

State

The Faculty-Staff Bulletin of Florida State University

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October 2015

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Department of Religion celebrates 50 years of accomplishment over this year, **4**

NEW MISSION

Thagard is now home to Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement, **8**

FSU ranked among top public universities

U.S. News ranks two Business programs in Top 10

By Jill Elish

Assistant Director, News and Research Communications

Florida State University is among the best universities in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, which ranked Florida State 43rd among all public “national” universities in its 2016 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.”

In addition, two undergraduate programs in Florida State’s College of Business are ranked in the Top 10: insurance and real estate. The insurance program is ranked No. 5 among public institutions and No. 7 among public and private schools. Real estate is ranked No. 6 among public institutions and No. 10 among public and private schools.

“Florida State University is a preeminent university, and we have made significant gains as we pursue even higher levels of excellence,” said President John Thrasher. “Our challenge now, quite frankly, is to make sure that our peer institutions across the country as well as high school guidance counselors know how good we are. Their subjective assessments are key to improving in these rankings, and our data suggests we should be ranked higher than we are.”

Florida State continues to make long-term investments in faculty hiring and compensation, and the university expects those investments to be reflected in the university’s overall ranking in the coming years, Thrasher said. FSU has made a number of key hires in strategic areas, and performance, merit and market equity pay raises will be implemented this fall for all eligible tenured and tenure-track faculty.

In addition, Florida State’s graduation rate performance

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Kicking off our Campaign of Caring

One of the most rewarding things about my first year as president is that Jean and I have become part of an incredible, new family both here on the Florida State campus and in the local community.

One way we are able to give back and help friends and neighbors in need is by making a leadership contribution to the local United Way. This month kicks off the annual United Way FSU Employee Campaign. I’ve been told Florida State’s staff and faculty have a long and caring history of giving and I thank you.

Our contributions provide a helping hand to so many, including members of our own FSU family. Chrishelle Robbins is just one example. A young mother who is working hard to earn a



Chrishelle Robbins and her daughter.

degree in criminology, Chrishelle dreams of becoming a probation officer who helps troubled youth. In addition to taking classes, she holds down a full-time job and is a terrific mom to her two-year-old daughter. It’s a full load, but Chrishelle says she’s able to pursue her college education thanks to Kids Incorporated, a United Way member agency that offers childcare to low-income parents.

I believe the generous nature of the Seminole family is stronger than ever. If you are able, please consider supporting the United Way FSU Employee Campaign this year. I look forward to the United Way campaign activities around campus this fall and thank all of the coordinators for leading the charge in FSU’s 2015 Campaign of Caring.

John Thrasher
President

For more information, contact Elizabeth Hirst, the FSU United Way Employee Campaign chair, at lehirst@fsu.edu.

Spread the Word

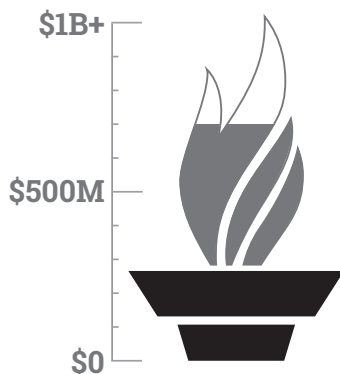
For the second consecutive year, Florida State University has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity*, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. The award recognizes the university’s ongoing mission to promote diversity and inclusion.

Your Voice Matters

As valued members of the FSU community, we want to hear your feedback. Your input is vital as we continue the positive momentum of *Raise the Torch* and as we improve our faculty and staff fundraising efforts. A survey has been created to gather information on how you, our loyal faculty and staff members, would like to participate in our \$1 billion campaign. The survey was sent in September to all FSU faculty and staff and will remain open for feedback until Friday, Oct. 30. Your feedback will help the University tailor its faculty and staff campaign communications and engagement opportunities, and there will be an opportunity at the end of the survey for additional advice or comments. If you have not already participated in the survey, you may do so by visiting raisethetorch.fsu.edu/survey. If you are interested in participating on the FSU faculty and staff campaign committee, please contact Tom Block, campaign manager, at tblock@fsu.edu.

