Online services portal under development

Access to the array of password-protected services at Florida State will be simplified next semester through a new Web portal that will group all of these resources in one place.

The portal — to be called “myFSU,” a name that already refers to the student email system — is being developed in support of the upgraded student information system.

Students, faculty and staff will merely log in once for access to the range of online tools provided by university departments — from Student Affairs to Human Resources.

“In addition to making it easier to

Please see myFSU WEB PORTAL, 2

‘myFSU’ coming soon: In addition to providing access to all password-protected services from a single location, the “myFSU” portal will allow students and employees to add news and calendar feeds. It will launch in spring 2013.

Algoe named associate VP for administration

By Barry Ray
NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Associate Vice President for Administration Eric S. Algoe, who began work at Florida State on Aug. 20, is settling into his new job assisting with the development and implementation of programs that have a university-wide impact, and managing a budget in excess of $30 million annually.

“We had a number of outstanding candidates to consider for this key managerial position, and I believe by selecting

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find and use these resources, the portal will also enhance communication among members of our campus community,” said John Barnhill, assistant vice president for enrollment management.

Depending on a user’s role at Florida State, the portal will provide access to Admissions and Records, Blackboard, Financial Aid, Human Resources, Information Technology Services, Student Affairs and Student Financial Services, as well as employee and student email services.

“With a single login, users will be able to move seamlessly between these various resources,” said Kyle Gower-Winter, associate director of portal systems in Information Technology Services. “Related services are grouped together into modules, and each user will be able to decide which modules should be front-and-center when they log in.”

Whether student, faculty or staff, the modules available to users will align with their duties and activities. In addition, administrators will be able to customize the modules available to their employees or students.

Bringing these services together onto a single platform also will allow targeted messages, announcements and other information to be distributed more efficiently.

“For example, a student might log in through the portal and immediately see a notification from the Financial Aid office, as well as updates to his or her intramural sports schedule,” Barnhill said. “The portal makes that kind of cross-platform communication possible.”

Enhancements to the “myFSU” portal will extend beyond its initial launch in spring 2013. Subsequent versions will include social media, discussion boards, community groups and department-specific components.

“As the portal starts to include these community-building, outreach and communication tools, a snapshot of each user’s university life will be available through a single window,” Gower-Winter said.
Florida State University employees — individuals or teams — are encouraged to enter the annual Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards Program, which recognizes state employees for measurable productivity gains and cost savings.

This year, the Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards nomination system underwent a full reconstruction. The new system is intended to expedite the nomination process for all involved. Key highlights of the changes to the online system are as follows:

• The system no longer offers applicants the ability to save their progress. Once applicants finish the form and click on “submit,” they are finished with the nomination.

• To work on the application before submission, applicants must download the “staging form,” which will act as a working copy of the application. Use this form to collect data, construct answers, and ensure that the form has the most complete information possible.

• Once applicants have gathered all of the necessary information, they should sign in to the online system, select the appropriate form, and copy and paste the contents of each field from the staging form.

• The last step of the application requires the contact information for the nominee’s supervisor. There also is an “Optional” field for approval. Applicants are required to enter the nominee’s division head in the Optional field. Failure to do so will delay the process.

The nominee’s supervisor and division head must approve nominations by Friday, Sept. 28.

All nominations must be submitted using the online system. To get started or to learn about other notable changes that have been made to the awards program, visit www.florida-taxwatch.org/prudpa.aspx. To gain access to the online nominations Web page, type in username “Nominator” and password “Nominator2013.”

To download the “staging forms” in Word format, visit www.florida-taxwatch.org/prudpa/dlforms.aspx.

For any other questions, contact Megan Darris, FSU agency awards coordinator, at mld08j@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 644-4579.

Faculty can apply for professional leave, sabbaticals

• The University Committee on the Professional Development Program invites applications for professional development leave for one semester (or equivalent) at full pay and two semesters at one-half pay to be awarded during the 2012-2013 process to be effective during the 2013-2014 academic year. Professional development leave is available to eligible non-tenured and non-tenure-earning faculty members and A&P employees, covered by the FSU/UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement, who have three or more years of service. Detailed information is available on the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement’s Web page at http://fda.fsu.edu under “Faculty Development.” Applications are to be submitted by the applicant through the department chair, program leader or project director, and the academic dean of the college in which the applicant holds an appointment, or through the director of an equivalent unit (e.g., the director of Libraries) to the Office of the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, Westcott Building, Room 115, by Monday, Oct. 8.

