Coburn receives national award

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Mary B. Coburn, vice president for Student Affairs, was named a Pillar of the Profession by the NASPA Foundation, the fundraising arm of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. The distinction honors individuals who provided stellar leadership and service to the student affairs profession.

Coburn, with 13 other student affairs professionals, will receive the Pillar of the Profession Award during NASPA’s annual national conference in Phoenix in March.

“This recognition is well deserved for Mary, whose
Please see COBURN, 12

Creating the nation’s most VETERAN-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

By Jill Elish
INTERIM DIRECTOR, NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Florida State University is well on its way to becoming the most veteran-friendly public university in the nation. Working with the Collegiate Veterans Association, President Eric J. Barron has established a Florida State Veterans House, hired a director of a newly created Florida State Veterans Center, and launched a Student Veteran Film Festival.

The three initiatives are designed to provide support and services to assist veterans in their transition to college and successful pursuit of a degree.

“With nearly 25 percent of recently-separated-from-the-military veterans enrolling in college within two years, the need for support and assistance in the transition from military service to college student is obvious,” Barron said. “Although FSU is already recognized as a ‘Military Friendly School’ (www.militaryfriendlyschools.com), we want to do more for our student-veterans, while raising awareness about their educational needs and service to our country among the student body in general.”

Veterans House

The Pearl Tyner Welcome Center at the Alumni Association complex has been temporarily pressed into service as the Florida State Veterans House until a permanent facility can be built.

A ceremonial ribbon was cut on Nov. 12 to mark the beginning of the welcome center’s latest use. Joining President Barron at the ceremony were Col. William “Billy” Francis, director of the Veterans Center; retired Vice Adm. Gordon S. Holder, who is leading the university’s fundraising efforts in support of its veterans initiatives; and Jared Lyon, president of the FSU Chapter of the Collegiate Veterans Association.

“This beautiful house has served as the home to eight Florida State University presidents and as a welcome center

For additional details and video, visit www.fsu.edu and www.fsu.com.
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Here is Your Invitation to Hear the Author of Preparing For A Secure Retirement REVEAL:

Information and strategies Members of the Florida Retirement System can use to achieve financial confidence in these troubled times.

To maximize your success, don’t think about hiring a financial planner / investment advisor or investing your DROP rollover, Deferred Compensation, IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) until you attend this presentation.

Why? You need proven reliable advice to maximize your financial resources. The real secret to financial success in tough economic times is to identify what you have, analyze what is working or not working, and implement the changes needed to move you forward toward your financial goals. You must make your resources work for you every step of the way. This is more important now than ever.

Discover the strategies being used by hundreds of members of the Florida Retirement System. John’s presentation will reveal unconventional cost-effective methods that are proven to work. Indeed they often are the opposite of conventional wisdom.

You may be a new employee in the FRS or a longtime member near retirement. Either way, you’ll be shown step-by-step what actions you can take to prepare for a secure retirement.

Thursday, December 1, 2011
5:30 Refreshments & Registration ~ 6:00-7:30 Presentation

In This 90 Minute Briefing You Will Discover:

✓ The Trends in Aging and their consequences to you.
✓ The Financial Impact of Long Term Care on your Retirement and Estate Plans.
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✓ Potential problems with Social Security and Medicare and how you can prepare yourself.
✓ The two types of Retirement Plans.
✓ Planning for a lifetime Income under the FRS Pension.

John’s mission is to help members of the FRS prepare for a secure retirement. His Father and Grandfather both retired under the State of Florida Pension Plan. John saw first hand the consequences of them not receiving the proper information and advice leading up to retirement.

This presentation is John’s way of giving back to the real unsung heroes who keep our universities, colleges, schools, state and local governments running.

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John H Curry is not affiliated with the Florida Retirement System or the Division of Retirement.
FSU Foundation

Important year-end dates for charitable gift processing

Employees who are responsible for processing or receiving gifts for their colleges or departments should note that the FSU Foundation will have abbreviated business hours during the winter break. To ensure that donors’ year-end gifts reach the Foundation in a timely manner and are processed according to their wishes, employees must adhere to the schedule outlined below.