As a reminder, you can support *Raise the Torch* any time through payroll deduction or an online gift. Visit raisethetorch.fsu.edu to make your gift online, or visit foundation.fsu.edu to download the payroll deduction form.

We look forward to hearing your survey responses and suggestions, and thank you for helping to *Raise the Torch* for Florida State.



\$713,002,140
as of Aug. 31, 2015

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Giving Tuesday Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Dec. 1, FSU will join thousands of national and international non-profit organizations to celebrate this national day of charitable giving. As you consider the organizations that are dear to your heart, we hope you will remember Florida State fondly and choose to make a gift to support academic programs, scholarships and student activities.

FSU's Great Give Thursday, April 14– Friday, April 15, 2016

Beginning at 9 a.m., April 14 and continuing until 9 p.m., April 15, Florida State University will host the fifth-annual FSU's Great Give, a 36-hour, online-only giving event. Show your support for your favorite University college, unit or program by contributing online and following its success via social media.

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The deadline for November 2015
is FRIDAY, OCT. 9.



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Submissions: jseay@fsu.edu.

Advertising: To get started, call Crystal Cumbo at (850) 645-6047.

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

NewsMakers

"There's a theoretical maximum, yes. Frankly, we have no idea what that is."

— Tim Chapin, professor of urban and regional planning, as quoted Sept. 17 by the *Tampa Bay Times* discussing Florida's booming population. There will be more than 20 million people who call the Sunshine State home by the end of this year. With the population expected to swell by an additional 14 million by 2070, the state's capacity to handle the increase is unknown.

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



FSU Photography Services/Ell Lax

Job title: Financial Specialist/Office Manager, College of Communication and Information

To-do list: *"Everything ... seriously! You name it ... my hands are in it."* Manages the day-to-day operations concerning fiscal and academic matters for students and faculty members in the School of Communication.

Years at FSU: Nearly 13.

Kudos: In 2014, received the School of Communication Outstanding Staff Award.

Army strong: Spent two years after high school serving the nation as an Army private second class. *"I was stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany, as a supply clerk for an Air Defense Artillery Unit that kept Patriot missiles. I also served a brief time in Kuwait after the first Gulf War."*

Proud mama: Has two sons, Darian, 21, and Ryan, 17.

Pouring into the next generation: Volunteers with Distinguished Young Gentlemen (DYG) of Tallahassee, a leadership organization for young men. *"I serve as the parent liaison for the tri-county area of this organization, helping to keep the parents informed of activities and organize parent participation in chapter events."*

Prime-time crime: *"I like watching 'NCIS,' 'Criminal Minds' and 'Investigation Discovery.'"*

Is reading: *"The Four Agreements"* by Don Miguel Ruiz.

Let's hit some garage sales: *"I love looking for the next great find and enjoying each 'misadventure' that my son, Ryan, and I can find to get into."*

State is underwritten in part by proceeds from the Florida State University license plate.

www.fsu.edu/tag



A Grand Heritage

This year,
the Department
of Religion celebrates
a half-century of history
and accomplishment

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

With a distinguished faculty, high-achieving students and an outstanding national reputation, Florida State University's Department of Religion has plenty to be proud of as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this academic year.

"Since 1965, the mission of our department has been to promote research and instruction designed to increase understanding of the many ways in which religion affects human life," said Aline H. Kalbian, a professor and chair of the department who came to FSU in 1998.

The department has 18 full-time and several more part-time faculty members, about 60 master's and doctoral students, more than 100 undergraduate majors and an office staff of three.

"All of us feel that we are part of a grand heritage," Kalbian said. "Marking this anniversary is a way of acknowledging that, as well as a means of looking forward."

