By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A psychology professor who has helped establish The Florida State University as one of the nation’s premier institutions for research into learning disabilities such as dyslexia is set to receive the university’s highest faculty honor.

Richard K. Wagner, Florida State’s Alfred Binet Professor of Psychology and a Distinguished Professor of Psychology, now adds the title of 2009-2010 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology. University President T.K. Wetherell will present him with the honorific on Friday, May 1, during the first of three spring commencement ceremonies.

“I could not have been more surprised and delighted to learn of this award,” Wagner said. “It is incredibly humbling for three reasons. The first is what I know about the contributions of some equally or more deserving colleagues who have yet to receive it. The second is what I know about the contributions of previous recipients, including Jim Smith, who has been a mentor to me since I arrived at Florida State fresh out of graduate school. The third is what I know about the contributions of previous recipients, including Jim Smith, who has been a mentor to me since I arrived at Florida State fresh out of graduate school.

Dyslexia is a learning disorder marked by impairment of the ability to recognize and comprehend written words. Although once thought of as visual disorder, researchers now know that the condition’s manifestations — misspellings, reversing letters and words, even writing backwards — spring from an inability to recognize sounds, not visual cues. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 15 percent of American students may have dyslexia.

Led by Wagner, a team of nearly two dozen Florida State researchers, as well as four from Yale University, are in the third year of a five-year research project funded through a $6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant has allowed for the creation of a prestigious NIH Multidisciplinary Learning Disabilities Center at Florida State — one of only four such centers in the nation. Through the center, Wagner and other researchers have been conducting behavioral and genetic studies involving thousands of Florida children with dyslexia.

“Our hope is to develop ways of diagnosing dyslexia and other learning disabilities at a younger age so that these children have greater chances of leading a happy, productive and successful life,” Wagner said when the NIH grant was announced in 2006.

In addition to his current research, Wagner has won the admiration of peers for his high levels of scholarship over the course of a 25-year career at Florida State. Among his many accomplishments, he has been awarded more than $17.5 million in research funding as a principal or co-principal investigator; has published 125 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters or books; and has delivered 50 invited presentations and 150 peer-reviewed or paper presentations at conferences all over the world.

He currently chairs the Advisory Board of the National Institute for Literacy, a presidential appointment that required U.S. Senate confirmation. The institute advises the secretaries of the U.S. departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services on literacy-related matters.

Praise for Wagner poured in from colleagues upon the announcement of his selection as this year’s Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor.

“Rick Wagner has been a pioneer in understanding how we read and how we learn to read,” said Joseph Travis, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida State (and himself a Lawton professor). “He is one of the rare scientists whose work has been critical for advancing basic science and at the same time invaluable for the innovative practical applications it has made possible.”
World’s top teaching award in medieval studies goes to FSU professor

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Professor Richard K. Emmerson, the chairman of the Department of Art History at The Florida State University and an internationally renowned scholar on the Middle Ages, has garnered the 2009 Excellence in Teaching Chair of the Department of English, prior to joining FSU’s faculty in 2006. His acclaimed interdisciplinary research has focused on apocalyptic themes in medieval art, drama and poetry and on illustrated manuscripts, primarily from England and France, from the 13th through 15th centuries.

“As a widely recognized medieval scholar, Emmerson has helped to enhance significantly the national reputation of Florida State’s art history department,” McRorie said. “Moreover, the acknowledgment from scholarly peers worldwide of his great passion for teaching is a marvelous addition to his academic credentials. Sometimes scholars can become so immersed in their research and administrative and other leadership duties that they may become less directly dedicated to students and great teaching. But Rick clearly has maintained a strong and effective dedication to all aspects of his role, from teaching to research and service.”

In 2008, Emmerson was the keynote speaker to more than 3,000 scholars at the 44th meeting of the International Congress of Medieval Studies (not affiliated with the Medieval Academy). In 2007, the Council of Editors of Learned Journals named Emmerson “Distinguished Editor” for his work editing Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies from 1999 to 2006. He has served as the deputy director of Fellowships at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and is the incoming president of the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society.

“Professionally, this teaching award means a lot to me because when I came to FSU in 2006 to chair the Department of Art History I switched disciplinary fields,” Emmerson said. “My Ph.D. is in English, and in the past I have chaired an English department, so it is especially gratifying to be recognized in my new discipline. This honor means a great deal to me personally because the graduate students who nominated me, on their own and in confidence, invested the substantial time necessary to create the nomination file.”

Becker named distinguished professor of educational statistics at FSU

By Nash McCutchen
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The Florida State University College of Education has conferred its second Mode L. Stone Distinguished Professorship upon Betsy Jane Becker, a professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems. The honor was bestowed at the college’s spring faculty meeting and was followed by a lecture given by Becker and a reception.

Becker joined the Measurement and Statistics program at the College of Education in 2004 after 21 years of experience at Michigan State University. Her area of expertise is meta-analysis, a way of using statistical analyses to summarize the results of related studies. Becker’s current research aims to evaluate various kinds of teacher knowledge and determine how they may predict positive outcomes such as student achievement or effective teaching behavior.