• The University Committee on Faculty Sabbaticals invites applications for one-semester sabbaticals at full pay and two-semester sabbaticals at one-half pay from eligible tenured faculty members covered by the FSU/UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement. A limited number of one-semester sabbaticals at full pay and an unlimited number of two-semester sabbaticals at one-half pay are available to be awarded during the 2012-2013 process to be effective during the 2013-2014 academic year. Two-semester sabbatical proposals, which are reviewed by the same standards as one-semester proposals, are not guaranteed to be granted. Detailed information is on the Office for Faculty Development and Advancement’s Web page at http://fda.fsu.edu under “Faculty Development.” Applications are to be submitted by the applicant through the department chair and academic dean to the Office of the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement by Monday, Oct. 8.
Randall Hughes and David Kimbro of Florida State’s Coastal and Marine Laboratory are collaborating with WFSU to produce a blog that uses narrative, photos and video to present their research about salt marshes, seagrass beds and oyster reefs in an engaging and accessible format.

The “In the Grass, On the Reef” blog (www.wfsu.org/coastalecology) was funded through a National Science Foundation grant intended to help scientists promote their research to public audiences.

In 2010, Kimbro and Hughes received an NSF grant to study the effects of predatory sea life in protecting oyster reef health, and biodiversity in marsh grass. As they were conducting their research, Kim Kelling Engstrom, WFSU’s director of Educational Services, approached the laboratory to find a way to engage the station’s audience in its work.

After an initial attempt at a blog to promote Kimbro and Hughes’ research, WFSU and the researchers won a highly competitive Communicating Research to Public Audiences grant from the National Science Foundation — after going through two application processes.

“This CRPA grant really helped to improve the way we presented our research and allowed us to create the blog that we have today,” Kimbro said.

Kimbro praised WFSU producer Rob Diaz de Villegas and newly hired associate producer Rebecca Wilkerson, who is a student in the College of Communication, on their contributions to creating a blog that is informative and beautiful.

“Rob and Rebecca were able to quickly experiment with what worked and what didn’t, and now their production has really hit a stride,” Kimbro said. “Their storytelling is quite innovative.”

Good storytelling does not have to delve into every detail of the research in question, according to Diaz de Villegas.

“We try to make the key concepts understandable and give the audience an idea of why the research is important,” Diaz de Villegas said. “Lately, we’ve been spending more time looking at the people in the seafood industry and other community members who depend on healthy intertidal ecosystems. This ‘real world’ perspective provides context to the academic ideas.”
The blog features different groups participating in Kimbro and Hughes’ research, which lends itself to hands-on activity. One such group was SciGirls, an educational outreach project between WFSU and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory that gives middle- and high-school-age girls opportunities to experience a variety of scientific endeavors.

“Targeting school-age students is one of our objectives of the project, so the SciGirls were a perfect fit,” Engstrom said. “Dr. Linda Schrader from the FSU College of Education designed a pre- and post-assessment for the SciGirls visit to see what information the girls learned. This data will help determine if we are communicating effectively to different audiences.”

There can be a huge disconnect between scientific research and the public’s understanding of not only the research itself but the need for research, according to Kimbro. He says the problem is compounded by the fact that scientists are not professional communicators and, therefore, can be ineffective in presenting their work to a broad audience.

“Because of this blog, we are increasingly connecting with the public, hearing them say, ‘Oh, I understand your research now!’ and ‘So that’s why this research is important,’” Kimbro said.

Kimbro is studying the factors that contribute to keeping oyster reefs healthy.

“There are several factors to consider, such as the variety and number of predators that can protect oyster reefs by keeping oyster consumers in check,” Kimbro said. “Because there are many more predators in Florida waters than in those of North Carolina, factors that affect a reef in North Carolina might work differently than they do on a reef in Florida.”

Kimbro also studies the ways that oyster reefs benefit people, from the number of oysters they produce for consumption to the way the reefs filter the water.

Hughes’ study investigates the effects that diversity in marsh grass has on the animals that depend on such plants for food and habitat, and the effects that animals have on the marsh.

At first glance, marsh grasses look somewhat similar. A closer inspection reveals that their similarities can be compared to that of siblings or even identical twins, connected below ground.

