Physics professor receives 2011 Ross Oglesby Award

By Elizabeth Bettendorf
NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Young women with a passion for science and engineering usually know they’ve met a kindred spirit in Florida State University physics Professor Susan Blessing.

High school students who meet the brilliant scientist with a contagious love for physics sometimes submit their college applications based on just one encounter. Members of Florida State’s Women in Math, Science and Engineering Living Learning Community — a group that Blessing directs — find their confidence and nurture new friendships with other young women in the sciences.

On Nov. 19, the Garnet and Gold Key student leadership society presented the 2011 Ross Oglesby Award to Blessing, who is the Nancy Marcus Professor of Physics and whose research has been carried out at Fermilab near Chicago. Blessing is a member of the team whose experiments led to the discovery of the top quark in 1995.

“Researchers have known for years how important it is for young women in science and engineering to work with women mentors,” Paul Cottle, Florida State professor of physics, wrote in a nomination letter for Blessing. “After meeting Professor Blessing, many women students considering ma-

Choreographer, baseball manager to speak during Commencement

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Acclaimed modern dancer and choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and world-champion Major League Baseball manager Anthony “Tony” La Russa Jr. — both Florida State University alumni — will address the university’s newest graduates during the 2011 Fall Commencement ceremonies.

The first ceremony will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, and the second will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17. President Eric J. Barron will preside at both ceremonies, which will be held at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center and webcast at http://campus.fsu.edu/graduation. This semester, more

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Florida State University is home to one of the world’s most advanced robotic electron microscopes, the FEI Titan Krios. The state-of-the-art imaging device was dedicated Dec. 1 during a symposium sponsored by the Institute for Molecular Biophysics.
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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.

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Florida State University 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 Florida State University 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 following schedule:

- 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 will need to sort through department mail, identify charitable items and deliver those items, along with their respective postmarked envelopes, to the Foundation office by Jan. 9, 2012. Please continue to send all postmarked envelopes for any gifts received in January. Please inform faculty and other staff members who may receive gifts of the urgency of transmitting year-end gifts and donor instructions to the Foundation.

For more information, contact Alexia Chamberlynn, Gift Processing Services, at achamberlynn@foundation.fsu.edu or (850) 644-9193.
By Elizabeth Bettendorf
NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Florida State University oceanography Professor Allan Clarke grew up in a coastal town in southern Australia where he loved the ocean, the beach and the warmth of the sun. Little did he know that his fondness for that beautiful coastline would one day lead him to become an international expert on physical oceanography, climate dynamics and El Niño.

In a symbol of the professional esteem with which his peers regard him, Clarke has been named the winner of the American Meteorological Society’s 2012 Sverdrup Gold Medal Award, granted each year to a researcher who makes outstanding contributions to the scientific knowledge of interactions between the oceans and the atmosphere. In winning the award, he was cited for “fundamental contributions to the dynamics of ocean currents and air-sea interaction with particular emphasis on El Niño/Southern Oscillation.”

“I was thrilled beyond belief to win — it was fantastic,” Clarke said, his Australian accent still so crisp it could win him a spot in an Outback Steakhouse commercial.

Clarke is the Adrian E. Gill Professor of Oceanography and a Distinguished Research Professor at FSU. His professorship is named after his beloved former professor and mentor, who was an expert in atmosphere-ocean dynamics.

Along with Florida State research associate Steve Van Gorder, Clarke has been predicting El Niño monthly since 2003. Those predictions have been provided to the International Research Institute for Climate and Society and have also been used in Australia to help farmers better grow their crops. Florida produces much of the U.S. winter vegetables and fruit, and Clarke is planning to apply his climate knowledge to help Florida growers, as well.

As a boy growing up in Australia, Clarke loved to play cricket and Australian rules football. He also played such a mean game of tennis that he eventually landed on the University of Cambridge tennis team in England.

Though an admitted math ace, Clarke never dreamed he would become a Florida State professor who “researched ocean currents and climate variability,” he said.