The Foundation office will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 23 and will remain closed through Jan. 2. Regular office hours will resume on Jan. 3.

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

After returning from the holidays, employees should sort through departmental mail, identify charitable items and process according to their wishes, employees must adhere to the schedule outlined below.

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Online campus directory debuts, replaces *Seminole Guide*

A new web page with links to directory information for Florida State University departments and personnel is now available at [http://directory.fsu.edu](http://directory.fsu.edu). This page will serve as a replacement for the university’s printed telephone directory, the *Seminole Guide*, which has been discontinued.

“After months of research that included a survey of campus administrators, faculty and staff, it was determined that the time was right to end the costly printing of the *Seminole Guide,*” said Liz Maryanski, vice president for University Relations.

“The *Seminole Guide* was often out-of-date as soon as it was published and did not match the university’s vision of a sustainable campus,” said Elizabeth Swiman, director of Campus Sustainability. “Widespread support for such a move was confirmed through the campuswide survey.”

The new web page, which is accessible through the “Key Links” section of the university’s homepage, includes links to a variety of directory information including frequently called numbers, visitor information, telecommunication and computing services, and more.

“We hope you find this online guide to be useful and welcome any feedback,” Maryanski said.
Graduate medical education gets new seal of approval

By Ronald Hartung
College of Medicine

The graduate medical education program of the College of Medicine was recently reaccredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The college’s administration received the news Oct. 21, two days after learning that the college received a separate reaccreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

The vote of confidence from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education means the medical school can continue to be a sponsoring institution for residency programs, the next step for medical students after their M.D. degree. The College of Medicine has two such programs at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola: one in pediatrics and one in obstetrics-gynecology. It also is launching an internal medicine residency program with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and a family medicine program with Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, Fla.

“As the first new medical school of the 21st century, it’s very meaningful to have outside validation of the successful outcomes our program is producing,” said Dr. Alma Littles, senior associate dean for biomedical research and graduate programs at the College of Medicine since 2006, who has served as a member of the advisory council that rates and recommends biomedical research projects for funding in Florida.

She was nominated for a seat on the nine-person council by King.

“Myra Hurt was affectionately known as the mother of the College of Medicine,” Senior Associate Dean Myra Hurt has used her leadership skills to make numerous contributions to education, science and research in Florida.

Hurt was recognized for her efforts in October when she received the Florida Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease Jim King Leadership Award in Tampa.

The annual award honors outstanding efforts to expand and enhance Florida’s biomedical research enterprise and expedite cures. Hurt is the 2011 co-recipient of the award along with William Dalton, president and CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center.

The award is named after late Florida Sen. Jim King, who sponsored legislation leading to creation of the Florida Biomedical Research Program.

Hurt is a professor of biomedical sciences and senior associate dean for research and graduate programs at the College of Medicine. Since 2006, she has served as a member of the advisory council that rates and recommends biomedical research projects for funding in Florida.

“I think it’s really gratifying to win this award that bears Jim King’s name because his legacy is, among other things, the biomedical research program his legislation created,” Hurt said. “We’ve certainly seen a challenging and difficult funding environment in Florida, where biomedical research plays a vital role in the health of our citizens and in driving our economy.

“The research funding Jim King made possible has, in some cases, been the only thing providing a chance for new investigators and researchers in Florida. That’s our future.”

Though Hurt has devoted a lifetime to scientific research and teaching, her work in pushing for a new medical school at Florida State is credited with a far-reaching impact in also promoting new research by others, both in Florida and nationally.

Professor wins research leadership award

By Doug Carlson
College of Medicine

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Steffens to retire

Betty Steffens, the university’s general counsel, announced that she will retire at the conclusion of the fall semester.

“Betty distinguished herself as a general counsel whose wisdom and sound judgment could always be depended on,” said President Eric J. Barron.

President Emeritus T.K. Wetherell hired Steffens in 2003. Years earlier, she worked in the general counsel’s office under President Emeritus Bernard F. Sliger.

As one of eight senior administrators who report directly to the president, the general counsel is the university’s chief legal officer.

