An Open Letter from the President

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As the 2013-2014 academic year begins — my fourth as president of Florida State University — we are embarking on a new era as one of the state’s two pre-eminent universities.

Our new pre-eminent status, which was ratified by the Florida Board of Governors June 10, is a result of our meeting a broad set of standards of excellence. There is no question that Florida State was able to obtain this designation because of the hard work of an outstanding faculty and dedicated staff.

I salute each of you for your contributions to this landmark achievement.

As always, I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with our newest faculty and staff members. Their talent and expertise will help guide our efforts toward greater excellence. They include Kyle Clark, new vice president for Finance and Administration; Patricia Flowers, new dean of the College of Music; Peter Weishar, new dean of the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance; Stan Wilcox, new director of Intercollegiate Athletics; and Judith McFetridge-Durdle, who will begin her tenure as dean of the College of Nursing in December.

As we begin this new academic year, let’s continue to do everything we can to move this university forward, advancing its reputation as one of the nation’s best public graduate and research institutions.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Barron
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“I don’t think that will be a substitute for building an adequate revenue base so we can have the kind of economy we need.”

— Larry Polivka, executive director of the Claude Pepper Center at Florida State, as quoted Aug. 13 in the Herald-Tribune. Polivka was discussing how Florida’s wealthy baby boomer retirees can only give a measure of help to the state economy by adding to property tax revenues.

From 2015 to 2030, the state’s population of residents 65 and older is projected to grow by 88 percent.

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People with disabilities who require special accommodation for any event listed in State should call the unit sponsoring the event, or for the hearing or speech impaired, use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Requests for accommodations must be received at least five working days before the event. To receive State in an alternative format, call the FSU Student Disability Resource Center at (850) 644-9566.

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www.fsu.edu/tag
Building bridges
Dean hopes trip to Germany will yield future opportunities for Florida State graduate students

By Jeffery Seay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Nancy Marcus, dean of The Graduate School, spent six days in June with a group of 20 educators from throughout the United States and Canada touring German universities to learn about educational opportunities in that country. The German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) sponsored the trip.

“This program caught my eye because I’ve been interested in trying to promote more international opportunities for Florida State graduate students,” Marcus said. “There is so much focus on undergraduates getting international experience. The fact of the matter is there are a lot of graduate students who haven’t had the opportunity to study abroad — to conduct their research, but also learn another culture. I think that is so important today because we live in a global society.”

The group met in Berlin on a Sunday evening. On Monday morning, their first stop was a visit to the DAAD office where they learned about its program from top administrators.

“Germany puts millions and millions of dollars into higher education and to promote German higher education to other countries,” Marcus said.

Most German academic institutions are public and 97 percent of students in Germany attend those institutions because the tuition is free. It also is free to foreign students.

“Several of us in the group asked about that and whether there was any desire to charge tuition, especially for international students,” Marcus said. “They said no. Apparently, the question comes up periodically, but they feel pretty strongly to keep things as they are.”

In listening to presentations from representatives from institutions such as Humboldt University and the Free University, the group learned about the differences between German doctoral programs and those in North America.

“In many places, their system is such that you apply to work with a faculty member, but the institution may not even know you are a student. So you work on your project and when you’re ready, you defend with your professor and you get your doctoral degree,” she said.

This somewhat haphazard system is gradually being changed by the younger generation who came up through the ranks of higher education in places like the United States — where graduate schools know who their students are.

“So there is funding in Germany by the government to support the establishment of graduate schools in institutions,” she said. “They aren’t universitywide in every case, but might be associated with a single college. But they are following a model where students actually apply to the graduate school, they are admitted to the graduate school, there are committees, there is professional development.”

The group also traveled to Bremen and Braunschweig. Marcus, whose academic background is ocean science, also was pleased to learn about MARUM, the Center for Marine Environmental Sciences based at the University of Bremen.

“This particular program supports a modern ocean core repository that serves the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, which is similar to FSU’s Antarctic Core Facility. It was very impressive,” she said. “We also visited an airport associated with the Technical University of Braunschweig that is used strictly for research. It had wind tunnels, flumes and simulators for studying various flight and aeronautical issues.”

Throughout the trip, much discussion centered around opportunities for German students and faculty to come to North America, and for North American students and faculty to go to Germany.

“There is a lot of interest in creating dual-degree and joint-degree programs,” she said. “We heard about examples of such programs already established with universities either here or in Japan, for instance.”

Since returning from the trip, Marcus has made it her mission to meet with Florida State faculty members and deans to inform them of these opportunities.

“You can’t just mandate a collaboration, especially at the graduate or doctoral level,” she said. “It has to come from faculty who have common interests, sharing interests in research, and from that, maybe you develop opportunities for graduate students to go back and forth. That way, they’ll be able to see how research is conducted and learn how people interact and the culture of research in different countries.”

