The Film School, Digital Domain Media Group to develop new digital media collaboration

By Barry Ray
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Florida State University’s College of Motion Picture Arts, one of the nation’s finest film schools, and the Digital Domain Media Group, one of the world’s top digital effects and computer animation companies, announced on April 18 that they are developing a new digital media enterprise to be located in West Palm Beach.

The announcement was made in West Palm Beach during a news conference, which was attended by approximately 200 reporters and guests.

Florida State and the Digital Domain Media Group are collaborating in the creation of a new facility, to include the Digital Domain Institute, and the development of a unique program that will result in new educational opportunities, high-tech research programs, high-paying jobs and an economic boost for the state of Florida. The City of West Palm Beach, including former Mayor Lois Frankel and City Commission President Kimberly Mitchell, played an integral role in this effort, providing land and funding to facilitate the development of the facility.

Representatives from Florida State, the Digital Domain Media Group (composed of multiple digital-production companies including the multi-Academy Award-winning Digital Domain, www.digitaldomain.com), and the City of West Palm Beach unveiled the future site of the Digital Domain Institute in downtown West Palm Beach, at 401 Okeechobee Blvd.

The presence of Digital Domain Media Group’s new headquarters in Port St. Lucie, as well as the Digital Domain Institute and an adjoining digital production studio in West Palm Beach, will lead to the creation of hundreds of high-paying jobs,
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Employees win 2011 Davis Productivity Awards

Florida State University employees distinguished themselves in the 2011 Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards competition with four winners in the Individual category, one winner in the Partnership category, and six winners in the Team category.

Each year since 1989, the Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards have recognized and rewarded individual employees and work units whose work has significantly and measurably increased productivity and promoted innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. The 2011 awards competition attracted 584 nominations for innovations and productivity improvements worth $473 million in cost savings, cost avoidance, and increased revenue for state government.

Florida State’s 2011 Prudential-Davis Productivity Award winners are:

**INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY**
- Phyllis Clutter (Division of Student Affairs).
- Rita Dalton (Information Technology Services).
- Lynn Pruett (Police Department).
- Amber Wagner (Human Resources).

**TEAM CATEGORY**

**PARTNERSHIP CATEGORY**
- Ryan Pensy, Scott Kotick, Layne Herdt and Ashli Gehrmann (Department of Athletics).

**FSU library research is IMLS ‘profile of the month’**

A research grant of Florida State’s School of Library and Information Studies, “Digital Libraries to School Libraries (DSL2SL),” is the highlighted “project profile” for April 2011 of the Institute for Museum and Library Studies (IMLS). To view the profile, visit www.imls.gov/profiles/april11.shtm.

The three-year study of the use of digital technology and professional development in school libraries to integrate digital learning objects into online catalogs for the purpose of improving STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education is funded by a $401,000 Institute for Museum and Library Studies grant.

The project, led by School of Library and Information Studies Assistant Professor Marcia A. Mardis, is one of the few Early Career Researcher grants funded each year by the Institute for Museum and Library Studies.

“Most people chronically don’t get enough sleep, so it’s reassuring to suggest from this one finding that it does not have any effect on self-control of aggression.”

— Roy Baumeister, a Florida State University professor of psychology and Francis Eppes Eminent Scholar who is currently studying self-control, choice and decision making, as quoted March 28 on the website of the Daily News Journal. The article, “Restraint Comes in Limited Supply?” discusses whether people who overtax their self-control in trying to make a behavioral change might discover that they have less in reserve for other things.
Facility Awards Ceremony 2011
Quadagno receives University Distinguished Teacher Award

By Jill Elish
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Lauded by her students as a wonderful mentor, an inspiring teacher and a caring adviser, one of Florida State University’s most eminent scholars has been selected to receive the university’s top teaching honor.

Jill Quadagno, who holds the Mildred and Claude Pepper Eminent Scholar Chair in Social Gerontology, received the 2011 University Distinguished Teacher Award during the Faculty Awards Ceremony held April 19 that includes a $7,500 stipend.