Since graduating from the FSU College of Law in 1975, Steffens has worked as a legal adviser to Florida Gov. Reubin O’D Askew and as a general counsel to Florida Gov. Bob Graham, in addition to serving as an assistant attorney general.
To support the idea that publicly funded research should be broadly and widely disseminated and easily accessible to the general public, Florida State University has developed the “DigiNole Commons Virtual Repository for Electronic Scholarship” (diginole.lib.fsu.edu), an online venue for the university’s faculty to store and showcase its research.

The Faculty Senate has approved an open access resolution (www.lib.fsu.edu/open_access) to formalize the university’s support for the principle of open access.

Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Library Committee’s Task Force on Scholarly Communication, the open-access resolution endorses the storage and preservation of scholarly publications. The resolution is an expression of support for faculty who choose to use the repository and is an early step in University Libraries’ initiative to explore new models of disseminating scholarly research produced by faculty members. The Faculty Senate is the first faculty-governing body in Florida to pass an open access resolution.

“These types of policies will be very important for the future of higher education, especially the role of scholarship in the university and in the public mind,” said Micah Vandegrift, scholarly communications project manager for University Libraries. “Open access to scholarly works will provide valuable knowledge to society, which is something we can all support.”

The resolution supports the university’s mission to “preserve, expand and disseminate knowledge” and to provide broad access to institutional resources and services. University Libraries will play an important role in implementing and supporting the resolution through the development of the DigiNole Commons and will work closely with Florida State faculty members to fulfill the goals of the resolution.

“The support of the faculty will help the library as it moves forward with implementation of a digital repository,” said Matt Goff, an associate professor of religion and co-director of the Task Force on Scholarly Communication. “The goal is to have a repository that will preserve and provide easy, online access to the scholarship of the FSU faculty.”

In addition to creating the DigiNole Commons, Florida State has joined the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions (COAPI), a recently formed group of universities that support open access to scholarly research. Other CO-API institutions include Duke University, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University and the University of Kansas.

The mission of University Libraries is to drive academic excellence and success by fostering engagement through extensive collections, dynamic information resources, transformative collaborations, innovative services and supportive environments for Florida State and the broader scholarly community.
Employees give of themselves during Disability Mentoring Day

Four Florida State University employees served as mentors to people with disabilities during Disability Mentoring Day. The national, annual event is held the third Wednesday of October, which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Phil Gleason of the Master Craftsman Program, James Rhoades of Strozier Library, and Amber Wagner and Mandy Manning of Human Resources volunteered their time to serve as mentors during the event. In previous years, employees from other departments, such as the High Performance Materials Lab and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, have participated.

This was Rhoades’ second time to participate as a mentor. To start the day, Rhoades gave his mentee, Wade, a behind-the-scenes tour of the library. Afterward, Wade spent the day shadowing Rhoades, attending meetings and receiving hands-on job training. Wade is part of a national program called High School/High Tech, which targets high school students between the ages of 14 and 22 who have a disability and connects them to career opportunities.

Rhoades’ first mentee, who was a student at Lively Technical Center, received an honorary scholarship that paid a $400 stipend for him to complete an 80-hour internship in the library.

Rhoades believes the mentoring experience benefits more than just the mentee.

“Being a mentor to students with disabilities provides an opportunity to showcase the university and the great people who work here, but more importantly it helps me as an individual and a professional,” Rhoades said. “When I get to meet and work with the mentees and talk to their parents at the end of the day, it makes me realize what a great privilege it is to be a faculty member at Florida State University and have an opportunity to give back to others.”

The event, which began in 1999, is sponsored in Florida by the Able Trust and Vocational Rehabilitation, and coordinated locally by Ability 1st. Today, it connects more than 20,000 individuals who have a disability with thousands of employers. Through Disability Mentoring Day, participating employees have an opportunity to share their career path and experiences with someone who is interested in pursuing a career in their field. The event increases employer awareness about working with a person with a disability and helps to clarify misconceptions regarding resources available for accommodations.

For information on being a mentor for the 2012 Disability Mentoring Day, visit www.floridadmd.org or contact Amber Wagner at (850) 645-1458 or amwagner@admin.fsu.edu.

