McRorie named provost

By Amy Farnum-Patronis
News and Research Communications

Florida State University President John Thrasher announced Nov. 24 the selection of Sally McRorie as the university’s provost and executive vice president for academic affairs following a rigorous national search.

McRorie has served as Florida State’s interim provost since Dec. 5, 2014, leading up to her permanent appointment to the position. During that time, she worked with deans, chairs and faculty across campus to lead Florida State in meeting all 12 of the state’s preeminence metrics for the first time.

“Sally has an excellent record of accomplishments as a scholar and administrator at Florida State and other universities,” Thrasher said. “Her knowledge and passion for FSU run deep. Over the past 21 years, she has served as a professor, dean, vice president and interim provost.”

McRorie was one of four finalists chosen by the 21-member Provost Search Committee led by Professor of Music Theory and Dean Emeritus Don Gibson. The committee interviewed nine candidates before inviting four finalists to campus for open forums with students, faculty and staff.

“It is truly an honor to be chosen as the provost for Florida State, a university that I know well,” McRorie said. “My academic home for 21 years is on a great trajectory.”

Grant will fund bystander-intervention training

Florida State University has been awarded a five-year, $614,584 grant from the Florida Department of Health’s Sexual Violence Prevention Program to fund the Health Promotion Department in University Health Services to activate bystanders to reduce sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking.

In addition, the Health Promotion Department has received a $10,000 grant for the second time from the Avon Foundation for Women through its Speak Out Against Domestic Violence.

“We are honored to be recipients of these grants that will help us implement the evidenced-informed Green Dot bystander-intervention program here at FSU,” said Kori Pruett, sexual violence prevention coordinator. “We know that members of our community are experiencing power-based violence, and we know that we can do something to change that.”

Green Dot is an organization that promotes violence prevention through peer and cultural influence.

FSU currently has several prevention initiatives underway, including an online sexual violence prevention program for first-year students, outreach initiatives and discussions about healthy relationships.
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“Playful products subconsciously cause us to let our guard down, so we’re more prone to pursue self rewards like indulgent foods.”

— Maura Scott, assistant marketing professor at Florida State University, as quoted by Shape in an article, “How to Organize Your Kitchen for Weight Loss,” published Nov. 17. Scott was discussing a study she co-authored, published in the Journal of Consumer Research, which found, among other things, that people who used a doll-shaped ice cream scooper doled out 22 percent more ice cream than those who used a regular scooper.

FSU FOUNDATION

Important year-end dates for processing charitable gifts

Employees who are responsible for processing or receiving gifts for their colleges or departments should note that the Florida State University Foundation will have abbreviated business hours during the winter break. To ensure that donors’ year-end gifts reach the Foundation in a timely manner and are processed according to their wishes, employees are asked to adhere to the schedule outlined below.

The Foundation office will close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, and will remain closed through Sunday, Jan. 3. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, Jan. 4.

Once employees return from the holidays, they should sort through departmental mail, identify charitable items and deliver those items, along with their respective postmarked envelopes, to the Foundation office by Thursday, Jan. 7. They should continue to send all postmarked envelopes for any gifts received in January. The Foundation also asks for their assistance in making faculty and other staff who may receive gifts aware of the urgency of transmitting year-end gifts and donor instructions to the Foundation.

Documents and donor instructions can either be mailed using Mail Code 2739 or hand-delivered to the Foundation office at 2010 Levy Avenue, Building B, Suite 300. Hand delivery is highly encouraged to avoid delays and ensure proper stewardship of donors’ gifts. Make sure to include the postmarked envelope.

All contributions from faculty and staff members must follow the same instructions as regular donors, including deadlines, postmarked envelopes, etc.

For more information, contact Alexia Chamberlynn, director, Gift Processing, at achamberlynn@foundation.fsu.edu or (850) 644-9193.

“As these interdependent areas of emphasis will improve our national ranking and offer the level of experiences every member of the FSU family deserves.”

Throughout the past year, McRorie has worked on several major initiatives at FSU. She introduced the “Think 15” campaign, which encourages undergraduate students to increase their credit hours per semester; she worked with President Thrasher to expand FSU’s CARE program and increase the opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students; and she is co-chair of the University Strategic Planning Committee, which began work in August.

To read more about this story, visit news.fsu.edu.
The University of California, Santa Barbara, and Pepperdine University might overlook the Pacific Ocean and the University of Colorado might be nestled in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, but if you’re at Florida State University right now, take a good look around.

