Governor signs ‘pre-eminence bill’ into law

By Keith Bromery
DIRECTOR, NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

Florida State University is poised to benefit from passage of the Career and Professional Education Act, which Gov. Rick Scott signed into law April 22.

The Florida Legislature passed the measure earlier during the current legislative session that will designate Florida State and the University of Florida as “pre-eminent” universities and provide each school with an additional $15 million a year for the next five years to hire faculty members and escalate research.

“We are extremely grateful that the governor and Florida Legislature have embraced this important measure, which sets high standards of excellence and then rewards the universities that meet these standards,” said President Eric J. Barron. “Florida State University is committed to providing a cutting-edge education to the residents of Florida while ensuring that

History in the making: Florida State President Eric J. Barron, fourth from left, and University of Florida President Bernie Machen, standing to Barron’s left, look on as Gov. Rick Scott discusses the pre-eminence bill before signing it in the Cabinet Room of the Capitol.

College of Law graduates place first on Florida Bar examination

College of Law graduates ranked first among Florida’s 11 law schools on the February 2013 administration of the Florida Bar examination. Florida State law graduates have ranked first or second in the state on 10 of the last 15 administrations of the exam.

Florida State law graduates taking the February 2013 General Bar Examination for the first time passed by a rate of 96 percent, according to statistics released Monday by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

“We are very proud that Florida State law students continue to achieve superb results on the Florida Bar exam,” said Dean Don Weidner. “Special congratulations and thanks go to our recent graduates for their outstanding accomplishment.”

The overall passing rate of all law school graduates taking the exam for the first time was 80.2 percent. The exam was administered Feb. 26-27 in Tampa to 819 first-time takers, including 25 from Florida State.
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Job title: Media Technician, Center for Academic and Professional Development

To-do list: Over the past 23 years at Florida State, has built a career in videography, editing, studio work and webcasting. Recently given the opportunity to expand his knowledge into the world of information technology.

Quotable: “Since 1990 — when I joined the university’s Media Relations Office — I’ve had the opportunity to help up-and-coming students learn the business of communications and the logic of why and how certain things are done.”

Notable: In 2010, was recognized by the Law Enforcement Families Partnership/Institute for Family Violence Studies at Florida State for his part in preventing domestic violence in criminal justice families. Received awards for videography and editing from the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), among others.

Have camera will travel: Shot video in Southern California in the early ’90s during a Florida State University Foundation goodwill trip for alumni living there. Shot video in The Gambia and Senegal for 10 days in 1994 as part of a project of former College of Music Professor Larry Farrow to investigate the origins of jazz. “I will never forget the friendliness of the people in both countries.”

Live long and prosper: Is an old-school Trekkie.

After 5: Loves spending time with his wife, Maria (who worked for Florida State more than 20 years), listening to Latin music and working on their 1972 VW Super Beetle.

our graduates have highly successful careers. This measure will most certainly assist us in these areas.”

U.S. News & World Report ranked Florida State as the nation’s most efficient public university in December because of its success in providing students with a quality education despite having fewer financial resources. Florida State also ranks high on the U.S. Department of Education’s “College Scorecard,” which evaluates schools on their affordability and value.

The latest U.S. News & World Report rank-ings place Florida State at No. 42 among the best public universities across the nation. The university developed a comprehensive plan to increase the ranking into the top 25. The proposal calls for an increased state commitment of $75 million divided into $15 million increments over the next five years. The university would match, through philanthropy, the state’s commitment dollar for dollar with targeted investments in four areas: science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives, entrepreneurial programs, career preparation and increased retention and graduation rates. New efficiencies will add to the university’s potential to continue to invest in quality.
Music theorist receives 2013 Distinguished Teacher Award

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With a focus on giving his students hands-on experiences coupled with constructive feedback, music theorist Matthew R. Shaftel sees himself as something of a coach, taking his students through an apprenticeship in musical structure.

“At every stage, my job is to coach students in discovery and critical thinking, and then fade into the background as active learning takes over,” he said.

