Staying healthy:  
The facts about H1N1

As flu season approaches and concerns remain about the H1N1 influenza virus, Florida State University faculty and staff members have a new informational resource at their fingertips.

University administrators have installed an “H1N1 Information” button on the university’s main Web site (www.fsu.edu). The button leads to the university’s “H1N1 Web page” (www.H1N1.fsu.edu).

This page gives general information about the virus, its signs and symptoms and prevention tips, as well as resources for students, their parents and families, and for faculty and staff members.

Antarctic research facility receives $2.5 million grant

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Times are tough, especially in the Sunshine State, but with a new five-year, $2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, life is cooler than ever at the Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility.

The grant is double the facility’s previous funding from NSF, which established the ice-cold curatorial and research center at The Florida State University in 1963.

“The Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility has been a signature feature of the sciences at Florida State for many years, and this recognition by the National Science Foundation guarantees that it will remain so for years to come,” said FSU College of Arts and Sciences Dean Joseph Travis.

Beneath the plain exterior of an annex to FSU’s aging Carraway Building, the research facility serves as the national repository for the world’s largest collection of marine piston- and drill-core sediment samples extracted from deep below Antarctica’s Southern Ocean floor. The premier collection resides in a 6,000-square-foot refrigerated vault — a library of sorts for visiting scientists.

Nursing to educate more experts for underserved areas

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Amid the national debate on health care quality and access, $2.3 million in new grants to The Florida State University College of Nursing (www.nursing.fsu.edu) will support a unique Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program that aims to increase the number of advanced practice nurses and see them lead and manage health care delivery in poor, underserved areas.

Highly competitive, the pair of three-year grants (about $1.16 million each) will come to Florida State from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For FSU’s College of Nursing, the awards represent an unprecedented level of federal support, affirming the goals of its new DNP program, which began with the fall 2009 semester. The program’s mission: Produce the most highly qualified nurse experts — with special efforts to recruit students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds throughout the Sunshine State — and encourage them to serve as practitioners and health care system leaders in the poor, rural communities of northern Florida and across the Southeast.

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education has granted a 10-year accreditation to the Florida State University Athletic Training Program, which is part of the Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences in the College of Human Sciences.
September is Life Insurance Awareness Month
By: John H. Curry, CLU, ChFC, AEP, MSFS, CLTC

Life Insurance Awareness Month is an industry-wide campaign coordinated by the nonprofit Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, (LIFE). The LIFE Foundation helps educate the public about the importance of life insurance and is observed in September each year.

Life insurance is the foundation of any financial, retirement, business, or estate plan. Members of Congress recognize the social value of encouraging individuals, families, and businesses to protect themselves against financial risk, rather than depending upon the government. Since its passage in 1913, the income tax code has provided that the death benefits of life insurance policies are not generally subject to income tax.

Life insurance is the key to providing for the financial futures of families and businesses. It is unique in helping to guarantee delivery of financial security at the precise moment it is needed. Permanent Life insurance can be used to: supplement retirement; help pay education expenses for children and grandchildren; preserve your estate; safeguard your mortgage and other debt; and insure key people in a business.

Two key questions you should ask: How much? What kind?

How much life insurance should I own? There are two methods to determine the amount of life-insurance to own. The needs approach and the human economic value method. Some people buy what they feel like they “need” to cover debt and other expenses such as college costs and provide an income for some period of time, to the family.

Others prefer to use a method that attempts to calculate the true economic loss to the family or business. This is similar to the approach used in wrongful death cases and was used by the federal government in the World Trade Center victims fund. This method, more accurately calculates the value of the insured’s economic value to the family or the business and therefore the potential loss to that family or business upon the insured’s death.

What kind of life-insurance should I buy? Generally speaking, there are two kinds of life-insurance: term and permanent. Term makes sense when you want to cover a specific need for a specific period of time, for example, 15 or 20 years. Term insurance is less expensive initially and provides a benefit only if you die during the term insurance period.