Eventually, these kinds of interactions have a good chance of leading to dual- or joint-degree programs, and at the very least fostering intercultural understanding.

“Anything we can do to help students get these experiences is a positive,” she said.

Marcus also touted the benefits of such programs to Florida State: building a community that promotes more interaction between domestic and international students, and enhancing campus inclusiveness.

To read Marcus’s blog about her trip, visit http://graddeansineurope.wordpress.com/2013/06/18/daad-sponsored-trip-germany-today.
Faculty Luncheon Series will examine ‘Persistence of the Book’

By Gloria Colvin
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Fall 2013 Faculty Luncheon Series, themed “The Persistence of the Book,” will feature Florida State faculty who recently published books. In addition to discussing the subjects of their books, various speakers will address topics such as history of the book, the change from print to digital format, and strategies to facilitate the writing process.

• Tuesday, Sept. 10: François Dupuygrenet-Desrousseilles, director of the interdisciplinary History of Text Technologies program and professor of religion, will lead off the series with a talk on the history of text technology.

• Tuesday, Oct. 8: Walter Tschinkel, Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Biological Science, will discuss his attempts to make diverse scientific topics readable by more than specialists as illustrated by his book on fire ants.

• Tuesday, Nov. 12: Robert Olen Butler, Francis Eppes Professor of English and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will talk about the persistence of books in the digital age.

• Tuesday, Dec. 3: Thomas Joiner, Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology, will conclude the series with a talk on strategies for writing more.

To learn more, contact Gloria Colvin, (850) 645-1680 or gcolvin@fsu.edu.

Faculty Luncheon Series

The series, open to the public, will take place at the Presbyterian University Center, 548 W. Park Ave. Luncheons begin at 12:15 p.m. and the program follows at 12:40 p.m. Lunches are $10 per session or $40 for the series. Reservations for the luncheon are required. Mail reservation requests to the Presbyterian University Center, 548 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, with a check made payable to the Presbyterian University Center and clearly marked “Faculty Luncheon Series.”

In order to pay at the door, contact the center for a reservation at (850) 222-6320 or floridastatepuc@gmail.com. All reservations must be made by the Thursday before each luncheon.

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Research Computing Center provides platform for FSU research

By Megan Del Debbio
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Whether it’s designing more energy-efficient aircraft or exploring the role of social networks in politics, the Research Computing Center is often a key player in supporting groundbreaking research at Florida State.

The Research Computing Center (RCC), previously known as the High Performance Computing Center (HPC), offers a broad base of services that allow Florida State researchers to analyze and store large amounts of data. In addition to high performance computing and data storage, the RCC supports research projects from start to finish with free consulting services covering everything from writing grant proposals to developing complex workflows.

The RCC provides services at subsidized rates to make research affordable to FSU faculty and students. In addition, these robust, in-house research tools are an appealing incentive for researchers.

“New systems are helping us attract world-class faculty and provide current faculty and students the resources they need for groundbreaking research,” said RCC Director James Wilgenbusch.

In the past five years alone, the resources available through RCC have helped fuel more than 1,000 researchers representing five colleges and over 25 departments at FSU. This demand contributed to the decision to rename High Performance Computing to Research Computing Center and move it under Information Technology Services (ITS) in December 2012. As a result, the RCC is gearing up to be better-positioned to support university-wide research projects that place FSU on the leading-edge of discovery.

To learn more, visit the RCC’s new website at http://rcc.fsu.edu.

Applications sought for Lutz Scholarship

USPS and A&P employees who are enrolled as students at Florida State can apply for the Sheila B. Lutz Memorial Scholarship, which provides $1,000 to an eligible employee who is pursuing a degree from FSU. To be eligible, applicants must be Florida State students with:

• Two years of continuous, full-time employment at Florida State in a USPS or A&P line;
• At least 30 semester hours of college/university credit with an overall GPA of 2.5 or better; and
• Acceptance into, or eligibility for acceptance into, a specific degree program at Florida State.

For more information and application materials, visit www.bio.fsu.edu/sheila/index.php.

Application materials are due Monday, Oct. 7, 2013.
By Nicole Brooks
NEWS AND RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS

The new Florida State Coastal & Marine Laboratory research ship RV Apalachee returned from its first extended voyage, collecting more than 400 fishes in the northeastern portion of the Gulf of Mexico to study the effects of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on marine life.

The highlight of the ship’s trip was the first documented Gulf catch of a Greenland shark, a cold-water shark typically found in Arctic waters. The catch will be an invaluable part of the team’s research mission related to investigating the effects of the oil spill.

“No one has ever caught one in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Dean Grubbs, RV Apalachee chief scientist and associate director of the university’s Coastal & Marine Laboratory research.