Becker’s influence is not limited to the field of education; she also has contributed to statistical methods utilized by scientists in other domains. As a measure of her recognition and standing in the field, she was named a 2008 Fellow of the American Statistical Association.

“Dr. Becker’s work and world-class reputation have greatly enhanced the success of our program,” said Marcy Driscoll, dean of the College of Education. “She has become one of the foremost authorities in the field of meta-analysis, as well as in related areas in educational statistics.”

The Mode L. Stone Distinguished Professorship is a competitive award given annually to a faculty member nominated by his or her colleagues in the College of Education. Becker noted that she never set out to garner personal recognition through her work but strove to produce quality research that would enhance the field of educational statistics that she so values.

“It is really an honor to be selected as a distinguished professor,” she said. “I have always sought to achieve high-quality work in my research and with my students and to be a good citizen of the department, college and university. It is very meaningful to be recognized for that.”
Two professors and a scholar/scientist named ‘Outstanding Referees’

The American Physical Society (APS) has honored three Florida State University physicists — Joseph F. “Jeff” Owens III, Pedro Schlottman and Alex Gurevich — as “Outstanding Referees” for 2009.

Owens, an APS fellow, is the Guenter Schwarz Professor of Physics and associate dean for Research in Florida State’s College of Arts and Sciences; Schlottman, a physics professor who began his career in Germany, is a Heisenberg fellow of the German National Science Foundation; and Gurevich, also an APS fellow, is a scholar/scientist and principal investigator in the Applied Superconductivity Center at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

The “Outstanding Referee” award, which is in its second year, is designed to recognize scientists who have been exceptionally helpful in assessing manuscripts for APS journals. Currently, the APS has about 42,000 active referees, and it honored 534 of them in 2008 and 340 of them in 2009. Most of those honored in 2008 and 2009 — what the APS refers to as the catch-up years of the award — have been dedicated reviewers for many years. In future years, the APS plans to honor about 130 referees per year. The 2009 honorees, which come from 35 countries, were chosen for the quality, number and timeliness of their reports, whether or not the scientists were members of the APS.

“Peer review is a vital endeavor within the academic and scientific enterprise,” said physics Chairman Mark Riley. “It is wonderful that APS has initiated this program to recognize these previously unsung heroes.”

‘Learning portal’ to provide resources for teacher candidates

Test overviews and pertinent Web links are among the information available to teacher candidates on the recently launched Florida Teacher Certification Examinations Learning Portal. The portal was developed by the Center for Advancement of Learning and Assessment (CALA) for the Florida Department of Education.

The portal serves as a single source of comprehensive information for individuals seeking teacher certification, giving them the tools they need to prepare for tests in their content area. Constructed according to Web standards, the portal is accessible to diverse audiences and will be used as a model for accessible Web development for future Florida Department of Education projects.

As a resource for the Florida Teacher Certification Examinations, the portal offers information on exam overviews and test information guides. The competencies and skills, which specify what beginning teachers should know and be able to do, are available for download. The portal presents descriptions of content-area Web sites and print resources. It also provides the basics on registration, testing requirements for certification, Educator Preparation Institutes, alternative certification programs and college and university programs.

“We wanted to engage users and present critical information in an easy, navigable manner,” said Carol Sanfilippo, associate director of CALA. “To do this, we integrated diverse and comprehensive material in a logical way for the intended audience. We’re very pleased with the result.”

CALA, based at The Florida State University’s research and development complex, is a pioneer in research and the design of multimedia instructional materials and customized assessments. It seeks and develops alternatives that both inform policy makers and provide practical applications for educators.

“(...)”
Zeigler receives ‘Distinguished Teacher Award’

A Florida State University speech instructor whose students describe him in such glowing terms as “inspiring,” “passionate” and “caring” has been selected to receive the university’s top teaching honor.

Mark T. Zeigler, an associate in the Department of Communication and an adjunct instructor in the Center for Leadership and Civic Education, was named the recipient of the 2008-2009 Distinguished Teacher Award during the university’s Faculty Awards Program, held April 9. He will receive a $7,500 stipend along with the award.

“I am honored and humbled by this recognition,” Zeigler said. “When I look at those honored previously, I find that they are my teaching heroes. James Smith, David Kirby, Ken Goldsby, Jim Jones … It’s hard to believe I’m in their company.”

Nominations for the Distinguished Teacher Award are submitted by students to honor faculty members who have made a great impact on them. Those nominations then are reviewed by a faculty committee, which makes the final selection.

“I owe this award to the students of Florida State University who have given so much of themselves in the classroom,” Zeigler said. “There are no finer students than those at Florida State. I am also extremely grateful to my colleagues in the Department of Communication. I can’t imagine a more supportive group of colleagues with whom to work.”

His former students’ fondness and respect for Zeigler is evident in many of the comments on their nomination forms.

“I’ve never had a teacher so passionate about what he does, and it makes me want to … be passionate about whatever it is I want to do,” one student wrote. Another described Zeigler as “probably the most inspiring, helpful and enthusiastic professor I’ve had at FSU. He was always there when I needed help in class, and he genuinely cares about his students.”

