Myrick named 2015 employee of the year

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Known as a competent and caring professional who consistently goes above and beyond what is expected or required in the performance of her job, Chandra Myrick has been selected as the 2015 Max Carraway Employee of the Year.

Myrick, who has served as the associate director for the Office of Residence Life in University Housing since 2011, said receiving the award was an “absolute honor.”

“I am not in this work for awards and recognition,” Myrick said. “My gratification truly comes from the development and accomplishments of our students and the staff that works so closely with our students.

“I am completely humbled to be recognized with this award,” she said. “I will continue to strive to do my best to make a lasting impact on the university, the Division of Student Affairs, University Housing and the students we serve.”

As the Carraway Award recipient, Myrick will receive a $1,000 stipend, a reserved parking space for one year and two tickets to sit in the President’s Box during a football game this fall.

When the school day is over, Florida State’s residence halls are home to more than 6,300 students — a population larger than that of nearby Monticello and Crawfordville combined.

Far from leaving them to their own devices, Residence Life proactively engages students in programs geared to develop them into well-rounded people. These programs cover things such as leadership development, conflict resolution, multicultural awareness and time-management and communication skills.

State’s residence halls are home to more than 6,300 students — a population larger than that of nearby Monticello and Crawfordville combined.

When it comes to the three-horned dinosaur called the Triceratops, science is showing the ancient creatures might have been a little more complex than originally thought.

In fact, their teeth were far more intricate than any reptile or mammal living today.

Biological science Professor Gregory Erickson and a multiuniversity team composed of engineers and paleontologists contend that the Triceratops developed teeth that could finely slice through dense material giving them a richer and more varied diet than modern-day reptiles.

Erickson and the team outlined the findings of their study in the journal Science Advances.

Today, reptilian teeth are constructed in such a way that they are used mostly for seizing food — whether plant or animal — and then crushing it. The teeth do not occlude — or come together — like those of mammals. In essence they can’t chew. The teeth of most herbivorous mammals self wear with use to create complex file surfaces for mincing plants.

“It’s just been assumed that dinosaurs didn’t do things like mammals, but in some ways, they’re actually more complex,” Erickson said.

Erickson, who has been studying the evolution of dinosaurs for years, became interested in looking at dinosaurs’ teeth several years ago and suspected that they...
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“Promise yourself that before you make a high-stakes decision, you’ll ask yourself, ‘What would so-and-so do?’”

— Thomas Joiner, the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Florida State, as quoted June 3 in Men’s Health discussing how to change a cynical outlook into an optimistic one. Joiner says cynics should find a successful, happy friend to serve as a behavioral and attitudinal mentor. If they follow their mentor’s lead, their cynical behaviors and attitudes should begin to change over time.

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

Hello!
Matthew Miguez

Job title: Metadata librarian, University Libraries

To-do list: Halfway between a computer programmer and a library cataloger, works primarily with the FSU Digital Library, searching for opportunities to improve access to and the use of the university’s digital collections.

Kudos: Was nominated as a member of the Beta Phi Mu International Library and Information Studies Honor Society.

Restoration in the Big Easy: As an undergraduate, worked for a mom and pop contractor in New Orleans that specialized in historic restoration. “We worked exclusively on homes. Some were 1880-1900 tradition New Orleans shotguns. Others were 1920-1940 art deco homes in Lakeview. I still like working with wood, but now it’s mostly refinishing furniture.”

Bike chains set him free: Is an avid cyclist who really enjoys biking on fire roads in protected forests. “I’ve been exploring Apalachicola a lot. And I like working on bikes almost as much as riding them. I’m up to four, but I’m not sure that’s enough yet!”


Some light summer reading: Is currently working on “The Master and His Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World” by Iain McGilchrist, “Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage” by Haruki Murakami and “Smut: An Anatomy of Dirt” by Christian Enzensberger.
Parents like to tell their kids, “Don’t be a quitter!” But when it comes to using tobacco, quitting is a good thing.

Three Florida State University employees — John Willis, Brian Moore and Robby McSmith — now can proudly call themselves quitters of tobacco. Each one had a reason to quit. But as the university geared up to become a tobacco-free campus at the beginning of 2014, the three tobacco users got motivated to take advantage of the tobacco-cessation programs offered by University Health Services and find the support they needed to actually become quitters.

Each one has been tobacco-free for about two years.

JOHN WILLIS

Smoking even a little bit, relatively speaking, was beginning to be a problem for John Willis.