After a choppy start through rough water that left a few crew members seasick, Florida State’s cutting-edge research vessel proved to be a stable platform during the seven-day expedition, Grubbs said.

“The ship performed great,” he said of the nearly 65-foot-long vessel that hosted Grubbs, Florida State research professor Chip Cotton and graduate student Johanna Imhoff, University of North Florida graduate students Arianne Leary and Amanda Brown, volunteer Allison Ferreira, captain Rosanne Weglinski and assistant captain Hugh Williams.

Their mission was to study deep sea marine communities and examine these animals for exposure to toxins.

This is part of a larger study being conducted by the Deep-C Consortium, led by Florida State University and funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, to understand the impact of the oil spill on the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.

To read the entire story, visit news.fsu.edu.
Medical library faculty receive memberships to academy

The three faculty members on the staff of the College of Medicine’s Charlotte Edwards Maguire Medical Library have been granted membership to the Medical Library Association’s Academy of Health Information Professionals.

Assistant Director Martin Wood was awarded senior membership; Systems Librarian Susan Epstein was awarded member status; and Public Services Librarian Robyn Rosasco was awarded provisional status.

Membership to the Academy of Health Information Professionals is awarded to health information professionals who have distinguished themselves in important areas of professional competency.

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.
Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards: Florida State University employees — both individuals and teams — are encouraged to submit their productivity-increasing or cost-saving work to the 2014 Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards competition.

This year, the Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards nomination system has undergone a full reconstruction. The new system is intended to expedite the nomination process for all involved.

To access the 2014 online nomination system, please visit the Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards program website at [http://dpafoundation.org](http://dpafoundation.org). The staging nomination form is available at the website. The nomination submission system will become available Sept. 2, giving nominators more than a month to work on the application.

To work on an application before submission: download the staging form; collect pertinent data and supporting material; draft all answers; and review for accuracy and thoroughness. Then on Sept. 2, copy and paste each field’s contents from the staging form into the system. Nominations must be approved by the nominee’s supervisor and division head by Monday, Sept. 30, at 5 p.m.

The competition’s winners will be announced March 19, 2014, followed by local and regional award ceremonies during June.

Employees who are interested in submitting a nomination should visit www.hr.fsu.edu to access a brief training on the 2014 Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards nomination system.

More information: Megan Darris, FSU agency awards coordinator, at mld08j@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 644-4579.

Grand Rounds at the College of Medicine: Attorney and author Philip K. Howard will speak during Grand Rounds on Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. in the Thrasher Building auditorium.

Howard, a partner in the New York office of Covington & Burling, founded Common Good (www.commongood.org). Common Good’s philosophy of “offering new ideas to restore common sense to all three branches of government” is exemplified in his best-selling books “The Death of Common Sense,” “The Collapse of the Common Good” and “Life Without Lawyers.” One of the main projects of Common Good is promoting the idea of specialized health courts to handle claims of medical malpractice.

More information: Kelly Gallavan, kelly.gallavan@med.fsu.edu or (850) 645-9451.

Philip K. Howard

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Ewa A. “Ava” Bienkiewicz, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), was awarded the Neutron Sciences Directorate Fellowship to attend the 4th Annual Neutrons in Structural Biology Symposium/Workshop at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, June. Bienkiewicz also has been awarded U.S. Patent No. 8,481,482 for “Prion Protein Based Hemin Binders and Methods of Use,” issued July 9.

Robyn Brock (Dean of Students Department) was selected Greek Life Professional of the Year Award by the Kappa Alpha Order during the fraternity’s 75th Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 2. The award recognized Brock’s strong connection to students and advisers, and her professionalism and national reputation.

James Sampson, Ph.D. (Education), recently received the 2013 Research and Development Award from the Alliance of Career Resource Professionals, an organization that advances the development and distribution of high quality resources that support career development.

Jayaram Sethuraman, Ph.D. (Statistics, emeritus), received the American Statistical Association’s Noether Senior Scholar Award Aug. 6 at the 2013 Joint Statistical Meeting, the largest gathering of statisticians in North America. The award is given annually to a distinguished senior researcher or teacher in nonparametric statistics.

Christie Koontz, Ph.D. (School of Library and Information Studies), co-edited a book, “Marketing Library and Information Services: A Global Outlook,” with Dinesh K. Gupta and Angels Massisimo, published by De Gruyter Saur, 2013. The book highlights a variety of exemplary LIS marketing practices and efforts from around the globe.


Shouping Hu, Ph.D. (Education), recently gave a keynote speech, “Reinventing Undergraduate Education: Improving Student Experiences, Promoting Learning Outcomes,” at the University of Macau. In addition, Hu visited Xi’an Jiaotong University where he made three presentations on top-
Energy Innovation from page 1

“Development of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels that harvest energy from the sun, is undoubtedly crucial toward a sustainable environment on Earth,” Gao said. “I’m focused on understanding how light interacts with certain materials and how electrons migrate across those materials so that we can improve the performance of solar cells to a point where they supplement, and even replace many existing non-renewable energy sources.”