Permanent insurance provides lifetime protection. There are different kinds of permanent policies: Universal Life; Variable Universal Life; Variable Life, and Whole Life. Each is designed for different situations. A Whole Life insurance policy provides a guaranteed level premium, guaranteed cash value, and a guaranteed death benefit. The cash values can be used for living needs during the insured’s lifetime. An in-depth discussion of these products is beyond the scope of this article.

Many financial plans will have a combination of term and permanent insurance. The mixture of the two will be determined by your financial objectives and dreams. Life insurance is important in any financial plan and deserves serious consideration and evaluation.

I use a planning process that addresses the Four Financial Domains of Protection, Assets, Liabilities, and Cash Flow. For information on The Living Balance Sheet®, visit www.JohnHCurry.com and watch the 6 minute video.

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You can contact John by phone 850-562-3000 or by email john@johnhcurry.com

John Curry earned his Master of Science in Financial Services. He is the author of Preparing For A Secure Retirement and 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@johnhcurry.com, or visiting his website www.JohnHCurry.com.
News and Public Affairs wins top national award for news writing

The staff of News and Public Affairs, Florida State University’s official news and information office, has been selected as tops in the nation in the 2009 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) news writing competition. In the “General News Writing” category, two stories by Jill Elish, two by Libby Fairhurst and one by Barry Ray were submitted by News and Public Affairs editor and Director Browning Brooks as a team entry.

The stories were: “Geometry Shapes Sound of Music” about the research of music Professor Clifton Callender, “Low Grades, Bad Behavior? Siblings May Be To Blame” with sociology Assistant Professor Kathryn Harker Tillman, “Landmark Study Unlocks Stem Cell, DNA Secrets to Speed Therapies” with molecular biology Professor David Gilbert, “FSU Classics Professor Exploring a ‘Lost’ City of the Mycenaeans” with Professor Daniel J. Pullen, and “Life Is a Highway: Study Confirms Cars Have Personality” with scientific computing Associate Professor Dennis Slice.

In winning the award, the FSU team bested public and private university and college public affairs offices across the nation.

Magnet Mystery Hour

To an outsider taking a tour, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at The Florida State University is all glass and steel, instruments flashing, a labyrinth of hallways leading to squat cylindrical magnets organized in cinderblock cells.

Inside these cells — and lots of other places inside the sprawling 370,000-square-foot facility — researchers investigate scientific unknowns, pushing the limits of temperature, magnetic field and mechanical ingenuity to do so. Many visitors leave the lab impressed, a little perplexed, and wanting more.

With that in mind, the lab has organized the Magnet Mystery Hour, an ongoing series of talks that present the lab, its instruments and its research in a way that’s accessible to the curious-minded, even if they haven’t had a science class since high school (or are currently in high school!). The talks are ... at 7 p.m., and is paired with a short tour of the facility at 6:30 p.m. A question and answer session follows each talk.

2009-2010 schedule

•The Pull of High-Field Magnets (Sept. 22, 2009): Most of the scientists who use the magnets don’t work there — and they don’t pay to use the magnets, either. DC User Program Director Eric Palm explains who these “users” are, why they are here, and why it’s important to pool national resources to advance fundamental research.

•Kitchen Table Science For Families (Oct. 20, 2009): Bring a child to this Magnet Mystery Hour to discover science projects adults and children can do together. Center for Integrated Research and Learning Director Pat Dixon introduces “kitchen table science” to participants, who have an opportunity to build their own electromagnets and try other fun and low-cost experiments.

•Petroleomics: Chemistry of the Underworld (Nov. 17, 2009): Ryan Rodgers of the lab’s Ion Cyclotron Resonance (ICR) group explains how scientists use very sophisticated tools to simultaneously separate and identify thousands of separate chemical constituents within a single crude oil sample. Dubbed “petroleomics,” this new field of research has major implications for how oil companies drill for and refine natural resources.

•Magnet Myths and Mysteries (Jan. 19, 2010): DC Facilities and Instrumentation Director Scott Hannahs discusses some of the most common myths about magnetism and the Magnet Lab — and he’ll take your questions, no matter how strange they might be. If you like good anecdotes, you’ll want to miss this.