Student tech fee benefits WFSU-TV

Thanks to the Student Technology Fee, WFSU-TV bulked up its technological capabilities with some high-tech equipment. As a result, when viewers watch programming such as academic symposia, musical performances and Board of Trustees meetings, they are treated to better video and audio.

With two separate Student Technology Fee grants totaling $54,000, WFSU purchased four robotic cameras, a video switcher, a media-recording device and associated support equipment, as well as an encoder/decoder system, which allows the production staff to connect to the Internet from a remote location and deliver broadcast-quality video back to the station.

“With the equipment from these two grants, we are now able to be more efficient in our production of programming for 4FSU, the university’s cable channel,” said Mike Dunn, WFSU director of production.

In addition to the professional staff of WFSU-TV, students also will have access to the equipment.

“We use students often as part of our production crews,” Dunn said. “As we familiarize ourselves with this new equipment, we will train students to use it as well.”

Beginning in the fall of 2009, the Florida Legislature gave universities permission to levy a Student Technology Fee to enhance instructional technology for students and faculty members. A maximum of 5 percent of tuition per credit hour may be assessed. From fall 2009 to spring 2011, FSU distributed $7 million to its colleges and departments.

 btw by the way

>> American Indian Heritage Month: The Center for Multicultural Affairs and the American Indian Student Union are co-sponsoring several events:

• Nov. 21: Native American flutist and educator J.J. Kent will give a public lecture at 7 p.m. at the Center for Global Engagement (The Globe), Room 2600.

The following take place in Strozier Library: Nov. 27, Trivia Night; Nov. 28, “American Indian Experience through Time”; Nov. 29, speaker (TBA); Nov. 30, American Indian Student Union will staff an information table; and Dec. 1, American Indian Food Night.

>> Pledge drive: WFSU-TV will host a pledge drive from Saturday, Nov. 26, to Sunday, Dec. 11. During the pledge drive, WFSU-TV will air a variety of musical programs, as well as shows focusing on health, wellness and personal finances. Employees can donate online at www.wfsu.org or with payroll deduction through OMNI. Questions: WFSU Membership Department, (800) 322-WFSU (9378).

>> Symposium: The newly formed FSU Inter-American Seas Research Consortium will host a symposium Thursday, Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the FSU Alumni Center, 1030 W. Tennessee St. The event will explore hot topics within five areas of research: ecological systems; physical processes; coastal cultures; law and policy; and economies and risk. Information: Helena Safron, hsafron@fsu.edu.

State • November 21 - December 11, 2011 • 7
for our alumni,” Barron said. “Now it will continue its special service to this institution as a home and a welcoming place for our student-veterans.”

The Florida State Veterans House — both its present, temporary location and its future location — will serve as the focal point for all campus veteran resources, academic advising, orientation and transition programming, personal and rehabilitative support services, and assistance with VA educational benefits and certification.

Plans are under way to build a 35,000-square-foot Florida State Veterans Center on Jefferson Street near the Varsity Way roundabout. It will celebrate past, present and future military service through a World War II museum, the Veterans House and the university’s ROTC offices. The center also is intended to promote collaboration between the three areas.

Director of Veterans Center

Air Force Col. William “Billy” Francis was named the first director of the Florida State Veterans Center.

Francis has been the commander of the university’s Air Force ROTC program since the summer of 2009. He also is a professor and chairman of the Department of Aerospace Studies.

“As an Air Force veteran and Air Force ROTC alumnus, Col. Francis brings a lifetime of experience and passion to the task of representing veterans’ interests at Florida State University,” Barron said. “I have every confidence that he will help Florida State create an engaged and successful community of student-veterans.”

As director of the Florida State Veterans Center, Francis will oversee the Florida State Veterans House and its services. He also will implement the center’s mission to recruit veterans who want to transition from military service to college life; support veterans by coordinating services; and promote awareness of Florida State’s veteran heritage and current issues facing student-veterans. In addition, Francis will promote Florida State’s veteran-friendly initiatives nationally.

“I would like to thank Dr. Barron and Florida State for this honor and opportunity,” Francis said. “My family and I look forward to serving our nation’s student-veterans as they transition from the military into college and beyond. The goal is clear, ‘to become the most veteran-friendly public university in the nation.’ There is no doubt that this is a most worthy goal and I am confident that together we will achieve it.”