John Mayo, who recently stepped down as dean of the College of Communication, noted that “throughout his career at Florida State, Mark’s teaching has received exemplary ratings from students and faculty colleagues alike. He is an innovative instructor who challenges and inspires students, both in and outside the classroom. No matter the size of his classes, they large lectures or small discussion sections, he somehow manages to establish rapport with virtually every student.”

A member of the Florida State faculty since 1993, Zeigler has worn a number of hats at the university. He served as assistant dean for student affairs in the College of Communication from 1993 to 1999; was summer director of Florida State’s London Program in 2004 and 2005; and has taught a variety of courses, including “Fundamentals of Speech,” “Rhetoric and Human Affairs,” “Interviewing” and “Contemporary Human Communication,” full time since 1999. He also has served as a member of the university’s Honors Program faculty and has been active in the Center for Leadership and Civic Education, which helps train students for responsible citizenship and effective leadership.

Of all those responsibilities, “the accomplishment of which I am most proud is the fact that I am on the faculty at Florida State,” Zeigler said. “As a child, I dreamed of being associated with this institution. To think that I make contributions here and am recognized is hard to believe.”

Anne Rowe, the university’s dean of the Faculties, described Zeigler as “beloved by students across Florida State’s campus, many of whom he instructed in his public speaking course. He is also a popular speaker for student events and has been active in the London Study Center program for many years. We congratulate him today on this well-deserved recognition.”

Other outstanding FSU faculty members also were recognized in the following categories during the Faculty Awards Program: Distinguished University Scholars

This is the second year for this award, which is designed to recognize outstanding performance by Florida State University employees who are non-tenured or non-tenure-seeking, have longstanding track records of research and/or creative activity at the university, and occupy more senior levels in their respective positions. Examples of such positions include the titles of curator, staff physicist, scholar/scientist or research associate. This year’s recipient will receive a one-time award of $10,000 and a framed certificate. The Distinguished University Scholar Award is presented to: Anthony Frawley, Physics.

Developing Scholar Awards

Developing Scholars are mid-career associate professors who have been singled out by their peers for recognition. Each receives a $10,000 award to be used in their research program, following specific guidelines, along with a framed certificate. The Developing Scholars for 2008-2009 are: Frederick “Fritz” Davis, Physics.
History; Robin Goodman, English; Mark Horner, Geography; Jon Maner, Psychology; Jill Pable, Interior Design; and Louis St. Laurent, Oceanography.

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH PROFESSOR AWARDS

The title of Distinguished Research Professor is the third highest faculty award at The Florida State University, following the Robert O. Lawton award and the Daisy Parker Flory award. A select panel of current Distinguished Research Professors vets the nominations, submitted by faculty peers, for presentation to the university president. Each of this year’s recipients will receive a one-time award of $10,000, along with a framed certificate. The Distinguished Research Professors this year are: Suzanne Johnson, Medical Humanities and Social Sciences; Harrison Prosper, Physics; and R. Jay Turner, Sociology.

GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARDS

The Graduate Faculty Mentor Award honors faculty mentors whose dedication to graduate students and mentoring have made a significant contribution to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students. The award comes with a $3,000 award. The honorees this year are: Nancy de Grummond, Classics; William Hillison, Accounting; Frank Kowalsky, Music; Richard Liang, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering; and Daniel McGee, Statistics.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING AWARDS

Recipients of the University Undergraduate Advising Award have been nominated by students who have been beneficiaries of their services. These individuals dedicate their time to ensuring that students receive the best possible advice related to their courses and their career choices. The recipient also receives a $2,000 award. This year’s honorees are: Kimberly Amos-Tata, Nursing; Jeff Badger, Biological Science; and Robert Lovins, Military Science.

HONORS THESIS MENTOR AWARDS

The Honors Thesis Mentor Award was established to recognize and honor faculty members whose direction and advisement of honors thesis research or creative activity has significantly contributed to the enhancement and quality of education of undergraduate students at The Florida State University. Faculty are nominated by students in the Honors in the Major program for this award. The award comes with a $2,000 stipend. This year’s honorees are: Philip Steinberg, Geography; and Carla Wood Jackson, Communication Disorders.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS

The Undergraduate Teaching Award recognizes faculty for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Recipients must be outstanding in the many aspects of teaching that contribute to successful teaching and learning. This is a student-oriented award with nominations submitted by students and alumni. Each recipient also receives a $2,000 award. This year’s honorees are: Natalya Balodyga, Theatre; Allen Bathke, Accounting; Randy Blass, Management; Terrence Coonan, Center for the Advancement of Human Rights; Angela Davis, Teacher Education; Jonathan Grant, History; James Jones, History; Kelley Kline, Psychology, Panama City Campus; Amy Koehlinger, Religion; Marie Krafft, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Victoria Meyer, Motion Picture, Television and Recording Arts; Tom Miller, Biological Science; Mark Pietralunga, Modern Languages and Linguistics; Cristina Rios, Teacher Education, Panama City Campus; David Rowell, Theatre; Shridhar Sathe, Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences; Annette Schwabe, Sociology; Patricia Spears, Biological Science; and Kathryn Tillman, Sociology.

GRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS

The Graduate Teaching Award recognizes faculty for excellence in graduate teaching. Recipients must be outstanding in the many aspects of teaching that contribute to successful teaching and learning. This is a student-oriented award with nominations submitted by students and alumni. Each recipient also receives a $2,000 award. This year’s honorees are: Lynn Panton, Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences; John Reynolds, Sociology; Eugene Ryerson, Medicine; Molly Wasko, Management Information Systems; and Kaifeng Yang, Public Administration.
Serbia lauds native son with award in physical science

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A Florida State University physicist who is a native of Serbia has been awarded that nation’s highest professional award in the field of physical science for his “exceptional research in physics.”

Professor Vladimir Dobrosavljevic, who directs the Theory Program at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, received the Marko V. Jartic Prize for Outstanding Scientific Achievement in Physics for his contribution to the development of the theory of correlated disordered electronic systems.

The award was presented during a March 17 ceremony at the University of Belgrade by Bozidar Djelic, Serbian deputy prime minister for European Union integration and minister of science and technological development.

Dobrosavljevic studies the fundamental properties that tell electrons to stop or go. This is important in the design of electronics — from TVs to iPods — where electrical currents need to be turned on and off inside increasingly miniaturized parts.

In metals, electrons move around freely at high velocities, conducting electricity. In other materials known as insulators, electrons can be trapped, stopped dead in their tracks.

Understanding a correlated disordered electronic system hinges on understanding how effectively electrons can repel each other. Electrons can move only if other electrons get out of the way.

“Imagine that you are on Fifth Avenue in New York City the day before Christmas,” Dobrosavljevic said. “There is a huge crowd of people trying to find their way to the stores, but it’s very hard for you to move around unless the person next to you moves out of your way. You can’t just freely move, but you have to look where the others let you bump into them.”

When electrons are correlated or synchronized in a particular way, they can either move around or, under certain conditions, stop.

“The electrons form this kind of quantum dance,” he said. “It’s very coordinated, like an troupe of choreographed belly dancers moving together, instead of individual belly dancers doing whatever they want.”

Former Marko V. Jartic Prize laureates and members of Dobrosavljevic’s family attended the March 17 award ceremony, along with scientists representing all of Serbia’s national research institutions, including the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Serbian Physical Society.

Dobrosavljevic left Serbia for the United States almost 26 years ago after earning his bachelor’s degree.

“My friends threw me a big going-away party where they broke all the furniture in my parents’ house,” Dobrosavljevic joked. “If I had come back as a failure, my parents wouldn’t have been happy! So it was a good feeling to come back with some measure of success.”

Now that he has attained such distinction in his career, Dobrosavljevic is enthusiastic about the new opportunities it will afford him, especially in terms of giving back to his native Serbia. After wrestling with the challenges of privatization in a post-communist economy, Dobrosavljevic says Serbia is striving to develop scientific programs with grants it has received from the European Union with which to reach out to scientists around the world.

“Serbia has built a very large supercomputer, which is larger than the one we have at FSU,” he said. “So now, they are seeking collaborations and projects. In fact, one of my former Ph.D. students is now an assistant professor in Serbia. The two of us have started a cooperative effort. I’m very excited about it because Serbia has a lot of very well-trained younger students, so I think this will be a source of cooperation for me, and it will also be helpful to them.”

College of Education professor earns 2009 Scholar Award

By Candice Franco
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Susan Lynn, a professor in the Florida State University College of Education’s Department of Sport Management, Recreation Management and Physical Education (SMRMPE), has been named the 2009 Scholar Award recipient for the Southern District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD).

The Scholar Award recognizes professionals who have engaged in exceptional scholarly productions and presentations, in addition to serving as exemplary role models for students and peers. Given annually, it is intended to promote scholarly productivity among professionals within the Southern District of AAHPERD.

“Being selected by a panel of my peers is indeed an honor that I am deeply grateful for and will forever cherish,” Lynn said.

In addition to her work as a professor, Lynn has served as program coordinator for physical education for 18 years. Her research focuses on teachers’ career cycles and the examination of factors that affect educators’ career paths. Lynn’s research interests also include gender study in sport and physical activity settings, and the role that sports media plays in these endeavors.

“I have been blessed to have wonderful colleagues here at FSU who have encouraged and supported my work,” Lynn said.

Most recently, Lynn has embarked on a third line of research that addresses obesity-related issues in children. One current project seeks to promote the inclusion of moderate to vigorous physical activity in schools and focuses specifically on students who are more likely to be withheld from physical education classes for academic remediation.

Additionally, she will begin a three-year project in the fall to assess the impact of annual school-based body mass index screening on child health (body mass index percentile and fitness) and parent behavior. Lynn has been granted more than $1 million in funding to support her work.
At any given time, there are more than 1,000 biomedical or behavioral research projects being conducted with human subjects at The Florida State University. Before the research can even begin, however, applications must be completed, reviews must be conducted and approvals must be granted to comply with federal regulations. Now try to manage the mountain of paper generated by the entire process. Worn out yet?