“One of the privileges of working at a university is the opportunity to meet and work with students,” he added. “It’s great to see them learn, be excited about the same things I enjoy and develop as scientists.”
Dinner fetes faculty members with ‘transformative’ influence

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A recent dinner at Florida State University celebrated faculty members who help individual students to uncover the meaning and purpose in their educations and, in a greater sense, their lives.

During the inaugural Transformation Through Teaching Dinner co-hosted by the Division of Student Affairs and President Eric J. Barron at the President’s House, 19 faculty members who impart not only facts and figures but also wisdom and encouragement received insight about the tremendous transformative power they wield in their students’ lives. On the basis of compelling student testimonials, the university’s Spiritual Life Project — which sponsored the Nov. 7 dinner — and the Office of Faculty Recognition selected the 19 from a total of 40 student-nominated faculty members.

“These faculty members have been an inspiration to their students, taking an extraordinary interest in more than just their students’ intellectual capacity,” said Cadence Kidwell, convener of the Spiritual Life Project (slp.fsu.edu) and program director of the university’s Global Pathways Certificate and Exchanges program. “They actively help students find meaning and purpose in their academic pursuits, and they encourage students to be authentic and true to themselves.”

One such faculty member is English Professor Kristie Fleckenstein, who was nominated by student Derrika Hunt.

“She assisted me and guided me along my journey of self-discovery,” Hunt said. “She believed not only in my writings, but she believed in me.”

Another faculty member is Communication Professor Arthur Raney, nominated by student Evan Watts.

“I don’t know what path my future will take in the immediate or long-term future, but I do know that I am secure in my individual identity and my intellect thanks in no small part to him,” Watts said. “If I am indeed to become a professor eventually, I know how to do it right.”

The other faculty members and their student-nominees included Joab Corey (Economics) and Danielle Perez; James Dever (Management) and Kenyetta Hill; Barry Faulk (English) and Rebecca Fernandez; Ken Goldsby (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Sarah-Ashley McClellan; Robert Hart (Meteorology) and Josh Cossuth; Davis Houck (Communication) and Jennifer Funt; Sally Karioth (Nursing) and Kelley Kilpatrick; Leonard Lapointe (Communication Disorders) and Claribelle Gabas; Rhea Latham (English) and Jenise Hudson; Clifford Madsen (Music) and Shannon Kiley; Doug Schrock (Sociology) and Phillip Lennon; Dale Smith (Political Science) and Jesid Acosta; Patricia Spears (Biological Science) and Geness Lebron; Curtis Stine (Medicine) and Laura Davis; Tim Stover (Classics) and Stephanie Wood; Charles Upchurch (History) and Max Solomon; and Shelbie Witte (English Education) and Nicole Smith.

“We all remember faculty who had a significant impact in helping us discover who we are,” said Mary Coburn, vice president for Student Affairs. “At the university, however, we do not always take the time to appreciate those who go above and beyond teaching their subject matter by fostering a learning environment that develops the ‘whole person.’ The Transformation Through Teaching award acknowledges the important role that faculty play in helping students realize their potential.”

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs provided copies of Parker Palmer’s “The Courage to Teach” to each recognized faculty member.
President Eric J. Barron recently named university Associate General Counsel Carolyn Egan to the position of interim general counsel, effective Jan. 1. Egan will fill the position being vacated by Betty Steffens, the university’s general counsel and special counsel to the president since 2003. Steffens will retire Dec. 31.

The general counsel is the university’s chief legal officer.

Egan has served as associate general counsel for the past four years. In that role, she has been Florida State’s lead attorney on a number of issues, particularly those pertaining to labor relations and employment law. She earned her law degree from FSU in 1998 and a Bachelor of Science degree in communication from FSU in 1994.

Debra Herman was recently named executive director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Florida State University.

OLLI provides classes, field trips, weekly lectures, a writers’ group, a book club and other learning activities for people over the age of 50 who want to continue their education in a stress-free environment with no exams.