Francis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Florida State in 1986. That same year, he went from Air Force ROTC cadet to Air Force second lieutenant.

During his 25-year career as an Air Force commander and fighter pilot, Francis was twice selected for early promotion and selected early for command. He had eight years of command experience that culminated as the Mission Support Group commander at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. In that position, Francis was responsible for 2,200 personnel and a $50-million budget as the primary support agent for the U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command Headquarters.

In addition to his bachelor’s degree from Florida State, Francis holds master’s degrees in business administration from Eastern New Mexico University, aerospace strategy from Air University, and national security strategy from the National War College.

Student Veteran Film Festival

The first annual Student Veteran Film Festival (www.fsuvetfilmfest.com) took place Nov. 11 to raise awareness of veterans’ issues. During the festival, director Danfung Dennis’ acclaimed documentary “Hell and Back Again” was screened in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. The film won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.
"You have an endowed chair? Ha! Useless! I have an endowed parking place!"

UFF membership endows a host of benefits, such as:

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- Free UFF representation should you need to file a grievance
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Jack Fearin, President, UFF-FSU Chapter, ROB 264, NCLB, Room 206111Q, Tallahassee 32306-1111

Membership Form, United Faculty of Florida PSU Chapter
Please print complete information.

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Please enroll me immediately as a member of the United Faculty of Florida (UFF, NEA-AFL, AFL-CIO). I hereby authorize my employer to begin payroll deduction of United Faculty of Florida dues (1% of regular 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: [Your signature] [Your signature]

Date: November 21 - December 11, 2011

Quote: "Illustration reprinted from "He Looks Too Happy to Be an Assistant Professor: A Collection of Cartoons by Vivian Scott Haines" by permission of the University of Missouri Press. © 1996"
RECOGNITIONS

Kay Pasley, Ph.D. (Family and Child Sciences), received the National Council on Family Relations' prestigious Felix Berardo Award for Excellence in Mentoring. The award is given to National Council on Family Relations members who nurture their junior colleagues in the area of multidisciplinary understanding of families.


BYLINES

Alice-Ann Darrow, Ph.D. (Music), co-wrote a book, Music Therapy and Geriatric Populations: A Handbook for Practicing Music Therapists and Health Care Professionals,” with Melita Belgrade of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Darcy Walworth of the University of Louisville and Natalie Wlodarczyk of Drury University, published by the American Music Therapy Association, 2011. Work on the book was supported through a Geriatrics Education Center grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration.


Lynn B. Panton, Ph.D. (Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences), and FSU doctoral student Britanny S. Loney, M.S., M.A. (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), co-wrote a book, “Exercise for Older Adults,” and FSU doctoral student Brittany S. Loney, M.S., M.A. (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), co-wrote a book, “Exercise for Older Adults” (including a separate edition for health care providers), edited by Alice Pomidor, M.D. (Geriatric Medicine) and Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D. (Geriatric Medicine), published through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration, 2011.


Branko Stefanovic, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, “A Novel Role of RNA Helicase A in Regulation of Type I Collagen mRNAs,” with College of Medicine graduate student Zarko Manojlovic, which has been accepted for publication in the journal RNA.

Yi Zhou, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, “Determining Nuclear Localization of Alpha-Synuclein in Mouse Brains,” with College of Medicine postdoctoral researcher Zhiling Huang and graduate student Zhe Xu, and Yuying Wu, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), accepted for publication in the journal Neuroscience.

Fanziu Zhu, Ph.D. (Biological Science), co-wrote a paper, “Tripartite Motif-Containing Protein 28 Is a Small Ubiquitin-Related Modifier E3 Ligase and Negative Regulator of IFN Regulator Factor 7,” published in the Journal of Immunology, November 2011. The article was featured in the “In This Issue” section, which highlights ar-
OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND COMPLIANCE

>>NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH: In 1916, a National American Indian Heritage celebration began as a daylong event in the state of New York. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush declared the first National American Indian Heritage Month to recognize, honor and celebrate the original peoples of this land and their foundational contributions.

