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Medicine enhancing care for aging Floridians with three-year, $2.25 million grant

By Doug Carlson
College of Medicine

Florida is home to a larger percentage of older residents than any other state, and the number of those 65 and older is expected to more than double over the next 15 years to nearly 8 million.

To help address the challenges this poses for Florida’s health-care system, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration will give the Florida State University College of Medicine a three-year, $2.25 million grant as part of the national Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.

“The ultimate goal is to enhance the workforce — nurses, social workers, primary-care physicians and the public,” said geriatrician Paul Katz, chair of the College of Medicine’s Department of Geriatrics and past president of the

Spread the Word

Florida State University has launched a new campus accessibility map to provide those with disabilities assistance in locating the best accessible routes within the main campus. To read more, see Page 12.

DRIVING TO DISTRACTION
Study finds cell phone alerts are as disruptive as actually using phone

By Jill Elish
News and Research Communications

Whether you are alerted to an incoming phone call or text by a trendy ringtone, an alarm bell or a quiet vibration, just receiving a notification on your cell phone can cause enough of a distraction to impair your ability to focus on a given task, according to a new Florida State University study.

In fact, the distraction caused by a simple notification — whether it is a sound or a vibration — is comparable to the effects seen when users actively use their cell phones to make calls or send text messages, the researchers found.

“The level of how much it affected the task at hand was really shocking,” said Courtney Yehnert, an FSU research coordinator who worked on the study as an undergraduate student before graduating in 2014.

The study, “The Attentional Cost of Receiving a Cell Notification,” was pub-
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“I realized that it would be very stable in the interstellar medium, much more stable than anything else because it can survive the radiation field which is quite high.”

— Sir Harold Kroto, Florida State’s Francis Eppes Professor of Chemistry and co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, as quoted July 16 by NPR and New England Public Radio. He was discussing the century-old mystery of the composition of the wispy cloud of gas that floats between the stars throughout space. The form of carbon known as Buckminsterfullerenes (C60), or buckyballs, would fit the bill. A form of buckyball known as C60+ has been proven in experiments on Earth to absorb light at just the right frequencies as they would in space.

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

Job title: Communications and Membership Coordinator, Museum of Fine Arts

To-do list: Oversees MoFA’s membership, maintains its website, writes and disseminates publicity for its exhibitions and events and serves as administrator for the Google Cultural Institute art project.

Quotable: “I enjoy being a part of the planning and installation process of each exhibition. It’s great to see the result of all the months of hard work each of us at the MoFA put in prior to the opening.”

The 411: Graduated this spring from FSU with a Bachelor of Arts in art history, summa cum laude with honors. “I’m a medievalist, so I’m drawn to Gothic cathedrals, ornate altarpieces and illuminated manuscripts. And I do love Vermeer!”

London calling: Will soon be studying Gothic art and architecture as she earns a Master of Arts in art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art. “My research will focus on medieval sacred spaces, specifically Northern European pilgrimage sites.”

Some solid previous experience: Interned at the British Museum two years ago.

Accidental tourist: While backpacking across Europe, she happened to be in St. Peter’s Square when Pope Francis was announced, and happened to be at Dam Square in Amsterdam during the inauguration of the current Dutch monarchs.

Keep calm and visit as many museums and galleries as possible: Can’t wait to get back to London because “there are countless places to view art in or around the city, and a lot of them are free!”
Like typical buddies, Mark Meleney and Trevor Flanagan enjoy getting together for pregame tailgate parties and fishing trips.

After meeting some 15 years ago on a city league softball team, the two FSU alumni grew to become fast friends, even coming to help each other with yard work and do-it-yourself projects around their homes.

“We just really hit it off,” said Meleney, FSU’s director of visitor services and assistant director of admissions. “We’re similar people in a lot of ways.”

Their friendship took on an added dimension a year ago when Meleney donated one of his kidneys to Flanagan, whose kidneys were failing because of polycystic kidney disease.

“It was progressing to the point where dialysis was coming very, very soon,” said Flanagan, the information technology manager at Florida Surplus Lines Service Office, a local business.

Polycystic kidney disease causes the growth of clusters of cysts that first impair and eventually kill the kidneys.

Over the years, Meleney had become impressed by Flanagan’s compassionate nature.

“I watched how he always put family and friends first, never worrying about himself,” Meleney said.

Because polycystic kidney disease runs in families — Flanagan’s father had it, as did his paternal grandmother — Flanagan’s own family members were ruled out as donors. That is when Meleney decided it was his turn to show compassion.