•Magnets: From Mini to Mighty (March 23, 2010): There’s a lot more to magnets than you think. This talk features a rundown of magnet types, uses and strengths, explained by Magnet Science and Technology Director Mark Bird in a way that will help make the facts stick.
Members of the Florida State University Police Department headed to the Florida Police and Fire Games this year ready to compete, and it showed. Two FSUPD officers — Ofc. David Newbery and Sgt. Thomas Murphy — earned gold medals in their respective sports. The games were held June 20-27 in and around St. Lucie County.

Newbery competed in the tennis tournament, winning the gold in the 40s age group with a 6-3, 6-4 victory. In January, he began training in earnest by running stadium stairs four to five times a week, and honing his tennis skills by practicing three to four times a week. This paid off in the hot South Florida weather as two of his opponents cramped up during the competition. Newbery worked through six matches with the final match against a major from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office.

“The tournament was a great experience and the competition was awesome,” Newbery said. “All the guys were great competitors and very friendly.”

In the triathlon competition, Murphy took the gold in the Men’s 35- to 39-year-old age group and placed third overall. Untold training miles of swimming, biking and running prepared him for the competition, which included a quarter-mile swim, a 14-mile bike ride and a 3-mile run. Murphy described the feat not in terms of the physical effort, but in the great camaraderie that the games develop.

“It was a great feeling to take home a gold medal, but it was an equally great feeling to get the countless handshakes and congratulations that ensued,” Murphy said.

Every year, the Florida Police and Fire Games bring law enforcement officers and firefighters from around the state together to compete in a wide array of sporting events to build relationships and promote physical fitness among Florida’s first responders. For more information, visit www.lawgames.org.

FSUPD competes in annual motorcycle skills competition

This past June, the Florida State University Police Department’s Motorcycle Unit won two team awards and two individual awards at the 4th annual Palmetto Police Motorcycle Skills Competition, held at the North Charleston (S.C.) Coliseum.

For the past three years, the Motorcycle Unit has competed in the training event, which allows officers to raise money for charity while they display their bike-handling skills in a series of obstacle courses and events.

The Motorcycle Unit — composed of officers Mike Rodes, Justin Maloy, Scott Barrett, Ben Buckley and Hank Jacob — placed 3rd in the Team Relay Ride and 5th in the Team Slow Ride. Additionally, Maloy placed 5th in the Individual Slow Ride and 6th in the Expert Road King Division. The FSUPD team competed against teams from 12 different law-enforcement agencies.

This year, the Motorcycle Unit faced serious financial challenges to be able to attend the competition. However, its members came together with the assistance of the FSU Foundation to create the FSUPD Motorcycle Unit Fund, which will be used to benefit its advanced training and special equipment needs. The five officers spent countless hours having fund-raising cookouts on their own time to help generate money for the fund. They also created a team-sponsorship program, where local businesses could contribute and become team sponsors. The Motorcycle Unit was able to get team sponsorship donations from Capital City Harley-Davidson, Bandidos Burritos, Thomas Chevrolet, Kia Autosport, Bob’s Auto Repair and Auto Details.

The event was a benefit for Camp Happpy Days, which gives children with cancer a fun time of escape from their health-related problems.
Trumbower muscles way to national arm wrestling prominence

On June 27, Florida State University Police Lt. Jason Trumbower showed up at the Unified National Armwrestling Championships in Little Rock, Ark., ready to muscle out the competition. Going head to head — or in this case, arm to arm — against some the nation’s pre-eminent, professional arm wrestlers, Trumbower came in 4th place in the left-arm event and, with a 2nd-place finish, was the national runner-up in the right-arm event.

“Both finishes were very rewarding because of the hard work and training I have put in to get better,” said Trumbower, who also runs fitness classes for the officers and staff of The Florida State University Police Department.

The top-tier finishes are significant, as they now qualify Trumbower to compete this month at the international level during the World Armwrestling Federation’s world championships in Italy, and at the 2010 Arnold Schwarzenegger Classic.