Part of that grand heritage includes three faculty members who, over the years, have received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship, which are highly competitive, mid-career awards that recognize exceptional capacity for productive scholarship: John Kelsay, the Richard L. Rubenstein Professor of Religion and Bristol Distinguished Professor of Ethics; Bryan J. Cuevas, the John F. Priest Professor of Religion; and Kathleen Erndl, an associate professor of religion.

Three faculty members have received National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships: Cuevas, Erndl and John Corrigan, the Lucius Moody Bristol Professor of Religion.

In addition, Cuevas is a past fellow of



Departmental authorities: John Kelsay, top, the Richard L. Rubenstein Professor of Religion and Bristol Distinguished Professor of Ethics who has twice served as the Department of Religion's chair; Professor Aline Kalbian, the current department chair; and University Distinguished Teaching Professor David Levenson, the department's longest-serving faculty member.

the Institute for Advanced Study, which is located at Princeton, and Corrigan was the recipient of a Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair, the most prestigious appointment in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

"The scholarly work recognized by these awards and honors represents the stature of our faculty on the national and international stage," Kalbian said.

The department also is home to three prestigious international journals: *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, edited by Corrigan and Professor Amanda Porterfield; the *Journal of Religious Ethics*, edited by Kalbian and Professor Martin Kavka; and *Soundings*, edited by Kelsay. For a time, the department was home to a fourth journal, *Dead Sea Discoveries*.

"Having these journals here brings a lot of good attention to FSU and the department," Kalbian said. "They also give our graduate students opportunities to engage, assisting in the editing."

BEGINNINGS

Before the department held its first class in 1965, courses about religion had

been offered at Florida State through the Department of Philosophy. By the early 1960s, however, there was a growing interest in establishing a separate religion department.

"There were people in the Department of Philosophy who taught religion, but there was increasingly a cultural divide between them and the philosophers, per se," said Kelsay, who came to FSU in 1987 and has twice served as the department's chair, 1996 to 2006 and 2012 to August 2015.

While the 1963 U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Abington School District v. Schempp* declared school-sponsored Bible reading in public schools in the United States to be unconstitutional, it did not ban religion from public education. On the contrary, the decision helped clarify the difference between the teaching "of" religion from the teaching "about" religion in public institutions.

"A lot of people in departments of religion cite that as being an important piece in the establishment of these departments at state universities," Kelsay said.

Among the institutions establishing re-

ligion departments during this time were Penn State, the University of Indiana, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

When Robert A. “Bob” Spivey was hired in 1964 as the department’s founding chair, he spent his first year establishing a general outline for the department and hiring faculty members.

“We had six people when we started out,” Spivey said. “A couple of people were drawn from the philosophy department and others were brand new.”

During the early ’60s, faculty numbers in the field of religion increased dramatically, according to Spivey.

“We were recruiting people particularly for the study of world religions,” Spivey said. “We started out with a basic Introduction to Religion course, which was popular, helping students who were going to take further courses in religion to have a basic understanding of what religion is all about.”

Beginning with an undergraduate major only, the department granted 24 bachelor’s degrees from 1966 to 1969. The first three master’s degrees were granted during 1969-1970. Though the department’s doctoral program would not be established until 1993, students could earn a Ph.D. with a focus on religion through the university’s Program in Interdisciplinary Humanities.

“During those early years, we were particularly active in interdisciplinary programs at the university,” said Spivey, who was honored by the university in 2003 with the creation of the Robert A. Spivey Professorship of Religion, which is currently held by Professor Amanda Porterfield.

TRAILBLAZING FACULTY

The cadre of faculty that came in the late ’60s and early ’70s had a common profile: They had training in either Judaism or Christianity, most had degrees from divinity schools and some were ordained clergy.