Shaftel, an associate professor in the College of Music, received the 2013 University Distinguished Teacher Award during the annual Faculty Awards Ceremony April 24. The award includes a $7,500 stipend.

“Matthew Shaftel is a remarkable faculty member in all regards, and I am delighted that his work in the classroom has been recognized with this year’s University Distinguished Teaching Award,” said Don Gibson, dean of the College of Music. “His ability to address the individual needs of his students while presenting abstract concepts in a musically relevant fashion is inspiring.”

And then there is the Theory Beast, Shaftel’s alter ego that never spares the proverbial rod, lest the pupil be spoiled. In addition to warning Shaftel’s students about unannounced pop quizzes and reminding them to bring their musical instruments to class, the Theory Beast is known to break into his office to complete “error detection” exercises for his students, sometimes even sinking his teeth into their assignments.

“Ultimately, I don’t mind his intrusion,” Shaftel said. “After the Theory Beast strikes, I encourage my students to try the assignment again or as many times as necessary. Students not only retain information better when it is acquired through gently guided experience, but they are also able to see the relevance and potential transfer of the information to their individualized pursuits.”

Such student-centered approaches, according to Shaftel, lead to a pursuit of lifelong learning, which ought to be the goal of higher education.

In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, Shaftel has served as director of Florida State’s Music Living-Learning Center in Cawthon Hall since 2010.

“I enjoy weekly advising, mentoring, tutoring and meals with the 170 talented students who live there,” he said.

In addition, Shaftel is serving as the chair of the university’s Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Task Force. Composed of 15 faculty members, the group is charged with overseeing a state-mandated change in the curriculum and
seeks to ensure that Florida State students develop the critical and creative thinking skills that will enable them to thrive both intellectually and materially upon graduation.

Beyond his regular teaching and administrative duties, Shaftel serves as president of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestra, director of music at Good Shepherd Church, and teaches music classes to local retirees through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Florida State.

In service to the music theory community, Shaftel currently serves as president of Music Theory Southeast. In addition, he serves on the editorial board and publications committee of the College Music Society, where he recently rotated off the board of directors. He recently completed four years as editor of MTO, a journal of the Society for Music Theory.

Shaftel earned a doctorate in music theory in 2000, a master’s degree in music theory in 1997 and a bachelor’s degree in music and education in 1995 — all from Yale University. He joined the Florida State faculty in 2001.

FORTY-FOUR HONOREES

Forty-four other outstanding Florida State faculty members were recognized in the following categories during the Faculty Awards Ceremony:

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 will receive a one-time award of $10,000, along with a framed certificate.

This year’s Distinguished Research Professors are: Rufina Alamo (Chemical and Biomedical Engineering), Brad Schmidt (Psychology) and David Whalley (Computer Science).

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, and occupy more senior levels in their respective positions. Examples include the curator, scholar/scientist or research associate. This year’s recipients will receive one-time awards of $10,000 and framed certificates.

The Distinguished University Scholars are: Peter Lee (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) and Dragana Popovic (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory).

DEVELOPING SCHOLAR AWARDS

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

The Developing Scholars are: Meegan Hanson (English), Susan Latt-turner (Chemistry and Biochemistry), William Oates (Mechanical Engineering) and Wei Yang (Chemistry and Biochemistry).

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 $3,000.

The honorees are: Vanessa Dennen (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), Debra Fadool (Biological Science), Robert Hart (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences), Geoffrey Strouse (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Zuoxin Wang (Psychology).

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING AWARDS

Undergraduate Advising Award recipients are nominated by students who have benefitted from their services. These individuals dedicate their time to ensuring that students receive the best possible advice related to their courses.

We hope this recognition rewards faculty members for their dedication and encourages others to invest in undergraduate research.

The inaugural honorees are: Igor Alabugin (Chemistry and Biochemistry), who participated in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and Ashby Plant (Psychology).

Students nominated the winners, who demonstrated a deep and long-term involvement in undergraduate research, including multiple papers and presentations co-authored with undergraduates.