“I said to Trevor, ‘Let’s go the whole mile,’” Meleney said. “‘Let’s just see if I qualify to become a match first, then we’ll discuss whether it’s the right thing to do.’”

After submitting to tissue-compatibility tests at UF Health Shands Hospital, Meleney was found to be a highly suitable donor, matching three of six tissue types — a level of compatibility virtually unheard of outside of blood relations.

With the path toward organ donation medically cleared, Meleney began to seriously discuss the idea with his wife, Sarah, and their daughter, Montana. One aspect of their deliberations would be to go ahead with the transplant as a tribute to his father and Sarah’s father.

“Sarah’s dad died of kidney failure, so this would be a tribute to him because he was such a great man,” Meleney said. “And my father was such a natural caregiver, such a positive influence on everybody. He was the one to always make everybody else’s life better.

“It was really our decision as a family,” he said. “It took us four or five months of thought and discussion before we came to the realization that it could happen and would happen.”

Flanagan accepted Meleney’s offer to donate his kidney, further cementing their close friendship.

“We were not blood-related, but we felt
related,” said Flanagan, whose tone became emphatic. “He is family. Mark, Sarah and Montana are family. They were family before and they’re certainly family now.”

In the days leading up to the surgery, Flanagan says he wasn’t nervous, only thankful.

“I had done a lot of research about kidney transplants, so I felt very comfortable and confident about it or I would have never agreed to it in the first place,” he said.

Meleney, however, did battle some trepidation.

“I think the thing that helped me along and my family along the most was Stephanie Sharp, the coordinator of kidney transplants at Shands,” Meleney said. “She was such a positive, upbeat person, and the staff at Shands treated us like gold.”

The transplant took place at Shands on July 30, 2014. The surgeons started with Meleney at 5 a.m.

“They had to make sure once they’re in me that everything was going to play out correctly before they could get started with Trevor,” Meleney said. “So they lined his surgery up an hour behind mine. Then there was a transition period of about 45 minutes where they pulled my kidney out and put it in him.”

The surgery was a success and, almost as soon as the two regained consciousness, they turned their recovery into a friendly competition.

“I just kept thinking, ‘I’ve got to get better faster than Mark, I’ve got to beat him on laps around the hospital hallways,’” Flanagan said.

“We did have races,” Meleney said. “We’ve always had that kind of competition. It made it fun and kept it friendly,” Flanagan said.

And just to be on the safe side, neither man — both diehard Seminoles — wore garnet and gold during their stay at Shands in the heart of the Gator nation.

“I wore orange and blue the day of the surgery,” Flanagan joked.

“The day we were released, we were in full Seminoles garb,” Meleney joked.

For the two years leading up to the surgery, Flanagan had become physically inactive. As the recipient of a healthy kidney, his health quickly rebounded.

“The recipient’s life is immediately changed,” Flanagan said. “You don’t realize how far you’re down because you’re on this slope going down, down, down. But 24 hours afterward, I’m happy, I’m smiling, my face has color.”

“Mark struggled a little bit more afterwards, but the documentation said that was to be expected,” Flanagan said. “It makes sense because his body had something taken away. Mine had something given to it. But I still was trying to beat him on laps around the hospital hall.”

After the surgery, Flanagan also regained the ability to sweat.

“You wouldn’t believe all the little things that I’ve noticed that I welcome with joy now,” Flanagan said. “I can step up on a tailgate, lift up a log. I can now do the little things that people take for granted. I feel empowered.”

Now that a year has passed since the surgery, Flanagan feels as though he has begun a new chapter in life.

“I might not have always had the best health, but I’ve been given a second chance,” Flanagan said. “I now have my health. I’m going to make this gift well worth the journey for the rest of my life.”

And the two of them welcome the chance to serve as advocates for organ donation. Meleney even decided to stop cutting his hair for one year after the surgery as a way to start conversations with individuals and families who are just beginning to consider the process.

“It’s just my way of being able to reach out,” Meleney said. “I use it as my segue to put people at ease. I had short hair a year ago and have had short hair for most of my life. People see me now and say, ‘You’ve got a little difference in your life,’ and I tell them, ‘I’ve had a life-changing experience.’

“It’s part of me so I think I’m always going to share it,” he said. “There are so many positives ahead for me, and a big part of that is just seeing how Trevor responded to what we decided to do.”

Flanagan is taking a thoughtful look at the best ways to encourage organ donation.

