Barron named president
Alumnus to become Florida State’s 14th

By Browning Brooks
DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Florida State University Board of Trustees has selected alumnus Eric J. Barron, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, to serve as the university’s 14th president.

Barron, 58, will succeed T.K. Wetherell, who became president in 2003 and guided Florida State to record heights before announcing in June his intention to retire.

“I am extremely gratified and honored to return to my alma mater and serve as its next president,” Barron said. “This is an outstanding university that is poised to become one of the finest in the world, and I look forward to helping it reach that goal.”

Board of Trustees Chairman Jim Smith reported to the trustees overwhelmingly positive comments in support of Barron from the 19-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee, which he chaired. That group had interviewed three finalists out of 26 applicants before forwarding the results of its review to the trustees.

“Under Dr. Wetherell’s leadership, Florida State University advanced as one of the nation’s top public graduate research universities,” Smith said. “Now, it is well-positioned to vault to the next level, and the Board of Trustees is extremely pleased to be able to select Dr. Barron as the leader who will take us there.

“His national prominence in his field, his extensive fundraising experience and his superlative administrative skills are an excellent fit for Florida State.”

Barron earned a bachelor’s degree in geology from FSU as an honors student in 1973. He holds master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Miami, both in oceanography.

He has been director of the highly prominent national laboratory, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colo., since 2008.

In his first year there, he developed a strategic plan to address budget challenges that was praised by the National Science Foundation for its transparency and commitment to the future. This year, the center had its greatest annual budget increase in nearly a decade.

Prior to taking the position at NCAR, Barron was dean of the newly formed Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. That school currently is executing a strategic plan developed while he was dean that expanded the faculty, transformed student recruitment and services, developed a lifelong connection to alumni and created a stronger sense of community.

From 1986 to 2006, Barron was at Pennsylvania State University, where he was professor of geosciences, director of the Earth System Science Center, director of the EMS Environment Institute, and...
A personal note from John Curry...

Both my father and grandfather were members of the Florida Retirement System. When it came time for them to retire they were not well versed in the options available. Looking back they both could have made better choices.

When I look over at my grandson playing in the yard I realize that my advocacy role is important not just to those examining their retirement options but to future generations as well. Asset protection, long term care and income planning are important to our family and life.

I often ask people “Do you feel like you have the knowledge you need as you move toward retirement?” The intricacies of DROP, deferred compensation and FRS pension options can be mind numbing.

Let me help.

It’s been said that every 10 seconds, a Baby Boomer turns age 60.
This started in January 2006. I don’t know if it’s every 10 seconds, 20 seconds, or 30 seconds. The point is that Baby Boomers are turning age 60 and will for the next 18 years. This will have tremendous consequences for all of us.

Most people will not be prepared for retirement. Why?
I think it’s because of the following 7 mistakes:

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

Well, there you have it: The 7 Mistakes that will impact everyone in planning for their retirement. I hope that you will study these issues and I wish you much success and financial freedom.

FREE Report available!! Learn how to plan for and avoid these 7 Mistakes and Prepare for a Secure Retirement.
Call Toll Free 1-800-398-4565 x 7111, 24 hours a day for a Recorded Message, or go to www.JohnHCurry.com/7mistakes to download the report.

“In the years I’ve known John, I have never seen his insights, strategies and process be as focused as they are in this book. His thoughts, comments and philosophy are timely.”
Donald J. Faughnan
Faughnan Financial Network, Inc. New York, NY
Conference will examine connection between art, design and social justice

An international gathering of artists, designers, teachers and social justice advocates from at least 11 countries and 14 states will converge on The Florida State University for the 4th Annual Art and Design for Social Justice Symposium, Jan. 15-18. The symposium is designed to generate synergy, spawn collaborative projects among participants, and create new scholarly initiatives by examining the roles that art and design play in the telling of a broader social narrative, according to Florida State interior design Professor Lisa Waxman.