“It is quite humbling to have been chosen for the University Distinguished Teacher Award, because so many of my colleagues are superb teachers,” Quadagno said. “I am truly honored to be this year’s recipient. Ultimately, I judge my own success by the success of my students, and I can think of no higher praise than to be considered a good teacher.”

College of Social Sciences and Public Policy Dean David Rasmussen said it is fitting that Quadagno is the first from the college to receive the Distinguished Teacher Award.

“Jill has been an outstanding member of the faculty in every way,” Rasmussen said. “She has had a long and productive career in research on important issues of health care and aging. This award recognizes her commitment to teaching and mentoring our students who benefit from her being on the forefront of research in the subjects she teaches.”

Quadagno was nominated for the award because of the excellent student ratings she received for her graduate courses. A committee comprised of faculty, advisers and students reviewed the nominations and made the final selection.

“She stands out as unequivocally the best teacher I’ve had, as well as one of the most important mentors in my entire life,” wrote one graduate student. “She is also remarkably supportive and astonishingly humble.”

A former student praised Quadagno for mentoring her students long after they leave her classroom. “She is unfailingly gracious, generous with her time, and sage in her advice to her former students; her ‘teaching’ does not end when we receive our FSU degrees.”

Another said, “In hindsight, I realize that asking if she would supervise my research was the single smartest thing I did while in graduate school.”

This isn’t Quadagno’s first student-nominated honor. She also received a University Teaching Award, which recognizes faculty for excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching in 1992.

An internationally recognized expert, Quadagno is renowned for her work on aging, health and social policy issues. In 2010, she was elected a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. Election to the IOM is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

She is past president of the American Sociological Association and the author of more than 75 articles and 12 books on aging and medical sociology. In 1994 she served as senior policy adviser on the President’s Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform.

Quadagno was thrust into the spotlight with the publication of her most recent book “One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance” (Oxford 2005), which was a best seller in medicine for 2005-06, according to YBP Library Services and was a finalist for the Distinguished Book Award of the American Sociological Association in 2006.

Other outstanding FSU faculty members were recognized in the following categories during the Faculty Awards Ceremony:

Distinguished University Scholars

This award is designed to recognize outstanding performance by Florida State employees who are non-tenured or non-tenure-seeking, have longstanding track records of research and/or creative activity at the university, and occupy more senior levels in their respective positions. Examples of such positions include the titles of curator, scholar/scientist or research associate. This year’s recipients received one-time
awards of $10,000 and framed certificates.

The Distinguished University Scholars are: Christopher Hendrickson (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) and Karen Oehme (Social Work).

Developing Scholar Awards

Developing Scholars are mid-career associate professors who have been singled out by their peers for recognition. Each received a $10,000 award to be used in their research program, following specific guidelines, along with a framed certificate.

The Developing Scholars are: Matthew J. Goff (Religion), Mohamed Kabbaj (Biomedical Sciences), Michael P. Kaschak (Psychology), Piyush Kumar (Computer Science) and Kathryn Harker Tillman (Sociology).

Distinguished Research Professor Awards

The title of Distinguished Research Professor is the third highest faculty award at Florida State, following the Robert O. Lawton and Daisy Parker Flory awards. A select panel of current Distinguished Research Professors vets the nominations, submitted by faculty peers, for presentation to the university president. Each recipient received a one-time award of $10,000, along with a framed certificate.

The Distinguished Research Professors are: Christopher J. Lonigan (Psychology), Hsu-Pin “Ben” Wang (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering), Kathleen Blake Yancey (English) and Huan-Xiang Zhou (Physics).

Graduate Faculty Mentor Awards

The Graduate Faculty Mentor Award honors faculty mentors whose dedication to graduate students and mentoring have made a significant contribution to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students. The honor comes with a $3,000 award.

The honorees are: Joseph Beckham (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), Nina Efimov (Modern Languages and Linguistics), Richard Feiock (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy), Amy Sang (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Phillip Steinberg (Geography).

Undergraduate Advising Awards

Recipients of the University Undergraduate Advising Award were nominated by students who have been beneficiaries of their services. These individuals dedicate their time to ensuring that students receive the best possible advice related to their courses and their career choices. Recipients also received a $2,000 award.