“There are a lot of considerations for someone to be able to donate,” Flanagan said. “A lot of people want to donate, they want to give back, but they just don’t understand the whole process. So we’re educating them.

“We’re a successful story, and we want to get our story out there,” he said.

To learn more about organ donation, visit organdonor.gov.
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Institute funds research to benefit children in welfare system

Aimed at benefiting children in Florida’s child welfare system, the Florida Institute for Child Welfare at Florida State University has funded 10 research projects statewide that promote evidence-based practice.

“The Florida Institute for Child Welfare is in a unique position to connect Florida’s child welfare community with social work researchers across the state,” said Patricia Babcock, interim director of the institute. “This year the Legislature recognized the importance of evidence-based practice and put legislation in place that mandates that Florida’s child welfare system transition into a system that uses programs and services that are supported by research. These grant awards are a first step for making the transition.”

The institute, which was established by the Legislature in July 2014, funded each project with $60,000 for a total of $600,000. Five of the institute’s projects involve faculty members in the university’s College of Social Work. These projects are detailed at right:

Sustainable Solutions

How Florida State extends the life of the things we use (and use again)

FSU employees can acquire working surplus items for their departments through the university’s Surplus Property department.

FSU Surplus Property is a waste reduction strategy that the university employs to promote the reuse of items that still have life in them. FSU departments can acquire these working items free of charge through the Internal Surplus Listing. Employees can log in to this listing using their faculty/staff credentials.

When items make the list, they are available exclusively to FSU departments for five business days. Thereafter, the items also are made available to the general public.

When employees find something they like, they should contact the departmental point person listed with the item to arrange for pick up or delivery. Surplus Property also can deliver the items directly to individual offices the following Friday with advanced notice. Items range from vehicles to scuba gear to office supplies.

Items usually remain unclaimed in Surplus Property for no more than 15 business days.

To learn more, visit sustainablecampus.fsu.edu.
The FSUCard Center has undergone major remodeling to make accessing university services more convenient for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

With a custom-designed service counter, new entrance through the FSU Bookstore and a relocation of several services to the heart of campus, the renovated FSUCard Center is a one-stop shop for services such as the Seminole Dining Membership Office and Transportation and Parking Services.

“No longer spread across campus, the campus community now can access these services conveniently under one roof,” said Sherrell Cork, associate director of Business Services. “Combining these offices makes for a more efficient use of space and resources on campus, providing savings to the university.”

Hiedi Batista, a Transportation and Parking Services employee, saw an immediate improvement in student presence after relocating the department.

“There’s more action,” Batista said. “More students come here because it’s closer to classes.”

Employees were excited to see how the renovations affected the student experience, especially during this summer’s New Student Orientation. In the past, hundreds of students would line up outside each summer morning and wait, in the heat and rain, to be issued their FSUCards — the first step to becoming a ‘Nole. With the new entrance to the FSUCard Center relocated through the FSU Bookstore, incoming students are no longer subjected to the weather while they wait. Parents also enjoyed the added bonus of shopping for the latest FSU gear before embarking on the orientation experience.

“It’s a better welcome to Florida State,” said junior Lucy Coomer, who finds the new layout more open, inviting and functional. “Compared to my own orientation, it’s more convenient. As students, we can get everything we need all at one place.”

Whether they need a replacement FSUCard, have questions about the new parking permit process, want to sign up for a dining membership or are just in the area, employees are invited to visit the remodeled FSUCard Center weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FSUCard Center redux: The boring “before” at left and dramatic “after” above, with dedicated customer service stations for Transportation and Parking Services, Seminole Dining and the FSUCard.
American Medical Directors Association. "We’re not going to be adequately prepared to meet the needs of our older patients in Florida with anything less than a comprehensive approach."

Florida State was one of 44 organizations in 29 states — including two in Florida — announced as grant recipients at the White House Conference on Aging in July.

“The workforce caring for this population is not only aging itself but also lacks many of the basic geriatric competencies to practice effectively,” Katz said. "This grant will assist us in developing a health-care workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement and improves health outcomes for older adults by integrating primary care and geriatrics."

The College of Medicine will partner with Florida State’s colleges of Nursing and Social Work, along with regional affiliates involved with the medical school’s community-based medical education program and others. Together they will form the North and Central Florida Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Partnership.