What's more, the symposium will coincide with the 15th anniversary of the Kids’ Guernica Peace Mural Project, an international effort that allows children to paint peace-themed murals on canvases measuring 3.5 meters x 7.8 meters, the size of Picasso’s “Guernica.” A dozen canvas murals — representative of the hundreds of murals that have been completed by children around the world — will be on display in the Museum of Fine Arts in January.

Both events will be jointly hosted by the university’s departments of Art Education and Interior Design, within the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, and by the university’s Museum of Fine Arts.

“The symposium focuses on how art, design and arts education can be utilized to address social justice issues that confront individuals and their communities locally, regionally, nationally and internationally,” Waxman said.

The symposium and exhibition celebrate years of international cooperation focusing on constructing world peace through a locally specific, globally envisioned peace project, according to Florida State art education Professor Tom Anderson, one of the founders of the Kids’ Guernica Peace Mural Project.

For more information or to register for the symposium, please go to www.socialjustice-symposium.fsu.edu.

International Programs
Faculty can apply to teach abroad in 2011, 2012

Florida State University International Programs will be accepting applications until Sunday, Jan. 31, from faculty members who would like to teach abroad for summer 2011, fall 2011 and spring 2012.

International Programs is soliciting applications for courses that lend themselves to the effective use of the academic and cultural resources available at a certain international location. Courses of broad general interest or that meet the liberal studies credit requirement or the multicultural requirement are of particular interest. Faculty members may apply to teach in one or more of any combination of locations and semesters.

Those who wish to teach upper-level or major-specific courses should consider submitting a proposal for a curriculum-focused program. Such programs can be located in any country (or countries) and should be geared toward majors or professionals in a specific field. Faculty members are expected to lead in designing the program and recruiting participants. Faculty members selected to direct curriculum-focused programs at locations where there is no year-round study center will be responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day program operation overseas, which can include academic advising, student disciplinary processes and emergency response.

Faculty members will teach courses listed in the current FSU General Bulletin and are expected to guide and oversee any directed individualized studies (DIS) students majoring in their academic disciplines.

“We send students and faculty to live in the midst of incomparable academic resources such as art works, architecture, museums and libraries, institutions of government and commerce,” said Jim Pitts, director of International Programs. “Resources and meeting places far beyond the classroom are available, and we encourage faculty to take full advantage of the program’s location.”

International entry clearance, work permit and visa requirements change frequently. If selected, faculty members must be prepared to work closely with International Programs staff members to meet these requirements for themselves and their families.

Interested faculty members should complete the online application, which is available at www.international.fsu.edu.
The 2008 publication of “Thomas Middleton: The Collected Works” reincarnated the provocative, long-lost 17th-century bard as “our other Shakespeare.” Now, the tour de force critics call “monumental” has earned its lead general editor, Florida State University English Professor Gary Taylor, one of the world’s most prestigious honors for a scholarly book.

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It took two decades to assemble the two-volume set from Middleton plays, poems and manuscripts scattered for more than four centuries.

“The Collected Works” has already begun to convince critics that Middleton was Shakespeare’s equal both as a wordsmith and storyteller, according to Taylor. “Such recognition would be rewarding, professionally and personally, for anyone, but it is especially significant to me because it powerfully endorses the claim that Thomas Middleton is indeed ‘our other Shakespeare.’”

“Collected Works” contributors included Taylor’s fellow general editor, John Lavagnino, of Kings College London, and 73 other scholars from 12 countries — among them two other faculty members from Florida State’s English department, Professor Celia R. Daileader and Associate Professor Dan Vitkus. Taylor and Lavagnino also served as the joint general editors of the companion volume, “Thomas Middleton and Early Modern Textual Culture.”

“The Collected Works” has already begun to convince critics that Middleton was Shakespeare’s equal both as a wordsmith and storyteller, according to Taylor. “Gary is a visionary scholar,” said Joseph Travis, dean of Florida State’s College of Arts and Sciences. “He recognizes that bringing Middleton’s work to a modern audience is important, and the MLA prize has affirmed that vision.”
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University team wins ‘Innovation Award’ from Oracle

The Florida State University was recognized for its innovative use of Oracle Business Intelligence software by Oracle during the Oracle Open World 2009 Conference in San Francisco, Calif. The university was named a winner of the 2009 Innovation Awards in the Business Intelligence/Enterprise Performance Management category.