Thanks to the ingenuity of three Florida State employees, a new Web-based system has revolutionized the process, saving time, money and sanity.

The work of Jane Mostoller, Julie Haltiwanger and Tiehu Jiang over two years to create the university’s Human Subjects Online Tracking and Management System has been honored with a $1,250 Distinguished Cash Prize in the 2009 Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards.

“When we first thought about going from a paper to an electronic system, we really were just thinking about a simple electronic application where researchers would go online, fill out their information and hit a submit button,” said Mostoller, associate general counsel in Florida State’s Office of Research. “As we went along, Julie and Tiehu — our programmers — started talking about other possibilities. In the end, we really designed an intelligent system with capabilities to track the whole human-review process at Florida State.”

Haltiwanger is a computer research specialist with the Office of Research who earned a bachelor’s degree in management information studies from Florida State. Jiang, a network administrator with the Office of Research and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, earned his master’s degree in computer science at Florida State and now is a doctoral candidate in industrial engineering.

The old system certainly had its flaws. With so much paper to keep up with, pages would occasionally be lost or misplaced. Mail service, which was costly to begin with, would create communication delays between researchers, the research sponsors and university administrators. The system also was difficult to audit.

“Before, our staff had to manually review, update and maintain all human-subject project information — more than 1,000 protocols each year,” Mostoller said. “Preparation of reports was awkward and took a great deal of staff time and focus.”

The new system automates all work flow processes, provides better tracking of the work flow with such features as electronic time stamps, and speeds the review and approval process, which results in research projects being initiated more quickly and research findings being shared with the public that much faster. It also eliminates the expense of postage and greatly reduces paper consumption.

“Our staff is now free to focus on more advanced issues related to human-subjects research management and best practices,” Mostoller said. “This system provides transparency to Florida State’s human subject research protocol process, from the initiation of a research application to approval and, finally, termination of a study.”

What’s more, by designing a system for the specific needs of Florida State, Mostoller, Haltiwanger and Jiang spared the university the cost of buying a commercially designed system.

“If you’re getting a system tailored to your specific work flow, it is all the more costly,” Mostoller said. “We developed our own system internally with the talent we had here and saved a lot of money. And we were able to design it for our particular review process, instead of having to take the review process and match to a product that we bought.”

Florida State had seven other team entries to place in this year’s Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards competition.

Five teams were awarded plaques:

• Office of Telecommunications employees Shiling Ding, Gerald Harris, Danny Loughlin and Melanie McCall received a plaque for the “OTC Resnet Blockpage” project.
• John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art employees Cindy Clenney, Virginia Eitman, Jennifer Carroll and Stephen Borys received a plaque for the “Streamlining Ringling Museum Recruitment Process/Big Productivity Savings” project.
• Another group of Ringling Museum employees — John Wetenhall, Cindy Clenney, Russell Plant and Chrissy Kruger-Grunedyke — received a plaque for their “Increased Revenue and Savings Through Operational Punch List” project.
• Office of Technology Integration employees Brian Rue, Joseph Ferris, Louis Brooks and Tom Morgan received a plaque for a project that “developed and implemented an enterprise university encryption solution.”
• The same group of Office of Technology Integration employees — Rue, Brooks, Ferris and Morgan — received another plaque for a project that “reduced managed private key infrastructure costs.”

Two teams were awarded certificates of commendation:

• John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art employees Deborah Serbousek, Larissa Enzmann, Sonja Shea and Carol Tayman were commended for their “Reduced Paper for Financial Reports and Tickets” project.
• Office of Technology Integration employees Brian Rue, Louis Brooks, Joseph Ferris and Tom Morgan were commended for a project that “implemented a toll to prevent identity theft via the Internet.”

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Team wins cash prize in annual productivity awards competition

Julie Haltiwanger (left), Tiehu Jiang (center) and Jane Mostoller composed the Human Subjects Online Tracking and Management System Team, which won a $1,250 Distinguished Cash Prize in the 2009 Davis Productivity Awards competition.

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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New principal at helm of Florida State University Schools

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A Florida State University alumnus who spent six years as a middle- and high-school mathematics teacher, two years as a high school assistant principal and two years as an elementary school principal has been appointed principal of Florida State University’s laboratory and charter school complex, the Florida State University Schools.

Jonathan Grantham (B.S. ’98, M.S. ’04, S.P.E. ’05, Ed.D. ’06, Education) began his duties as K-12 principal in March. Even though the general public commonly refers to the institution as Florida High, it also has an elementary school and a middle school.

“I’m excited to be responsible for the entire academic experience, kindergarten to 12th grade, of these children, and to be able to watch them grow up and help them become successful,” Grantham said. “Because the Florida State University Schools is a K-12 environment, their education is totally our responsibility. We have to give them what they need to be able to go on to college or enter the work force.”

Grantham also expressed enthusiasm to have the opportunity to work for the laboratory and charter school of The Florida State University.

“In this kind of school, we get to practice what we preach, so to speak, in training new teachers and demonstrating what a great teacher looks like,” Grantham said. “When I was working on my doctorate at Florida State, I saw a need for educational research, but I also saw researchers who needed practitioners — teachers who can test new research in actual classrooms. We provide our teachers with the wonderful experience of participating in university research.”

