Graduate programs among nation’s best

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Florida State University colleges of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Information, Education and Law are among the best graduate and professional programs in the nation, according to new rankings in U.S. News and World Report’s 2010 edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools,” which hit newsstands on April 28.

“These rankings are evidence of the excellence Florida State University has achieved as a graduate research institution that blends teaching and research,” said Nancy Marcus, dean of The Graduate School at Florida State. “Such recognition also helps to attract outstanding students to our programs who, upon completion of their studies, contribute to an exceptional talent pool that is critical to ensuring a vibrant Florida economy in the 21st century. It is of great importance that we maintain funding for higher education to ensure continued success and the future economic health of Florida.”

The College of Criminology and Criminal Justice ranked seventh, up from its previous 11th place ranking.

“It’s nice to see the U.S. News and World Report reputation ranking catching up with our faculty’s actual research productivity and grant success,” said College of Criminology and Criminal Justice Dean Thomas Blomberg. “Members of our faculty have won national awards for their research, been cited in U.S Supreme Court verdicts, been called to testify before the U.S Congress as experts in the field, have won teaching awards for their dedication to students and serve as editors of some of the field’s top journals. We are very pleased with this success. The upward trajectory of the college’s ranking is indicative of our future.”

The College of Information was ranked 14th and was cited for its excellence in three specialty areas. School library media and children and youth services each were ranked No. 3 and digital librarianship was ranked 11th.

“These rankings recognize the hard work of our faculty and students,” said College of Information Dean Larry Dennis. “They have built a national reputation through excellent research and strong educational programs.”

The College of Education has made a significant leap in the rankings, claiming the 41st position in the nation, climbing from 45th last year and 53rd the previous year. In addition, members of the faculty have won national awards for their research, been cited in U.S Supreme Court verdicts, been called to testify before the U.S Congress as experts in the field, have won teaching awards for their dedication to students and serve as editors of some of the field’s top journals. We are very pleased with this success. The upward trajectory of the college’s ranking is indicative of our future.”

Agreement provides boost to biomedical research in Florida

By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Florida State University has entered into a first-of-its-kind agreement with Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies that will grant the biomedical research center access to an incredibly powerful array of computers at the university. Using the computers, Torrey Pines will conduct highly complex computational analyses that are a critical step in developing new treatments for a variety of diseases.

With the $22,000 contract, Port St. Lucie-based Torrey Pines becomes the first organization outside of the university to make use of its High Performance Computing Center, established in 2007 and located on Florida State’s Southwest Campus in Tallahassee. The agreement also marks a significant step forward in relations between Florida’s public universities and its fledgling biomedical industry.

“This shows the important role that our universities, and Florida State in particular, play in attracting and retaining biotechnology companies in the state of Florida,” said Kirby Kemper, Florida State’s vice president for Research. “Resources such as the High Performance Computing Center are valuable both as tools for scientific innovation and as engines that drive economic development in our state.”

Florida State established the High Performance Computing Center (www.hpc.fsu.edu) and its fledgling biomedical industry.

From May 11 to 17, a group of faculty and student jazz virtuosos from the Florida State University College of Music will perform a series of outreach concerts and teach accompanying “masterclasses” at eight public schools and four correctional facilities within a 90-mile radius of Tallahassee.
STATISTICS:
- As of July 2006, 14.9 million U.S. residents identified themselves as Asian. This accounts for 5 percent of the total population.
- Two-and-a-half million U.S. residents speak Chinese, the second most widely spoken non-English language after Spanish.
- It is projected that by 2050, 33.4 million U.S. residents will identify themselves as Asian — 8 percent of the total population.
- Eighty-six percent of Asians, age 25 and older, have a high school diploma.
- Forty-nine percent of Asians, age 25 and older, have a bachelor’s degree; this represents the highest proportion of any race or ethnic group, compared to a 27-percent average for all Americans.
- Twenty percent of Asians age 25 and older have an advanced degree. This is compared to a 10-percent average for Americans.