No matter how many Undergraduate Research Mentor Awards are presented each year, one award will be reserved for a faculty member who participates in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

To learn more, visit www.our.fsu.edu.
and their career choices. Recipients also receive $2,000.

The honorees are: Will Leparulo (FAMU-FSU College of Engineering) and Fabian Tata (Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement, Undergraduate Studies).

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. Faculty members are nominated by students in the Honors in the Major program for this award. It comes with a $2,000 stipend.

The honorees are: Wu-Min Deng (Biological Science) and Jon Maner (Psychology).

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS

The Undergraduate Teaching Award recognizes faculty members for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Recipients must be outstanding in the many aspects of teaching that contribute to successful teaching and learning. This is a student-oriented award with nominations submitted by students and alumni. Each recipient also receives a $2,000 award.

The honorees are: Jennifer Atkins (School of Dance), Eric Coleman (Political Science), Nancy de Grummond (Classics), James Dever (Management), Roberto Fernandez (Modern Languages and Linguistics), Adam Gaiser (Religion), Michele Garber (Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences), Eric Klassen (Mathematics), Feng Lan (Modern Languages and Linguistics), Dennis Moore (English), Richard Morris (School of Communication Science and Disorders), William Parker (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences), Amy Polick (Psychology, Panama City Campus), Nancy Rogers (Music), Jonathan Sheppard (History), Katie Showman (Economics), Phyllis Underwood (School of Teacher Education), Jeanne Wanzek (School of Teacher Education/Florida Center for Reading Research), Thomas Welsh (School of Dance) and James Wooland (Mathematics).

GRADUATE TEACHING AWARDS

The Graduate Teaching Award recognizes faculty for excellence in graduate 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 also receives a $2,000 award.

The honorees are: Michael Buchler (Music), Laurel Fulkerson (Classics), Young-Suk Kim (School of Teacher Education/Florida Center for Reading Research), David Landau (Law) and Alfred Mele (Philosophy).
Chemist elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Alan G. Marshall, one of Florida State’s most distinguished researchers, was recently elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, joining 197 other fellows and foreign honorary members in the Class of 2013.

“It is indeed humbling to join a fellowship that started with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin and whose current chemist members include several of my own mentors,” Marshall said. “I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of my 150 present and former research group members for their creative and penetrating advances in both instrumental techniques and applications ranging from petroleum to proteins. What keeps us going is the desire to see what’s around the next scientific corner.”

Marshall, world-renowned for his pioneering work in co-inventing and developing Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance (FT-ICR) mass spectrometry — a revolutionary chemical analysis technique — is director of the university’s Ion Cyclotron Resonance Program at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

“Alan Marshall is one of the nation’s leading analytical chemists, whose research has a broad impact, from pure chemistry to biomedicine to analyzing the properties and composition of petroleum,” said Tim Logan, chair of Florida State’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. “He is very deserving of this award, which recognizes national leaders in all fields of science, the arts and humanities. We are extremely fortunate to have a scientist of the caliber of Alan Marshall at Florida State.”

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences will formally welcome the Class of 2013 Oct. 12 during an induction ceremony in Cambridge, Mass. The academy, whose entire membership includes more than 250 Nobel Prize laureates and 60 Pulitzer Prize winners, is composed of accomplished leaders in education, business, public affairs, the humanities and the arts. Founded in 1780, it is an independent policy research center that conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems.

At Florida State, Marshall holds the titles of Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, Kasha Professor of Chemistry and Distinguished Research Professor.

In addition, Marshall is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
Collaboration to help librarians serve those with autism spectrum disorders

By Bob Branciforte
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Florida State has received a $573,554 grant award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for a collaborative project between the PALM Center at the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) and the Autism Institute at the College of Medicine.

Project PALS (Panhandle Autism Library Services) is a two-year program to improve information services for rural library patrons who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Because libraries are low-stress, structured places that offer resources to participate in self-directed learning, connect with others and explore employment, they have been identified as excellent environments for those with ASD. However, there is no research and little information to ensure that this growing, underserved population will be successful in library settings.

