Trustees select Thrasher as president

By Jill Elish
News and Research Communications

The Florida State University Board of Trustees has selected state Sen. John E. Thrasher, an FSU alumnus, to serve as the university’s 15th president.

Thrasher, 70, succeeds Eric J. Barron, who became president in 2010. Provost Garnett S. Stokes has served as interim president since Barron left in April to assume the presidency of Penn State University.

The appointment is subject to approval by the Florida Board of Governors.

“I am honored to have been selected by the Board of Trustees to serve as Florida State University’s next president,” Thrasher said. “I look forward to leading the university to even higher levels of excellence. My goal is to advance the faculty and the research, service and teaching mission of this university. I want Florida State to be the best place for students to receive an education, so they can realize their dreams.”

Thrasher was one of four finalists forwarded to the trustees from the 27-member Presidential Search Advisory Committee. The committee interviewed 11 candidates out of 39 applicants before inviting four finalists back to campus for open forums with students, faculty, staff and community members.

“John’s legislative background coupled with his strong administrative and fundraising skills are an excellent fit for Florida State University, and the Board of Trustees is looking forward to working closely with him to advance the university to even greater national prominence,” said Allan Bense, chair of the Board of Trustees.

Thrasher earned a bachelor’s degree in business from FSU in 1965.

Florida State receives national award for excellence in diversity

By Amy Farnum-Patronis
News and Research Communications

Florida State University’s continuing efforts to move diversity and inclusion to the forefront of the university mission received national recognition as the institution earned INSIGHT Into Diversity’s “Higher Education Excellence in Diversity” (HEED) Award.

The HEED Award recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. INSIGHT Into Diversity is the oldest and largest diversity magazine and website in higher education today.

“Florida State University is proud of its commitment to make diversity and inclusion a campus-wide priority,” said Interim President Garnett S. Stokes. “This award recognizes our dedication to creating and maintaining a diverse campus community that respects differences and values the rich educational environment that evolves through such efforts.”

Florida State embarked on a comprehensive plan to unite efforts for diversity and inclusion in 2007-2008 with the vision of being a university and workplace of choice. The initiative is led by the university’s Champions of Diversity and Inclusion, which includes Stokes and Florida State’s vice presidents and senior staff members.

To read more about this story, visit news.fsu.edu.

Spread the Word

The College of Business’s programs for undergraduates advanced to No. 40 among public universities and No. 62 in the nation among all programs, both public and private, in the 2015 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” ranking.
Faculty & Staff Meal Plans

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“The world is getting warmer, and the additional release of gas would only add to our problems.”

—Jeff Chanton, the John Widmer Winchester Professor of Oceanography, as quoted Sept. 11 by Money Morning discussing an April study issued in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, of which he was a part. The study found that permafrost soil, which usually stays frozen, is thawing and decomposing at an accelerating rate. If this continues, it could lead to five times the current amount of carbon equivalent in the atmosphere.

Be sure to visit the FSU Makes News section of Florida State 24/7 at news.fsu.edu.

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**Hello! Shaundrea L. Lee**

**Job Title:** Undergraduate Circulation Supervisor-Evenings, Strozier Library

**To-do List:** Manages the main circulation desk, which involves supervising student workers and helping patrons with checkouts, and providing information and reference services and some technology assistance.

**Years at FSU:** 11

**Best part of working here:** “Being a lifelong learner, I enjoy the academic environment.”

**Kudos:** Won the 2014 University Libraries USPS Travel Scholarship to attend a circulation conference in Atlanta; received the September 2012 Exemplary Reference Award for Detailed Chat from the Florida Ask A Librarian program.

**Dangle, Snipe, Celly:** “I’m really into hockey, which surprises a lot of people. I follow the Chicago Blackhawks, Boston Bruins, Philadelphia Flyers and Tampa Bay Lightning.”

**Molto delizioso:** Loves to cook anything Italian. “My best dish is chicken parmesan alfredo.”

**Genoa City calling:** Her ringtone is the theme from “The Young and the Restless.”

**Page-turner:** Just finished “The Fault in Our Stars” by John Green. “An awesome, touching read.”
THRASHER, from 1

After leaving Florida State, Thrasher joined the U.S. Army where he received the Army Commendation Medal in Germany and was awarded two Bronze stars for his service in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged as a captain in 1970.

