

State

The Faculty-Staff Bulletin of Florida State University

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January 2016

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FSU receives \$100M for Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship

Florida State University has announced the largest gift in its history — \$100 million — from Jan Moran and The Jim Moran Foundation to honor the late Jim Moran and create what will be the nation's largest interdisciplinary, degree-granting school of entrepreneurship.

The Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship will stand alone, offering and greatly expanding the entrepreneurship courses currently taught in the College of Business and making them available to all FSU students.

"Gifts of this magnitude have an enormous impact on a university and change the landscape for generations to come," said Chair Ed Burr. "The Florida State University Board of Trustees is thrilled to approve the naming of this new school, and the entire FSU family is deeply grateful to Jan Moran and The Jim Moran Foundation for their support of entrepreneurial education."

FSU President John Thrasher called the gift "transformational" and said entrepreneurial education in Florida and across the country will never be the same.

A significant portion of the gift, he said, will continue to fund the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship, which has a long, 20-year history of serving entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout Florida. The Jim Moran Institute will remain administratively in the FSU College of Business and continue its extensive outreach mission to help bridge real-world entrepreneurship practice with entrepreneurship education provided through the new school.

"At Florida State, we are focusing hard on graduate success," Thrasher said. "The Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship and the Jim Moran Institute, in conjunction with Florida State University, will become the focal point for collegiate entrepreneurial education and the lifeline for training

and assistance to entrepreneurs, small businesses and nonprofits. The continuation of Jim Moran's generosity is an investment in our students, our businesses and our state."

The Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship will reside under Provost Sally McRorie and operate much like a college. The school's director and staff will be housed in a building in downtown Tallahassee, very close to the state capitol, local businesses and statewide associations.

A faculty director, appointed by the provost, will lead the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship. The undergraduate entrepreneurship programs currently housed in the College of Business will be moved to the school, which will award both the Bachelor of Science degree and Bachelor of Arts degree in Entrepreneurship, along with a redesigned, interdisciplinary minor.

The official launch date of the school is scheduled for Aug. 8, 2018.

Faculty members celebrated for service to online education

By Karen Hawkins

Office of Distance Learning

The Office of Distance Learning honored faculty and mentors for their contributions to online education in 2014-2015 during the Distance Learning Awards ceremony in November.

The third annual event recognized the outstanding work by the university's distance learning community to promote effective practices for distance learning across all disciplines. Quality course design, exceptional online teaching and su-

perior mentoring support were the focus of achievement.

"It's hard to imagine the amount of work that goes into designing and delivering an online course," said Susann Rudasill, director of the Office of Distance Learning. "Let me give you a quick preview of distance from the outside looking in. Our numbers have been exploding, but we're not abandoning the quality of our instruction. Fifteen years ago, it was an extraordinarily simplistic approach. Now, to develop, teach and support online learning takes competency, commitment, consistency and

courage. Thanks to the support of our administration, faculty and staff, the result for our students gets better every year."

Excellence in Online Course Design recognized high-quality instructional materials, learning objectives, assessment strategies, learner interaction and engagement, course technologies, learner support and accessibility. Awards for excellence with distinction were presented to Ken Armstrong, Program in Interdisciplinary Computing; Markus Huettel, Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science; and Richard

Please see **DISTANCE LEARNING**, 11

Spread the Word

Florida State University has been ranked the nation's 16th best value among public colleges for in-state students and the 15th best value for out-of-state students on the *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* "Best College Value" list for 2016.



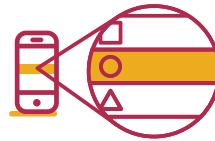
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"Just like a muscle, the amount of willpower you have at any given time rises and falls, and if you exercise it, it gets stronger."

— Roy Baumeister, Francis Eppes Eminent Scholar in the FSU Department of Psychology, discussing the nature of willpower in the *Deccan Herald*, Dec. 21.

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

Faculty Senate honors three with Torch Awards

The Faculty Senate has honored three individuals with Torch Awards, an annual recognition of contributions to the university's academic excellence. The awards were presented Dec. 8.