Funded by the IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program and led by faculty at two schools within the College of Communication and Information, Project PALS will develop and offer four research-based, professional development modules that will teach librarians how to better serve patrons with ASD.

Project co-directors Nancy Everhart (SLIS) and Juliann Woods (School of Communication Science and Disorders) are both national leaders in their respective fields, known for their research in the evaluation of programs.

Everhart, who is director of the PALM (Partnerships Advancing Library Media) Center, will lead the management and implementation of the project, which includes consultants and advisers at Florida State’s Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, the Panhandle Library Access Network, the Scotch Plains (New Jersey) Public Library’s “Libraries and Autism: We’re Connected” project, Syracuse University’s Project ENABLE, and others.

Woods, associate director for research and practice at the Autism Institute, will lend her expertise from the development of the Autism Navigator, a web-based, early-detection tool that aids service providers in recognizing and serving children with ASD. She will be integrally involved in the development and field-testing of an Autism Navigator for Librarians to ensure its maximum effectiveness.
Seminole Productions Executive Director Mark Rodin will be honored by the Sports Video Group with its 2013 College Sports Summit Pioneer Award in Atlanta on May 29.

Rodin, during the past 20 years at Florida State, has developed a reputation throughout the sports video industry as a forward-thinking risk taker who is always on the cutting edge of broadcast technology and video production. In fact, Rodin is pioneering the use of 3-D stereo video for coaching and sports production.

“We are very proud of the work Mark does with Seminole Productions and truly believe his 2013 SVG College Sports Summit Pioneer Award is well deserved,” said Athletic Director Randy Spetman. “Mark is at the forefront of his profession and continues to push the envelope as we have seen recently with his use of 3-D technology for not only production but also to help with coaching.”

College of Communication and Information Dean Larry Dennis echoed Spetman’s sentiments about Rodin, who is a faculty member in that college.

“Mark has been a leader and a pioneer in many ways,” Dennis said. “Not only did he build Seminole Productions into one of the nation’s best sports media programs, but he was able to leverage his work for FSU’s sports programs to create one of the top sports broadcasting educational programs in the country. And more recently he has helped the college create the very first 3-D television educational program in the world.”

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The Source
News from Human Resources

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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 9.1,” “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 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 under “New Employee Information.”

More information: (850) 644-8724.

>>BE FEATURED ON ‘NEO’ WEB PAGE: Employees interested in being featured on the redesigned New Employee Orientation Web page should email a recent headshot, a one- or two-sentence statement of why Florida State is a great place to work, their department name and their number of years at the university to Megan Darris at mld08j@fsu.edu. There is no deadline because the information will be solicited throughout the year.

>>GARNET AND GOLD TOASTMASTERS: This organization provides a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills. Open to faculty, staff and students. Guests are welcome. Meetings take place Tuesdays (with the exception of those that follow a university “Monday” holiday) from 11 a.m. to noon at the Human Resources Training Center, 493 Stadium Place.

To view a map, by visit www.hr.fsu.edu.

BENEFITS

>>NEW-HIRE BENEFITS HELP SESSIONS: The Benefits Office will conduct biweekly help sessions for new employees Tuesday, May 7, and Tuesday, May 21, from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Human Resources Training Room, A6244 University Center. All new employees are urged to view the online New Employee Orientation before attending the help sessions.

More information: (850) 644-4015, or insben@fsu.edu.

>>SEMINOLE SAVINGS: Designed exclusively for Florida State faculty and staff members, this employee discount program offers discounts on products and services at businesses serving their diverse needs and interests. To visit the Seminole Savings Web page, go to www.hr.fsu.edu and click on “Benefits for Faculty and Staff.”

More information: David Desue, (850) 644-5726 or insben@fsu.edu.

>>FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013 RETIREES: George Blakely, Art Department; Valerie Bradham, Information Technology Services; Delvonia Brandon, Residence Halls; Mack Coleman, Laboratory Animal Resources; Swilley Davis, Facilities Maintenance; Deborah Frank, College of Nursing; Martha Little, Office of Inspector General Services; Joan Mahaffey, Developmental Research School Administration; Patrick Maroney, Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies; Max Moody, Public Safety; Michelle Scalera, Ringling Center for the Arts; and Freddie Weston, Building Services.

