Professor to lead American Psychological Association

By Ron Hartung
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Distinguished Research Professor in the Florida State University College of Medicine’s Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences, is the newly elected president of the American Psychological Association for 2012.

The APA has 150,000 members, making it the largest association of psychologists in the world. It is based in Washington, D.C.

“After 35 years in academia, I have given up my administrative duties to devote my time to research and service,” said Johnson, former chair of the College of Medicine’s medical humanities department.

“I am grateful for my career as a psychologist, and service to psychology is my way of giving back. I am honored to have been chosen to serve as APA president.”

John Fogarty, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine, said Johnson’s election reflects well on the esteem she is held in among her peers.

“Dr. Johnson is an outstanding scholar in her field,” Fogarty said. “We are very proud of her but not surprised that her colleagues selected her for this important role.”

With 30-plus years of research funding from the National Institutes of Health, Johnson has focused her work on medical regimen adherence, childhood diabetes, pediatric obesity and the psychological impact of genetic screening on children and families. She received awards for her research contributions from the Society of Pediatric Psychology, the Association of Medical School Psychologists and the American Diabetes Association.

FSU names first-ever director of campus sustainability

By Bayard Stern
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For well over a decade, The Florida State University has implemented campuswide efforts to manage its resources in a more efficient, economical and environmentally friendly manner. Those have included establishing recycling stations, energy-reduction programs and changes in construction methods.

Signifying that this is a major goal, the university has hired its first full-time advocate for all things “green” — a director of campus sustainability.

Elizabeth Swiman assumed her new role as head of the FSU Sustainable Campus Initiative (www.sustainablecampus.fsu.edu) on Nov. 19. Since 2007, Swiman has worked as a community engagement coordinator for FSU’s Center for Leadership and Civic Education while also serving on the Sustainable Campus Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers who.

United Way campaign

Employees are reminded to return their 2010 United Way pledge forms to their departmental United Way coordinators. Participation in the campaign is voluntary.

The goal for this year’s campaign, co-chaired by President and Mrs. Eric J. Barron, is $400,000.

Last year, Florida State employees contributed an impressive $443,000, which earned the university a 2009 United Way of the Big Bend Pillar Award.
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Magnet lab researchers make cover of ‘Nature’

A group of researchers representing The Florida State University, the National Institutes of Health and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-Janelia Farm Research Campus had their work featured as the cover story in the Nov. 15, 2010, issue of the science journal Nature.

The paper, co-written by Michael Davidson and Ericka B. Ramko of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at Florida State, is an investigation of “Nanoscale Architecture of Integrin-based Cell Adhesions.”

“The primary significance of this paper is that it represents perhaps the most significant biological problem that has been partially solved using the new super-resolution microscopy techniques that have emerged in the past couple of years,” said Davidson, who also is an assistant in Florida State’s Department of Biological Science.

The research also represents the first major step in unraveling the complex molecular structure of the cellular focal adhesion, which is responsible for cell migration — that is, cancer metastasis.

Important year-end dates for charitable gift processing

Employees who are responsible for processing or receiving gifts for their college or department should note that the Florida State University Foundation will have abbreviated business hours during the winter break. To ensure donors’ year-end gifts reach the Foundation in a timely manner and are processed according to the urgency of transmitting year-end gifts and donor instructions to the Foundation.

After the holidays, employees are asked to take a few moments to sort through departmental mail, identify charitable items and deliver those items, along with their respective postmarked envelopes, to the Foundation office by Jan. 7, 2011. The Foundation also asks for employees’ assistance in making faculty and staff aware of the urgency of transmitting year-end gifts and donor instructions to the Foundation.

Documents and donor instructions can either be mailed using campus mail code 2739 or hand delivered to the Foundation office at 2010 Levy Ave., Building B, Suite 300.

“Many important stuff happens when playing games. You’re just doing. You’re in the process.”

— Valerie J. Shute, Florida State University associate professor of educational psychology and learning systems, as quoted Nov. 7 by The Chronicle of Higher Education, discussing the value of “stealth assessment,” which is the use of video games or similar tools to measure the critical-thinking skills of students without their knowledge. In this way, students can solve problems in a more comfortable environment, free of some of the pressures of traditional test-taking.
Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion
$3.3 million grant to fund advanced wind tunnel

By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A multi-university research center headquartered at The Florida State University has received a major grant that will enable it to pursue advances in aviation and aerospace technologies.

The Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion (FCAAP; www.fcaap.com) has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant worth approximately $3.3 million to fund the development of a “next-generation polysonic wind tunnel” at the center’s soon-to-be-completed Tallahassee facility.

“The wind tunnel will create a unique shared resource to produce fundamental advances in gas dynamics and material science, as well as to develop transformational flow-control technologies,” said Farrukh Alvi, a mechanical engineering professor at the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering and the director of FCAAP. “The facility will thus produce critical knowledge while dramatically accelerating transformative research leading to next-generation designs.”

When built, Alvi said, the wind tunnel will have a test section 12 inches by 12 inches by 24 inches in size. It will be able to generate wind speeds ranging from Mach 0.3 to Mach 5 — roughly 200 mph to 1,500 mph.

“The new facility will be large enough to attract industry use, yet small enough to be efficiently operated by university researchers,” Alvi said. “It will engage students from numerous disciplines addressing fundamental and practical problems, as well as developing and applying state-of-the-art diagnostics.”

Housed at Florida State, the polysonic wind tunnel will also leverage and augment FCAAP’s resources while transforming the science and engineering of active flow, noise control and related fields. FSU is currently building a $22 million research building that will house both FCAAP and the wind tunnel. The facility will be equipped with state-of-the-art systems to ensure efficient, sustainable, long-term operation.

The Florida Center for Advanced Aero Propulsion is a multi-university, statewide Center of Excellence established by the Florida Legislature in 2006 and led by Florida State. The center, which also includes the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, leverages the resources of its partner universities to create an unrivaled pool of aerospace talent, expertise and physical infrastructure.

“This is another recent example of the benefit of having a state-funded Center of Excellence, which combines our resources,” Alvi said. “I believe that our collaborative approach set us apart and enhanced our chances of winning a significant award in a competitive program such as the National Science Foundation’s Major Research Instrumentation Program.”

The desired results of this multi-university collaboration include the creation of hundreds of young scientists and engineers, as well as the design and development of new technologies and products that solve problems faced by industry and government. FCAAP also serves as an incubator to transition the technology to applications in a timely and efficient manner. Through its government and industry partners, the center strives to become the “go-to” center in aerospace-related areas for Florida, the region and the nation.
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Abele receives annual Ross Oglesby Award

Lawrence G. Abele, The Florida State University’s long-serving provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, received the 2010 Ross Oglesby Award during the FSU Alumni Association’s annual Homecoming Awards Breakfast on Nov. 6.

Each year during Homecoming since 1973, FSU’s student-run leadership honor society, Garnet and Gold Key, has conferred the Ross Oglesby Award, its most prestigious prize, on a nominated member of the faculty or staff who has served students and the university with exemplary commitment and integrity for a decade or more.

“In my experience in higher education, I have not known a more student-centered provost than Larry Abele,” said William Woodyard, Garnet and Gold Key faculty adviser and College of Business research associate and adjunct instructor.

Having served as provost since 1994, Abele announced earlier this fall that he would step down from the post at the conclusion of the fall semester.

Nominations sought for 2011 Lawton Professorship

Individual Florida State University faculty members are encouraged to nominate their colleagues who are tenured professors for the 2011 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professorship. The deadline is Feb. 11. Only individuals — not departments, colleges or administrative units — can make a nomination.

The nominations should be sent directly to the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Committee, Office of the President, 211 Westcott Building, campus-mail code 1470. The committee will consider the nominations on the basis of faculty members’ research or creative endeavors, teaching and service during their careers at Florida State. Although scholarly distinction is the primary qualification, a strong record in teaching, including the directing of graduate research, and service to the university and the academic community at large also should be clearly documented. The committee then will make a recommendation to President Eric J. Barron, who selects the recipient.

To be eligible, professors must be tenured, have served on the faculty for at least 12 years and, above all, have achieved true distinction in their discipline or profession. All members of the faculty who meet these criteria are eligible for this honor.

The title of Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor is conferred for a given year, and is permanently retained along with the date of the award, which will be indicated in the catalog listing of the faculty.

A folder, prepared by the nominator, should contain a comprehensive curriculum vita for the nominee, along with evidence of outstanding scholarship, teaching and service to Florida State and to his/her profession. The nomination should include two to four letters of recommendation from individuals within Florida State and three to five letters from colleagues outside of Florida State. A brief professional identification should be provided for each author of an outside letter.