TORREY PINES

in 2007 to foster a wide range of research designed to benefit society. For example, some university researchers have used the center to simulate forest fire patterns with the goal of helping firefighters better predict their behavior, while others have performed high-resolution modeling to gain a better understanding of the movement of storm systems in the Gulf of Mexico.

With 15.1 TeraFLOPS of throughput, the High Performance Computing Center is among the most powerful academic computing systems in the southeastern United States. (A TeraFLOP equals 1 trillion instructions or operations processed by the computer in a single second.)

“The fact that Torrey Pines has committed to the use of our high-performance computing facility is an excellent indication that the center itself and the support provided by Florida State’s Department of Scientific Computing are valuable tools for companies involved in cutting-edge research,” said Jim Wilgenbusch, the department’s associate director for computing and director of the High Performance Computing Center. “We hope that this is the first of many such collaborations.”

Max Gunzburger, chairman of the Department of Scientific Computing, said the Torrey Pines agreement was months in the making.

“They first contacted us because Florida State has an excellent reputation for supporting leading-edge computational science and computing infrastructures,” he said. “After we met with (Torrey Pines President) Richard Houghten, the department arranged to host several of their computational chemists so that they would have an opportunity to meet some of our faculty who are working on similar problems and talk with staff members at the High Performance Computing Center.”

“Torrey Pines liked what they saw and were then given an opportunity to evaluate the suitability of the center for their own research,” Gunzburger said. “It didn’t take long for their scientists to determine that the center would be an excellent fit for their needs, which led to the current usage contract.”

Kemper said that the agreement “provides a common research platform that will facilitate interactions and collaborations between Torrey Pines scientists and our own researchers. It also benefits our students by providing new opportunities for training and potentially for careers in the biomedical industry.”
University Communications relocates to Kellogg Building

News flash!
University Communications, under the direction of Assistant Vice President Frank Murphy, will be moving from the first floor of the Westcott Building to the nearby Kellogg Building to make way for the renovation of the new Ruby Diamond Auditorium entrance and lobby.

The News and Public Affairs Office, the Photo Lab, Visual Media and Promotions, Publications and the Marketing division all will move to the third floor of Kellogg. All phone numbers for these units will remain the same as they are now.

The move is temporary and is expected to last at least a year. To visit University Communications offices after May 15, take the elevator to the third floor of Kellogg and follow the signage. All University Communications offices are on the left side of the hallway.

University Communications:
Franklin D. Murphy, assistant v.p., 644-2466
News and Public Affairs:
Browning Brooks, director, 644-4030
Photo Lab:
Michele Edmunds, director, 644-1066
Marketing:
Reinhart Lerch, director, 645-4630
Visual Media and Promotions:
Dennis Schnittker, director, 644-1360

State is the faculty-staff bulletin of The Florida State University. It is the university’s document of record, published 16 times annually by the Florida State University Communications Group — every three weeks during the fall and spring semesters, and monthly during the summer. Submissions should be e-mailed to jseay@fsu.edu. People with disabilities who require special accommodation for any event listed in State should call the unit sponsoring the event, or for the hearing or speech impaired, use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Requests for accommodations must be received at least five working days before the event. To receive State in an alternative format, call the FSU Student Disability Resource Center at (850) 644-9566.

NewsMakers

“When the Arctic Ocean ice melts, it never raises sea level because floating ice is floating ice — because it’s displacing water. When ice melts, sea level actually goes down. I call it a fourth grade science experiment. Take a glass, put some ice in it. Put water in it. Mark the level where the water is. After the ice melts, the sea level didn’t go up in your glass of water. It’s called the Archimedes principle.”

James O’Brien, a Florida State University Emeritus Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Meteorology and Oceanography, as quoted in the April 21 East Lake Blister debunking the myth that melting sea ice will raise sea levels.

Florida State makes headlines around the world: www.fsu.edu/~unicomm/news
Choreographer Zollar receives Guggenheim

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship has been awarded to internationally renowned choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, the founder and artistic director of the Brooklyn-based, all-female dance troupe Urban Bush Women, and the distinguished Nancy Smith Fichter Professor of Dance at The Florida State University.