Named for the three torches in the university's seal, the three categories of Torch Awards are: Vires, symbolizing moral, physical and intellectual strength; Artes, symbolizing an appreciation of aesthetics and the beauty of intellectual pursuits; and Mores, symbolizing respect for customs, character and tradition.

Harold Knowles, a prominent local attorney and managing shareholder in Knowles & Randolph PA, received the Mores award. With a long history of public service, Knowles has served as president of the Tallahassee Barristers Association and as a member of Tallahassee's Downtown Improvement Authority, the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center Authority and the State of Florida Lottery Commission.

Knowles served on the FSU Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2009.

Charles Ehrhardt, a professor emeritus and Ladd Professor of Evidence in the FSU College of Law, received the Mores award.

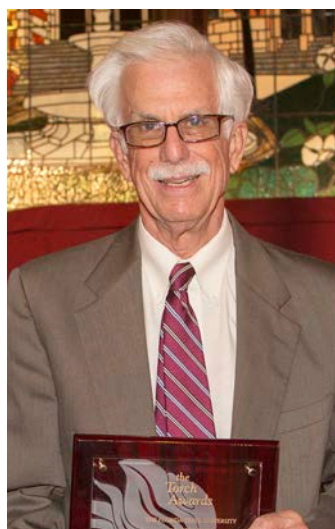
Over his 48 years at FSU, Ehrhardt was named Teacher of the Year seven times. In addition, he served as chair of the FSU Athletics Board and FSU's liaison to the NCAA from 1984 to 2003. He was inducted into the FSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007.

Anne Rowe, a retired FSU administrator who served as dean of the faculties and deputy provost from 2003 to 2011, received the Vires award.

Throughout her career, Rowe has been an active participant in faculty governance, first as a faculty senator, where she served on numerous committees, and later as the chairwoman of the Department of English, a post she held from 1994 to 1997. In the College of Arts and Sciences, she served as associate dean from 1997 to 2002, and then as senior associate dean from 2002 to 2003. Later in 2003, she became dean of the faculties and deputy provost.



Harold Knowles



Charles Ehrhardt



Anne Rowe

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Piyush
Kumar



Owen
Mundy



Jean
Munn



Giray
Okten



Rodney
Roberts



Carol
Weissert



Margaret
Wright-Cleveland

The Fulbrights

SEVEN SCHOLARS WILL CONDUCT RESEARCH AROUND THE WORLD

By Jeffery Seay
Editor in Chief

Seven Florida State University researchers will spend the academic year conducting research abroad through grants from the Fulbright U.S. Scholars Program.

One of them, Carol Weissert, has been awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Chair, the most prestigious appointment in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

Weissert, a professor of political science and the LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar Chair, is the director of the LeRoy Collins Institute in the FSU College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. She is one of about 40 people in the nation to receive a Fulbright Distinguished Chair this year.

Weissert's award will allow her to travel to Australia, where she will spend four months at Flinders University in Adelaide comparing the influence of state elected officials on national health policy over the past decade. Both the United States and Australia are federations with strong state governments, and both have experienced hyper-partisanship over this period that has affected the role of states.

"I will be collecting data and interviewing federal and state officials throughout the country," Weissert said.

Weissert also will collect data from the Council of Australian Governments, which helps facilitate interaction between federal and state officials there, and conduct interviews with the council's officials and staff.

"The Fulbright Distinguished Chair provides me a wonderful opportunity to examine in detail similarities and differences of two similar federations — the United States and Australia," she said. "I will have access to key informants and data that simply wouldn't be possible without this position. I am very much looking forward to it and think the resulting research will be

valuable to our understanding of partisanship and federalism."

Sally McRorie, FSU's provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, characterized the Fulbright program as representing the best of the nation's scholarly achievements.

"The vital research of these seven Florida State scholars will be strengthened through engagement with scholars from other nations and then shared with our own students and colleagues in their fields in keeping with the mission of the Fulbright Scholars Program," she said.

In addition to Weissert, FSU's other Fulbright scholars for 2015-2016 are Piyush Kumar, associate professor of computer science; Owen Mundy, associate professor of art; Jean Munn, associate professor of social work; Giray Okten, professor of mathematics; Rodney Roberts, professor of electrical and computer engineering; and Margaret Wright-Cleveland, director of the Office of Faculty Recognition.