Competing in the 165-pound weight class, Trumbower had watched every calorie to make his weight class for the competition. What’s more, his training regimen includes arm wrestling every Thursday night with eight other members of the Capital City Arm Wrestling Team, which is led by former world champion Steve Myers.

“The training has been invaluable to me and a huge part of my recent success,” Trumbower said.

More than 300 athletes participated in the national event in Little Rock, which was sanctioned by the United States Armwrestling Federation.

FSUPD receives first-place recognition in ’09 challenge

On July 31, The Florida State University Police Department received first-place honors for its traffic safety efforts as a competitor in the Florida Law Enforcement Challenge, University Class. The Law Enforcement Challenge, sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation, provides a means for agencies of comparative size and jurisdiction to weigh their previous year’s traffic safety programs with one another in a competition designed to promote traffic safety innovations and initiative. Participating agencies compile entries focusing on education and enforcement related to DUI, speeding and safety belt use.

“The Florida Law Enforcement Challenge is about demonstrating our commitment to traffic safety, and the competition gives us the opportunity to highlight our best practices and share them with other agencies and the public,” said FSU Police Chief David Perry. “Frankly, we always come away from the award ceremony having learned something that we can apply here at FSU. It is win-win for everyone who participates.”

The FSU Police Department has placed every year since it first began participating in the Challenge in 2003, including winning top state and national honors. Because of its first-place showing, the Police Department will receive new traffic safety equipment to augment its programs.
Applicants sought for Sheila B. Lutz Memorial Scholarship

Florida State University employees are encouraged to apply for the Sheila B. Lutz Memorial Scholarship, offered by the university’s Department of Biological Science. The application deadline is Oct. 9. They should be sent to Anne B. Thistle, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4295.

The Lutz Scholarship provides a $1,000 award to an FSU employee who is seeking to continue his or her university education. The field of study need not be related to the employee’s current position. The funds are intended to be used to defray expenses such as books, computer hardware and software, child care and transportation.

To be eligible, employees must: have two years of continuous, full-time employment at FSU in a USPS or A&P line; have thirty semester hours of college/university credit with an overall GPA of 2.5 or better; have been accepted into, or be eligible to be accepted into, a specific degree program.

Selection is based on academic performance, educational plans, the relevance of the degree program to career goals and letters of recommendation.

The application materials are: the completed four-page form (www.bio.fsu.edu/sheila); transcripts of all post-secondary academic work; a statement of educational plans and career goals; and three letters of recommendation, which are to be sent by the writers to Thistle.

Letters of recommendation should come from: the employee’s present supervisor; a faculty member or academic adviser in the applicant’s degree program who can address the applicant’s eligibility for or acceptance into a specific degree program, academic capabilities and probable progress toward the degree sought; and a co-worker, previous supervisor or other individual who knows the applicant in a professional capacity.

In addition to the application being available on the department of biological science Web site, it also will be sent electronically to all FSU department chairs and personnel representatives.

Questions should be directed to Thistle at 644-5131 or thistle@bio.fsu.edu.

Balfour offers faculty discount on ring

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Florida State University Alumni Association, Balfour is offering a 50-percent discount on the official Florida State University Ring to faculty members who are Florida State alumni. The offer is good until July 31, 2010.

Orders must be placed in person during one of Balfour’s on-campus promotion days at the FSU Bookstore, located in the first floor of the Woodward Avenue parking garage. Faculty members are asked to present their FSUCards for identification. The offer is not valid with purchases made online or by telephone.