Guggenheim fellowships are bestowed annually on a select cadre of mid-career professionals with records of stellar achievement and great promise for more of the same in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and creative arts. This year, Zollar’s fellowship is one of just 180 awarded to U.S. and Canadian artists, scientists and scholars — chosen after rigorous review from nearly 3,000 applicants — and one of only five awarded to choreographers.

“The Guggenheim Foundation recognizes a select few artists who have demonstrated extraordinary ability, and our honored alumna Jawole certainly fits that description,” said Sally McRorie, dean of Florida State’s College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance. “From her inspired choreography to her energetic mentoring of dancers and passionate engagement with building community through the arts, one would be hard pressed to find a better example of exceptional creative talent, professional dedication, and sheer love of life. Her story is one of the best to ever flower on this campus, and we feel fortunate to have that story as part of our own.”

“I am thrilled and most grateful to be recognized and awarded support from the Guggenheim Foundation,” Zollar said. “Every artist has profound doubts and questions about their own work, but such awards help us to continue to move forward.”

With her $35,000 Guggenheim fellowship, Zollar plans to complete research and development for a new work currently titled “visible/invisible” for which she’ll serve as the conceptual and choreographic director.

“The work will explore themes of the Great Migration of African Americans who left the South after the Civil War, as well as other documented and undocumented immigrants whose intersection in America’s urban centers birthed new cultural art forms,” Zollar said. “I’ll be posing questions such as, ‘Why did these immigrants leave their homes and what did they find? What new forms of expression developed in the urban centers to which they migrated? How did and does society view workers occupying America’s lower working classes?’”

Researcher elected fellow of mechanical engineering society

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

M. Yousuff Hussaini, one of Florida State University’s most eminent scholars, has been elected a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

“Fellow” is the highest grade of membership in ASME. Fellowship is conferred upon a member with at least 10 years of active engineering practice who has made significant contributions to the profession.

“Since my arrival at FSU in 1996, I have devoted my efforts to establishing the field of computational science and engineering and its application in particular to some aspects of mechanical engineering, such as nanomaterials and cryogenics,” said Hussaini, the university’s Sir James Lighthill Professor. “It was in no small measure due to the congenial atmosphere provided by the Mechanical Engineering Department at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, which proved conducive to collaboration across departments and disciplines. I feel honored to have been elected a fellow of the ASME and am indebted to Dean Ching-Jen Chen to have deemed it fit to nominate me for this honor.”

Hussaini is most deserving of the ASME honors, according to Chen.

“Dr. Yousuff Hussaini is an exceptional researcher who has many accomplishments in diverse fields of engineering and science, particularly in fluid dynamics, acoustics and computational simulation of engineering problems,” Chen said. “He deserves the recognition to be an ASME fellow.”

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Lawrence G. Abele agreed.

“Professor Hussaini is renowned for bringing new insights to a wide variety of problems and devising very creative solutions that lead to real breakthroughs,” Abele said. “He is extraordinarily productive, training a large number of postdoctoral students and publishing at an almost unbelievable rate. He brings attention, prestige and honor to The Florida State University.”

Hussaini has had a notable career in government laboratories and academia, with accomplishments in diverse disciplines such as acoustics, cryogenics, nano fluids and power systems. He has mentored more than two generations of researchers and helped to establish Florida State’s School of Computational Science, now the Department of Scientific Computing.

Before coming to FSU, Hussaini was the director of the Institute for Computer Applications in Science and Engineering (ICASE) at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. He received his doctorate in engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1970 and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of Madras in India.
Joshua Gert, an associate professor of philosophy at The Florida State University, has been awarded a $25,000 fellowship by the George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation for 2009-2010 to study “Value, Response-Dependence, and Secondary Qualities.” The Howard Foundation is an independent agency reporting to the Graduate School of Brown University in Providence, R.I.

“It is a very nice recognition, by those who wrote me letters of support and by the fellowship committee, that the project seems worthwhile,” Gert said of his fellowship. “And it is extremely nice to feel that I have the support of my department.”