“I wasn’t a big smoker,” said Willis, 51, a custodial supervisor with Facilities Maintenance who covers the Fine Arts Building, the Fine Arts Annex and the Lab Theater. “It was more like a ‘whenever I’d hang out with the guys’ type of deal. I got hooked working construction jobs. You know, every time you get a break, you have a cigarette between your fingers.”

Though he only smoked Newport cigarettes on and off for less than 10 years, Willis began to notice shortness of breath.

“I was having a hard time getting up and down steps,” Willis said. “That’s when I figured it had to be the cigarettes.”

Willis decided to start a cessation program through University Health Services in the spring of 2013 after meeting with a tobacco treatment specialist with the Health Promotion Department.

“The information she gave me really solidified the dangers and that quitting was possible,” Willis said. “That’s when I was really like, ‘OK, this is it.’ I guess I just needed to talk to someone who had a good perspective on it.”

Though the program provided lots of good information and support, quitting
wasn’t easy.

“The urge to smoke was more a psychological thing,” he said. “After you eat or do some type of work — that’s when you really want a cigarette. My body didn’t want it. When I’d get a cigarette, I’d be like, ‘Why am I smoking this thing?’”

Stress from major events such as a death in the family can be a trigger to go back to smoking. On his journey to quit, Willis experienced two.

“We had a death on my side of the family and one on my wife’s side,” Willis said. “We would get kind of shaken there for a minute. So I would pick up a cigarette, but I came back around and just realized it wasn’t for me.

“You’ve got to do whatever it takes to quit,” he said. “You just can’t let situations drive you back to the cigarettes, you know?”

Willis completed his cessation program in 2015 and the results speak for themselves. He says the craving to smoke after he works or eats just isn’t there anymore. He also has found time for exercise, walking off about 15 pounds. But perhaps the biggest benefit is his wife’s reaction to his quitting.

“My wife enjoys kissing me more. She says before it was like kissing an ashtray. I didn’t realize what she was going through. She wasn’t a smoker. I’d come in the house and (the cigarette smell) would fill the house.

BRIAN MOORE

Starting socially with friends at age 16, Brian Moore smoked cigarettes for 20 years. Mainly Marlboros and Camel Lights.

“I averaged probably a pack a day, sometimes more, sometimes less,” said Moore, 38, an AIM space consultant with Facilities Information Technology who maintains volumes of physical space data to serve the needs of various university departments and satisfy reporting requirements to the Board of Governors.

Even though he could tell his habit was affecting his physical fitness and he had known of family members who smoked and died from cancer over the years, Moore was not seriously challenged to quit until he was 32.

“My workplace went smoke free and I realized how addicted I was just trying to make it through a workday without having one,” he said. “Having a smoke was the last thing I did before work and the first thing I did after and that’s when I really started to see my habit as a problem.”

After starting work at Florida State in October 2012, Moore learned of the university’s tobacco-free campus policy.

“That policy keeps you away from smoking. By the time you get home, you really don’t want one,” he said.

ROBBY MCSMITH

Over 40 years of using smokeless tobacco, Robby McSmith became so addicted to nicotine that he eventually graduated to keeping snuff in his mouth while he slept.

“I wound up using two cans a day and, for five years, I dipped overnight,” said McSmith, 52, a skilled trades worker with Facilities Maintenance. “When I went to bed, I put in a dip. It was bad.”

There was also the hit to McSmith’s billfold. One can of snuff — Copenhagen was his brand — costs roughly $7.

“I knew I should quit all along,” he said. “I didn’t really quit until after I got a divorce and my money got short. I had to change.”

Over the years, McSmith had tried and failed to quit on his own, usually giving up after no more than half a day. Then he decided to sign up for the university’s Quit Smoking Now program in June 2013 and, through the program’s counseling, educational materials and smoking cessation aids, he finally started to get a handle on the habit.

“When (tobacco treatment specialists Lynn Vinson and Kevin Frenetz) started working with me, they really helped me,” McSmith said. “They gave me nicotine gum, lozenges and patches, and I got a prescription for a medication to help me stop. That slowed me way down — it made me not want to dip.”

To help with the psychological aspects of quitting, McSmith also used herbal snuff — the fake stuff.

“It doesn’t have any tobacco or nicotine,” he said. “In terms of taste, it wasn’t what I was used to, but it just puts something in my mouth just to help me.”

McSmith also found support from a fellow smokeless tobacco user in the class.

“All of it together helped,” said McSmith, who hasn’t touched smokeless tobacco in two years and feels certain that he has finally quit for good.