Fall-semester promotion days:
• Sept. 21-23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Oct. 9-10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Oct. 30-31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Dec. 1-3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Dec. 12 (Graduation Day)

Balfour’s spring-semester promotion days have yet to be announced.

by the way

>> Florida State University's Seminole Reservation invites Tallahassee-area families to enjoy a laid-back night of fun around the campfire during its Family Campout at the Rez on Friday, Oct. 23, beginning at 6 p.m. The Seminole Reservation will provide tents, sleeping bags, grills, charcoal and the fixings for s’mores. The only items that campers need to bring are weather-appropriate clothing, closed-toe shoes, extra linens and food. On-site restrooms will be available. The cost is $20 per tent for FSU-affiliated groups and $25 per tent for non-FSU-affiliated groups. Outdoor Pursuits staff members will be on hand to assist in campsite setup. There are limited spots available, so interested parties should register early. The Seminole Reservation is located at 3226 Flastacowo Road. To learn more, call 644-2449 or send an e-mail to outdoorpursuits@fsu.edu.

>> Seventh bus route added to Seminole Express: With service every 20 minutes from the University Center on the main campus, the Village Route will carry students, faculty and staff to and from Innovation Park, free of charge.

Stops along the route include Alumni Village, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, the FSU Foundation, the College of Engineering, the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course, the Morcom Aquatics Center and WFSU.

>> New procedure for free rides on city bus routes: Students, faculty and staff members now must swipe their valid university identification cards (FSUCard) to ride for free on city bus routes. StarMetro, the university’s transit partner, has recently installed new smart fare boxes in the city’s buses. These new fare boxes will provide accurate ridership data to StarMetro and FSU, and assist in enhancing existing routes and the development of future routes.

>> New way to register to get FSU Alert text messages: Faculty and staff members now can register to receive FSU Alert messages thru OMNI. A new Phone Type field called “TEXT ALERT” has been added to the “Personal Information Summary” screen. After logging on to OMNI, employees should proceed to the “Personal Information Summary” under “HR/Payroll,” scroll down to “Phone Numbers,” click on “Change Phone Numbers,” then select “Add a Phone Number.” Don’t forget to click “Save” before signing out.
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The Source
News from Human Resources

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The following training sessions are available to all Florida State University employees. This list only shows classes taught through Oct. 1. To view the entire Fall Schedule of Training Classes, detailed course descriptions and registration information, visit hr.fsu.edu/train.

Information: Office of Training and Organizational Development, (850) 644-8724.

>>INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING CLASSES:
• Travel and Expense: Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Training Center;
• Bridging Cultures: Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-noon, Training Center;
• PCard Training: Sept. 17, 2-4:30 p.m., A6201 University Center;
• Travel Card Training: Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Training Center;
• Domestic Security Awareness: Sept. 17, 1-3 p.m., Training Center;
• Performance Evaluation: Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-noon, Training Center;
• Gang Awareness: Sept. 22, 1-3 p.m., Training Center;
• Managing a Budget: Sept. 23, 2-4 p.m., Training Center;
• Accounting/Budgeting Concepts: Sept. 23, 9 a.m.-noon, A6201 University Center;
• GL Journal Processing: Sept. 23, 1:30-4:30 p.m., A6201 University Center;
• Advanced Connections: Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Training Center;
• Basic Financial Management: Sept. 23, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 301 Student Services Building;
• Advanced General Ledger: Sept. 24, 1:30-4:30 p.m., A6201 University Center;
• Stressed Out!: Sept. 24, 8:30-10 a.m., Training Center;
• General Ledger Reconciliation: Sept. 25, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Training Center;
• Employing Foreign Nationals: Sept. 25, 1:30-3 p.m., Training Center;
• US Compensation Processes: Sept. 25, 9-11 a.m., Training Center;
• Managing Debt: Sept. 28, 1-5 p.m., Training Center;
• Sponsored Programs Proposal: Sept. 29, 9-11 a.m., 301 Student Services Building;
• Applying and Interviewing: Sept. 29, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Training Center;
• Family Medical Leave Act: Sept. 30, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Training Center; and
• American Sign Language: Oct. 1, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Training Center.

>>COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING COURSES: ADA/EEO: Avoiding Minefields; Family Medical Leave Act; Internal Controls; New Employee Orientation; Sexual Harassment Policy; Fundamentals of Discipline; Interview Techniques; Performance Evaluation; and Sexual Harassment Need to Know.