The honorees are: Tanya Hayes Perry (Undergraduate Studies-Advising First) and Jessica Rollins (Business).

Honors Thesis Mentor Awards

The Honors Thesis Mentor Award was established to recognize and honor faculty members whose direction and advisement of honors thesis research or creative activity has significantly contributed to the enhancement and quality of education of undergraduate students at The Florida State University. Faculty are nominated by students in the Honors in the Major program for this award, which include a $2,000 stipend.

The honorees are: Jesse Cougle (Psychology) and Daniel Maier-Katkin (Criminology and Criminal Justice).

Undergraduate Teaching Awards

The Undergraduate Teaching Award recognizes faculty for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Recipients must make outstanding contributions to successful teaching and learning. This is a student-oriented award with nominations submitted by students and alumni. Each recipient received a $2,000 award.

The honorees are: Elizabeth Chamblee Burch (Law), Robin Craig (Law), Ming Cui (Family and Child Sciences), Kristie Fleckenstein (English) and Michael Shatruk (Chemistry and Biochemistry).
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as well as thousands of other jobs indirectly connected to Digital Domain Media Group operations. The establishment of a clean industry and state-of-the-art research programs yields the promise of even more economic growth for Florida.

“This agreement is an extraordinarily exciting development for the state of Florida and Florida State University,” said President Eric J. Barron. “This pioneering public-private collaboration could be a model for universities nationwide in a time of budget shortfalls.”

For the Digital Domain Media Group, the decision to open a studio in Florida was an easy one, based on the unmatched quality of film-industry professionals produced by Florida State’s College of Motion Picture Arts (www.film.fsu.edu), and the support of the West Palm Beach community, said John Textor, chairman of the Digital Domain Media Group.

“Florida State’s film school graduates are excellent storytellers, and story is the key to our business,” said Textor. “Floridians just now seem to be learning what leading filmmakers already know — that the quality of Florida State film school graduates’ creative work is among the very best in the country.”

“Imagine being a film student, and having the opportunity to work on a blockbuster film, like ‘Tron: Legacy’ before graduation alongside top digital artists in the world. These are the types of golden opportunities that educators like me absolutely dream about for their students.”

— Frank Patterson

The creation of a jointly operated Digital Domain Institute in West Palm Beach will provide rare opportunities for undergraduate students enrolled in Florida State’s College of Motion Picture Arts. Students will be able to work side-by-side with top industry professionals and become “Digital Domain Certified” in an area of professional specialization of their choice.

The college will establish a new Bachelor of Fine Arts major specifically related to digital media production and a new digital media research center that will focus on industry-sponsored applied research. Students will have the opportunity to work side by side with industry professionals on high-profile media projects — and even to conduct research on cutting-edge technologies that have possible applications in the film industry and in other fields. Like the college’s innovative Torchlight Program (www.film.fsu.edu/Undergraduate-Programs/The-Torchlight-Program), this new venture will provide in-depth, real-world experiences that match the college’s unique curriculum.

“Imagine being a film student, and having the opportunity to work on a blockbuster film, like ‘Tron: Legacy’ before graduation alongside top digital artists in the world,” Florida State College of Motion Picture Arts Dean Frank Patterson said. “These are the types of golden opportunities that educators like me absolutely dream about for their students.”
The Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity would like to dedicate this article to those who were affected by the devastating Japanese earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011.

May is recognized as Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month. May was chosen because on May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and on May 10, 1869, the United States transcontinental railroad was completed with the aid of many Chinese laborers. The term Asian-Pacific encompasses all those who are from, or whose ancestors are from, the Asian continent and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and Japan.

On March 29, 2011, the Florida State Asian Community, the FSU Japanese Student Association, and the FSU Center for Global and Multicultural Engagement held a candlelight vigil in honor of the victims of the Japanese disasters. The organizations collected donations on behalf of the Japanese Red Cross through the Asian Coalition of Tallahassee.

As we celebrate Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month throughout May, let us take the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Asian-Pacific-Americans and keep those affected by the March 11 disaster in our thoughts.