In addition to Spivey, notable early faculty members included Jackson “Jack” Ice and John Carey, originally hired to teach in the Department of Philosophy in 1955 and 1960, respectively; Charles T. Wellborn and Charles W. “Bill” Swain, both hired by the Department of Religion in 1965; Lawrence Cunningham and Walter Moore, hired in 1967; John Priest, hired in 1968 as a professor and director of the university’s Program in Interdisciplinary Humanities; and Leo Sandon, hired in 1969.

“Bill Swain had training in religions other than Christianity and Judaism. John Priest worked primarily in the field of biblical studies and was an expert in ancient Judaism and was part of the first wave of scholars in the 1950s working on the Dead

Sea Scrolls,” Kelsay said.

Priest, Spivey and Carey were active and important in the American Academy of Religion. Spivey served as its executive director from 1973 to 1975, followed by Priest from 1976 to 1979, who also had been president of the organization in 1967.

“For six years the main office of the AAR was located here,” Kelsay said. “It remains the premier professional organization, both nationally and internationally, for scholars working in the field of religion.”

After Priest died in 1998, his wife, Gloria, made gifts to the university to establish the John Priest Professorship and the John Priest Lecture. Through the years, other lectures were established in honor of faculty members: the Charles Wellborn Lecture in American Religious History and the Tessa J. Bartholomeusz Lecture in Religion. A departmental lecture series, the Sheng Yen Buddhist Studies Lecture Series, was named for the noted Chinese Buddhist monk and religious scholar who was one of the mainstream teachers of Chan Buddhism. The Lucius Moody Bristol Lecture in Social Ethics was named in honor of the noted university educator and charter member of the Southern Sociological Association who was active in social welfare work.

Another notable early faculty member, Richard L. Rubenstein, came to the department as a visiting professor in 1969, but was persuaded to join the faculty in 1970. An ordained rabbi, Rubenstein would be named the university’s Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in 1977-1978. He was a prominent member of the department until 1995 when he went on to become president and professor of religion at the University of Bridgeport from 1995 to 1999.

“All of the department’s faculty members were fine scholars, but Richard had the biggest research reputation,” Kelsay said.

Rubenstein’s most notable student — and arguably the department’s most famous alumnus — was Michael Berenbaum (Ph.D. ’75, Humanities), who served as project director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum from 1988 to 1993 and director of the museum’s Holocaust Research Institute from 1993 to 1997.

THE CONTEMPORARY DEPARTMENT

What began as a department that was modern in scope and focused on Western religions has grown into one with a reach into antiquity and a focus on Eastern religions, too.

The creation of the doctoral program in 1993 was a major milestone, says the department’s longest-serving faculty member, University Distinguished Teaching Professor David Levenson, who came to FSU in 1976.

“Over the years we have developed for both the graduate and undergraduate program more advanced and specialized courses with broader coverage of the world’s religious traditions,” Levenson said. “For example, we now have more people covering Asian religious traditions than in any time in the department’s history.”

One of the distinctive features of the department is the wide array of language training offered to the graduate and undergraduate students, enabling them to study the classical literature of the various traditions in the original languages.

“The language component of our department is often overlooked,” Kalbian said. “For any scholar, the important thing is to go back and look at various translations over time, which provides a lot of insight into how a text develops.”

Not only are the department’s language offerings rare in an undergraduate religion program, but so is the enthusiasm with which they are received by undergraduates, according to Kalbian.

“Students will take a class, say Introduction to the New Testament or the Old Testament, and they’ll get so excited about it that they’ll tell David Levenson that they want to learn Greek or Hebrew so they can read it in the original,” Kelsay said.

In the department’s Asia section, for instance, faculty members want their students to know a number of languages that aren’t regularly offered elsewhere at FSU, so they end up teaching languages such as classical Chinese or Japanese, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Hindi/Urdu. For those studying Religions of Western Antiquity, faculty offer courses in classical Hebrew, Aramaic, Coptic, Ethiopic and Syriac, as well as advanced courses in Greek and Latin religious texts.