>>NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION IS NOW ONLINE: The link to the required new employee presentations, materials and the certification form can be found at http://www.hr.fsu.edu/Content/NEOnline/index.html. Participants must certify their completion of the online NEO by faxing a completed copy of the “Certification of Completion and Evaluation of Orientation” form to the Office of Training and Organizational Development as indicated on the form. Information: (850) 644-8724.

>>FLORIDA ADOPTION BENEFIT PROGRAM APPLICATION: Full- and part-time employees who are paid from regular appropriations (not OPS), and who adopted a child with the final order of adoption awarded on or after Oct. 1, 2000 (inception date of the program), may be eligible to apply for adoption benefits through the Florida Department of Children and Families. The adopted child’s permanent custody must have been awarded to the Department of Children and Family Services or to a Florida-licensed child-placement agency.

>>2009 ADOPTION BENEFIT OPEN ENROLLMENT: Concludes on Sept. 30. The university-verified application and a certified copy of the final order of adoption must be received by the Florida Department of Children and Families by Sept. 31.
• Adoption Benefits Rules: www.dcf.state.fl.us/adoption/adoptbenefitprogram.shtml.
• Application for Adoption Benefits: www.dcf.state.fl.us/adoption/benefits/docs/applicationforbenefit.doc.
Information: Mandy Manning, mmmanning@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 644-8732.

>>OPEN ENROLLMENT: The 2010 Open Enrollment plan year starts Monday, Sept. 14, at 8:30 a.m., and ends Friday, Oct. 9, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. EST (4:30 p.m. CST). Employees should verify that their addresses are correct in OMNI, and are updated by Aug. 25, 2009. Open enrollment packages will be mailed during the first two weeks of September. Confirmation statements will be mailed from Oct. 12 to Oct. 16, only to participants who made changes to their benefits during the open enrollment period. The correction period is from Oct. 12 to Oct. 30. Only participants who made election changes during open enrollment will be allowed to make a correction. Information: www.myflorida.com/mybenefits/index.htm.

HELPFUL HINTS:
• Employees should check their People First passwords to make online open enrollment changes. Employees who have forgotten their passwords, but who have already set up their security questions and answers, can reset their passwords online at https://PeopleFirst.MyFlorida.com; otherwise, employees can call the service center at (866) 663-4735 to get a temporary password. If employees know their password, but have not logged in to People First in the past 90 days, they should go online and reset their passwords to be prepared for open enrollment.
• Employees should carefully review their annual benefits statement, which they will receive in the mail. It includes benefits options for next year and the cost of each option. Any plans an employee is enrolled in will automatically carry over to next year, so employees should be sure they have the plans they need.
• Employees should verify that all of their eligible dependents are enrolled in the plans in which they want them to be.
• Employees can attend the annual Benefits and Wellness Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oglesby Union (see below).

>>BENEFITS AND WELLNESS FAIR: Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate in the 9th annual fair to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Oglesby Union Ballroom. Postcard invitations will be sent through campus mail. Employees should bring the postcard with them to register for door prizes.

>>MAY/JUNE 2009 RETIREES: Winnifred Adolph, associate chairperson/associate professor, Modern Languages and Linguistics; Debra Austin, assistant in research, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies; Carolyn Cochran, administrative support assistant, Women’s Studies; Stephen Cox, skilled trades worker, Apartment Housing; Peter Dalton, associate professor, Philosophy; Patricia Davis, university school professor, Developmental Research School; Alfonza Dupree, custodial worker, Residence Halls; Richard Dusenbury, associate professor, College of Business - Accounting; Clifford Goff, professor, College of Music - Dean; Robert Graves, assistant director, University Computing Services; Linda Gross, academic administrator, Dean of the Faculties; William Hillison, professor, College of Business - Accounting; William Hinchliffe, technical support analyst, Information Studies; Linda Jones, university school professor, Developmental Research School; Angela Lupo-Anderson, assistant in research, Modern Languages and Linguistics; Angela Maige, accounting specialist, Management Data; Robert McCann, library associate, Strozier Library; Jacquelyn Moore, administrative support assistant, Ringling Center for the Arts; David Powell, assistant
professor, College of Law; Ronald Reazin, ERP analyst, Enterprise Resource Planning; Dureatha Sampson, facilities supervisor, Developmental Research School; Deborah Snell, office administrator, Residence Halls; Bonnie Snyder, executive support assistant, International Programs; Irene Stacey, enrollment management officer, Admissions; Jessie Stalnaker, administrative support assistant, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; Sara Stoecklin, associate in research, Panama City Campus Academic Office Support; Thersia Tanner-Smith, assistant in research, Learning Systems Institute; Yulondia Wilson, administrative support assistant, Athletics Administration.