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RECOGNITIONS

Maclain Benton, C.P.A. (University Housing), was recognized in the “Top 26 Under 36” listing of notable, young certified public accountants by Florida CPA Today magazine, March-April. The recognition by the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants lauds its young members for their notable accomplishments to the organization, the profession and their communities. Benton oversees the finance, accounting and budget functions for a $40 million operation that provides housing for more than 7,000 Florida State students.

BYLINES

Susanne Cappendijk, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, “Nicotine Kinetics in Zebra Finches in vivo and in vitro,” with graduate student William Perry, which as been accepted for publication by the journal Drug Metabolism and Disposition.


PRESENTATIONS

Jeanette DeDiemar, Ph.D. (University Communications), made a presentation at the annual Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Counselors to Higher Education (CHE) Senior Summit, which was themed “Strategic Leadership in a Time of Disruption: Helping your Team and Your Institution Gain Relevance,” in Washington, D.C., April 18. DeDiemar, who also served as a member of the conference committee, co-presented “The ‘Real’ Roles of CHE Members: Are They Technicians or Strategists?” where she shared research related to the roles, perceptions and shifting responsibilities of university marketing and communications professionals.


Diane Higgins (Information Technology Services) made a presentation, “A New Face for Identity Management: Architecting an Improved Solution for Identity Management...

David L. Perry (University Police) and Jeanine Ward-Roof, Ph.D. (Student Affairs; Dean of Students), made a presentation, “Fostering Safety Through Collaborative Relationships,” at a meeting of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, March. In addition, Perry participated in a working group of 35 professionals from law enforcement, legal practice, education, security, mental health and medicine to discuss strategies to prevent incidents of mass casualty violence through smarter information sharing during the National Summit on Multiple Casualty Violence: Strategic Approach to Information Sharing, hosted by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga., April 9-11. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Division of Public Safety Leadership at Johns Hopkins University.


GRANTS

The University Police Department received a $35,000 bicycle safety education grant from the Florida Department of Transportation to enhance its BEEP (Bicycle Education Enforcement and Pedestrian) Program. The money will pay for bicycles for law enforcement officers to use for patrol, as well as helmets, lights and other promotional gear for students. In addition, the Police Department also received a $200,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security through its partnership with the Regional Domestic Security Task Force for a new emergency notification platform. The desktop tool will be available for download to anyone who desires to receive emergency notification messages from the Police Department.
Faculty researchers honored at Research Recognition Dinner

By Tom Butler
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

This year's Research Recognition Dinner helped shine a spotlight on Florida State's amazing faculty who spend countless hours working to expand the knowledge of the world around us and discover new ways to improve people's lives.

Hosted jointly by the university’s Office of Research and the Council on Research and Creativity, the annual spring event brought together hundreds of researchers and administrators, all eager to network with one another, learn about the different research in which their peers are engaged, and hear from the Office of Research's relatively new vice president, Gary K. Ostrander.

"Florida State’s faculty researchers are constantly at work trying to make a difference in our world, and it is important to step back for a minute and recognize them for their contributions," Ostrander said. "Without their efforts, FSU could not have achieved the success it has, and I am truly honored to be a part of this wonderful and collaborative research community.”

The event also featured a captivating presentation by eco-artist and photographer Chris Jordan (www.chrisjordan.com), who shared samples of his work with attendees to help raise awareness of the vast amounts of waste humanity produces. Whether it is the two million plastic beverage bottles used in the U.S. every five minutes, or the one million plastic cups used on airline flights every six hours, Chris’ imagery helped emphasize the point that new approaches and new ways of thinking are needed if we are to preserve our planet for future generations.

“While Chris brought us a message of awareness, he also reaffirmed just how important our researchers are to working through and solving these types of large-scale issues,” Ostrander said.

To view photos, visit www.research.fsu.edu/dinner/2013/page1.html.