Today, Florida State University takes pride in connecting students, staff and the community to American Indian culture. In 1947, the Florida State student body selected the “Seminole” name for the university’s sports teams. In 1978, Osceola and Renegade made their first appearance in Doak Campbell Stadium.

Many at Florida State feel that the Seminole name and the persona of Osceola riding Renegade represent more than a sense of tradition. They symbolize the university’s continuing commitment to promote and support the unconquered spirit of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Throughout November, employees are encouraged to join in with Florida State’s recognition and celebration of the legacy, heritage and efforts of a founding society.

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2012 CORRECTION PERIOD: Employees who made changes during the regular Open Enrollment period that ended Nov. 18 will receive a confirmation statement of their elections. If employees need to make a correction to a change made during Open Enrollment, the correction period will be from Nov. 21 to Dec. 9. If employees need to make corrections, they can call the service center at (866) 663-4735 by Dec. 9. Insurance premium deductions will not be taken from the Dec. 2 paycheck. Payroll deductions will begin on the Dec. 16 check for January coverage, so employees are asked to check their paychecks to be sure the deductions are correct.

NEW-EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION AVAILABLE ONLINE: Each participant must certify his or her completion of 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. 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.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION: The objective of the program is to improve fundamental educational skills in reading, writing and/or math. The program also serves as a preparation for the General Educational Development (GED) test. ABE classes are taught by Florida-certified teachers. Participants choose and attend one regularly scheduled, three-hour class session every Tuesday or Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Training Center, 493 Stadium Drive. Registration (new and returning participants): (850) 644-8724.

NEW-HIRE BENEFITS HELP SESSIONS: Beginning in January, the Benefits Office will conduct bi-weekly help sessions for new employees. The first session will be held Jan. 17 from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Human Resources Training Room, A6244 University Center. All new employees are strongly encouraged to view the online New Employee Orientation before attending the help sessions. Information: (850) 644-4015 or insben@admin.fsu.edu.

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to 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, Course Code or Course Name.” 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.

NEW-EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION AVAILABLE ONLINE: Each participant must certify his or her completion of 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. 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.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION: The objective of the program is to improve fundamental educational skills in reading, writing and/or math. The program also serves as a preparation for the General Educational Development (GED) test. ABE classes are taught by Florida-certified teachers. Participants choose and attend one regularly scheduled, three-hour class session every Tuesday or Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Training Center, 493 Stadium Drive. Registration (new and returning participants): (850) 644-8724.

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Libraries launch series of issues forums


University Libraries received a grant to carry out the nonpartisan forums, which are intended to engage citizens in deliberative dialogue on issues of national importance such as the national debt, the influence of money in politics, and health care.

The first forum, “A Nation in Debt: How Can We Pay the Bills?” included a discussion about three options for reducing the national debt. The group of 24 participants weighed the pros and cons of each option and worked toward reaching a consensus.

Forum participants included Vice President for Planning and Programs Robert Bradley, political science Professor Carol S. Weissert, economics Professor James D. Gwartney and economics Lecturer Joseph P. Calhoun, as well as representatives from the James Madison Institute, the League of Women Voters, the Veterans Administration, and a commentator from the African-American community.

Data gathered from questionnaires at each of the forums will be reported by the Kettering Foundation and the National Issues Forums at congressional briefings and at the annual “A Public Voice” program on public television.

The next forum, “Money in Politics,” will take place Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Faculty members with questions or who are interested in participating in future forums can contact Burt Altman, baltman@fsu.edu, or Robert Rubero, rlr02e@fsu.edu. Faculty members also are asked to encourage their interested students to participate in the forums.

commitment to the students of Florida State University shines through her work on each and every day,” said President Eric J. Barron.

“She has been a leader at Florida State and in our profession for many years, and so many students and professionals across the country have benefitted from her influence, friendship, mentoring, and leadership,” said her nominators, University of the Pacific Vice President for Student Life Elizabeth Griego and North Dakota State University Vice President for Student Affairs Prakash Mathew.

Coburn, who was appointed vice president over the Division of Student Affairs in 2003, is a three-time alumna of Florida State. She earned a bachelor’s in sociology in 1974, a master’s in counseling and human systems in 1976, and a doctorate in higher education in 1992.