The partnership will seek to address some of the significant health-care issues presented by an aging population:

• One-third of the nursing workforce and 40 percent of the physician workforce nationwide is over age 50. Geriatric-specific curricula for the vast majority of these health-care professionals were either sparse or non-existent during their training.
• Florida ranks 47th nationally in the number of geriatricians per capita.
• Fewer than 1 percent of registered nurses are certified in gerontology, and the vast majority of nursing schools have no faculty with expertise in it.
• In 2009, there were 2.8 million family members serving as caregivers to an older adult in Florida. They provided 2.7 million hours of unpaid care worth an estimated $29 billion. But the ratio of available caregivers to recipients with multiple chronic health problems is rapidly shrinking.
• In rural areas, access to health-care professionals with training in gerontology is even more severely limited.

The partnership extends to 22 counties and closely follows the footprint of the College of Medicine’s community-based medical education program. In Naples, the program will bring the care of older patients into focus at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the Health Care Network of Southwest Florida.

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

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**ALERTS, from 1**

lished in the Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance. Psychology doctoral student Cary Stothart is the lead author of the study, and his co-authors are former FSU postdoctoral researcher Ainsley Mitchum and Yehnert. This is the first study to examine the effect of cell phone notifications on performance.

“Although these notifications are generally short in duration, they can prompt task-irrelevant thoughts, or mind-wandering, which has been shown to damage task performance,” the researchers wrote in the paper. "Cellular phone notifications alone significantly disrupt performance on an attention-demanding task, even when participants do not directly interact with a mobile device during the task."

It’s well documented that using a mobile phone while performing another task is associated with poorer performance. That’s because people have limited capacity for attention that must be split between tasks, the researchers explained. The Florida State study underscores that simply being aware of a missed call or text can have the same effect.

The researchers’ findings are significant because many public information campaigns intended to deter problematic cell phone use — while driving, for example — often emphasize waiting to respond to messages and calls. However, even waiting may take a toll on attention, according to the researchers. Simply remembering to perform some action in the future is sufficient to disrupt performance on an unrelated concurrent task.

To conduct the study, the researchers compared the performance of participants on an attention-demanding computer task.

Overall, the researchers found that participants who received notifications made more mistakes on the computer task than those who didn’t. In fact, the increase in the probability of making a mistake was more than three times greater for those who received notifications. Those who received phone call notifications fared worse on the task than those who received a text alert.

To read more about this story, visit news.fsu.edu.
NON-FSU students can forego purchasing a regular ticket at FSU’s on campus movie theater, the Student Life Cinema, from 2015 through Spring 2016 semesters by purchasing this pass. Email arunk@admin.fsu.edu for more details.

More information: training@fsu.edu or (850) 644-8724.

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 myFSU at https://my.fsu.edu and navigate to: “HR,” “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.

FSU Credit Union’s 7th location, opening soon, is nearly 4,500 square feet and includes teller, loan and member services along with three drive-thru lanes and an ATM.


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Disclaimers: Excludes advance and special screenings, seating is still first come, first serve basis. This pass will not guarantee you a seat to an already sold-out showing. One pass is redeemable for one patron only.

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 myFSU at https://my.fsu.edu and navigate to: “HR,” “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.

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 from 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 benefits@fsu.edu.

More information: (850) 644-4015.

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.

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.

Discrepancies? Contact the Benefits Office at (850) 644-4015 or benefits@fsu.edu as soon as possible.

SLC ANNUAL PASS

NON-FSU students can forego purchasing a regular ticket at FSU’s on campus movie theater, the Student Life Cinema, from 2015 through Spring 2016 semesters by purchasing this pass. Email arunk@admin.fsu.edu for more details.

$30 FOR FSU FACULTY/STAFF OR TFS MEMBERS

$50 NON-STUDENTS

Disclaimer: Excludes advance and special screenings. Seating is still first come, first serve basis. This pass will not guarantee you a seat to an already sold-out showing. One pass is redeemable for one patron only.
RECOGNITIONS

Carolyn Egan (General Counsel) has been named to Florida Trend magazine’s Florida Legal Elite for 2015. Egan is among 55 lawyers in the Government and Nonprofit category, those employed by municipal, county, state or regional governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.


BYLINES

Sachiko I. Blaber, M.S., Jose Diaz, M.D., Ph.D., and Michael Blaber, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences) co-wrote a paper, “Accelerating Healing in NONcNZO10/LtJ Type 2 Diabetic Mice by FGF-1,” published in the journal Wound Repair and Regeneration, 2015.


PRESENTATIONS

V’Rhaniku Haynes (Career Center) made a presentation, “Leveraging Student Involvement to Help Career Services Expand Their Reach,” at the annual conference of the Florida Association of Colleges and Employers, St. Augustine, Fla., June.