As for his research, Gert explained that philosophers have often supposed that there was a very strong similarity, in some important ways, between evaluative properties — whether a situation is generally considered to be good or bad — and so-called “secondary qualities” such as the interpretation of color, taste or pitch. Similarities exist because both groups of properties seem to depend in a fairly strong way on a person’s responses to things. If a situation seems wrong, perhaps there will be some particular sort of aversion or disapproval. In the case of seeing the color red or “redness,” people may have a visual response. Gert’s research explores the analogy between color properties and certain evaluative and normative properties.

“I am working on a book that offers a more adequate account of color and defends the objectivity of value, based on a general view of response-dependent properties,” Gert said. A member of the Florida State faculty since 1993, George has developed expertise in three areas related to management information systems (MIS). They are:

• Learning how to detect deception in computer-mediated communication, such as e-mail and Instant Messenger;
• Understanding the interaction between information technology and work groups; and
• Systems analysis and design, i.e., the methods and practices used to develop and build information systems in a business setting.

“Dr. George’s induction as an AIS fellow and his subsequent election as president are clear and undeniable indicators of his position in the global information systems academic community.”

David Paradice, Florida State’s Sprint Professor of Business

Joey George

“This is an exciting time to be involved in MIS because of the many professional opportunities that exist.

“The MIS field is facing a shortage of qualified employees,” he said. “The field is facing large-scale retirements over the next few years, and many students who should have studied MIS did not due to fears of jobs disappearing overseas. These shortages are one of the reasons high-tech companies are clamoring for an increase in the number of H1B visas, so they can bring in employees from outside the United States to fill some of these vacant jobs.

“Also, the information technology (IT) industry is not hurting as much as other industries due to the current economic downturn,” George said. “Now is a very good time to consider a career in IT.”

As president of the AIS, George will have many opportunities to speak at conferences and universities around the world on behalf of the organization -- and as an ambassador for The Florida State University.

“For example, I will be attending conferences in China and India this summer, and I will address the attendees as the president-elect of AIS,” he said. “And they will all know that I am a professor at Florida State.”
Researcher named charter fellow of mathematics society

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Florida State University Professor Max Gunzburger has been named one of the charter fellows of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), the leading applied mathematics society in the world.

Gunzburger, a Francis Eppes Professor and chair of the Department of Scientific Computing, is one of 183 members of the inaugural class of the SIAM Fellows Program. Fellowship is an honorific designation conferred on members distinguished for their outstanding contributions to the fields of applied mathematics and computational science.

The charter group of fellows represents the diversity of the SIAM membership and includes men and women from five continents who work in academia, industry and government laboratories. They will be recognized at a luncheon held on July 7 during the SIAM Annual Meeting in Denver.

“This is a signal honor for Max,” said Joseph Travis, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “The SIAM is a very large professional society, and the scientists who made the selections had to choose among a great many superb mathematicians. There is no greater accolade than to have one’s colleagues recognize you as among the very best of the best.”

Until now, mathematics societies worldwide have not named fellows, but Gunzburger said there has been growing awareness about the benefits of naming fellows as professional societies do in many other disciplines. For one thing, not having fellows programs has put mathematics researchers at a disadvantage when competing against researchers from other disciplines for funding and even recognition within universities for things such as endowed chairs.

Last year, SIAM awarded Gunzburger one of its most prestigious honors, the W.T. and Idelia Reid Prize in Mathematics.

“To be among the first group of applied mathematicians selected by SIAM to be a fellow of the society is a great honor,” Gunzburger said. “It is quite humbling to be listed among the other charter fellows and to have this honor bestowed a year after receiving the Reid Prize. As is the case for almost everyone receiving such recognition for their professional accomplishments, whatever I did to deserve being named a SIAM fellow was greatly aided by many students, postdocs and colleagues, all of whom I warmly thank.”

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

His research involves developing, analyzing, implementing and applying computational algorithms to help engineers and scientists solve problems in areas including fluid mechanics, materials, climate change, groundwater flows, acoustics, image processing, risk assessment and superconductivity. For example, he has developed algorithms for controlling fluid flows in order to reduce the drag around moving objects, such as airplane wings. The practical implications of such research could mean a reduction of fuel consumption in commercial aircraft.