Training and Organizational Development

Training opportunities are available at no charge to all Florida State employees through instructor-led and online formats. A current schedule of classes and registration information is available at www.hr.fsu.edu/train. Information: (850) 644-8724.

• NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE: Each participant must certify completion of online New Employee Orientation 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. The link to online new-employee presentations, materials and the certification form can be found at www.hr.fsu.edu/Content/NEOnline/index.html. Assistance: (850) 644-8724.

RECOGNITIONS

Daniel P. Mears, Ph.D. (Criminology and Criminal Justice), has won the Prevention for A Safer Society Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for his book “American Criminology Justice Policy,” which was published by Cambridge University Press, 2010.

PRESENTATIONS

Jim Dawkins (Interior Design) had one of five submitted sketches accepted for the international exhibition “Sketch,” held prior to a lecture given by Japanese architect Tadao Ando at the Universidad de Monterrey, March. The exhibition investigated the discourse of sketching by embracing the full range and potential of sketching in conceptual design.


John Marincola, Ph.D. (Classics), gave the second annual T.B.L. Webster Lecture, “The Sins of Isocrates: On Rhetoric and History,” at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., Feb. 18, 2011; gave the keynote address “Did the Greeks and Romans Believe in Their Histories?” at the Graduate Student Colloquium at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, May 2, 2011.

Steve McDowell, Ph.D. (Communication), discussed “New Media and Social and Economic Change” at the University of the West Indies’ Western Jamaica campus, April 19.

Daniel J. Pullen, Ph.D. (Classics), gave the keynote address to the Col-
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laborative Archaeology Workshop’s Graduate Student Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 26, 2011.

Arthur Raney, Ph.D. (Communication), gave the prestigious Robert M. Pockrass Memorial Lecture at The Pennsylvania State University, April. He also delivered a senior-scholar lecture, “Moral Complexity and Media Entertainment,” at a meeting of the Broadcast Education Association, April 10.

Marlo Ransdell, Ph.D., and Jim Dawkins (Interior Design) co-presented a workshop, “Web-based Communication and Presentation Tools for Designers,” at the annual conference of the Interior Design Educators Council, Denver, Colo., March 16-19. Presented in a three-hour, highly interactive format, the workshop introduced web-based technology applications that support communication within interior design education. The workshop explored alternative presentation, documentation and critique tools, which enhance traditional studio and lecture courses by increasing accessibility and interactive communication for interior design students and educators. Conference participants were directly involved in the learning process by working through skill-building exercises on their personal laptops in real time with Ransdell and Dawkins.


BYLINES


Davis Houck, Ph.D. (Communication) and Maegan Parker Brooks co-edited the book “The Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer To Tell It Like It Is,” published by the University Press of Mississippi, a collection of 15 years of speeches from an icon of the civil-rights movement.


SERVICE

Two faculty members in the Department of Physics have been chosen to serve in national positions within the American Physical Society.

Susan K. Blessing, Ph.D., has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the American Physical Society’s Committee on the Status of Women in Physics. The committee, founded in 1972 to encourage the recruitment, retention and career development of women physicists at all levels, consists of nine volunteer members appointed by the president of the American Physical Society.

“Dr. Blessing has worked tirelessly to encourage and support women in all areas, and is the director of the Women In Math, Science and Engineering (WIMSE) program at FSU,” said Mark Riley, chairman of the Department of Physics. “She is a huge icon to the students and this appointment to the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics by the president of the American Physical Society is national recognition of her contributions in this critically important area.”

Paul Cottle, Ph.D., has been elected to serve as vice chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Physical Society’s Forum on Education for 2011, and will serve as chairman in 2012. The Forum on Education exists to involve its members in activities related to physics education, at all educational stages, from elementary to graduate school and life-long learning.

“Again, this is major recognition of Dr. Cottle’s enormous commitment to and impact in science education, not only in the state of Florida but nationally too,” Riley said.

Andy Opel, Ph.D. (Communication), directed a group of undergraduate and graduate students who collaborated to make “Beating Justice,” a video documentary about the boot-camp death of teen Martin Lee Anderson. The documentary premiered at the Tallahassee Film Festival on April 9.
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