The university was honored for its implementation of Business Intelligence based on the Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition and PeopleSoft EPM products. The resulting system, OMNI Business Intelligence, is a Web-based system that provides intuitive, efficient and robust reporting of OMNI HR and Financial information. For the past 18 months, OMNI HR and Financial users have enjoyed fast report execution, flexible interaction with reports through dashboards, and the ability to perform self-service reporting. Overall, these benefits have resulted in savings in time and costs, increases in productivity and improved business management.

“Oracle’s recognition of our Business Intelligence program is a testament to the business value that it delivers to the university,” said Byron Menchion, associate director of ERP Reporting. “In addition, this award highlights the dedication, hard work and collaboration between the university’s Enterprise Resource Planning and its respective central administrative offices.”

Instructional Systems, Reiser recognized

Professor Robert Reiser and the Instructional Systems program at The Florida State University have been ranked among the most productive in their field in terms of scholarly output by Educational Technology Research and Development, a leading research journal in the field of instructional design and technology.

Instructional Systems (http://insys.fsu.edu), a graduate program in Florida State’s College of Education, was ranked second overall and first for first authorships (meaning its faculty members were the primary researchers and authors of collaborative papers) over the past 20 years in a field of 272 institutions that spans 26 countries.

“This study is truly a testament to the outstanding scholarly work in the Instructional Systems program,” said Marcy Driscoll, dean of the College of Education.
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TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

>>Instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to Florida State faculty and staff members. To view a schedule of classes and registration information, visit www.hr.fsu.edu/train. To register for classes, log in to omni.fsu.edu and click in sequence: “Human Resources 9.0,” “Self Service,” “Learning and Development,” “Request Training Enrollment” and “Search by Date.” This will provide a list of all future courses with available sessions. From there, click on “View Available Sessions” and choose a session number. Follow the prompts to submit a request. To view a course description, click on the icon. Information: (850) 644-8724.

>>FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ORIENTATION: A training program designed for new supervisors, developing team leaders or front-line supervisors with a focus on team building, policies, procedures and legal and compliance issues that are specific to Florida State University. Participants have one year from their orientation date to complete the 14-course program. Two orientation sessions are available for employees interested in enrolling in the program during spring 2010. To register: Use course code LSFL1 and session code 0002, Jan. 21, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; or session code 0003, Jan. 27, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Orientation will be held at the Training Center at Stadium Place. Information: (850) 644-8724.

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

>>ADULT BASIC EDUCATION SPRING 2010: Available to all Florida State employees at no cost, the objective of the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program is to improve participating employee’s fundamental educational skills in reading, writing and/or math. In addition, it is designed to prepare a person for the General Educational Development (GED) test. All ABE classes are taught by a Florida-certified teacher. Volunteer tutors also may be available to provide individual assistance. Spring 2010 classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 12, or Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Training Center at Stadium Place. Participants are required to choose and attend one regularly scheduled three-hour class session every Tuesday or Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon through May. Both new and returning participants will register during their first class session in January. Class size is limited, so employees are asked to attend the first class meeting. Information: (850) 644-8724.

>>IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR FRS MEMBERS: On Jan. 4, the Florida Retirement System Retirement (FRS) will be replacing ING, the current investment plan administrator, with Hewitt Associates. For more information about the FRS Investment Plan, visit www.myfrs.com, or contact the MyFRS Financial Guidance Line at (866) 446-9377, option 2.