The Florida State campus, with its Jacobean Revival architecture and signature camellias, azaleas and pines, was featured as the No. 1 “Most Beautiful College Campus in America” on a list published by House Beautiful and Cosmopolitan in October. Both magazines are owned by Hearst Magazines.

“I’m very happy for Florida State University and our community,” said Scott Cisson, director of Grounds and Landscape Operations.

Landscape architecture is serious business for Cisson’s staff of nearly 100 employees. While he calls himself the harshest critic of the jobs he and his staff perform each day, he commended his staff for continually honing their professional skills and buying into the department’s goals and objectives.

“I am very proud of them,” Cisson said. “They have embraced the concept of attention to detail and the idea that our work will stand the test of time and, for this, my hat is off to our fine folks.”

Cisson was quick to share the spotlight, offering praise for every department within the university’s Facilities operations.

“We do not do this alone, because we are part of a big team of folks who keep the buildings clean, who develop, plan and oversee architecture, who clean the sidewalks or replace light bulbs or pick up and recycle garbage — folks behind the scenes we don’t see but who are a vital part of keeping Florida State looking great,” he said.

All of these efforts, according to Cisson, contribute to FSU’s ability to attract the best and the brightest faculty, staff and students.

Mark Bertolami, director of Facilities Planning, echoed Cisson’s sentiments, adding that potential students who visit any university campus quickly size up the surroundings to decide whether they want to spend several years of their lives studying there.

“The physical environment of a campus can make a powerful impression,” Bertolami said. “Arranging and designing facilities does matter, and this recognition serves as acknowledgement that our efforts have not gone unnoticed.

“This list merely confirms what many students, faculty, staff and alumni have known for years — that the Florida State campus is a special place as reflected in its architecture and landscape,” he said.
**FSU RECEIVES $2.2 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS TO SUPPORT UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS**

By Amy Farnum-Patronis
News and Research Communications

Florida State University will receive $2.2 million over the next five years to fund two programs designed to support traditionally underrepresented students in higher education.

The two competitive grants are part of the Federal TRIO Programs sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The grants will allow the university to increase its efforts to serve first-generation college students and students with disabilities who need academic assistance.

“These two grants further confirm Florida State University’s support for traditionally underrepresented students,” said Karen Laughlin, dean of Undergraduate Studies. “There is a rich vein of talent in these students, and these grants will help us provide the services they need to excel, particularly in the STEM fields.”

With the new funding, Florida State will add a Student Support Services (SSS) program and an SSS-STEM program. They are almost identical programs, with the latter focusing on students majoring in science, technology, engineering and math. Each grant will provide programming for 175 students.

Florida State is already serving 1,525 traditionally underrepresented students through its Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) program this fall, including 400 freshmen. Eligible students who apply to participate in SSS or SSS-STEM will have access to all the services that CARE offers.

“These grants will help Florida State expand its ability to serve students traditionally underrepresented in higher education and will provide additional opportunities for retention and graduation of those students,” said Tadarrayl Starke, director of CARE. “This actually could expand the number of students who are engaged in the network of programming CARE provides.”

The funding will expand FSU’s CARE program, which is a proven success. Since 2000, almost 4,900 students have enrolled in CARE. During the 15-year span, the average GPA after CARE students’ first term of college is 3.15, and the first-year retention rate is 94 percent. The six-year graduation rate of the 2008 CARE cohort was 80.6 percent, slightly higher than the 79.1 percent rate of FSU’s general student population during the same time period.

Florida State’s achievements in these areas were recently recognized by *Washington Monthly* magazine, which included the university in a list of 10 institutions that “exceed expectations to enroll and graduate low-income students.”

Through the SSS grants, Florida State will add full- and part-time staff positions, which will include:

- Student support specialists who will help with financial aid issues, teach financial literacy and assist with graduation planning, applying to graduate school or transitioning to professional life.
- Academic coordinators who will help with advising and on-campus academic engagement.
- Multiple part-time specialists in math and science who will provide additional workshops and engagement opportunities in STEM areas.
- Tutors to help students with higher-level STEM courses.

Starke expects the programs to be fully implemented by the spring semester.
The Florida Legislature will be in session beginning Tuesday, Jan. 12. All faculty and staff members should take note of Florida State University’s policies concerning the session.

• Associate Vice President for Governmental Relations Kathleen Daly is the chief registered lobbyist for Florida State University. Laura Brock, director of external relations at the College of Medicine also is registered to lobby.