For the past two years, Grantham was the principal of Tallahassee’s Gilchrist Elementary School. During his tenure there, the school was one of 300 from across the nation to be recognized with a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools award for schools that are either academically superior or that have demonstrated dramatic gains in student achievement. This was no small feat considering Gilchrist was in competition with the nation’s more than 115,000 public and private elementary, middle and high schools.

Prior to serving as Gilchrist Elementary’s principal, Grantham spent six years teaching middle- and high-school mathematics in Panama City, Fla., then two years as the assistant principal of Tallahassee’s Rickards High School. Even though Grantham now is an administrator, he remains passionate about classroom teaching.

“I tell people every day that I’m a teacher first and always,” he said. “That is why I taught classes at Gilchrist and I still teach classes at Florida State. Besides, I just love teaching math. If I want a teacher to observe another teacher, I’ll go teach that class as a substitute for an hour while the teacher is out observing. That way, we don’t have to pay for a substitute and I can stay in touch with what’s going on in the classrooms.”

Armed with the experience of leading Gilchrist Elementary to Blue Ribbon School status, Grantham is optimistic that greater things are on the horizon for the Florida State University Schools.

“This school has the potential to achieve that kind of thing,” he said. “I think I’m going to look back at that award and think, ‘That was great, but look what we did at the Florida State University Schools.’”

The Source News from Human Resources

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

>>TRAINING CLASSES: Instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to Florida State University faculty and staff members. To view the spring schedule of classes available and to register, click on the “Register Online” link at www.hr.fsu.edu/train. Information: 644-8724.

HUMAN RESOURCES

>>JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009 RETIREES: Natalie Baker, library operations supervisor, Strozier Library; Debra Barrett Cooke, assistant in research, Panama City Campus Sponsored Programs; Judith Bowers, academic program specialist, Biological Science; Robert Clark, associate professor, College of Education – Dean’s Office; Ernest Cox, fire safety technician, Environmental Health and Safety; George Hall, senior custodial supervisor, Building Services; John Hall, research associate, Institute of Science and Public Affairs; Earl Hall, maintenance mechanic, Working Capital; John Mayo, dean and professor, College of Communication – Dean’s Office; Raymond Montgomery, custodial worker, Building Services; Jerome Osteryoung, professor, College of Business – Finance; Richard Powell, custodial worker, Building Services; Veronica Sarjeant, program director, Office of Technology Integration; Sarah Sherraden, academic administration and associate in research, Medicine Education; David Wright, university school instructor, Developmental Research School.
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Council commends department’s teaching practices

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Turning young engineers into well-rounded professionals requires more than teaching theory and mechanics. Giving them opportunities to exercise ethical judgment, work together in teams and hone their communication skills is just as important.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering accomplishes all of the above better than any other engineering school in the nation, according to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). The council has awarded its inaugural Engineering Award for Connecting Professional Practice and Education to the department, along with a check for $25,000.

“For us to have competed against so many other well-known, large schools that have older, more established programs, says a lot for how much our department — particularly our department chair, Kamal Tawfiq — believes in imparting the fundamentals of professional practice and licensure,” said Michelle Roddenberry, an assistant professor at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering who directs its Senior Design Group. “It also speaks volumes about how much the local and state engineering community helps us in our educational efforts, from mentoring our students to donating design projects for them to work on.”

This year, seniors within the joint FAMU-FSU department who were enrolled in two courses, “Pre-Senior Design and Professional Issues” and “Senior Design Project,” completed projects concerning restoration to the Everglades, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The projects, which gave the students a change of pace from solving problems out of a textbook, enabled them to work with and be mentored by professional practitioners.

“The courses are not like typical engineering courses in that we don’t cover all the theory behind design or analysis,” Roddenberry said. “The students have to use what they have learned in their prior courses to complete these design projects, but also have to work in teams, submit a written report and give an oral presentation in front of practicing engineers and faculty members. The professional issues are just as important technical ones.”

The projects forced students to think through their projects from beginning to end, conduct independent research and contact experts in the field in order to make good design decisions, according to Roddenberry.

The joint FAMU-FSU department won out over entries from 27 other engineering schools, including the University of Arizona’s Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics, the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Seattle University’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s Department of Civil Engineering, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University’s Charles E. Via Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

“This was a competition for departments to show how they integrate professional practice with engineering education,” Roddenberry said. “Through the two courses, our department demonstrated how — with help from engineers in the local community and from around the state — we integrate professional issues in real-world design projects into our curriculum. Much of the credit for this award and our students’ achievements goes to the many engineers who are involved in our department and who volunteer their time for students.”

Society lauds engineering professor

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Michelle Roddenberry, an assistant professor in the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering, has been recognized by the Big Bend Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society for her active participation in the society and her enthusiastic involvement in placing engineering students in internships with local engineering firms.

The chapter awarded Roddenberry with its inaugural Engineers in Education Award during its annual Engineers Week Banquet in February.