Calvin Williams (Career Center) made a presentation, “Professional Development: The Next Frontier,” at the annual conference of the Florida Association of Colleges and Employers, St. Augustine, Fla., June.

Myrna Hoover (Career Center) served as a panelist on the 50th anniversary panel “Charting the Future of Career Services and College Recruiting,” with colleagues from other institutions, at the annual conference of the Florida Association of Colleges and Employers, St. Augustine, Fla., June. Hoover also gave the keynote address “Strategies for Successful Employer Relations and Recruiting” at the Employer Relations Summit of the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers, Atlanta, June.

SERVICE

Heather A. Flynn, Ph.D. (Behavioral Science and Social Medicine), has been elected to serve as treasurer of the International Society for Interpersonal Psychotherapy, which aims to improve quality and dissemination of practice, research and training in interpersonal psychotherapy, an evidence-based treatment for mood disorders.

Dean Grubbs, Ph.D. (Coastal and Marine Laboratory; Biological Science), has been elected to serve a two-year term as president of the American Elasmobranch Society, a non-profit organization that seeks to advance the scientific study of living and fossil sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras, and the promotion of education, conservation and wise utilization of natural resources. Grubbs will preside over the society’s 2016 annual meeting in New Orleans and its 2017 annual meeting in Austin, Texas.
KEY PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

James Elsner, Ph.D., has been named chair of the Department of Geography effective fall 2015. Frequently sought by the media, Elsner is known for his expertise on hurricanes and tornadoes.

Michael Meth (University Libraries) has been appointed associate dean for research and learning services of University Libraries, effective August 2015. As an associate dean, Meth will play a major role in shaping University Libraries’ services to students and faculty, creating programs and partnerships that enhance and support research at all levels, and ensuring that the libraries are integrated into teaching and learning at FSU. Meth comes to FSU from the University of Toronto, where he was the director of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Library and held an appointment as adjunct faculty at the Institute for Management of Innovation at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

New desktop backup solution protects university files

If a disaster wiped out your computer today, what would you lose?

Luckily, Information Technology Services (ITS) offers desktop backup, a worry-free, cloud-based storage system that backs up all of your important files for safekeeping. The service is available by request to all Florida State University employees for up to three work devices.

With desktop backup, you can sleep easy knowing that your files are safe. Once set up, desktop backup automatically runs in the background and saves copies of your files. If your computer crashes or you accidentally delete a file (we’ve all done it), you can easily restore the lost data. Always available cloud storage enables you to recover your data from anywhere on any device.

While some departments may already have a method for storing shared documents, desktop backup goes one step further, backing up documents and applications on shared drives, desktops and various other computer locations. The new service provides unlimited storage for backing up university workstations — offering a reliable way to protect university data — and is available for purchase by university departments at a low annual cost per user.

To request desktop backup for your work computer, please work with your department IT manager or submit an order for Software Licensing.

In addition, all Florida State University students, faculty and staff receive 2GB of free desktop backup storage plus 20 percent off additional storage for personal devices.

To learn more, visit its.fsu.edu/Computing/Desktop-Backup.
FSU unveils campus accessibility map

By Amy Farnum-Patronis
News and Research Communications

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Florida State University has expanded its efforts to provide an accessible environment for individuals with disabilities.

The university launched a new campus accessibility map to provide those with disabilities assistance in locating the best accessible routes within the main campus.

HELPFUL LINKS

To view the Campus Accessibility Map, visit the Facilities Design and Construction website or use this shortened URL: http://fla.st/1CZrlJh

To visit FSU’s ADA webpage, use this shortened URL: http://fla.st/1fsfSqJ

To visit FSU's Student Disability Resource Center: https://dos.fsu.edu/sdrc

"Florida State University is committed to providing an accessible and inclusive environment for students, faculty, staff and all visitors to our campus," said President John Thrasher. “This new map is another way to ensure people with disabilities know they are welcome here.”

The map highlights the best paths from the available accessible parking spaces to the accessible building entrances and the entrances that include an automatic door opener. Elevator locations and curb cuts are also noted on the map.

“This is a great resource for anyone with a disability that will help ease the stress of navigating such a large campus,” said Amber Wagner, associate director of human resources and FSU’s ADA coordinator.

In the coming weeks, the map will also be available through links on the Student Disability Resource Center, Human Resources and Transportation websites. The university is in the process of publishing a brochure of the map available for distribution to the campus community, and is planning to make the map available through FSU’s smartphone application.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, provides that no qualified individual with a disability be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities at Florida State.