>>DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP MENTORING PROGRAM: Applications are now available to enroll for the 2009-2010 academic year. It is sponsored by the Office of Human Resources in partnership with the Center for Leadership and Civic Education. The purpose of this program is to create inclusive leadership opportunities for students from a broad spectrum of demographic and philosophical differences, to develop their knowledge of leadership and enhance their ability to demonstrate leadership skills. It provides Florida State students opportunities to be mentored by alumni, members of the faculty and staff, or graduate students.

• Applications are now being accepted from students looking for leadership mentors.
• In addition, faculty members, professional staff members and graduate students who are interested in volunteering as mentors, now can register.

To obtain application forms and program guidelines, visit https://hrapps.fsu.edu/mentor. Information: Sandra Dixon, assistant director, Human Resources at ssdixon@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 645-6468.

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

>>CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Hispanic Heritage Month marks the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile declared their independence on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. All of these countries declared their independence in 1821.

>>THE 2010 PRUDENTIAL-DAVIS PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS: Nominations are being sought for the annual awards program. The required forms and instructions for the competition are available at www.floridataxwatch.org/dpa/nomination.php. The nomination submittal deadline is Friday, Oct. 2. All nominations should be submitted using the online system. Cash awards, ranging from $200 to $2,750, as well as commemorative plaques and certificates of commendation will be presented to state employees in June 2010. Employees are asked to nominate individuals, teams, work units and agencies that exceeded their job descriptions and performance expectations in ways that improved service delivery and added value for Florida taxpayers and businesses between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009, or other comparable periods.

The following are the award categories for the Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards:

• INDIVIDUAL NOMINATION: For nominating one state employee.
• TEAM, WORK UNIT OR PARTNERSHIP NOMINATION: For nominating teams, work units and partnerships consisting of two or more persons.
• EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENT OF A STATE AGENCY NOMINATION: To be submitted by heads of agencies only, to nominate an agency, division, district, institution or comparable organization (consisting of 100+ employees).
• ADAPTING AND IMPLEMENTING NOMINATION: To nominate an individual, team or work unit for adapting or implementing a previous Prudential-Davis Productivity Award. There are separate forms for nominating an individual versus a team, work unit, district, institution or comparable organizational unit.
• SUSTAINED EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE NOMINATION: To nominate previous DPA winners who have demonstrated exemplary performance for five years or longer. There are separate forms for nominating an individual versus a team, work unit, district, institution or comparable organizational unit.
• RECOGNITION OF LONG TIME NOMINATORS: To nominate individuals who have submitted nominations to the Davis Productivity Awards program over a period of ten or more years.

Information: www.floridataxwatch.org/dpa.

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scientists from around the world who “check out” the cores in order to conduct further analyses.

Layered by ancient sediments and their fossilized micro-organisms, the icy core samples offer up clues to a geologic and climate-change history stretching back 80 million years. Among the more recent acquisitions is a nearly quarter-mile-long core sequence drawn from 3,000 feet beneath the Ross Sea that provides an almost unbroken stratigraphic record of sedimentary rock beneath the Ross Ice Shelf, the largest floating ice body on Earth. From those samples, scientists can document milestones in the area’s climatic and glacial history.

“The NSF Office of Polar Programs likes the job we do here at Florida State University,” said Sherwood W. Wise Jr., a longtime professor of geological sciences at Florida State and faculty principal investigator for the AMGRF. “Hence, they have doubled our budget for the next five years, which fortunately coincides with our installation of mobile shelving in the ‘Cold Room’ to make space for the arrival of new Antarctic cores.”