“I really enjoy working with local engineers and participating in K-12 outreach programs,” Roddenberry said. “We have so many civil and environmental engineers in the community who are very active in donating their time and promoting the profession, particularly to young people in our city. I just really enjoy working with them and being part of all that’s going on. The award is a symbol of my willingness to help them and their efforts.”

With the help of the Florida Engineering Society Big Bend Chapter and the American Society of Civil Engineers Tallahassee Branch, Roddenberry established for the College of Engineering a link to the Order of the Engineer, an organization that was established to foster a spirit of pride, professional and ethical responsibility among engineers in the United States. A ceremony, at which inductees take the Obligation of an Engineer pledge, is held every year at the college.

Michelle Roddenberry
Sampson named fellow of American Counseling Association

By Nash McCutchen
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

A Florida State University professor whose research focuses on career development and computer applications in counseling has received a major honor from his peers.

James Sampson, the associate dean for faculty development and Mode L. Stone Distinguished Professor of Counseling and Career Development in Florida State’s Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems, has been named a fellow by the American Counseling Association (ACA).

Recipients of this honor are ACA members of professional distinction who have been recognized for significant and unique contributions in professional practice, scientific achievement and governance, or teaching and training, and have made important contributions to the counseling profession. Sampson will be formally honored this weekend at the ACA annual convention in Charlotte, N.C.

“I am very honored to be named a fellow, especially given the respect I have for the professionals who have been named in the past,” Sampson said. “It is also very meaningful to have been nominated by my esteemed colleagues in the Association for Assessment in Counseling and Education (a division of the American Counseling Association), who have made such important contributions to our field.”

Sampson has been a faculty member at Florida State since 1982 and has served as co-director of the Center for the Study of Technology in Counseling and Career Development, a research center established at the university to improve the design and use of computer applications in counseling and guidance, since 1986. His research focuses on the appropriate use of computer technology in counseling and on the use of cognitive strategies in the design and delivery of career counseling and guidance services.

Sampson is a frequent presenter and consultant in both the United States and Europe and has worked on the design and implementation of career services systems in North Carolina, Oklahoma, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Finland.

“This prestigious honor further solidifies the valuable contributions Jim Sampson has made to The Florida State University, the College of Education and the field of counseling and career development,” said Marcy P. Driscoll, dean of the College of Education. “His work has had tremendous impact on the lives of students and professionals across the nation and the world.”

The American Counseling Association is the world’s largest private, not-for-profit organization for professional counselors.

Visit www.career.fsu.edu/techcenter for more information on the Center for the Study of Technology in Counseling and Career Development.
Florida State honors its graduate students at annual event

The Florida State University honored the achievements of its best graduate students at the university's annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence on April 8. The students who were recognized for excellence in teaching, research, creativity and leadership each received a certificate and $500. The students who received Dialogues Interdisciplinary Research Grants were given $1,000 to attend an international conference to present their work. All of the graduate student awards were supported by Academic and Professional Program Services, The Graduate School, the Office of Research and the Congress of Graduate Students.

Program for Instructional Excellence teaching associates were recognized for contributions to their departments and to instruction at Florida State:

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES:**
- Joshua Englehardt (Anthropology)
- McKenzie Lewis (Classics)
- Timothy Bengford (Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities)
- David Andrew Murray (Meteorology)
- Jaclyn Plona (Modern Languages and Linguistics-Spanish)
- Galiya Tabulda (Modern Languages and Linguistics-Slavic)
- Benjamin M. Mwashote (Oceanography)
- Shaun Horton (Religion)

**COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION:**
- Joshua Potter (Communication)
- Emily Ciavolo (Criminology and Criminal Justice)

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION:**
- Haroldo Fontaine (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies)
- Michael John Quinn (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems)
- Rodney Reeves (School of Teacher Education)

**COLLEGE OF HUMAN SCIENCES:**
- Katherine Shaw (Textiles and Consumer Sciences)

**COLLEGE OF INFORMATION:**
- Lauren Heather Mandel (Information)

**COLLEGE OF MUSIC:**
- Sarah Horick (Music Theory and Composition)
- Sarah Sarver (Music Theory)
- Hui Xu (Music Performance)

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES:**
- Sally Anderson (Political Science)
- Jordan Brown (Sociology)
- Huston Gibson (Urban and Regional Planning)

**COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS, THEATRE AND DANCE:**
- Joohee Kang (Art Education)
- Tracie Kelly (Interior Design)
- Brittni Wegmann (Studio Art)
- Timothy Saunders (Theatre)

**RECOGNITIONS**

I. Michael Navon, Ph.D. (Supercomputer Computations Research Institute, Scientific Computing), will be honored with the 2008 Editors’ Citation for Excellence in Refereeing award for his outstanding work as a reviewer for the Journal of Geophysical Research-Atmospheres, which is the publication of the American Geophysical Union.

David Grimes, representing the Congress of Graduate Students, recognized the three Dialogues Interdisciplinary Research Grant recipients: Claudia Lieberwirth (Neuroscience Psychology) in the Natural and Physical Sciences category; Jessica Hill (Psychology) in the Social and Behavioral Sciences category; and Daniel Hutchinson (History) in the Arts and Humanities category.