Thrasher then returned to his alma mater to earn a law degree with honors in 1972.

In his political career, Thrasher has served on a school board, in the Florida House of Representatives and in the Florida Senate. His success as a leader, businessman and lobbyist has helped him to develop strong ties within the community.

After working in private law practice in Daytona Beach and Tallahassee for several years, Thrasher returned to Jacksonville to serve as general counsel of the Florida Medical Association, a position he held for 20 years. He also served as “of counsel” to the Jacksonville law firm of Smith, Husley & Busey from 1996-2008. Thrasher was a partner of Southern Strategy Group, a Tallahassee-based governmental relations firm, from 2001 to 2009.

Thrasher’s political career began in 1986 when he was elected to the Clay County School Board where he served as vice chairman, then chairman. From there he would become a state representative in 1992, and he was re-elected without opposition in 1994, 1996 and 1998.

Thrasher was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives in 1998, where he supported legislation such as the "A+ Education Plan" and the largest tax cut in Florida history.

In 2009, Thrasher was elected to the Florida Senate and was subsequently re-elected. He served as chairman for the Republican Party of Florida in 2010.

As senator, Thrasher served as the chair of the Rules Committee and was involved in the Appropriations, Community Affairs, Ethics and Elections, Gaming, Judiciary, Regulated Industries and Joint Legislative Budget Commission committees. He also served on the Appropriations Subcommittees on Education as well as Health and Human Services.

From 2001 to 2005, Thrasher was the first chair of Florida State University’s Board of Trustees. In 2002, Thrasher was a key supporter of legislation that brought funding to the development of FSU’s College of Medicine, and a building there is named in his honor.

Born in Columbia, S.C., Thrasher grew up in Jacksonville after moving to Florida in 1949. He and his wife, Jean, have three children and eight grandchildren.
Faculty can apply for sabbaticals and leave

SABBATICALS: 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 2014-2015 process to be effective in the 2015-2016 academic year. Two-semester sabbatical proposals, 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 website at www.fda.fsu.edu under “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, Westcott 115, by Monday, Oct. 6, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVE: 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 2014-2015 process to be effective in the 2015-2016 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 with three or more years of service. Detailed information is available on the Office of Faculty Development and Advancement website at www.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, such as the director of Libraries, to the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, Westcott 115, by Monday, Oct. 6, 2014.

‘State’ reduces circulation, issues

With a nod to environmental sustainability, University Communications has reduced the circulation and number of annual issues of the State Faculty-Staff Bulletin. The changes went into effect in July.

The new circulation plan gives individually addressed copies to deans, directors and department chairs. All other employees have access on a first-come, first-served basis with 10 copies delivered to each of the campus’s 250 mail stops. This plan has reduced the number of copies per issue from 6,100 to 3,300.

The number of annual issues has been reduced from 16 to 12, making State a monthly publication.

For more information, visit unicomm.fsu.edu/news/state, or call Jeffery Seay, editor, at (850) 644-0277.
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"When We Unite as One, We Change the Story of Many"

United Way Employee Campaign under way

Each year, Florida State employees and retirees show great compassion for their neighbors in need by generously donating to the FSU United Way Employee Campaign, benefitting the United Way of the Big Bend.

The 2014 campaign kicked off on Oct. 1 and continues through Tuesday, Dec. 16. This year’s campaign theme, “When We Unite as One, We Change the Story of Many,” is intended to remind employees that there is no better way to help a great number of people in need than by giving through the United Way.

With more than 40 agencies serving eight counties in the Big Bend, the financial support provided by the fundraising efforts of the United Way of the Big Bend is critical to meeting the vast needs of the area. Florida State employees and retirees exceeded last year’s fundraising goal of $400,000, and campaign organizers are confident that the university community will witness yet another successful year of Seminole support toward meeting FSU’s 2014 goal of $405,000.

Department campaign coordinators are in the process of distributing 2014 pledge forms to all faculty and staff. Employees who have not received a pledge form should contact their department campaign coordinator or visit the campaign Website at http://hr.fsu.edu/FSUEmployeeUnitedWayCampaign for a printable version.

As an incentive for employees to turn in their donations quickly, prize drawings will be held throughout the campaign. The earlier pledge forms are returned, the more drawings employees will be eligible to participate in.