“When I mention to colleagues at other universities that I have taught Syriac (the Aramaic dialect used by Near Eastern Christians for the past 1,500 years) to 18 students, half of them undergraduates, they are amazed and not a little envious,” Levenson said.

The department’s language offerings, according to Levenson, should fall under the category of “unusual things we can do for undergraduates” because such training is typically reserved elsewhere for graduate students.

THE BASIC STUDENT PROFILE

While a few undergraduate religion majors are interested in becoming a member of the clergy or working with the religious community, most are simply students who enjoy studying about religion as they pursue all sorts of degrees. International affairs, for instance, is based in the social sci-

Please see **GRAND HERITAGE**, 6

GRAND HERITAGE, from 5

ences but allows students to take courses all over the university from multiple academic perspectives.

"So (international affairs majors) come over and take, say, the Introduction to Islamic Tradition or the Introduction to Buddhist Tradition or the World Religions Survey, and they see that their interest in international affairs is well served by this, because its kind of a unique window by which you can understand other people and other cultures," Kelsay said.

An advantage of a major such as religion, according to Levenson, is getting to experience the small, liberal arts college feel as an undergraduate at a major research university.

"In term of the major courses, undergraduates get a lot of interaction with faculty," Levenson said.

A number of undergraduates have gone on to prestigious master's and doctoral programs, according to Kalbian, including recent graduate David G. Miller who, as the recipient of a Phillip and Patricia Frost Philanthropic Foundation scholarship, is currently earning a master's degree in medical anthropology at Oxford University.

"Our reputation for undergraduate training is longstanding," she said. "We cover so much in this department, including applied ethics — environmental ethics, food ethics, media ethics and business ethics."

Kalbian added that prior to Miller's graduation, he was one of three students

who founded the Society of Practical Ethics at FSU, a registered student organization. Working with fellow students, Miller led the effort to bring a national undergraduate bioethics conference to campus. The event, which attracted more than 200 students from across the country, included a bioethics bowl, where students debated various bioethics cases.

"Having this group of undergraduate students participate in that bioethics bowl helps us emphasize our offerings in a number of applied ethics courses," Kalbian said.

The department's graduate students have been hosting the Graduate Student Symposium every February since 2002. The student-run symposium, which helps to professionalize students by getting them in the habit of presenting scholarly work at conferences, brings in graduate students from around the country and around the world to present papers on each year's thematic focus.

"It is a really impressive conference that has a reputation as one of the better student conferences in religion," Kalbian said.

Most students who seek a doctorate in religion want an academic career and intend to teach at a university, so the department's track record in graduate placement becomes an important factor in student recruitment.

"In the early years of our doctoral program, we didn't really have a track record," said Kalbian of the department's 22-year-old doctoral program — young by most standards. "It's not that we weren't placing people, we just didn't have the numbers

of students. But now I think we can really show evidence that our students are being placed and competing against students from the top institutions and in some cases beating them to get jobs."

Of the 22 graduates who received a doctoral degree since 2012, 16 have academic appointments, two have administrative posts here at Florida State, one went into business and one is studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

In addition to placing its graduates in good jobs, the department's track record includes two former graduate students who received the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship through the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and another who received an American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship. Both are highly competitive fellowships.

The department has granted more than 50 doctoral degrees. Its first doctorate was awarded to Justin Watson (M.A. '92; Ph.D. '96, Religion). Watson was supervised by Distinguished Teaching Professor Sandon, who retired in 2003.

A LOOK BACK, A LOOK AHEAD

Based on the past 50 years of enrollment figures, student interest in religious studies at FSU has remained steady with two exceptions. Around the time of the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991 and immediately after 9/11, interest in Islam surged. Conversely, the worldwide financial crisis that began in 2008 caused a nationwide dip in the numbers of students majoring in the humanities, including religion.