Arts and Sciences graduate student Christopher Griffin (History) and Social Sciences graduate student DeAnna Gore (Sociology) received Preparing Future Faculty Fellows Awards.

Arts and Sciences graduate student Dustin Anderson (English) received the Leadership Award for his leadership both on campus with the First Year Writing Program and professionally through his scholarship and editorial work for Beckett studies.

The six Research and Creativity Award recipients were recognized for superior scholarship. Awards were made to students in three disciplinary categories. The recipients were:
- **Arts and Humanities**
  - Wonkak Kim (Music Performance, College of Music)
  - Shoko Letton (Dance, College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance)

- **Social and Behavioral Sciences**
  - Shirin Hooshmand (Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences, College of Human Sciences)
  - Tracy Wittie (Clinical Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences)

- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**
  - Thomas Gilring (Oceanography, College of Arts and Sciences)
  - Hui-Min Zhang (Molecular Biophysics, Arts and Sciences)

The Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award recipients were recognized for excellence in teaching. Nominated by faculty, staff and students, the recipients submitted teaching portfolios that were evaluated by the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Committee.

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**
- S. McKay Price (Finance)

**COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION**
- Erin Schmidt (Communication)

**COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS, THEATRE AND DANCE**
- Shelley Bourgeois and Diane Cahill (Dance)

**BYLINES**

Roger Kaufman, Ph.D., (Professor Emeritus, Learning Systems Institute), wrote the article “Crisis is a Terrible Thing to Waste: From Myths to Real Human Performance Technology (HPT) Value-Added” published in the International Society for Performance Improvement’s online journal PerformanceXpress, April.

Barry S. Sapolsky, Ph.D. (Jim E. Kirk Professor of Communication), and Barbara Kaye of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville co-wrote the article “Taboo or Not Taboo? That is the Question: Offensive Language on Prime-Time Broadcast and Cable Programming,” published in the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, Vol. 53, No.1, March.

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Irving Lowens Memorial Book Award is the most distinguished honor bestowed by the Society for American Music, and this year it went to a scholarly tour de force co-authored by noted musicologists Denise Von Glahn and Michael Broyles of the Florida State University College of Music.

“In the field of American music, it doesn’t get any better than this prestigious prize,” said Don Gibson, dean of the college.

The book by Von Glahn and Broyles, “Leo Ornstein: Modernist Dilemmas, Personal Choices” (Indiana University Press, 2007), is the result of eight years of collaborative research and thought. It earned the award in recognition of its outstanding contribution to American music studies. The ambitious work was deemed tops in a highly competitive field of books published in 2007. Judges spent 2008 reading each entry, then formally recognized the winning writers in late March at the society’s 2009 national conference in Denver.

“With the publication of their book and its selection as this year’s Lowens Memorial Book Award winner, Dr. Broyles and Dr. Von Glahn have again demonstrated the remarkably high quality and extraordinary impact of their scholarly research in the area of American music,” Gibson said. “Their enthusiasm and engagement as scholars provides a wonderful model for our Florida State music students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.”

Broyles and Von Glahn received a monetary award in addition to a citation from the Society for American Music.

“Our book traces the meteoric rise and heretofore inexplicable disappearance of the Russian-American, futurist-anarchist, pianist-composer Leo Ornstein from his 1906 arrival in the United States through a career that lasted nearly a century,” said Von Glahn, an associate professor and the director of Florida State’s Center for Music of the Americas.

“For a time, Ornstein enjoyed a kind of celebrity granted to few living musicians. Then, he turned his back on it all.”

Using journals, interviews, and letters from a wide circle of his friends and acquaintances, the book tracks Ornstein’s escape from the horrors of the Russian pogroms, and situates the Russian-Jewish-American musician as he carved out an identity amid World War I, the flu pandemic and the Red Scare.

“While telling Ornstein’s story, the book illuminates the stories of thousands of immigrants with similar harrowing experiences, and in illuminating his central role in several artistic and literary networks, it challenges the traditional chronology and narrative regarding the emergence of musical modernism in America,” Von Glahn said.

“We are gratified to know that our work is read and recognized by a knowledgeable audience, and especially by our peers,” said Broyles, a musicology professor who joined the Florida State faculty in 2008 after serving as a Distinguished Professor of Music and professor of American history at Pennsylvania State University. “Each of us has previously published books on different American music topics, but this project, the culmination of many years of joint research, further enhances our understanding of American culture.”

A widely published expert on American music and music of the Classic era, especially Beethoven, Broyles is writing a book, “Beethoven in America,” on how the legendary composer and pianist is viewed, interpreted and used in American culture, both in the scholarly world and in popular culture. Broyles has won two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Von Glahn, a Florida State faculty member since 1998, specializes in American music and 20th-century musical modernism, with a focus on the interactions between music and larger social and cultural conditions. Her work has appeared in numerous journals and collections, and has covered wide-ranging topics such as Transcendentalism and the Civil War.

Florida State University music professors Denise Von Glahn and Michael Broyles, recipients of the Irving Lowens Memorial Book Award.