• The Legislature periodically requests faculty and/or staff to attend committee meetings or to formally respond to questions about certain issues. FSU employees who are asked to appear before committee must notify Daly at (850) 644-4453 and submit a legislative contact form prior to making an appearance.

The form can be found at http://govrel.fsu.edu. Employees who have trouble accessing the form may call (850) 644-4453 for a hard copy.

• A campus network of legislative liaisons, listed at right, is currently in place with each division represented. Through this network, legislation impacting the university is routinely routed to appropriate departments and offices for timely responses and/or information. These responses are routed back to the division liaisons, to the Office of Governmental Relations and, ultimately, to the lobbyists who will serve collectively on the university’s behalf.

These policies are not intended to discourage employees from exercising their individual rights as citizens or as members of groups or organizations not affiliated with the university. Such rights include the freedom to express their views on legislation, provided that the views are not presented as those of FSU, the State University System or a subunit of either of these.

Get vocal with ‘Advocate’ website

Whether it’s third-and-long or a goal-line stand, Florida State University fans know how to get vocal to support their team.

Florida State is encouraging its alumni and friends to be just as vocal in support of the university during the 2016 Legislative session by joining the Advocate for Florida State website.

“Lawmakers take note when they hear from their constituents, so we’re encouraging everyone who loves FSU to get involved in the upcoming session and speak up on behalf of FSU,” said Kathleen Daly, associate vice president for Governmental Relations. “Our vision is solid, our needs are real and we absolutely must have the energetic support of the Florida State faithful to rock the capitol during the coming legislative session.”

The Advocate for Florida State website features tips about writing an email or letter to legislators or how to arrange a meeting. By signing up, members receive updates on university and legislative issues.

To sign up for the free website, visit www.advocateforfloridastate.fsu.edu and click “Register.”

2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2016

• Increase Preeminence funding.
• Fund three new facilities and the repair/maintenance needs of existing facilities.
• Reinstate the Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Program.
• Fund scholarships and faculty positions in the College of Law.
• Fund a range of critical investments in the College of Engineering.
SAVE MONEY WITH INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAIL: As a reminder, interdepartmental mail — specifically to other departments on campus — does not need a stamp. Employees can simply address letters or packages using the format below and drop them in their department’s designated “outgoing mail” box.

Address format for departments:

Recipient Name
Department
Mail Code ####

Departmental mail codes can be found at https://postal.fsu.edu. The university’s interdepartmental mail serves the following locations:

• Florida State University, Main Campus
• Innovation Park (West Paul Dirac Drive)
• Florida State University, Panama City Campus
• Department of Anthropology (1847 West Tennessee Street in the Varsity Plaza)

More information: FSU Postal Services, (850) 644-2794.

NIGHT DIGITS: WFSU has a new main telephone line: (850) 645-7200. The old number, (850) 487-3170, will continue to work for about five years. The station, located at 1600 Red Barber Plaza in Tallahassee, is a Public Media, PBS and NPR member station for north Florida and south Georgia.
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The deadline for submitting proposals for projects for Student Technology Fee funding is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11.

Each year, the Student Technology Fee helps fund millions of dollars’ worth of instructional technology at Florida State University. The Tech Fee — assessed from tuition each semester — provides an essential revenue stream for instructional technology, with funds strategically divided among university colleges, central IT organizations and instructional technology proposals.

Tech Fee proposals give departments an opportunity to secure funding for innovative and critical technology projects that may not be possible otherwise. To be considered for funding, projects must provide significant value to students and faculty, materially enhance instructional technology and be approved by their respective departments.

To date, the Student Tech Fee has distributed $25.86 million, including $18.4 million to university colleges and central IT organizations, and $7.46 million to fully or partially fund 189 approved instructional technology proposals.

Past awards have funded a variety of unique projects and services, including enhancing technology services available through the Student Disability Resources Center (Division of Student Affairs), implementing a plagiarism detection service (Office of Distance Learning), equipping a recording studio for the Global Educational Outreach for Science Engineering and Technology initiative (Chemistry and Biochemistry) and investing in software to digitize sheet music collections (College of Music).

Over the years, the Student Tech Fee also has helped fund a multitude of computer lab updates and wireless upgrades to Oglesby Union, Strozier Library and other campus locations.

To submit a proposal for the 2015-2016 award cycle, please follow the instructions found online at its.fsu.edu/Student-Technology-Fee/Proposal-Instructions.