For more details about the United Way of the Big Bend, including a list of agencies that receive funding, visit www.uwbb.org. For questions about the FSU United Way Employee Campaign, visit the campaign Website or contact Sandra Dixon or Amber Pursley at liveunited@fsu.edu.

WFSU's Shades of Ireland tour set for March

WFSU is offering a 10-day tour of Ireland this March, and those who sign up by Oct. 31 will save $250 per person.

Shades of Ireland, a tour of the Emerald Isle with stops in Dublin, Waterford, Killarney and Limerick, takes place from March 8 to 17. The tour will visit numerous historic sites, including Blarney Castle and St. Patrick’s Cathedral, as well as the Cliffs of Moher and the Ring of Kerry, a circular tourist route in County Kerry in southwestern Ireland. The tour also features a stop at the new House of Waterford Crystal.

For rates and other booking details as well as a trip brochure and the registration form, visit wfsu.org/membership/Ireland-trip.

General questions can be directed to Cindy Michelson, (850) 487-3170, Ext. 347, or cmichelson@wfsu.org.

Employees can apply for Lutz Memorial Scholarship

The Department of Biological Science is encouraging USPS and A&P employees who are enrolled as students at Florida State to apply for the Sheila B. Lutz Memorial Scholarship, which provides $1,000 to an eligible employee who is pursuing a degree from FSU. The funds are intended to offset expenses associated with study, such as books, computer hardware and/or software, child care and transportation.

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.

Lutz, a former employee of the Department of Biological Science who died in 1989, earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues by completing her undergraduate degree while working full time in a series of demanding positions on campus and maintaining an active family life. She served as a role model and mentor to numerous employees during her career and encouraged them to pursue their education as well. In order to honor her and the high value she placed on lifelong learning, the Sheila B. Lutz Memorial Scholarship was established by the Department of Biological Science and funded by the contributions of her family, coworkers and friends.

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

Application materials are due Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014.
RECOGNITIONS

Judy Bowers (Music; Choral Music Education), has received the Lowell Mason Fellowship from the National Association for Music Education for her service to music education.

Francis Cairns, Ph.D. (Classics), received an honorary doctor of letters degree from the University of Edinburgh, July. The citation recognized Cairns’ interpretation of Late Republican and Augustan Latin poetry, which is his major research field. The 1972 publication of Cairns’ monograph “Generic Composition in Greek and Roman Poetry” revolutionized Latin studies around the world.

Megan MacPherson, Ph.D. (School of Communication Science and Disorders), received the Editors’ Award from the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research, which published her article, “Influences of Sentence Length and Syntactic Complexity on the Speech Motor Control of Children Who Stutter,” in February 2013. The award, which will be presented at the November 2014 conference of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, recognizes an article that reflects the highest standards in research design, presentation and impact for a given year.

Steven Pfeiffer, Ph.D. (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), and James Sampson, Ph.D. (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems), have been elected fellows of the American Psychological Association.

Jeanette E. Taylor, Ph.D. (Psychology), and Chad Van Iddekinge, Ph.D. (Business; Management), have been selected as fellows of the Association for Psychological Science—an honor given only to the most prominent scientists in the discipline. They were among 26 scholars from around the world who were awarded fellow status this year.

Kathleen Woods (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy) received the Exemplary Public Service Award from the North Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration during a retirement ceremony honoring her 20 years of service to Florida State. The award is presented annually to the public employee in North Florida who has best personified what it means to be a caring and effective public servant.

BYLINES


Alexandra “Xan” Nowakowski, Ph.D., M.P.H. (Medicine; Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine), wrote a paper, “Chronic Inflammation and Quality of Life Among Older Adults: A Cross-Sectional Study Using Biomarkers to Predict Emotional and Relational Outcomes,” about observed net associations between chronic inflammation and quality of life, and the likely social context of these dynamics. It has been accepted for publication in the journal Health and Quality of Life Outcomes. In addition, Nowakowski co-wrote a paper, “Swell Foundations: Fundamental Social Causes & Chronic Inflammation,” with J. Sumerau of the University of Tampa, which will be published in the journal Sociological Spectrum. This manuscript extends and contextualizes work by previous researchers who have used National Social Life, Health and Aging Project data to identify potential causal links between social disadvantage and chronic inflammation.