"For about four years there was even a drop in the number of students who took an elective in humanities," Kelsay said. "One explanation for this might be parents who reinforced for their children not to pick majors that they didn't think translated directly into the job market."

The enrollment numbers have since rebounded, and this fall, the department's courses are packed to the gills.

"We are not a stagnant department," Kalbian said. "I don't think anyone would view us like that. We've been on the move since I got here, and certainly before then. We've increased numbers in terms of everything — faculty and graduate students, and awards and accolades that faculty and students receive."

Kalbian and Kelsay both foresee a continued and vigorous emphasis in several nationally trending areas in the study about religion, including an interest in Islam, Christianity in a non-Western, global context and applied or practical ethics.

"We're going to do our best to keep abreast of and keep producing things that make excellent contributions to these," Kelsay said.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY A YEAR OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Throughout this academic year, the Department of Religion will sponsor a variety of events to celebrate its golden anniversary.

- On Thursday, Oct. 22, Ed Blum, a history professor at San Diego State University, will give a lecture, "The Age of Miracles is Still With Us: Twelve Steps to Recovering American Religious History," from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Dodd Hall Auditorium.

- On Monday, Nov. 16, Anne Monius, a professor of South Asian religions at Harvard University, will give a lecture, "From Confidence to Critical Rethinking: The Study of South Asian Religions in the Wake of Said's 'Orientalism.'"

Four additional lectures — the dates and times of which have yet to be finalized — will be given by noted scholars, including Ronald Green, emeritus religion professor at Dartmouth University; Stephen Teiser, the D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies and professor of religion at Princeton University; and Don Lopez, the A.E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist Studies and chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan.

For the latest information, visit www.religion.fsu.edu.

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As home of 'CARE,' Thagard Building has new mission

The Thagard Building, nestled in the heart of campus, has long been a place where Florida State students can go to receive care. Built in 1964 as the campus infirmary, it was later named to honor the exploits of alumnus Norman E. Thagard, a famed NASA astronaut.

Though the name "Thagard Student Health Center" still sounds right and easily rolls off the tongue for generations of past students and many current long-time employees, it is no longer correct.

University Health Services vacated Thagard in 2013 to move into the state-of-the-art Health and Wellness Center. Today's students can still receive care at the Thagard Building — just not of the medical kind.

Over the spring and summer of 2014, Thagard was remodeled to be the new home of the Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement. Commonly known as CARE, the center, which opened in Thagard on the first day of fall 2014 classes, helps traditionally underrepre-

sented students find success at FSU through a range of academic support.

The move to allowed CARE to consolidate its operations, bringing its Tutoring and Computer Lab from the Oglesby Union and its Academic Support Services from the University Center.

Tadarrayl Starke, CARE's director, called the move "amazing" because of the Thagard Building's central location and spaciousness.

Since moving, CARE has seen 62,095 student visits, a 54.4 percent increase in student usage of CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab services over the same period from the year before.

"Students have definitely taken advantage of the increased space," said Starke of the Thagard Building's three classrooms, 25 group and individual study rooms and 46 touchscreen desktop computers.

The CARE Tutoring and Computer Lab is open not only to CARE students, but all registered FSU students.



FSU Photography Services/Bruce Palmer

The Source News from Human Resources

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Instructor-led and online training opportunities are available to Florida State faculty and staff members. To view a schedule of classes and registration information, visit www.hr.fsu.edu/train. To register for classes, log in to myFSU at 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

>>**OPEN ENROLLMENT:** The 2016 plan year Open Enrollment period begins 8 a.m. Eastern Monday, Oct. 19, and ends 6 p.m. Eastern Friday, Nov. 6. Open Enrollment is a special period when changes to pre-tax employee

benefits can be made. Any changes made during Open Enrollment will be effective Jan. 1, 2016. As always, employees are encouraged to carefully review their current benefits elections and consider making changes for the 2016 plan year. Employees also are advised to update their mailing addresses, email addresses and other important contact information through OMNI self-service (my.fsu.edu). Employees with questions should contact the Benefits Office at (850) 644-4015 or benefits@fsu.edu.