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

Asolo Repertory Theatre hires new marketing director

Asolo Repertory Theatre has hired Darcy Ballew as its new marketing director. Formerly a senior member of The Cleveland (Ohio) Play House management team, Ballew has more than 30 years of experience in theatrical and live entertainment marketing.

“Darcy brings with her considerable experience in the areas of marketing and public relations for a large and respected regional theatre,” said Linda DiGabriele, Asolo Repertory Theatre’s managing director. “I believe she will be a significant asset to Asolo Rep and to the local arts community. We are very pleased to welcome her to Sarasota.”

As marketing director, Ballew is overseeing all aspects of Asolo Repertory Theatre’s marketing communications and its overall messaging.

Carrying the ‘Flame of Hope’: Four Florida State University Police officers — from left, Lt. Jason Trumbower, Sgt. T.J. Cutchins, Maj. Lisa Sprague and Sgt. Thomas Murphy — took part in the Law Enforcement Torch Run on April 14 to benefit the athletes of the Special Olympics Florida. Officers from the Leon County Sheriff’s Office, the Tallahassee Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Department of Corrections also participated. After the run, the officers and Special Olympics athletes ate lunch together at the Capitol. Each year, more than 3,000 Florida law enforcement officers from more than 300 Florida agencies cover 1,500 miles through 60 Florida counties to benefit the athletes of the Special Olympics Florida. This year’s run will culminate on May 15 at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games at Disney’s Wide World of Sports in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Olympics Florida. Officers from the Leon County Sheriff’s Office, the Tallahassee Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Department of Corrections also participated. After the run, the officers and Special Olympics athletes ate lunch together at the Capitol. Each year, more than 3,000 Florida law enforcement officers from more than 300 Florida agencies cover 1,500 miles through 60 Florida counties to benefit the athletes of the Special Olympics Florida. This year’s run will culminate on May 15 at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Florida State Summer Games at Disney’s Wide World of Sports in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Max Gunzburger
Non-tenure faculty promotions

The Office of the Dean of the Faculties has announced this year’s non-tenure-track faculty promotions, which go into effect for the fall 2009 semester.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM SERVICES

• To Associate in Online Course Development: Joseph S. Clark.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Dean’s Office
• To Associate in Academic Administration: Cheryl B. Lee.

Department of Biology
• To Associate in Research: Jonathon A. Grooms.

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
• To Associate in Research: Mark L. Kearley.

Department of Mathematics
• To Associate in Mathematics: Stephen P. Paris.

Department of Meteorology
• To Associate in Research: Jiujing Gu.

Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics
• To Associate in Spanish: Robert D. Cameron.

Department of Oceanography
• To Associate in Research: Peter Lazarevich.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Department of Management
• To Associate in Management: Fred R. Blass.

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION
Dean’s Office
• To Associate in Communication: Barbara C. Robinson.

Department of Communication Disorders
• To Associate in Communication Disorders: Jade H. Coston and Ellen M. Nimmons.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Dean’s Office
• To Research Associate: Dina Vyortkina.

Florida State University Schools
• To University School Assistant Professor: Peter Carafrano, Barbara Davis and Deborah Meade.

COLLEGE OF LAW
• To Associate in Law: Patricia A. Matthews and Charlee M. Taylor.

• To Associate University Librarian: D. Marin Dell.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health
• To Clinical Associate Professor: Suzanne L. Harrison.

COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE, TELEVISION AND RECORDING ARTS
• To Research Associate: Charles W. Allen.

COLLEGE OF MUSIC
• To Associate University Librarian: Sarah H. Cohen.

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC POLICY
Center for Disaster Risk Policy
• To Associate in Public Affairs: Audrey Heffron-Casserleigh.

International Affairs Program
• To Associate in International Affairs: Lee K. Metcalf.

COLLEGE OF VISUAL ARTS, THEATRE AND DANCE
Department of Art History
• To Research Associate: Jean L. Hudson.

Department of Dance
• To Associate in Dance: Jennifer S.B. Calienes.

School of Theatre
• To Associate in Theatre: Patricia Delorey and Leslie F. Patterson.