PRESENTATIONS

Thayumanasamy Somasundaram, Ph.D. (Institute of Molecular Biophysics), gave a talk, “FSU’s IMB Core Facilities and their Capabilities,” during the lightning round presentation at the first Florida Core Facility Network event organized by University of Florida’s ICBR. Representatives from about 25 core facilities throughout the Florida attended the one-day meeting.
Motoko Akiba, Ph.D. (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), and Ian Whitacre, Ph.D. (School of Teacher Education), received a $450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Discovery Research K-12 program to conduct a project, “Identifying an Effective and Scalable Model of Lesson Study.”

Christine Andrews-Larson, Ph.D. (School of Teacher Education), received a $205,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education program to conduct a project, “Collaborative Research: Teaching Inquiry-oriented Mathematics: Establishing Supports.”

Christopher Reenock, Ph.D. (Political Science), and David Konisky of Georgetown University have received a three-year, $230,000 National Science Foundation grant to investigate the environmental consequences of delegating enforcement of federal law to the state-level offices of pollution control agencies. By examining the effects of these regional institutional arrangements on environmental risk outcomes, they will generate information that can be used to evaluate policy prescriptions aimed at mitigating unfavorable or uneven risk levels across society.

Sherry Southerland, Ph.D. (School of Teacher Education), and Christine Andrews-Larson, Ph.D. (School of Teacher Education), received an $800,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Scholarship Program to conduct the “Preparing and Supporting Equitable Teaching Alternatives,” August.

The University Police Department has received a $50,000 Florida Department of Transportation grant for a project, “Preventing Street Racing through Legal Alternatives,” August.

Kelly Whalon, Ph.D. (School of Teacher Education), and Mary Frances Hanline, Ph.D. (School of Teacher Education), received a $935,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs to conduct a project, “ASD-STEM.”

SERVICE

Dean Gatzlaff, Ph.D. (Business), served as the lone expert asked to give tips and insights on various aspects of purchasing real estate for WalletHub.com’s “2014 Best & Worst Cities for First-Time Home Buyers” ranking.


KEY PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

Paul F. Marty, Ph.D., (Communication and Information/ School of Information), was named director of the University Honors Program, effective Aug. 18. Marty, who will continue to serve as a professor in the College of Communication and Information, earned a doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2002.

GRANTS AND PATENTS

Somewhere in north Florida, university is under attack by thousands of evil cyber villains. Danger is growing, and the only thing that stands between the pernicious purveyors of cyber mayhem and total computer domination is YOU!

In today's helter-skelter world of online interactions, transactions and distractions, the risk of identity theft, credit card fraud and other security threats is more widespread than ever. And it’s going to take a superhero effort to battle it.

This October, Florida State University joins in a national effort to promote cybersecurity and privacy by participating in National Cyber Security Awareness Month (#NCSAM). The campaign, sponsored by the Information Security and Privacy Office (ISPO) within Information Technology Services (ITS), challenges faculty, staff and students to don their capes and make a commitment to build a safe cyberspace at FSU.

The campaign intends to educate the campus on safe cybersecurity practices and empower users to learn how to use the Internet safely and securely at work, school and home.

“The cyber-threat landscape is getting worse,” said ITS Director of Information Security and Privacy Mike Russo. “The Internet is a wonderful and empowering tool, but it’s not as safe as you might think. It is very important that individuals understand the dangers and limitations of the online environment and how to protect private information.”

During October, ISPO is hosting several campus events and initiatives to endorse cybersecurity and privacy, and there are a few easy ways to get involved. To get started, visit security.fsu.edu for available online resources:

- Take the Cyber Pledge: Make a commitment to take personal responsibility for online safety at work, school and home.
- Watch online security awareness videos: Watch short videos about Internet safety, mobile devices, passwords, social networking and more for a chance to win a prize.
- Review cybersecurity tips: Browse a list of quick tips and adopt some new, safe online habits.
- Try the phishing email challenge: See if you have what it takes to identify phishing emails.

For more, visit the ISPO website: security.fsu.edu.
TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**NEW WORKSHOPS**: Two new workshops have been added to the Fall Schedule of Training Classes:

**Professional Development Insights**
*Course Number LSPDI1, Session Number 0001*
*8 a.m. to noon, Friday, Oct. 17, Training Center*

Insights® Discovery is an approach for enhancing communication and relationship building. This course provides individuals with an awareness of their personality and preferences for increased self-management and effective interactions with others. Prior to the class, participants complete an “Insights Discovery” assessment and then during the session, they have the opportunity to review their profile results. The course focuses on understanding the Insights® framework, the role perception plays in judgment and decision-making, the individuals themselves, and adapting and connecting with others. It also covers how stress affects performance and its relationship to the Insights® color energies. Presented by Office Depot. Registration is required.