For more information about the Student Technology Fee, visit its.fsu.edu/Student-Technology-Fee.
HONORABLE AND NOTABLE

Michael Blaber, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), has developed an engineered fibroblast growth factor (eFGF) derivative, TTHX1114, which has been licensed by Trefoil Therapeutics and E&B Technologies to be studied as a therapy for ocular surface injury as a result of mustard gas exposure. In addition, Blaber has co-written an invited book chapter, “Folding, Misfolding, Disordered Proteins and Related Diseases,” with alumnus Liam Longo, Ph.D., published in the Encyclopedia of Cell Biology (Academic Press).

Robert Crew, Ph.D. (Political Science), has been named the 2016 recipient of the Diane Blair Award from the Southern Political Science Association. It is presented biennially to a political scientist who has played an outstanding role in politics and/or government during his or her career at the local, state, national or international level. The award carries a $1,000 prize and will be presented to Crew at the SPSA conference, Puerto Rico, Jan. 8.

Markus Huettel, Ph.D. (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science), has been selected as a fellow in the inaugural class of fellows of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. The ASLO Fellows Program was initiated in 2015 to honor ASLO members who have advanced the aquatic sciences through their exceptional contributions to the benefit of the society and its publications, meetings and other activities.

Lynn Jones, Ph.D. (Art History), has received a Paul Mellon and Alisa Mellon Bruce Visiting Senior Fellowship from the National Gallery of Art, Center for Advanced Study of the Visual Arts, to study “Imperial Canonization: Nikephoros Phokas and the Rock-Cut Churches of Cappadocia.” This will allow Jones to research and write a key chapter of a book she is writing, “Visions of Death and Resurrection in the Rock-Cut Churchs of Cappadocia.” The fellowship, which includes a $7,000 stipend, will take place from June 15 to Aug. 15, 2016.

The Florida State University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi is one of 15 chapters to be recognized this fall as a Chapter of Merit because of its work in recognizing and promoting academic excellence in all fields of higher education and engaging the community of scholars in service to others.

Kudos to ‘your local PBS station’

PBS member station WFSU received an Education and Community Engagement Collective Impact Achievement award from the National Educational Telecommunications Association during its national conference in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 5.

With the recognition, NETA commended the entire staff of WFSU-TV for their “enormous” community involvement.

The staff of nearly 40 coordinates an American Graduate program for hundreds of at-risk students and they conduct monthly Super Why Reading Camps, which model best teaching practices and reinforce learning concepts. In addition, WFSU has hosted SciGirls Camps where more than 250 girls were trained in critical STEM-related learning skills.

The award also noted the robust social media presence of WFSU-TV. More than 3,000 Twitter followers and more than 4,300 Facebook friends, including some 2,500 educators.

BYLINES

David Berlan, Ph.D. (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy), has written a paper, “Pneumonia’s Second Wind? A Case Study of the Global Health Network for Pneumonia,” published in the journal Health Policy and Planning. The paper examines the emergence and evolution of efforts to address childhood pneumonia.

Michael Blaber, Ph.D., Xue Xia and Liam Longo (Biomedical Sciences) co-wrote a paper, “Evolution of a Protein Folding Nucleus,” which has been accepted for publication in a special issue of the journal Protein Science, 2015.


Irina Bruck and Daniel L. Kaplan, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, “Insights into the Initiation of Eukaryotic DNA Replication,” with postdoctoral associate Patricia Perez and undergraduate student Max Colbert, which has been accepted as an invited review article in the journal Nucleus. Bruck, Kaplan and Perez wrote another paper, “Mcm10 Coordinates the Timely Assembly and Activation of the Replication Fork Helicase,” accepted for publication in the journal Nucleic Acids Research.


Bin Chen, Ph.D. (Research Computing Center, Information Technology Services), wrote a paper, “Probing Gravitational Faraday Rotation Using Quasar X-ray Microlensing,” which was published in the journal Scientific Reports, Nov. 17. In the paper, Chen predicts a new but yet-to-be-observed physical effect based on quasar X-ray microlensing, which can be used to detect gravitational Faraday rotation and would help astronomers provide new evidence of the correctness of Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Currently, there is no practical detection method for gravitational Faraday rotation. The simulation used for this work was generated on the university’s high-performance computing cluster.


Ivan Hung, Ph.D., Peter L. Gorkov, Ph.D., Zhehong Gan and William Brey, Ph.D. (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory), co-wrote a paper,
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