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
• To Scholar/Scientist/Engineer: Laurie E.S. Molina.

NATIONAL HIGH MAGNETIC FIELD LABORATORY
• To Scholar/Scientist/Engineer: Luis Balicas and Riqiang Fu.

• To Associate Scholar/Scientist/Engineer: Gregory T. Blakney and Alexey Suslov.

• To Research Associate: Thomas A. Painter, Robert P. Walsh and Yan Xin.

• To Associate in Research: Jose A. Sanchez.

PANAMA CITY CAMPUS
• To Research Associate: Claire J. Calohan and Sandra K. Halvorson.

• To Associate in Electrical Engineering: David P. Skinner.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMS
• To Associate in Research: Ruth S. Feiock.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
• To Associate University Librarian: Nancy Kellett and Bridgett Turnipseed Birmingham.

Researcher wins $2.8 million grant

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Florida State University researcher has won a $2.8 million federal grant to study ways to increase the school readiness skills and subsequent academic achievement of Spanish-speaking children in the United States.

Christopher Lonigan, a psychology professor and associate director of the Florida Center for Reading Research, and a team of researchers will evaluate the benefits of an academically focused preschool curriculum they developed versus more traditional early childhood programs. Their work is being supported by a five-year grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

“Children who are Spanish-speaking English language learners are one of the fastest growing school populations in the United States,” Lonigan said. “A variety of data sources indicate that these children as a group are at a significant risk of educational difficulties as they advance through school. Despite this risk, there have been few previous studies that provide clear evidence of ways in which teachers and schools can help promote these children’s successes.”

A substantial number of children who are Spanish-speaking English language learners enter kindergarten with low levels of key early literacy and math skills, and studies suggest that many of these young children are at risk of later problems in reading and mathematics. Understanding how instructional activities can be used to prevent problems will provide educators with important tools for enhancing school readiness, according to Lonigan.

In addition to evaluating the benefits of the Literacy Express Comprehensive Preschool Curriculum, which Lonigan’s team developed, the researchers will compare the benefits of teaching Spanish-speaking 4-year-olds using only English versus teaching them in Spanish first and English later. Lonigan’s previous studies indicate that using a modified two-way bilingual approach is most effective.

“The language that is used to deliver instruction to these students is a question that is both significant and highly controversial,” he said. “Most generally, such decisions are made on strongly held philosophical or political beliefs. Rarely have such decisions been made and policies established on the basis of sound scientific evidence concerning the instructional model that provides children with the best educational outcome.”
Physics department to examine science behind ‘Angels & Demons’

On May 15, Sony Pictures Entertainment will release “Angels & Demons,” a major motion picture based on Dan Brown’s best-selling novel. Starring Tom Hanks and directed by Ron Howard, the film focuses on an apparent plot to destroy the Vatican using antimatter stolen from the Large Hadron Collider, which is located at the giant European particle physics laboratory, CERN.

Through a series of presentations being held all over the world this month, the particle physics community is using the opportunity of the movie premiere to tell the world about the real science behind antimatter, explain the workings of the Large Hadron Collider and share the excitement of particle physics research.

Members of the Florida State University and Tallahassee communities are invited to attend one such presentation, which will be held right here on the Florida State campus. “‘Angels & Demons’: The Science Revealed” will take place Thursday, May 28, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in room 101 of the new classroom building, located near the Oglesby Student Union.

Harrison B. Prosper, Florida State’s Kirby W. Kemper Professor of Physics and a Distinguished Research Professor, will lead a free, public discussion on the topic of antimatter and particle physics. Afterward, members of the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions of Prosper on a variety of physics-related questions.

Much like the recent “Origins ’09” series of events, “‘Angels & Demons’: The Science Revealed” promises to be a lively and entertaining event that makes science accessible to people who don’t necessarily have a scientific background. Faculty, staff and students of Florida State are invited and encouraged to attend.

Free public parking will be available nearby.

For more information, call Associate Professor Todd Adams of the Department of Physics at (850) 644-7159 or e-mail him at tadams@hep.fsu.edu.