Questions about eligibility for the Lawton Award and preparation of the folders can be addressed to Genevieve Scott at 644-0799. An advisory committee of Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professors will work with Scott to help answer questions about the process and the preparation of folders.

Conference to connect design, art, social justice

Tim Duggan, director of actor Brad Pitt’s Make It Right Foundation, and Jim Towey (B.S. ’78, Accounting; J.D. ’81, Law), founder of Aging with Dignity and former director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, will be the keynote speakers during the 2011 Art and Design for Social Justice Symposium at The Florida State University on Jan. 17.

Nearly 30 scholars from across the nation, Canada and Belgium will make presentations.

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

For more information or to register for the symposium, visit www.socialjusticesymposium.fsu.edu.

>>Teaching beyond Tallahassee: Florida State University’s International Programs is accepting faculty applications to teach or lead programs abroad in 2012 and 2013. Courses of broad general interest or those that meet the liberal studies credit requirement are of particular interest. Faculty members interested in participating in study abroad programs are encouraged to submit their online applications at www.international.fsu.edu. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 15, 2011.

>>ITS Port Rate Reduction: Florida State University’s Information Technology Services (ITS), in partnership with FSU Purchasing, has strategically negotiated with vendors to receive lower hardware-pricing and associated software-maintenance fees. As a result of this cost-saving initiative, ITS is pleased to announce that the monthly network port rates have been adjusted as noted below:

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For more information on ITS network port-management services, call the IT Help Desk at 644-HELP (4357) or send an e-mail to it-help@fsu.edu, with “Service Level Understanding (SLU) Inquiry” written in the subject line.
Did you know...

...that an in-unit faculty member who is questioned by an administrator regarding a matter that may lead to disciplinary action has a right to request union representation? **However, the union is not obliged to provide representation for non-members.** Disciplinary actions, which may be taken for incompetence or misconduct, follow the principle of progressive discipline and include penalties ranging from a written reprimand through termination. Faculty members may also be dismissed for job abandonment, which is defined as an absence without leave for more than 12 consecutive calendar days. For more information, see Articles 16 and 17 of the UFF-FSU Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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 306110, Tallahassee 32306-1110

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**Membership Form, United Faculty of Florida FSU Chapter**

*Please print complete information*

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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.

Signature (for payroll deduction authorization)

Today’s date

Visit the UFF-FSU Chapter Web site at [www.uff-fsu.org](http://www.uff-fsu.org)

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>>OPEN ENROLLMENT: Deductions began on the Dec. 3 paycheck for any changes made during open enrollment. Employees should continue to monitor their paycheck information online (in OMNI Employee Self Service) and notify the HR Benefits office if there are any discrepancies. Information: Benefits, 644-4015 or insben@admin.fsu.edu.

>>FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS PROGRAM: A grace period has been added to the plan year for medical reimbursement and dependent care reimbursement accounts. Employees now have more time to use the services that can be reimbursed if they have used these tax-saving accounts. The grace period gives employees until March 15 to use the amounts in their Flexible Spending Accounts, and to use eligible services for their 2010 contributions. Employees still must file all claims by April 15, so they will not lose all the money in their accounts. If an employee does not submit claims for the plan year by the April 15 filing deadline for the entire amount they had withheld, they will lose the unused money. Information: Benefits Office, 644-4015 or insben@admin.fsu.edu.

>>ELECTIVE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION LIMITS UNCHANGED FOR 2011: 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 2011 calendar year, the annual contribution limit for 403(b) plans will be set at $16,500. This limit is unchanged from 2010. 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 2011 calendar year, are eligible to contribute an additional $5,500 to a 403(b) and/or a 457-retirement plan. Information: Leasa Howard, Human Resources, 644-4016.

>>FLORIDA PREPAID COLLEGE PROGRAM OPEN ENROLLMENT: This year, the Florida Prepaid College Plans are more comprehensive than ever before. The plans are designed to offer flexible and economical ways to ensure a person’s college education. Open enrollment for these plans will be available until Jan. 31, 2011. Information: www.floridaprepaidcollege.com.