“My friends are glad for me and I’m saving my money now instead of spitting it out on the ground!”

The next Quit and Be Free workshop will be held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 14, in the Health and Wellness Center, Room 2500. To register, log in to OMNI and click in sequence: “Human Resources,” “Self Service,” “Learning and Development” and “Request Training Enrollment.” Use course No. PDQBF-0007 and session No. 0007.

For information on Quit and Be Free or Quit Smoking Now:
• (850) 644-8871 or (850) 645-9710
• tobaccofree@fsu.edu
• www.tobaccofree.fsu.edu

The BIG 3 Risk Factors of Tobacco Relapse

No. 1: Dealing with stress
No. 2: Drinking alcohol
No. 3: Being around other smokers

STATE • JULY 2015 • 5
The Finance and Administration Partnership Program successfully completed its latest nine-month staff development program in May.

The program united academic and administrative professionals within the university to provide an environment where they were encouraged to grow professionally and personally. It also allowed participants to develop and offer new ideas and solutions on current topics, share information from their prior work experiences and provide opportunities to be responsible and empowered.

The topics that were presented and discussed during the series were morale, criticism, changing models of leadership, lying in the workplace, negotiations and efficiency versus effectiveness. The group also participated in a team debate on whether all Americans have the right to health care.

In addition to the meetings, several lunch and learn events were hosted to allow the participants an opportunity to meet senior administrators and gain valuable feedback on professional growth and career development. The featured administrators were Caryn Beck-Dudley, dean, College of Business; Kyle Clark, vice president for Finance and Administration; and Mary Coburn, vice president for Student Affairs.

Clare Harrison, one of this year’s participants, enjoyed the program because of topics that were discussed and the critical thinking involved in the discussions.

“I feel like I gained an insight into how my colleagues around the university think and handle situations, and it has helped me to learn and grow,” Harrison said.

She also appreciated the “phenomenal” opportunities to network.

“You can’t beat the contacts that have come as a result of the program,” Harrison said. “No matter what situation I might be in, chances are I know someone personally around campus that I can call for help.”

Cassandra Rayne Gross, another participant, praised the program for the professional relationships and understanding it fosters.

“I would definitely recommend the program to staff members wishing to strengthen their understanding of FSU, develop new relationships with colleagues at all experience levels, and hone their leadership skills,” Gross said.

Echoing Harrison and Gross, participant Anthony McDonald found value in the program as a forum to network with peers and an environment that allows critical thinking and leadership development.

“You will be challenged but have a rewarding experience at the same time,” McDonald said. “It is a lot of fun, too!”

The 2015-2016 Partnership Program will accept applications through Aug. 15 from Administrative and Professional staff members as well as faculty administrators throughout campus. To view the application form and learn more about the program, visit www.vpfa.fsu.edu/Partnership-Program.

To learn more about the upcoming Partnership Program series, call Angela Gaskins at (850) 644-8346 or send an email to ahgaskins@fsu.edu.
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Down on the farm: A real world approach to literacy

By Amy Farnum-Patronis
News and Research Communications

George Boggs is always looking for different ways for literacy to serve practical goals. His latest endeavor has turned a piece of empty land into an entrepreneurial classroom.

Boggs, an assistant professor in the College of Education’s School of Teacher Education, and his students have provided ongoing mentoring and academic support efforts for 50 Large, a gang prevention initiative by Leon County Schools.

50 Large was established in 2009 by a Gang Free Schools and Communities Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention with the focus of changing lives by inspiring hope, molding character, teaching responsibility and providing “real” economic opportunity.

With an academic piece already in place, 50 Large coordinators sought out Boggs’ help in implementing a workforce development component for the program. And so, the idea to convert residential land in Tallahassee into an incubator for food and agriculture-related businesses was born.

“That fit really nicely with my research efforts and how literacies help people solve real problems in their lives,” Boggs said.

A year ago, Boggs and select participants of 50 Large began cultivating the land into a fully functioning farm. Through the project, participants are developing skills in marketing, STEM fields and interpersonal communication. In March, 50 Large sold produce they had planted, tended, picked, packaged and priced at the opening of the Frenchtown Heritage Market.

“The idea with the farm project was to have a very malleable space where adolescents could make some decisions and take things in a direction that really isn’t the way most reform schools or alternative schools or most high schools are arranged,” Boggs said.

50 Large members such as Tyge Williams are taking leadership roles in the project, making money and making decisions on the farm. Participants are learning how to create jobs for themselves in economic growth areas designated by federal, state and local governments.