•Kumar will travel to New Delhi, India, to study k-means clustering in the Department of Computer Science at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. In the field of computer science, k-means clustering is a method of vector quantization, originally from signal processing, which is popular for cluster analysis in data mining.

"I am indebted to FSU and IIT Delhi, particularly to the two computer science departments for their mentorship and support," Kumar said. "The Fulbright gives me the opportunity to visit the best computer science department in India and learn new and exciting things from researchers there. I could not have asked for more."

In addition to working with world-renowned scientists at the institute, Kumar will travel to multiple places in India to give talks about his work.

•Mundy will examine the development

of privacy laws and cultural expectations for online information security to compare policy between the United States and Austria at Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt.

"Austria and other entities in the European Union enacted comprehensive legislation protecting citizens' rights to privacy for their information, but no such laws exist here," Mundy said. "Arguably, the U.S. is moving in the opposite direction, given the advanced and far-reaching methods for collecting and analysis of private data by the National Security Agency."

"I am interesting in investigating start-up culture, Internet activism and cultural attitudes toward personal data," he said.

•Munn will travel to Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, to replicate some of her recent research working with social workers who have the difficult job of engaging with residents at long-term care facilities at the end of life and their families.

"This opportunity is going to allow me to forge a new collaboration in the Czech Republic with people with similar research interests," she said.

While in the Czech Republic, Munn will interview social workers in Prague to see how they see their roles with residents who have end-of-life experiences in nursing homes. She hopes to be able to compare what the barriers are, how comfortable the social workers feel and how much engagement they have with residents and their families going through an end-of-life experience.

•Okten is serving as a Fulbright Scholar senior lecturer at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey. He is teaching a course called Monte Carlo Methods in Financial Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics to upper-level undergraduate students and graduate students from the mathematics and engineering depart-

Raise the Torch: Campaign News

Faculty and Staff Campaign Welcomes New Chairs

Faculty and staff giving at Florida State University has received three new ambassadors. **Susan Fiorito**, **Leslie Mille** and **Joe O'Shea** will lend their guidance and leadership by serving as co-chairs for the 2016 Faculty and Staff Campaign. Through their service as co-chairs, these esteemed faculty and staff members will help Florida State remain a vibrant community with a growing reputation by ensuring the University has the resources it needs to maintain academic excellence.

"Susan, Leslie and Joe will be terrific ambassadors for faculty and staff giving, and I greatly appreciate their willingness to serve," said Tom Block, campaign manager.

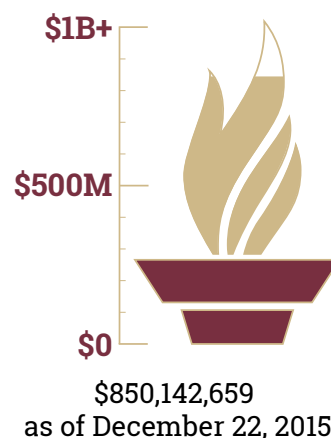
Susan Fiorito, Ph.D., is a Jim Moran professor, Faculty Senate president and chair of the Entrepreneurship, Strategy and Information Systems Department in the College of Business. When asked why she chose to serve, Fiorito—who has been an FSU faculty member since 1990—readily replied: "Nearly half my life I have spent at Florida State University and from the moment I stepped on the campus it felt like home. FSU is a caring place that inspires and nurtures each person in very special ways. It has provided me many opportunities to grow as an individual, first as a student then as a faculty member."

Leslie Mille is an FSU graduate who first joined University staff in 2000. Currently serving as assistant director for the Florida State University Career Center, Mille agreed with Fiorito's sentiment: "In the 15 years that I have worked here, I have seen the remarkable impact of private support to academic programs. I choose to give to Florida State University primarily for the same reason that I love working here—I'm inspired by the University's mission and its commitment to students."

Joe O'Shea, Ph.D, who serves as director of FSU's Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement, has an engaged history with the University. An FSU graduate and former student body president and University trustee, O'Shea says he gives to Florida State because of what he has received in return. "From my time as a student to now working at the institution, FSU has provided me with a formative educational environment that has challenged me to grow and develop as a scholar and citizen, and I think many of my colleagues feel a similar sense of gratitude for the opportunities FSU has provided. I want to contribute in any way I can to ensure our students receive the same experiences as I did."