**Taking Control of Your Personal Finances**
*Course Number PDDMC1, Session Number 0001*
*1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 28, Training Center*

This workshop is open to all FSU employees and covers attitudes about money, net worth, income, expenses, tracking income, creating a spending plan, understanding cash flow, and how to save and why it is so important. The workshop is presented by Debt Management Credit Counseling Corp (DMCC). DMCC educates the general public on financial, credit and debt issues in order to promote healthy financial habits. Registration is required.

Other instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to faculty and staff members. To view a schedule of classes and registration information, visit www.hr.fsu.edu/train.

To register for classes, log in to omni.fsu.edu and click in sequence: Human Resources 9.1 > Main Menu > Self Service > Learning and Development > Request Training Enrollment > Search by Course Name, Course Number, Location, or Date. 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**: training@fsu.edu or (850) 644-8724.

**BENEFITS**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT**: The 2015 State of Florida Benefits Open Enrollment period will take place from Oct. 20 to Nov. 7, 2014. Detailed information about 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 (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 have it sent to them by request from the Benefits Office, insurance@fsu.edu.

**More information**: www.hr.fsu.edu.

**BENEFITS & WELLNESS FAIR**: The 14th Annual Benefits & Wellness Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the Oglesby Union Ballroom. Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate and provide information. In addition, representatives from the state group insurance plans and the university’s Benefits Office will be in attendance to answer questions about Open Enrollment.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE AND INSURANCE COVERAGE**: A leave of absence may have an effect on deductions to employee benefits. To ensure that there are no lapses in insurance coverages, employees who take a leave of absence for any reason should contact the Benefits Office at (850) 644-4015 or benefits@fsu.edu within 60 days of the start date.
“Poetry is about the grief, Politics is about the grievance.”
— Robert Frost

If your contract with Florida State University is violated and you want more than poetic justice, you’ll need to file a grievance. The United Faculty of Florida and its state and national affiliates are there to provide you with professional representation through university proceedings and, if necessary, the judicial system. But UFF provides representation only if you are already a UFF member. Everyone in the faculty bargaining unit has the right to file an individual grievance over a contract violation.

If you are not a UFF member at the time of the alleged contract violation, then you must represent yourself in the grievance investigation and proceedings, or retain an attorney.

You do not automatically become a UFF member when you become a faculty member. You must complete a membership form and submit it to UFF in order to become a member.

Your contract is your best protection in these times of legislative mandates and administrative restructuring. But its strength comes from enforcement. UFF has trained professionals who specialize in contract enforcement.

Join UFF and let UFF work for you ... for a better workplace and a better FSU.

UFF dues are 1% of regular salary. Please fill out the form below and return it to:
Jack Fiorito, Vice President UFF-FSU Chapter, RBB 244, P.O. Box 3061110, Tallahassee 32306-1110

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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.

Signature (for payroll deduction authorization)  Today’s date
Visit the UFF-FSU Chapter Web site at http://www.uff-fsu.org  FSU Works Because We Do!
City Year ranks FSU among top 10 feeder schools

Florida State University’s deep commitment to preparing students for civic leadership and service was reaffirmed by a ranking of top feeder schools for City Year, a national organization that unites young people for a year of service in more than 250 low-performing schools across the country.

With 22 recent graduates joining in 2014-2015, Florida State ranks No. 10 among universities producing City Year corps members.

“A dedication to community is instilled in students when they attend Florida State,” said Steve Mills, associate director of the Center for Leadership and Social Change at Florida State. “Participation in programs like City Year is an extension of their education as an FSU student. It helps complete their awareness of community issues.”

City Year, an AmeriCorps program, partners with public schools and teachers to help keep students in school and on track to succeed. Corps members provide individual support to students who need extra care and attention, focusing on attendance, behavior and course performance through in-class tutoring, mentoring and afterschool programs.

City Year cannot only improve outcomes at the schools it serves, but the experience also can be incredibly transformative for corps members and help propel them to continue in a life of service.