>>ELECTIVE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION LIMITS UNCHANGED FOR 2010: The Internal Revenue Service has announced cost-of-living adjustments for elective contributions to retirement accounts, including FSU-sponsored tax sheltered annuity plans [403(b)], post-tax Roth 403(b), and state of Florida-sponsored deferred compensation (457) plans. For the 2010 calendar year, the annual contribution limit for 403(b) plans will be set at $16,500. This limit is unchanged from 2009. The contribution limit for the 457 Deferred Compensation plan also will remain at $16,500. Employees who are age 50 and above, at any point in the 2010 calendar year, are eligible to contribute an additional $5,500 to a 403(b) and/or a 457-retirement plan. Information: Michael Horgan, Human Resources, (850) 644-4017.

>>LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT: The Gabor Agency is offering a special open enrollment period for Long-term Care Insurance until Feb. 12. Long-term Care Insurance is designed to help employees and their families manage the cost of long-term care services that may be needed when people can no longer perform necessary activities of daily living on their own. These policies are offered through payroll deduction to FSU employees and can be continued after retirement or termination of employment. Information (or to enroll): Gabor Agency at (850) 894-9611, option 5.

>>DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PROGRAM (DROP): The retirement section of Human Resources would like to remind all Florida Retirement System Pension Plan members to carefully review the eligibility and enrollment guidelines concerning participation in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP). With some exceptions, pension plan members become eligible to join DROP when they reach age 62, or having completed 30 years of service, or whichever comes first. Certain pension plan members who accumulate the 30 years of service well before reaching the normal retirement age of 62, may defer participation in DROP until they reach age 57. In addition, all members must be fully vested, having a minimum of six years of service to be eligible for DROP. Employees who wish to enroll in this program should apply approximately three to six months prior to their eligibility date. Information: Leasa Howard or Donna Arnold, (850) 644-4016.
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Pamella “Sissi” Carroll, Ph.D. (Dwight I. Burton Professor of English Education, Distinguished University Professor), presented at the “Reading Literature in Every Content Area? Encouraging All Teachers to be Literacy Teachers” panel session during the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, Philadelphia, November 2009.

Steven Pfeiffer, Ph.D. (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), conducted a webinar that discussed the importance of using multiple types of information and sources of information and Gifted Rating Scales in identifying gifted and talented students. Pfeiffer developed Gifted Rating Scales to be used as a teacher rating scale based on a multidimensional model of giftedness that is designed to more accurately identify gifted students.


Annette Schwabe, Ph.D. (Sociology), and Connie Eudy (Academic and Professional Program Services) co-presented “Increasing Student Preparedness, Accountability and Understanding: Impact of Team-Based Learning in the Classroom” to Duke University faculty members as part of the Atlantic Coast Conference Academy of Teaching Scholars program, Durham, N.C., November 2009. Through this program, the universities of the ACC share expertise about excellent teaching practices that promote undergraduate student learning.

Jill Pable, Ph.D. (Interior Design), is serving as the national president of the Interior Design Educators Council. In this capacity, Pable represented the council to the International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The organization serves as the international level ‘United Nations’ organization of interior design and interior architecture. Pable was the August 2009 winner of the SocioDesign Foundation’s “Archi-Therapy” competition. Her submission provided a theoretical design solution for a homeless shelter intake area guided by the principles of psychological self-actualization theory.

>> Part-time Job Fair: Florida State University students and local employers will have a chance to meet face to face during a Part-time Job Fair on Thursday, Jan. 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Oglesby Union Ballroom. It is co-sponsored by the Career Center and the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. Information: Rachel Kreisberg, 645-6516 or sep@admin.fsu.edu.

>> Martin Luther King Jr. celebration: For the 22nd year, The Florida State University will pay tribute to visionary civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Six events in five days will comprise “Bold Dreams! Big Victories! Celebrating Our Legacy.”

Monday, Jan. 11
• Knowledge is King Academic Brain Bowl, 6 p.m., Florida Ballroom, Oglesby Union.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
• Dinner Dialogues, 6:30 p.m., Florida Ballroom, Oglesby Union. (co-sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Civic Education)

Wednesday Jan. 13
• Commemorative March, 10:15 a.m. (administered by the Florida State University Chapter of the NAACP) The march will originate at the Westcott Building, proceed to the Integration Statue on Woodward Plaza, and conclude at the Oglesby Union Ballrooms.
• 22nd Annual Commemorative Celebration, 11 a.m., Oglesby Union Ballrooms. (immediately following the Commemorative March) The featured speaker will be Robert Page Jr., director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Kansas.