Of the importance of these new co-chairs, Block concluded, "Participation, not just giving, is what counts and shows future and current donors that our faculty and staff believe in the future of FSU."

By any measure, Florida State is one of the best investments one can make in higher education. You can give 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.



Upcoming Faculty and Staff Campaign Committee Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 3–4:30 p.m., Alumni Association Rendina Room

Tuesday, April 5, 3–4:30 p.m., Alumni Association Rendina Room

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Please contact Tom Block, campaign manager, with any questions by email at tblock@fsu.edu or by phone at (850) 645-0252.

ments. He designed the course in 2006 for the graduate program in financial mathematics at Florida State.

Okten also is working on a graduate textbook based on his lecture notes for the Monte Carlo class.

"Receiving the Fulbright award has been a tremendous honor," he said. "Visiting Bogazici University and the opportunity to interact with the other Fulbright scholars in Turkey has been a very enriching experience."

•Roberts will study the design and control of robots with the world-class robotics team within the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Macau, which has new, state-of-the-art engineering facilities to support robotics research.

"I will be doing research on computational intelligence in robotics and automation," Roberts said.

The University of Macau is on its way to becoming a leading university in Asia, according to Roberts.

"It is a very exciting opportunity to work with the University of Macau robotics research team, and I am thankful to the Fulbright Program for this once-in-a-lifetime experience," Roberts said. "I look forward to sharing ideas on cutting-edge robotics-related technology with researchers and students at the University of Macau."

•Wright-Cleveland is teaching in the American Studies program and doing research on Bernard Binlin Dadié at the University Felix-Houphouet-Boigny in Côte

d'Ivoire, the Ivory Coast.

"I am interested in how he used his writings for political purposes and how his work might connect with the work of American Black Arts Movement writers," Wright-Cleveland said.

For her research, Wright-Cleveland is working with an undergraduate researcher through FSU's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to create a complete bibliography of all writing by and about Dadié. She is translating Dadié's poetry and will visit the Bibliothèque Nationale de la Côte d'Ivoire (BNCI) in Abidjan to find newspaper and other press articles that show how Dadié's writing, particularly his plays, were received in the Ivory Coast when they premiered.

Sabbaticals, professional development leave granted for 2016-2017

President John Thrasher and Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Sally McRorie have approved the following faculty members to take either a sabbatical or professional development leave during the 2016-2017 academic year.

ONE-SEMESTER SABBATICALS

•*College of Arts and Sciences*: Enrique Alvarez (Modern Languages and Linguistics), Amy R. Baco-Taylor (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science), Rafe Blaufarb (History), Allan J. Clarke (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science), Dean Falk (Anthropology), Efstratios Manousakis (Physics), Kathleen L. Petersen (Mathematics), Michael Shatruck (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dennis E. Slice (Scientific Computing), Silvia Valisa (Modern Languages and Linguistics) and Hong-Guo Yu (Biological Science).

•*College of Education*: David A. Tandberg (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) and Fengfeng Ke (Educational Psychology and Learning Systems).

•*College of Engineering*: Rufina G. Alamo (Chemical and Biomedical Engineering).

•*College of Fine Arts*: Lilian Garcia-Roig (Art).

•*College of Music*: Charles E. Brewer and Kevin A. Fenton.

•*College of Social Sciences and Public Policy*: David J. Cooper (Economics) and Anne E. Barrett (Sociology).

•*College of Social Work*: Joseph "Neil" Abell.

TWO-SEMESTER SABBATICALS

•*College of Arts and Sciences*: Eric P. Chassignet (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science), Robert J. Gellately (History), David C. Houle (Biological Science), Ian R. MacDonald (Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science), Yiyuan She (Statistics) and Zhenghao Zhang (Computer Science).

•*College of Business*: Deborah J. Armstrong (Entrepreneurship, Strategy and Information Systems).

•*College of Communication and Information*: Gary D. Burnett (School of Information), Kathleen M. Burnett (School of Information) and Donna M. Nudd (School of Communication).

•*College of Fine Arts*: Anjali Austin (School of Dance).