More information: www.hr.fsu.edu.

>>**BENEFITS AND WELLNESS FAIR:** The 15th annual event will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, in the Oglesby Union Ballroom, 75 N. Woodward Ave. on the main campus. Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate and provide information. In addition, representatives from the state group insurance plans and the FSU 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.

Faculty members can apply for sabbaticals, professional development 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 2015-2016 process to be effective during the 2016-2017 academic year. Two-semester sabbatical proposals are reviewed by the same standards as one-semester proposals and are not guaranteed to be granted. Detailed information is available on the Office for Faculty Development and Advancement website at fda.fsu.edu under "Faculty Development."

Applications should be submitted by the applicant through the department chair and academic dean to the Office of the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, Westcott 115, by Monday, Oct. 5, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVE

The University Committee on Professional Development Programs 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 2015-2016 process to be effective during the 2016-2017 academic year. Professional Development Leave is available to non-tenured and non-tenure-earning faculty members and A&P employees who have three or more years of service as covered by the FSU/UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement. Detailed information is available at fda.fsu.edu under "Faculty Development."

Applications should 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 dean of University Libraries, to the Office of the Vice President for Faculty Development and Advancement, Westcott 115, by Monday, Oct. 5, 2015.

BY the WAY

>>**COMPLEX COLLAGE OF CRANES AND CARGO:** Joelle Dietrick, an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Art, is exhibiting "Cargomobilities" at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Jacksonville, Fla., through Sunday, Oct. 25. The exhibit is a multilayered mural of paint and adhesive fabric that presents a commentary about the interconnectedness of macroeconomies and microsystems. To research the project, Dietrick mined years of data from the housing market from 2005 to 2015 and geolocation data for cargo ships. She also toured JaxPort, the 18th largest port in the nation.

>>**ACC ROAD SCHOLARS SPEAKER SERIES:** Kenneth Goodman, director of the Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy at the University of Miami and director of the Florida Bioethics Network, will discuss "Helmet Safety, Biohacking and Genetic Enhancement: New Challenges in Science, Sport and Society" as part of the ACC Road Scholars Speaker Series at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, in the Robert B. Bradley Reading Room, Scholars Commons, Stroz Library.



>>**HOMECOMING:** Students and returning alumni will revel during the week of Sunday, Nov. 8, themed "Garnet and Golden Age." The week's highlights include:

Thursday, Nov. 12

•Warchant Concert, featuring the Zac Brown Band and special guest Drake White, 7 p.m., Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.

Friday, Nov. 13

•Homecoming Parade, 2 p.m.

•Pow Wow, featuring comedian Amy Schumer, 8 p.m., Tucker Center.

Saturday, Nov. 14

•Seminoles vs. N.C. State Wolfpack, time to be announced.

To learn more, visit homecoming.fsu.edu.

>>**STUDENT VETERAN FILM FESTIVAL:** A documentary, "The Hornet's Nest," will be screened at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. General admission tickets are \$10 for FSU students and \$30 for the general public. To buy tickets, call (850) 644-6500 or visit the Fine Arts Ticket Office. To learn more, visit vetfilmfest.fsu.edu.

>>**GRADUATE FACULTY MENTOR AWARDS:** Any FSU graduate student, graduate student organization, graduate alumnus or faculty or staff member can nominate a faculty member for a Graduate Faculty Mentor Award, which recognizes faculty mentors whose dedication to graduate students and commitment to excellence in graduate education and mentoring have made a significant contribution to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students at the university.

Nominations should be submitted to the offices of academic deans' by Jan. 29.