Herman was chosen to lead OLLI based on her record of organizational leadership, program management and event planning, and her education. From 2006 until this year, Herman served as the regional director of Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida. In addition to having operated her own business, she has worked as the general manager of the Tallahassee Symphony Youth Orchestra and as a K-12 instructor for 14 years in Pasco, Brevard and Martin counties. A participant in Class 25 of Leadership Tallahassee, she also co-wrote a book documenting the history of African-American education in Leon County.

“I am very proud to be associated with such an outstanding organization as OLLI,” Herman said. “The quality of the instructors, the education provided, and the social networking and volunteer experiences for the members are absolutely terrific. What a wonderful group of people to work with. This is a phenomenal outreach program of Florida State University.”

The heart of the OLLI program at Florida State is two six-week academic terms presented each fall and spring semester, and a three-week term each May. The two-hour classes meet once a week and are taught by current and retired faculty members and graduate students from Florida State, Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community College.

Classes meet at the Claude Pepper Center and several off-campus locations. OLLI is associated with the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy and is supported by the Bernard Osher Foundation, which funds lifelong learning institutes at more than 120 colleges and universities across the country.

For more information about OLLI, call 644-8828 or 644-7947, email taaronson@fsu.edu, or visit www.olli.fsu.edu.

Seven Days of Opening Nights

Tickets available for many performances

Tickets are still available for many performances of Florida State University’s Seven Days of Opening Nights festival of the fine and performing arts, Feb. 9-20.

“Tickets to these shows make great holiday gifts,” said Steve Mac-Queen, director of the festival.

The festival features a diverse, eclectic lineup, including the Tallahassee debut of the Soweto Gospel Choir, Feb. 9.

For a complete listing of performances, visit www.sevendaysfestival.org. Tickets are available online at www.tickets.fsu.edu.
The Florida State University Council on Research and Creativity (CRC) awarded 2011-2012 Fall Planning Grants to 12 faculty members. Each fall and spring, the CRC gives up to $12,000 for each Planning Grant award.

The fall 2011-2012 awardees, who will receive a total of $141,641 toward research planning, and their research projects are as follows:

- Carlos Bolanos (Psychology), “Neurobiology of Physical vs. Emotional Stress”;
- Charles Brewer (Music), “William Billings and the Songs of Rebellion”;
- Matthew Goff (Religion), “When Giants Walked the Earth: Giants in Enochic Literature and Other Ancient Writings”;
- Efstratios Manousakis (Physics), “Photo-Excited Mott Insulators and Their Interfaces”;
- Brian Miller (Chemistry and Biochemistry), “Slow-Binding Enzyme Inhibitors”;
- Marcia Porter (Music), “Two Recordings: Living American (A Recording of Songs by Cipullo, DeFeo and Nash) and Com Amores (A Recording of Contemporary Brazilian Art Songs)”;
- Joshua Rodefer (Psychology), “Long-Term Cognitive Effects of Adolescent Cannabinoid Exposure in Rats”;
- Amy Sang (Chemistry and Biochemistry), “Preparation and Tuning of Panchromatic Dyes for Photovoltaic Applications”; and
- Jeanette Taylor (Psychology), “Substance Abuse and Self-Regulation.”

For more information, visit www.research.fsu.edu/crc/crc.html.

Commencement from page 1

than 2,300 students will graduate.

Zollar, who earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Florida State in 1979, is the founding and artistic director of New York dance company Urban Bush Women. A Florida State artist-in-residence, she was named Florida State’s 2011-2012 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, the highest honor given by the university’s faculty to one of its own. Zollar and the Urban Bush Women were appointed U.S. State Department cultural ambassadors to South America in 2010.

La Russa, who earned a juris doctorate degree from Florida State in 1978, retired as the manager of the St. Louis Cardinals at the conclusion of the 2011 season after leading the club to its 11th World Series title. As a manager, it was La Russa’s third world championship. His first was as the manager of the Oakland Athletics in 1989, and his second as the manager of the Cardinals in 2006. With 2,728 wins as a manager, La Russa is the third-winningest major league manager after Connie Mack (3,731) and John McGraw (2,763).