Through this entrepreneurial enterprise, Boggs is doing hands-on research to discover the kind of programming that works best to facilitate the interests of 50 Large participants.

“This project was inspired by a sense of mutual opportunity as the College of Education and Florida State University promoted an initiative for entrepreneurship,” Boggs said. “I wanted to create an entrepreneurial educational goal for communities at risk for low school achievement.”

At the farm, participants are able to develop a resume and a set of experiences to help them find steady work and inspire future learning.

“If these participants are equipped with this knowledge, it will create a ripple effect and help underdeveloped communities realize their potential,” Boggs said.

The academic partnership Boggs developed with 50 Large has had an influence on not only the participants but also FSU’s teacher education students.

“There is so much to be gained for my undergraduate students coming into the academic tutoring aspect of this,” Boggs said. “It is an opportunity for them to search themselves and enlarge their minds and develop relationships that can strengthen them as teachers.”

Boggs is hoping the farm project also can be beneficial to his education students. He is expecting two doctoral students to enroll and help with it in the fall.

50 Large participants are selling fresh produce via social media and at the Frenchtown Heritage Marketplace in Tallahassee from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

With the support of FSU’s English Education program, 50 Large participants also are developing web platforms to help market their products and tell their stories.

Assistant Professor George Boggs and 50 Large participant Tyge Williams.

BYtheWAY

>>RECEPTION FOR SOCIAL WORK DEAN: The university community is invited to attend a reception to welcome James J. Clark as the new dean of the College of Social Work from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27, in Miller Hall, University Center Building C, third floor.

In his focus on forensic mental health, Clark works at the nexus of the justice, mental health and child welfare systems. He has published in areas of substance abuse, criminal justice and child traumatic stress, and he is currently co-editing books for the American Bar Association on best practices in death penalty mitigation. Prior to joining FSU’s faculty, he served as professor and director of the School of Social Work within the University of Cincinnati’s College of Allied Health Science.
had some unique properties. But, the technology to really discover what they were capable of did not exist.

Fast-forward a few years and engineer Brandon Krick entered the picture.

Krick is an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Lehigh University and specializes in a relatively new area of materials science called tribology. Tribology is the science of how surfaces of materials interact while in motion.

The two of them, accompanied by scientists at the University of Florida, University of Pennsylvania and the American Museum of Natural History, set out to find out what exactly these teeth were made of and how they worked.

Erickson had access to the teeth of Triceratops from museum specimens collected around North America. So, he began by cutting up a bunch of teeth to get a look at the interior.

He discovered that Triceratops teeth were made of five layers of tissue. In contrast, herbivorous horse and bison teeth, once considered the most complex ever to evolve, have four layers of tissue. Crocodiles and other reptiles have just two.

“Each of those tissues does something,” Erickson said. “They’re not just there for looks.”

While Erickson examined the tissue, he also sent samples to Krick to determine what each did and how they worked in concert to allow these animals to slice plants. Krick was able to mimic how plants moved across the teeth by scratching the teeth and measuring the tissue wear rates.

What Krick and his team of engineers, including Lehigh graduate student Mike Sidebottom, found was that the material properties of the teeth were remarkably preserved in 66-million-year-old teeth.

“If you took these dinosaurs’ teeth and put them in a cow for example, they would work,” Erickson said.

A sophisticated three-dimensional model was developed to show how each tissue wore with use in a strategic manner to create a complex surface with a fuller (a recessed area in the middle, much like those seen in fighting knives and swords) on each tooth. This served to reduce friction during biting and promote efficient feeding.

The 3-D wear model developed for this project is inspiring new engineering techniques that can be used for industrial and commercial applications.

“Paleontologists challenged us with an interesting engineering problem, and now, we have a wear model that can be used to design material systems with optimized wear properties and surface features for many applications,” Krick said.

The question that remains is how prevalent complex dental structure was among dinosaurs and other reptiles. Krick and Erickson intend to explore this further by examining other reptilian dental records and structures.

“Residence Life encompasses many aspects of student development beyond the learning that happens in the classroom,” Myrick said. “While we are committed to creating an environment that will help students succeed academically, we also understand the importance of students cultivating skills that will allow them to positively contribute to society beyond their time at FSU.”

With so many students living in close quarters, anything can — and often does — happen. Students often struggle with mental health issues, homesickness or feeling disconnected from the campus community. There are also struggles as students learn how to deal with conflict, particularly for those who are uncomfortable with conflict or are unpracticed in effectively communicating their point of view and negotiating with others in a shared space. Housing staff is there to point them to campus resources that assist them in managing these issues.