Thursday Jan. 14
• An Evening of Poetry, 7 p.m., Club Downunder, Oglesby Union.

Monday, Jan. 18
• MLK National Day of Service, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Springfield Community Center, 1702 Joe Louis Street.
The United Faculty of Florida gives effective voice, backed by the law, to faculty members’ demands for equitable employment conditions. For me, being committed to FSU and my colleagues means working to ensure that faculty concerns have a place at the table.

— Dr. Irene Padavic, Pepper Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology

Everyone, sooner or later, no matter what rank, needs the support of the union. The American constitution depends on a system of checks and balances, and those same checks and balances are needed in every university.

— Dr. Gary Taylor, George Matthew Edgar Professor, Department of English

It is disconcerting that the same people who refuse membership in UFF happily receive the raises that the UFF negotiates for them. This is a divisive situation when one learns of fellow faculty who do not participate. I think everyone should join the UFF.

— Dr. David M. Gilbert, J. Herbert Taylor Distinguished Professor of Molecular Biology

We have never been in more need of a clear and strong voice for faculty. The UFF-FSU Chapter has been contesting the loss of tenured and untenured faculty from layoffs and “brain drain,” and has been pushing for much-needed domestic partner benefits.

— Dr. Donna Marie Nudd, Professor, School of Communication

UFF membership entitles you to:

- $1,000,000 in professional liability insurance
- $10,000 in life insurance
- $50,000 in accidental death insurance
- Two free half-hour legal non-employment-related legal consultations
- A voice in defining UFF negotiating priorities
- UFF representation should you need to file a grievance

Join the UFF-FSU Chapter

UFF dues are 1% of bi-weekly salary. Please fill out the form below and return it to:
Jack Fiorito, President, UFF-FSU Chapter, RBB 244, P.O. Box 3061110, Tallahassee 32306-1110

Please enroll me immediately as a member of the United Faculty of Florida (FEA, NEA-AFT, AFL-CIO). I hereby authorize my employer to begin bi-weekly payroll deduction of United Faculty of Florida dues (1% of bi-weekly salary). This deduction authorization shall continue until revoked by me at any time upon 30 days written notice to FSU’s payroll office and to the United Faculty of Florida.

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Signature (for payroll deduction authorization)

Today’s date

Visit the UFF-FSU Chapter Web site at www.uff-fsu.org

FSU Works Because We Do!
Presidential partnership: Molly and Eric J. Barron pose in Florida State University’s Pearl Tyner Alumni Welcome Center shortly after the Board of Trustees named him the university’s 14th president on Dec. 8, 2009. He and T.K. Wetherell are the only Florida State alumni to ever serve as president.

A highly visible scientist, Barron stressed his commitment to the full spectrum of academic disciplines, saying he is “an ardent supporter and advocate for the full spectrum of excellence in the arts and humanities, sciences, law, business and medicine.”

A native of Lafayette, Ind., Barron has two grown children. He said he and his wife, Molly, are “a partnership” and that she will be an active participant in supporting Florida State while he is president.

researcher and distinguished lecturer, has published extensively and has been editor or a member of the editorial boards of a dozen academic journals. He has testified before Congress and has chaired numerous committees in service to the federal government, such as the NASA Senior Review for the Earth Sciences in 2005. He has chaired committees and panels of the National Research Council since 1987 and currently chairs “An Ocean Infrastructure for U.S. Ocean Research in 2030.”

finally dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. While he was dean, his college led all other colleges at Penn State in research expenditures per faculty member, it excelled at teaching and it emerged as an innovative leader on campus in a renewed focus on students and student services.

Barron is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society and the Geological Society of America. He has received many national awards as a scholar,