>>SCHOLARSHIP FOR DEPENDENTS OF FLORIDA STATE EMPLOYEES: Full-time FSU students who are children of current full-time university employees are eligible to apply for the FSU Tuition Scholarship. The scholarship carries a maximum award of $500 and is based on financial need, with scholarship as a secondary consideration. This award is funded by university employee donations. There will be two $500 awards given for the spring 2011 semester. Applications can be found at www.hr.fsu.edu with instructions. The deadline to apply is Dec. 10 and the awards will be announced by Dec. 21. Information: Linda Lieblong, 644-7932 or llieblong@admin.fsu.edu.

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

>>INSTRUCTOR-LED AND ONLINE TRAINING: Training opportunities are available at no charge to all FSU employees through instructor-led and online formats. A current schedule of classes and registration information is available at: www.hr.fsu.edu/train. Information: Office of Training and Organizational Development: (850) 644-8724.
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RECOGNITIONS

Iskandaria Masduki, M.S. (Center for Information Management and Education Services), won an Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) in the category for Electronic Media and Video; Education. The award stemmed from her development of a series of Web-based training modules for the Florida Department of Education.

Loren Rice (Center for Information Management and Education Services) received an Award for Publication Excellence (APEX) in the category of Design and Illustration for his work on “Priorities for Evaluating Instructional Materials: Research Update,” a publication for the Florida Department of Education.

James Russell (FSU Police) has graduated from the Chief Executive Seminar of the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, part of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The seminar covered topics that included demography, budgeting, legacy leadership, ethics and implementing strategic change.

BYLINES

George Blakely, M.F.A. (Studio Art), curated “APPETITE: Expressions of the Politics Encircling Food,” a national photography exhibition highlighting the work of 21 American photographers investigating the topic of food, which is being displayed at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, Tallahassee, Fla., through February.


Huan-Xiang Zhou (Physics) co-wrote a paper, “Two-Dimensional Surface State in the Quantum Limit of a Topological Insulator,” published on the Nature Physics’ website, November.


PRESENTATIONS

Roger Kaufman, Ph.D. (Professor Emeritus, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), presented the workshop “Mega Thinking and Planning,” at the conference of the International Society for Performance Improvement, Gothenburg, Sweden, September; and Kaufman delivered the executive briefing “Using New Paradigms/Mega Thinking or Become Marginal,” at the Institute for Defense Analyses, Washington, D.C., October.


Wayne A. Wiegand, Ph.D. (F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies), presented the keynote address “’I Only Hate Broccoli’: The Library as Place,” at the 40th anniversary celebration of the Korean Society for Library and Information Science, Seoul, South Korea, October.

SERVICE

John Fraser, M.S. (Research and Economic Development), was reappointed to the board of directors of the Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research, for a term ending in November 2013.

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Johnson was director of the Center for Pediatric and Family Studies at the University of Florida Health Science Center until 2002, when she came to Florida State.

A licensed psychologist who holds certification from the American Board of Professional Psychology, Johnson spent more than three decades seeing children and families in a pediatric diabetes clinic as part of an integrated multidisciplinary care team. She worked with the American Diabetes Association to develop standards for the psychological care of patients with diabetes and worked with the APA Practice Directorate to establish the Health and Behavior CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes, permitting psychological services to be reimbursed as part of the medical benefit.

She received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Cornell University and her doctorate in clinical psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Johnson has chaired 56 completed master’s theses and doctoral dissertations and has been instrumental in developing an innovative, integrated biopsychosocial curriculum for FSU’s College of Medicine. She received awards for her mentorship from both the McKnight Foundation and APA’s Div. 54 (Society of Pediatric Psychology).

As co-chair of the psychosocial studies committee of NIH’s The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young (TEDDY) study, she is responsible for all psychological components of this international study. The National Academy of Science’s report on International Collaborations in Social and Behavioral Research was a product of her work as chair of the U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Psychological Science.

In 2001-2002, serving as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow for then-Sen. Hillary Clinton, Johnson helped develop Clinton’s response to the mental health needs of New York City children after Sept. 11. The Lifespan Respite Care Act, which Johnson wrote during her fellowship, became law in 2006.

represent students, faculty and staff members.

“Florida State has been taking serious steps to conserve resources since at least the mid-1990s,” said John Carnaghi, the university’s senior vice president for Finance and Administration. “The creation of the position of director of campus sustainability is an important aspect of our ongoing efforts. We are thrilled to have Elizabeth Swiman serve in this capacity. She will further focus our many programs and initiatives, which include virtually every aspect of the university.”

Swiman was named to the newly created position after a nationwide search.