Zollar will speak at Friday’s ceremony for the colleges of Arts and Sciences; Communication and Information; Criminology and Criminal Justice; Law; Medicine; Social Sciences and Public Policy; and Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance.

La Russa will speak at Saturday’s ceremony for the colleges of Business; Education; Engineering; Human Sciences; Motion Picture Arts; Music; Nursing; and Social Work. In addition, materials science degrees will be conferred by The Graduate School during this ceremony.

Other graduation activities include the following:

- The College of Nursing’s Fall 2011 Convocation Ceremony will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 16, in Opperman Music Hall. Interim Dean Diann Speake will preside.
- Florida State’s Air Force ROTC will commission two cadets at 5 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 17, in the President’s Box, University Center, Building C, 7th floor. Col. William “Billy” Francis, director of the university’s newly established Florida State Veterans Center, will preside.

NewsMakers

Neil Abell, a professor and director of international programs in the College of Social Work, and Dr. Jonathan Appelbaum, an associate professor and education director of internal medicine in the College of Medicine, appeared on WCTV’s “Good Morning Show” Dec. 1, which is World AIDS Day, to discuss the fight against HIV/AIDS.

“The stigma and discrimination that surround it on the social side continues to impair people seeking the care that they need, being tested so that they know their status, and then feeling comfortable appearing for regimens and treatment that will help them stay well,” Abell said.

“A group of three organizations released today some treatment strategies for taking care of older patients who have HIV,” Appelbaum said. “It’s a huge problem. About half the HIV patients infected in the United States now are over the age of 50.”
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TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to Florida State University 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.

Information: (850) 644-8724.

>>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 and 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 an individual’s fundamental educational skills in reading, writing and/or math. The program also is 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 (for new and returning participants): (850) 644-8724.

Please note Policy OP-C-7-F1: If an employee attends a training program (to include programs provided by Human Resources) during work hours and wishes to have the training considered as time worked, the employee must secure the permission of his or her immediate supervisor before attending. Otherwise, employees may attend training during their off hours, or they may use leave time if so desired.

>>OPEN ENROLLMENT: Deductions will begin with the Dec. 16 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: (850) 644-4015 or insben@admin.fsu.edu.

>>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.

>>SEMINOLE SAVINGS: Florida State University now offers “Seminole Savings,” a new Employee Discount Program designed exclusively for faculty and staff members. The program allows employees to take advantage of discounts on products and services at businesses serving university employees’ diverse needs and interests. Visit the Seminole Savings Web page on the Benefits for Faculty and Staff section of the Human Resources website (www.hr.fsu.edu).

Information: David Desue, Benefits office, (850) 644-5726, or insben@admin.fsu.edu.

>>SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011 RETIREES: James Chafin, facilities engineer, Facilities Planning; Alicia Crew, director, Campus Recreation; Betty Erlandson, departmental accounting associate, Facilities; Marjorie Gibbons, university school assistant professor, DRS (Florida State University Schools) Administration; Samuel Hayes, custodial worker, Building Services; Shamuna Malik, academic support assistant, International Affairs; Joanne Mallardi, office administrator, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Mary Murphy, assistant in medical humanities, Medical Humanities; Sherilyn Phillips, administrative specialist, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy; and Annie Washington, custodial worker, Residence Halls.
Jason Trumbower (Public Safety) was promoted to captain of Uniformed Operations of the FSU Police Department.

Donald J. Weidner, J.D. (Law), was appointed to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, also known as the Uniform Law Commission, by Florida Gov. Rick Scott. Weidner’s term began Nov. 29 and ends June 5, 2015. The Uniform Law Commission is the nation’s leading statutory law reform group, with representatives appointed by every state, with the special purpose of drafting uniform business laws for all states to adopt. Weidner previously served the commission as the reporter (the principal draft-er) for the Revised Uniform Partnership Act (1994).

BYLINES

John Crossley, Ed.D. (Recreation and Leisure Services Administration, Panama City Campus), co-wrote a book, “Introduction to Commercial Recreation and Tourism: An Entrepreneurial Approach” (sixth edition), with Lynn Jamieson of Indiana University and Russell Brayley of George Mason University, published by Sagamore Publishing Company, 2012. The book provides an introduction to the scope, characteristics and management aspects of the commercial recreation and tourism industry, and offers a blend of conceptual and practical material to achieve an understanding of this diverse industry.