“There is not a typical day in Residence Life,” Myrick said.

No words could better describe the events of Nov. 20, 2014, when a gunman opened fire in Strozier Library. In the early-morning hours of that day, the residents in all of FSU’s dorms needed swift reassurance, comfort and protection. Under Myrick’s leadership, housing staff ensured the halls were a safe retreat.

In a letter of nomination for the Carraway Award, Student Affairs Associate Vice President Allison Crume praised Myrick’s decisive implementation of University Housing’s crisis response protocol.

“Heir fast action and clear communication kept panic at bay and helped students, parents and staff to feel informed,” Crume said.

In addition to the grace under pressure that Myrick displayed Nov. 20, Katherine Kolkmeier, University Housing’s eastside assistant director, commended Myrick not only for the part she has played in leading University Housing in the absence of a director over the past year, but also for leading Residence Life in the development of six core values and the creation of a new organizational structure.

“Chandra’s dedication to allowing staff of all levels to be involved and invested in the process, in addition to the research done to make sure Residence Life is living out our values, has been nothing short of remarkable,” said Kolkmeier in a letter nominating Myrick for the award.

Myrick joined the staff of Florida State in October 2005 as assistant director for Residence Life. From 2006 to 2011, she served as Housing’s westside assistant director.

Myrick earned a Bachelor of Science in print journalism from Troy State University in 2000 and a Master of Science in higher education from Florida State in 2002.
Florida State University was a Double Jeopardy clue on the June 9 episode of “Jeopardy!” The category was College Knowledge; the clue, for $400, was, “Founded in 1851, this university has a medical campus in Pensacola and is a ‘Seminole’ institution.” The question was answered correctly.

Katherine Mooney, Ph.D. (History) won the 2015 Best Book of the Year on Sports History award from the North American Society for Sport History for her book “Race Horse Men” published by Harvard University Press, 2014. In addition, the book received an Honorable Mention for the 2015 Organization of American Historians’ Frederick Jackson Turner Award, which is given annually to the author of a first scholarly book dealing with some aspect of American history.

Yi Ren, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), was among 100 women to receive an Inspiring Women in STEM Award for 2015 from Insight Into Diversity magazine. The award recognizes the importance of increasing the number of women working in STEM professions by lauding women who work to encourage other women to pursue and persist in STEM fields.

Gregg Stanwood, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), has received the 2015 Patricia Rodier Mid-Career Award for Research and Mentoring. Presented by the Teratology Society for birth defects research, education and prevention, the award recognizes a mid-career individual who has demonstrated successful independent research in neurobehavioral teratology, birth defects or other related fields involving the central nervous system; and has demonstrated a commitment to mentorship of students, postdoctoral fellows, young investigators and/or trainees. Stanwood received the award and presented his work, “Developmental Causes and Consequences of Drug Abuse,” at the Teratology Society's 55th Annual Meeting in Montreal, June 28.

BYLINES

Petra Doan, Ph.D. (Urban and Regional Planning), is the editor of a new book, “Planning and LGBTQ Communities: The Need for Inclusive Queer Spaces,” published by Routledge, 2015. Experienced planners, administrators and researchers in planning and geography reflect on the evolution of urban neighborhoods in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer populations live, work and play and provide practical guidance for cities and citizens seeking to strengthen neighborhoods that have an explicit LGBTQ focus, as well as other areas that are LGBTQ-friendly.

Greg Erickson, Ph.D. (Biological Science), co-wrote a paper, “Wear Biomechanics in the Slicing Dentition of the Giant Horned Dinosaur Triceratops,” with FSU graduate student David Kay and colleagues from other institutions, published in the journal Science Advances, June 5, 2015.


PRESENTATIONS

Myrna Hoover and Tracey Dowling (Career Center) made a presentation, “Insights Into an Innovative Response to Performance-based Funding Initiatives,” at the conference and exposition of the National Association of Colleges and Employers, Anaheim, Calif., June.

Yuan Wang, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), was invited to give a talk at the BigNeuron Neuron Annotation Workshop at the Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle, June 15-19. BigNeuron is an international effort to define and advance state-of-the-art single neuron reconstruction, an essential unsolved challenge in brain science.