Wise, his curators and their students at the Florida State facility have played the key on-ice curatorial roles for several core-drilling operations in Antarctica, including the 2006 and 2007 inaugural expeditions of ANDRILL (Antarctic Geological Drilling), a $30 million, multinational research initiative and the most ambitious seafloor drilling effort ever undertaken at the Antarctic margins.

For geologists such as Wise, core samples at the AMGRF become information-rich time capsules and, perhaps, crystal balls.

In one core, for example, greenish sediments layered throughout indicate periods of open-water conditions, suggesting the Ross Ice Shelf retreated and advanced at least 50 times over the past 5 million years in response to climate changes. That’s critical information, said Wise, because the Ross Sea ice is in part a floating extension of the even bigger West Antarctic Ice Sheet — an area of Antarctica so unstable that scientists foresee its likely collapse in a world overheated by global warming. They warn that such a collapse could raise sea levels worldwide by a catastrophic 10 to 20 feet.

“Learning more about past ice-shelf fluctuations significantly increases our understanding of Antarctica’s potential responses to future global-scale climate changes,” Wise said. “Those responses will be profoundly important to Florida and other low-lying regions that are most vulnerable to sea-level changes.”

Have you recently received an award, made a conference presentation or written a paper? Faculty and staff members are encouraged to submit their professional accomplishments to Campus In Action. Send your news to Jeffery Seay, editor in chief, at jseay@fsu.edu.
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Building partnerships with the local community

Center to explore the ‘pedagogy of engagement’

Strengthening the link between classroom learning and application has become a major theme in the field of higher education. It also is a guiding practice of Florida State University’s Center for Leadership and Civic Education.

To further explore the link, the Center for Leadership and Civic Education will be the host of a one-day institute on Friday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The institute will bring together course instructors, faculty members and community representatives to build university-community relationships that support service learning, community-based scholarship and partnership capacity.

“The institute will be an opportunity to introduce peers, share common experiences and best practices, and learn from one another,” said Elizabeth Swiman, service learning program coordinator of the Center for Leadership and Civic Education. “Discussions on how to serve our students and community, especially in a time of diminishing resources, already have been taking place between campus units and our partners for quite some time. As part of this conversation, we are in the process of identifying our most effective partnerships to determine the extent and direction of research and engagement with the local community. This process is renewing Florida State’s commitment to vital partnerships in our community and beyond.”

All institute participants are invited to submit project proposals that implement effective educational faculty/agency partnerships. Up to four proposals will be chosen and awarded development grants.

To make a reservation, call Swiman at 645-6856 or send an e-mail to eswiman@admin.fsu.edu. The reservation deadline is Friday, Oct. 9. Lunch and additional resources will be provided to participants.

Credit counselor to offer workshop for employees

In today’s economic climate, many people are taking another look at the way they manage their household budgets. Credit card debt is skyrocketing and the home-foreclosure rate is on the rise. With mortgages they cannot afford, some people are facing bankruptcy or short sales. Others are changing their retirement plans by working longer or coming out of retirement to look for a job.

Florida State University employees who are unsure of the proper financial choices to make should take note: a certified credit counselor with more than 20 years of working from both the consumer’s and lender’s perspective is coming to speak on campus.

Kevin Maher, who is the director of community education for Consumer Credit Management Services of Delray Beach, Fla., will give a four-hour presentation on Debt Management on Monday, Sept. 28, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Training Center at Stadium Place.

Maher will discuss credit scores, how to win with credit cards, home mortgage problems and solutions, budgeting for long-term success, and evaluating the options of debt consolidation, debt settlement and bankruptcy.

To register for Maher’s presentation, log on to OMNI (www.omni.fsu.edu) and click on “Human Resources 9.0,” “Self Service,” “Learning and Development,” “Request Training Enrollment” and “Search by Date” (this option will provide a list of all future courses with available sessions).

To learn more, call 644-8724.