volunteer with ACUTA for 16 years, having served as chairman of the membership committee, chairman of the Web site recognition task force, a member of the marketing committee, a speaker at several conferences and a director at large.

## GRANTS

**Per Arne Rikvold, Ph.D.** (Physics/MARTECH), was awarded, as the single-principal investigator, a National Science Foundation grant of \$285,000 over three years for the project "Computational Studies of Non-equilibrium Processes in Electrochemical Materials Science," September.

# The Source

News from Human Resources

## TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**>>8th ANNUAL BENEFITS AND WELLNESS FAIR:** Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Oglesby Union Ballroom. Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate and offer information. All employees should have received a post-card invitation through campus mail and are encouraged to bring it to register for door prizes.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**>>2009 OPEN ENROLLMENT:** Open Enrollment for the 2009 State Group Insurance Plan year continues until Friday, Oct. 22, at 5:30 p.m., E.S.T. During this period, employees can make changes for all the state-sponsored plans including health, life and dental. For updated information, employees can view the HR Web site at [hr.fsu.edu](http://hr.fsu.edu). All of the vendors will be available at the Human Resources' Benefits and Wellness Fair on Oct. 7. Confirmation statements will be mailed beginning Oct. 20. Employees can call the People First service center from Oct. 20 through Oct. 31 to make corrections. All changes will be effective Jan. 1, 2009.

**>>PRE-TAX VISION PLANS FOR 2009:** Effective Jan. 1, 2009, the state will offer two pre-tax vision insurance plans through Humana Vision. The People First system has been updated for the new pre-tax vision offerings. The offerings are "Exam plus Materials" and "Materials"-only. Additional information related to these plans and their applicable rates are available in the "Benefits Materials" section on the People First Web site.

**>>'NEW' OVER-AGED DEPENDENTS, 2009:** Effective Jan. 1, 2009, subscribers will be able to cover their children over the age of 25 (for an additional cost of \$449.26 per month, per over-aged child). To ensure eligibility, requirements have been built into the "Register Dependents" screen. **Information:** People First Web site or the Human Resources Web site at [hr.fsu.edu](http://hr.fsu.edu).

## OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

**>>DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK:** October is National Disability Awareness Month and on Oct. 28, President T.K. Wetherell will kick off the university's Disability Awareness Week at the Oglesby Union with a welcome and an introduction of the scheduled events. The Union Ballroom will serve as an educational venue for students, faculty members and staff with information about resources which are available to them, both on campus and within the Tallahassee area. Representatives from a cross-section of the disabled community will be available to answer questions regarding their products and services. In addition to guest speakers, FSU's Disability Awareness Week will offer simulation activities; interactive exhibits; information booths for family members, children and employees; outdoor games, martial arts, movies; and a talent show. The events begin Oct. 28, and concludes Oct. 30. The events are free and open to the public.



# Grab students' attention — *and keep it* — with technology

Fostering student involvement and encouraging student participation can be daunting for instructors, whether the class is large or small. However, for one Florida State University instructor who teaches nearly 3,000 students each year, there is a tried-and-true method that captivates classes of a few dozen or 500.

Joseph Calhoun, a lecturer in the FSU Department of Economics and the assistant director of the Gus A. Stavros Center for the Advancement of Free Enterprise and Economic Education, will present the workshop "Engaging Students with Technology" for the October Teaching Excellence Series, Oct. 22, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., in 214 Rovetta Business Building.

Calhoun, who specializes in leading large classes, uses technology both in and out of the classroom to enhance student learning and better manage multiple large class sections. He keeps students focused by using video clips to illustrate concepts and humor to punctuate his presentations. He has presented teaching ideas and technology at several national conferences and is responsible for training and mentoring new graduate teaching assistants at FSU.

An FSU Undergraduate Teaching Award recipient for 2008, Calhoun is a three-time recipient of the Service Excellence Award for Teaching given by the FSU Chapter of Phi Eta Sigma. What's more, Calhoun won first place in the 2008 Economics Communicators Contest, which was co-sponsored by the Association of Private Enterprise Education and Market Based Management Institute.

FSU's Academic and Professional Program Services: Center for Teaching and Learning sponsors the series, which



**ABC News journalist John Stossel presents a \$10,000 check to FSU Department of Economics lecturer Joe Calhoun, who won first place in the 2008 Economics Communicators Contest, at the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the Association of Private Enterprise Education.**

allows faculty members and graduate teaching assistants to discuss important topics that are relevant to the FSU

teaching community with FSU Teaching Award winners. To register for this workshop, visit <http://ctl.fsu.edu>.

## Center for Teaching and Learning October workshops

Florida State University's Academic and Professional Program Services: Center for Teaching and Learning sponsors a variety of learning opportunities at no cost to FSU faculty members and teaching assistants. To sign up for workshops or browse through online materials that are intended to support teaching effectiveness, visit: <http://ctl.fsu.edu>. For additional information, send an e-mail to Sharon Scheel, [sscheel@campus.fsu.edu](mailto:sscheel@campus.fsu.edu).

• *Blackboard: Facilitating Communication*, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 9 to 11 a.m.;

• *Blackboard: Best Practices in Course Delivery and Management*, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 10:30 a.m. to noon;

• *Blackboard: Assessment and Grading Tools*, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 9 to 11 a.m.;

• *PowerPoint: Design, Multimedia and Animation*, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. to noon;

• *October Teaching Excellence Series*, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., "Engaging Students with Technology," featuring FSU Department of Economics lecturer Joseph Calhoun. (see article above)