Based on the current graduate faculty status definitions, eligible faculty must be current FSU faculty members with graduate faculty status, co-doctoral or co-masters directive status, serve as a graduate mentor and have been employed at FSU for at least five years. Both tenure- and non-tenure-track faculty as well as specialized faculty are eligible. Faculty on courtesy appointments are not eligible. A nomination form for the award can be found at fla.st/1iSwTwD.

Each recipient of the award will receive \$3,000. Awards will be presented at the annual Faculty Awards Dinner this spring.

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Employee email will be upgraded to Office 365

With Office 365, the sky is literally the limit.

Starting this fall, Information Technology Services (ITS) will upgrade all employee email accounts to Office 365, a cloud-based email, calendar and collaboration suite from Microsoft.

In addition to a 50GB mailbox, Office 365 enables employees to access their email, calendar and contacts from virtually anywhere, anytime. An improved Web interface makes it easy to log in to email through any Web browser, and increased mobility supports a quick shift to mobile devices when on the go.

Email, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. As part of the upgrade, Office 365 also gives employees access to several, valuable collaboration tools.

OneDrive for Business offers each employee a massive one terabyte (TB) of cloud storage, allowing employees to access files from anywhere and securely share and edit documents with others at Florida State University. Another convenient tool, Office Online, enables users to access online versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and OneNote. Employees will also be able to download free Office apps — including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and more — through Office 365 ProPlus, which provides a full Office experience on up to five personally owned computers, five phones and five tablets.

The upgrade will migrate all employee email accounts from Exchange — Florida State University's on-site email system — to Office 365 — Microsoft's cloud-based email system — and will take place over several months. Email, calendars and contacts will automatically transfer to Office 365, and everyone's email address and password will stay the same.

Employees will need to take several steps to get ready to use the new system though and should watch for an email with tips on how to prepare.

To learn more, visit the ITS Office 365 Web page at its.fsu.edu/Email/Office-365.

U.S. NEWS, from 1

was better than expected again this year. With a 79 percent graduation rate, Florida State well exceeded a prediction by *U.S. News* that FSU's graduation rate for its 2008 cohort would be 70 percent. *U.S. News* based its prediction on a formula that includes factors such as high school class standing, standardized test scores, financial expenditures, percentage of students receiving Pell Grants and whether the institution is public or private. Only three institutions in the Top 100 exceeded their predicted rate by more than FSU did.

Florida State shares the No. 43 spot with the University of Alabama. Among all national universities, including private universities, FSU ranked 96th. The national universities category consists of 280 institutions (173 public, 100 private and seven for-profit) that offer a wide range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees.

U.S. News & World Report determines its rankings based on seven factors: assessment of excellence, i.e. peer and high school counselor assessments (22.5 percent); graduation and retention rates (22.5 percent); faculty resources, (20 percent); student selectivity (12.5 percent); financial resources (10 percent); graduation rate performance, i.e. the difference between actual and predicted graduation rate (7.5 percent); and alumni giving (5 percent).

U.S. News & World Report also recognized FSU in its 2016 rankings in a category called "A+ Schools for B Students." The average freshman enrolled in FSU last fall had a high school grade point average of 3.9, well



Michael Hartline

above a "B" average.

"FSU's listing in this category is a reflection of the university's commitment to the academic success of its students and a reminder that our quality far exceeds our reputation, an issue we are working to correct," said Interim Provost Sally McRorie.

In addition to the highly ranked College of Business insurance and real estate programs, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the College of Business No. 39 among public universities for its undergraduate programs overall and No. 61 among both public and private institutions. Last year, the college ranked No. 62 among public and private business programs.

"Our move up in the rankings reflects the hard work and commitment of our faculty to become a preeminent college of business," said Michael D. Hartline, interim dean of the College of Business. "We are committed to thinking, acting and performing like a Top 25 business school, and it is gratifying to be recognized for our efforts."

CAMPUS
In Action

will return in the November 2015 issue.



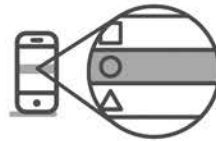
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