GRANTS AND PATENTS

Jose R. Pinto, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), has been awarded a two-year American Heart Association grant to study “The Role of Cardiac Troponin C in the Pathogenesis of Hypertrophic and Dilated Cardiomyopathy.” Mutations
in the contractile proteins of the heart are the primary cause of inherited cardiovascular diseases. The study will shed light on some of the dysfunctional cellular and molecular processes contributing to aberrant outcomes of cardiomyopathies and determine whether a novel gene is involved in the development of cardiomyopathy in humans.

For a complete list of research awards by month, visit research.magnet.fsu.edu and click “Recent Awards.”

SERVICE

Richard Nowakowski, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), spent a week as a visiting professor at the School of Medicine of the Xian Jiao Tong University, Xian, China. While there, he gave two talks and served on a dissertation committee. In addition, Nowakowski has been invited to join the NASA Space Radiation Element’s Central Nervous System Working Group. Membership is for two years and can be renewed. The working group investigates the adverse effects of space radiation exposures on the central nervous system.

KEY PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

Anne Barrett, Ph.D. (Sociology), has been named director of FSU’s Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy. She succeeds sociology Professor John Reynolds. Barrett’s research focuses on the social and health aspects of aging — areas of expertise she will apply to the job of director. In addition, Barrett has been named a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education and practice in the field of aging.

Josephine Garibaldi (Fine Arts; Dance) has been named chair of the FSU Department of Dance. Before coming to FSU, Garibaldi served as director of dance in the Idaho State University School of Performing Arts.

John Reynolds, Ph.D. (Sociology), has been named chair of the FSU Department of Sociology, effective fall 2015.

Annette Schwabe, Ph.D. (Undergraduate Studies), has been named associate dean of Undergraduate Studies and director of Liberal Studies, overseeing the ongoing implementation of the Liberal Studies for the 21st Century curriculum. She most recently served as a faculty member in the university’s Department of Sociology.

Scott Shamp (Fine Arts) has joined the College of Fine Arts as associate dean. Shamp previously served as director of the New Media Institute in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. He earned a doctorate in communication from the University of Utah in 1989.

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Skype for Business lets you connect with colleagues instantly. The new service, also known as Lync on Mac and mobile devices, is offered by Information Technology Services. It is available to all Florida State University employees and brings together the different ways you communicate in an easy-to-use tool. With instant messaging, audio calls, video calls, Web conferencing and desktop sharing, you can communicate and collaborate with colleagues in real time, at work and on the go.

Have a question for a contact in another department? Send them a quick instant message. Working on a presentation with a colleague across campus? Share your desktop and work on the presentation together. No time to get the team together for a meeting? Set up a quick Web conference and eliminate time spent driving around campus.

“We're all trying to find ways to fit more in our day,” said Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer Michael Barrett. “Being able to collaborate with anyone on campus with the click of a button will help us communicate more effectively and efficiently and make the most of our time.”

From one-on-one conversations to group chats, Skype for Business provides a single, easy-to-use interface for messaging, audio and video calls, making it easy to work with team members, share information and make decisions in real time. With one click, you can send an instant message or start a quick audio call with any employee on campus. With another click, you can set up a Web conference and use simple presentation tools — such as screen sharing, virtual whiteboards and polls — to keep everyone engaged and on the same page.

“Skype for Business has improved our communication by providing a tool that offers capabilities beyond email and phone calls,” said John Hornbuckle, director of information technology for the College of Business. “We frequently use the instant messaging functionality to get quick answers to questions.”

And with mobility, you’re not tied to your computer. Download the Lync 2013 mobile app to stay connected on the go, or access the Web app through any Internet browser.

For more information about Skype for Business, visit its.fsu.edu/SkypeForBusiness.
**TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION 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 myFSU at https://my.fsu.edu and navigate to “Human Resources,” “Main Menu,” “Self Service,” “Learning and Development” and “Request Training Enrollment.” 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**

>>NEW FACULTY BENEFITS ORIENTATION: The Benefits Office will host two benefits orientation sessions for incoming faculty employees. The sessions will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, and 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, in the Human Resources Training Room, A6244 University Center. Topics will include health, life and supplemental insurance programs and retirement and other benefits offered through the university. To register for a session, email the Benefits Office at benefits@fsu.edu.

More information: (850) 644-4015.

>>VERIFY ADDRESSES IN OMNI: All employees should verify their current home mailing addresses in the OMNI employee self-service system. Incorrect home addresses in OMNI will result in delays of any critical information sent out by vendors concerning health, life, supplemental and retirement programs. In addition, employees are reminded to periodically review their paycheck deductions for accuracy. If any discrepancies are found, contact the Benefits Office at (850) 644-4015 or benefits@fsu.edu as soon as possible.

>>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.