“The number and relatedness of these different plant individuals can be important for the animals that live in the marsh,” Hughes said. “For example, some plants may taste better to snails or provide better shelter to fiddler crabs. These kinds of ‘plant effects’ can cascade up to affect the entire marsh ecosystem, including the benefits from the marsh that we count on.”
With national recognition and a plethora of talented young artists, the School of Theatre is presenting a season that will be sure to impress and captivate audiences of all ages — including faculty and staff members.

Six shows will explore various aspects of everyday life, from passion and love to fear, greed and deceit.

“We’re really pleased with the variety of shows we’re offering this season. Whether it’s strained family relationships in ‘Crimes of the Heart’ or a Broadway blockbuster musical like ‘How to Succeed,’ I think we have something for everybody,” said Susan Thomas, School of Theatre marketing director.

The shows are:
- **“Crimes of the Heart”** (Oct. 5-14, Lab Theatre): In this Pulitzer Prize-winning play, audiences will see the secrets of the Magrath sisters revealed. The sisters must join forces to support one another as they each face the consequences of their actions.
- **“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying”** (Oct. 19-28, Fallon Theatre): This musical sensation follows the adventures of ambitious J. Pierrepont Finch as he climbs the ladder of success and tries to get the girl.
- **“Tennessee Williams’ “Summer and Smoke”** (Nov. 2-11, Lab Theatre): Set in the early years of the 20th century, the play takes audiences on an emotional journey following Alma Winemiller and her romantic exploration of life, body and soul.
- **“The Monster Under the Bed”** (Nov. 15-18, Fallon Theatre): This powerful yet fun-filled story will have audiences tagging along with Ben and his “underbed” monsters, reminding us of the reality of facing our fears and acknowledging the monsters inside us all.
- **“Spring Awakening”** (Feb. 22-March 3, Fallon Theatre): This eight-time Tony Award-winning rock musical is an adaptation of the controversial 1891 German play by Frank Wedekind that explores the world of teenage sexuality.
- **William Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”** (March 29-April 7, Lab Theatre): A comedy that shows audiences how love can start with typical gossip, rumors, eavesdropping and deceit, and still end in the joyous celebration of two marriages.

For information about tickets or season passes, visit www.theatre.fsu.edu or call the Fine Arts Ticket Office at (850) 644-6500. For daily updates, visit Facebook to follow and like “The School of Theatre at Florida State.”
**FACULTY LUNCHEON SERIES:** The next session of the Fall 2012 Faculty Luncheon Series will feature English Assistant Professor Paul Fyfe discussing “The Scholarly Monograph Unbound” on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the Presbyterian University Center, 548 W. Park Ave. The luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m.; the program begins at 12:40 p.m. Reservations are required.

**Reservation information:** (850) 222-6320 or floridastepuc@gmail.com.

More information: Micah Vandegrift, scholarly communications librarian, at (850) 645-9756 or mvandegrift@fsu.edu, or visit www.lib.fsu.edu/scholarly_communications.

**GFDI COLLOQUIA:** The Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Institute will host two colloquia, both of which begin at 2:30 p.m. in the GFDI Reading Room of the Keen Building (Room 18).

- **Monday, Sept. 17:** Geography Professor James Elsner will discuss “Sensitivity of the Strongest Hurricanes to Ocean Surface Warmth: Observations versus Global Climate Models.”
- **Monday, Oct. 1:** Meteorology Professor Ming Cai of the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science will discuss “A New Look at the Physics of Rossby Waves: A Mechanical-Coriolis Oscillation,” with Bohua Huang.

Refreshments will be served at 2 p.m. prior to each presentation.

**KIRBY KEMPER RETIREMENT RECEPTION:** A send-off party for Vice President for Research Kirby Kemper will be held Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 4 p.m. on the Mina Jo Powell Alumni Green, just north of the Westcott Building. Kemper is retiring this fall after serving nine years as vice president and more than 40 years as a member of the faculty.

**SEEKING PLEDGE DRIVE VOLUNTEERS:** WFSU-FM will host its annual Fall Pledge Drive Oct. 10-19 at the WFSU studios. Volunteers are needed to help answer phones and take pledges during the drive. Training and snacks will be provided. Volunteers need to be able to commit to a two-hour shift, answer the phone and fill out a simple Web form. Individuals or groups representing an organization can contact Charla Lucas at (850) 487-3170, Ext. 359, or clucas@wfsu.org.