PRESENTATIONS

Dean Falk, Ph.D. (Anthropology), presented a public lecture, “Looking for Our Language: Mothers and Children and the Origins of Language,” at the Festival of Science, Genoa, Italy, October.

Sally Karioth, Ph.D. (Nursing), gave a keynote address, “Compassion Energy Versus Compassion Fatigue: How to Recognize and Encourage Compassion Energy as a Way to Feel Motivated and Honored When Caring for Those in Complex Health Care Situations,” at the annual convention of the National Student Nurse Association, Memphis, Tenn., October.


SERVICE

Felicia Coleman, Ph.D. (Coastal and Marine Laboratory), and Joseph Travis, Ph.D., and Anne B. Thistle (Biological Science), served on the Steering Committee of the 2011 William R. and Lenore Mote Symposium, Sarasota, Fla., Nov. 8-10. Coleman was the symposium organizer and steering-committee chairwoman; Travis was an invited speaker; and Thistle served as managing editor of the Symposium Proceedings.

Elizabeth Goldsmith, Ph.D. (Human Sciences), is serving as a coordinator for the North Florida Fulbright Alumni Association. She also conducted a roundtable discussion, “The Not So Big Solutions to a Crowded Planet,” at the Fulbright annual meeting, “Living in a Diverse, Crowded World,” held in Washington, D.C., Nov. 3-6, and was a guest of the ambassador at the Singapore Embassy.

Mary Wilkes, L.C.S.W., C.E.A.P. (Employee Assistance Program), presided over the 2011 annual conference of the International Association of Employee Assistance Professionals in Education, Boulder, Colo., Oct. 24-26. This year’s conference theme was “Continuing the Climb During Turbulent Times.” Wilkes will complete her term as president of the association on Dec. 31.
UFF-FSU wishes you a very happy and healthy holiday season, and may all your dreams come true during the new year.

DREAMS OF ACADEMIC GLORY

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UFF dues are 1% of regular salary. Please fill out the form below and return it to:
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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 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.

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*Illustration reprinted from "He Looks Too Happy To Be An Assistant Professor: A Collection of Cartoons by Vivian Scott Hixson," by permission of the University of Missouri Press. ©1996.
Online campus directory: A new Web page with links to directory information for university departments and personnel is now available at www.directory.fsu.edu. The page will serve as a replacement for the university’s printed telephone directory, the Seminole Guide, which has been discontinued. The new Web page, which is accessible through the “Key Links” section of the university’s home page, includes links to a variety of directory information including frequently called numbers, visitor information, and telecommunication and computing services.

Teaching Beyond Tallahassee: International Programs is accepting faculty applications to teach or lead programs abroad in 2013-2014. 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, 2012.

Email upgrade under way: Information Technology Services is working to implement a campuswide email migration to the unified Microsoft Exchange 2010 platform by the end of December. Email services for all faculty, staff and retirees will be affected during the migration. Completion of this strategic initiative will result in the following benefits:

- Unified accessibility, allowing users to centrally manage email, calendars and contacts on laptops/desktops, mobile devices, and via Web browsers.
- Standardization of mailbox size/storage at 1GB.
- Shared calendaring features for all FSU employees.
- A unified address book for all email clients, including mobile devices.
- Improved Web mail user interface, which provides a rich user experience on the major browser platforms (Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome and Safari).
- Enhanced support for Mac email clients.

After account migration, mobile devices and personal bookmarks for Web mail must be reconfigured to the new server address of www.exchange.fsu.edu. Additional information, configuration support and FAQs are available at www.its.fsu.edu/Exchange. For assistance, employees must generate a case by logging in to the FSU Center Service, emailing the IT Service Desk at it-help@fsu.edu, or by calling (850) 644-HELP (4357). If emailing, include “Exchange 2010 Migration” in the subject line.