Kenneth Hanson (Assistant Professor – Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry): A former postdoctoral associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hanson’s primary research focus is making new molecules and testing their behavior in solar cells. By manipulating the dyes and structures in these solar cells, he will be able to find out how to make them more efficient, eventually leading to devices that will generate more electricity given the same amount of sunlight.

“I envision my research contributing to the development of efficient, inexpensive solar cells that are seamlessly incorporated into our day-to-day lives,” Hanson said. “Also, the information we gain about the interaction between light and molecules could inform a range of technologies not necessarily related to energy, from photodynamic therapy (using light to treat diseases) to making thinner TV screens.”

Biwu Ma (Associate Professor – Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering): A former staff scientist and principal investigator at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Ma will be developing new types of functional materials with a particular focus on those that can improve solar energy conversion devices, energy storage devices, light emitting devices, transistors and sensors.

“The purpose of my research is to study the underlying chemical and physical properties of new materials so I can better understand how they obtain their unique properties and how affects their performance in certain devices,” Ma said. “Increasing our understanding of these materials will help us design newer, better and more efficient materials for a wide range of technological areas.”

As part of the interdisciplinary nature of the Energy and Materials initiative, the new researchers will combine their different areas of expertise to approach the overall research effort in unique ways, thereby increasing the likelihood of scientific breakthroughs. The researchers also will leverage existing strengths in academic departments in the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Engineering, and interdisciplinary entities such as the Aero-Propulsion, Mechatronics and Energy Center; Center for Advanced Power Systems; High Performance Materials Institute; National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; and FSU’s association as a core partner university with Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

FSU selected these leading researchers from a pool of more than 400 applications and nominations from around the globe, and plans to recruit additional researchers for the initiative over the course of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years.

The researchers also could play a major role in the development, organization and success of new energy-focused, FSU-based spinoff companies, current examples of which include Bing Energy and General Capacitor.

“From grants and contracts that feed local and state economies, to licensing revenue from breakthroughs and inventions, university researchers are a significant economic driver for our nation,” said Gary K. Ostrander, vice president for Research.

“Of course, it takes talent and passion to properly fuel this economic driver, and I’m confident these new additions to the FSU research family will bring those attributes in abundance as they work to improve solar cell technology and its application throughout the world.”

CIA from page 10

ics of new development in higher education research in the United States, college students and student cultures, and publishing in social sciences citation index (CCSI) journals. At Shanghai Jiaotong University, Hu presented on topics of new development in higher education research, the Bright Futures program, student college choice and degree attainment.


Enrichment

Martin Wood, M.S.L.I.S. (Charlotte Edwards Maguire Medical Library), attended the 2013 Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, a one-week intensive course sponsored by the Harvard Institute for Higher Education and the Association of College and Research Libraries. The program is designed for librarians with leadership responsibilities who seek to deepen insights and identify strategies to aid them in meeting the rapidly shifting needs of contemporary academic libraries.

Grants

Branko Stefanovic, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), was awarded a one-year, $100,000 Bankhead-Coley technology transfer grant to research “Controlling Fibrosis to Prevent Hepatocellular Carcinoma,” June 30. The grant is for pre-clinical testing of a novel antifibrotic drug discovered in his laboratory.
Faculty can apply for sabbaticals, professional development leave

SABBATICALS
The University Committee on Faculty Sabbaticals is accepting applications for one-semester sabbaticals at full pay and two-semester sabbaticals at one-half pay from eligible tenured faculty members, as 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 2013-2014 process to be effective during the 2014-2015 academic year. Two-semester sabbatical proposals are reviewed by the same standards as one-semester proposals and are not guaranteed to be granted. For detailed information, visit the Office for Faculty Development and Advancement's website at www.fda.fsu.edu and click “Faculty Development.” Applications are to be submitted by the applicant through the department chair and academic dean to the vice president for Faculty Development and Advancement, 115 Westcott Building, by Monday, Oct. 7, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVE
The University Committee on the Professional Development Program is accepting applications for professional development leave for one-semester (or the equivalent) at full pay and two-semesters at one-half pay to be awarded during the 2013-2014 process to be effective during the 2014-2015 academic year. Professional development leave is available to eligible non-tenured and non-tenure-earning faculty members and A&P employees who have 3 or more years of service, as covered by the FSU/UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement. For detailed information, visit www.fda.fsu.edu and click “Faculty Development.” Applications are to be submitted by the applicant through their 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 (such as the director of University Libraries) to the vice president for Faculty Development and Advancement, 115 Westcott Building, by Monday, Oct. 7, 2013.