**HOME FOOTBALL GAME OPEN HOUSES:** The Florida State University Alumni Association will host a series of open houses on the Fridays before home football games, featuring food, fun and plenty of “Seminole spirit.” The events will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Alumni Center, 1030 W. Tennessee St. (There will not be an open house on Friday, Nov. 23, before the Florida State vs. Florida game.)

Renovation earns HIGH HONORS for beautiful design and energy efficiency

By Elizabeth Bettendorf
NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks to an energy-conscious renovation, Florida State University’s historic William Johnston Building is now a crown jewel of sustainability.

And the kudos keep rolling in.

The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded the 143,000-square-foot, five-story building, which traces its roots to the early 20th century, a prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification. The council is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high-performance buildings.

The building’s design also has been selected as a winner of the 2012 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Florida/Caribbean Honor & Design Awards. Gould Evans, a national architectural and planning firm with regional offices in Tampa, Fla., received an Honor Award of Excellence for Historic Renovation & Addition from AIA Florida for its work on the building.

“The William Johnston Building has always been a significant landmark and hub of student activity,” said Kimberly Strobel-Ball, Florida State’s project manager for the final phase of the Johnston Building renovations. “In the recent renovation, the architects’ concepts pay strong tribute to the historical aspects of the building while both promoting contemporary academic programs and minimizing impact to the environment.”

To read more, visit “Florida State 24/7” at www.news.fsu.edu.

ALGOE

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include oversight of all external contracts for Florida State as well as transportation services, postal services, the Seminole Golf Course and the FSUCard.

“I am very fortunate to have left one great university for another, and I am thrilled to become part of the incredible Finance & Administration team already in place at FSU,” Algoe said.

Algoe has served as vice president for finance and administration and treasurer at Ohio Wesleyan University, located in Delaware, Ohio, since 2008. Before that, he was chief operating officer and chief fiscal officer for both the Ohio School for the Deaf and the Ohio State School for the Blind. Earlier in his career, he had been chief fiscal officer for the Ohio Office of Information Technology, had held positions with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the State Teachers’ Retirement System of Ohio, and had served as a military intelligence and civil affairs officer in the U.S. Army.

Algoe holds a master’s degree in business administration from Franklin University in Ohio and a bachelor’s degree from The Ohio State University, where he also completed the Ohio Certified Public Manager program at the John Glenn Institute.

Florida State Assistant Vice President for Facilities Dennis Bailey chaired the eight-member search committee that played an integral role in the selection of Algoe. Bailey said he was pleased with the outcome.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the effort or the results of the committee’s work,” he said. “I believe I speak for the entire committee in saying that we are thrilled that the search resulted in Eric Algoe agreeing to join our FSU family.”
Instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to Florida State faculty and staff members. To view a schedule of classes and registration information, visit www.hr.fsu.edu/train. To register for classes, log in to www.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.

More information: (850) 644-8724.

>>NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE: Each participant must verify his or her completion of online NEO by submitting the electronic “Certification of Completion and Evaluation of Orientation” form located on the NEO page. The link to online new-employee presentations, materials and the certification form can be found at www.hr.fsu.edu/Content/NEOnline/index.html.

More information: (850) 644-8724.

>>NEW-EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION WEB-PAGE REDESIGN: The Office of Training and Organizational Development has redesigned the New Employee Orientation Web page to showcase current employees. Employees interested in being featured can submit a recent head shot; a one- or two-sentence statement expressing why Florida State is a great place to work; and their department name and number of years employed at the university to Megan Darris at mld08j@admin.fsu.edu. This information will continue to be solicited throughout the year, so there is no deadline.

>>ADULT BASIC EDUCATION: A program intended to improve an individual’s fundamentals skills in reading, writing and/or math. The program also is a preparation for the General Educational Development (GED) test. Florida-certified teachers serve as instructors. 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.

>>ADVANCED MICROSOFT EXCEL TRAINING: The Office of Training and Organizational Development is seeking voluntary instructors for an advanced Microsoft Excel training course. Due to the high demand for computer skills in today’s competitive work force, proficiency in Microsoft Excel is a must-have skill set. Anyone interested in developing and facilitating the course can call (850) 644-8724 or send an email to training@admin.fsu.edu.

BENEFITS

>>OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR 2013: The State of Florida Benefits Open Enrollment period for the 2013 Plan Year will be Oct. 8 to Nov. 2, 2012. Detailed information about the group insurance and supplemental plan offerings will be sent to all eligible employees at a later date. All employees should log in to the People First website (http://peoplefirst.myflorida.com) to update their mailing addresses and other contact information. This will ensure that employees can receive important benefits-related notifications from People First. Employees who do not know their People First IDs can send an email to the Benefits Office at insben@admin.fsu.edu to have it sent to them.


>>BENEFITS AND WELLNESS FAIR: The 12th Annual Benefits and Wellness Fair will be held Tuesday, Oct. 9, in the Oglesby Union State Ballroom. Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate and have information available. In addition, representatives from the state group insurance plans and Florida State’s Human Resources Benefits Office will be in attendance to answer questions about open enrollment.

>>VALIC RETIREMENT/FINANCIAL ADVISING: Financial advisers from VALIC will be available for counseling on the first Tuesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in A7018 University Center (the seventh-floor skybox). To schedule an appointment, call VALIC at (850) 273-7103 or send an email to danielle.cohen@valic.com.

>>OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR GROUP TERM LIFE/AD&D INSURANCE: A special open enrollment period is being held through Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, for Group Term Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance, offered through The Gabor Agency Inc. During this period, all full-time employees are eligible to purchase Group Term Life and AD&D insurance on a guaranteed issue basis, with no medical exam required. Employees may apply for Group Term Life coverage up to four times their salaries, with a maximum limit of $200,000. Employee spouses are eligible for up to $50,000 in coverage. As an additional benefit, employees may insure all of their eligible children for

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one low monthly cost. AD&D insurance may be added to supplement their Group Term Life Insurance, with available coverage increments of $1,000 to a maximum of $350,000. Employees also may add family coverage for one low group rate. Coverage details are available at www.gaboragency.com/fsugtl.

More information: The Gabor Agency, (850) 894-9611, Option 5, or info@gaboragency.com.

‘UBorrow’ system brings ease to interlibrary swaps

Students and faculty at Florida State and Florida’s other public universities now have the ability to borrow materials from any State University System library with a single search and without leaving their home institution.

UBorrow, developed by the Council of State University Libraries and the Florida Center for Library Automation, allows library users to request materials from any participating library with just a few keystrokes on their computers. UBorrow was designed for the library user, so it is easy to navigate and simple to use. If a book is unavailable at one SUS library but is available at another one, the UBorrow icon will appear on the search page. The user can follow this link to the statewide catalog, request the item using his or her library credentials, and have it delivered to and available for pick-up at the user’s specified library location in just a few days.

This unmediated borrowing service creates a virtual statewide library of 16 million items and delivers materials more quickly and efficiently than standard interlibrary loans. Studies have shown reductions of as much as 90 percent in the cost of sharing books when systems such as UBorrow are used instead of traditional interlibrary loan services.

 Ease of use and increased efficiency are not the only positive aspects of the system. UBorrow also facilitates the cost-effective use of library funds.

“UBorrow allows state university libraries to better leverage state dollars to maximize resources,” said Julia Zimmerman, dean of Florida State University Libraries. “By sharing our collections, libraries reduce duplication of items and buy more unique materials that benefit the scholarship of students and faculty statewide.”

In addition to cost savings, the collaboration between state university libraries aims to satisfy more patron requests. Library staff at all of Florida’s public universities worked together to streamline processes, resulting in decreased turnaround time for sharing materials and improved patron satisfaction.

Requests for items have come from undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff, and the initial feedback has been positive.

The State University Libraries, individually and collectively, provide access to collections and services that directly support the teaching, research and service missions of Florida’s state universities and the communities they serve. The libraries, in settings both physical and virtual, inspire intellectual inquiry, facilitate learning, and serve as a catalyst for the creation of new knowledge.
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SUPPORT THE TEAM THAT WORKS FOR FACULTY

Add your voice to those of hundreds of your colleagues supporting dignity, respect and justice for the faculty of The Florida State University. Support the team that works for you.

The United Faculty of Florida.

“I consider it important, indeed urgently necessary, for intellectual workers to get together, both to protect their own economic status and, also, generally speaking, to secure their influence in the political field.”

Albert Einstein  
Charter member, AFT, Princeton, 1938

Join the UFF-FSU Chapter

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

Jack Fiorito, President, UFF-FSU Chapter, RBB 244, P.O. Box 3061110, Tallahassee 32306-1110

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

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Department or Unit

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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 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 (for payroll deduction authorization)  
Today’s date

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