•*College of Social Sciences and Public Policy*: Eric A. Coleman (Political Science), Milton H. Marquis (Economics), Rebecca S. Miles (Urban and Regional Planning) and Xiaojun Yang (Geography).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVE

Joseph S. Clark (Office of Distance Learning), Joelle Dietrick (Department of Art), Riqiang Fu (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory), Salvatore Profeta Jr. (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Daniel Jay Smith (School of Dance).

SPRING 2016 FACULTY LUNCHEON SERIES

The Florida State University Spring 2016 Faculty Luncheon Series will feature four distinguished faculty members reflecting on their scholarly research and creative activities.

The speakers and their presentations are as follows.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

•**Max Gunzburger**, professor of scientific computing and 2015-2016 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, will discuss "The Role of Computations in Science and Engineering."

TUESDAY, FEB. 9

•**Lisa Ryoko Wakamiya**, associate professor of modern languages and linguistics, will discuss "Why We Collect: Objects and the Stories They Tell."

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

•**Davis Houck**, professor of communication, will discuss "Creating The Emmett Till Trail and Archive: Maps, Memory ... and Always Politics."

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

•**Alex Aviña**, associate professor of history, will discuss "An Unprecedented Experiment in Military Governance: Counterinsurgency, Narcotics and the Historical Roots of the Mexican Drug War."

The series is open to the public and takes place at the Presbyterian University Center, 548 W. Park Ave. Parking is available in the lot on the north side of the Presbyterian University Center.

Luncheons begin at 12:15 p.m., and the programs follow at 12:45 p.m., concluding at 1:30 p.m. Lunches are \$10 per session and reservations are required.

All reservations must be made by noon of the Thursday before each luncheon. Please mail reservation requests to the Presbyterian University Center, 548 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301, with a check made payable to the Presbyterian University Center and clearly marked "Faculty Luncheon Series." In order to pay at the door, please call the center for a reservation at (850) 222-6320, or send an email to floridastatepuc@gmail.com.

The Faculty Luncheon Series is co-sponsored by the Presbyterian University Center, the FSU Faculty and Friends Club and the Alpha of Florida Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

For more information, visit facultyluncheon.cci.fsu.edu or like our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fsuflspuc>.

BYtheWAY

>>**TEACHING ABROAD:** FSU International Programs is now accepting faculty applications to teach or lead programs abroad in 2017 and 2018. Courses of broad general interest are of particular interest. Faculty members interested in participating in study abroad programs are encouraged to submit their online applications via www.international.fsu.edu. The deadline is Jan. 8.

>>**STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS:** Faculty and staff members can recognize their outstanding student employees by nominating them for the Student Employee of the Year Award. Nominations must be made between Thursday, Jan. 14, and Friday, Feb. 12.

Nominees must be degree-seeking students currently enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours and employed as student assistants, federal work-study employees, student interns, student ambassadors, or graduate/teaching/research assistants. In addition, nominees must have been employed by FSU for a minimum of three months at the time of the nomination and in good academic standing. The award is open to all main campus and FSU Panama City students.

In conjunction with National Student Employment Week, April 10-16, the Career Center will host all nominees at a Student Employee of the Year Award Ceremony on Friday, April 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Oglesby Union Ballrooms.

The nomination form will become active on Jan. 14 at <https://bit.ly/FSUSEOTY> (case-sensitive).

More information: Jim Allen, senior assistant director for experiential learning, the Career Center, jwallen@fsu.edu.

>>LAWTON PROFESSOR NOMINATIONS:

Members of the faculty are encouraged to nominate a colleague for the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professorship, the highest honor given by Florida State's faculty to one of its own. Nominations should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 19, to the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Committee.

To be eligible, a faculty member must be a tenured professor, have been a faculty member at the university for at least 12 years and, above all, have achieved true distinction in his or her discipline or profession.

A folder, prepared by the nominator, should contain a comprehensive curriculum vita for the nominee along with evidence of outstanding scholarship, teaching and service to Florida State University and the nominee's profession. The nomination should include two to four letters of recommendation from individuals within the university and three to five letters from colleagues outside the university. A brief professional identification should be provided for outside nominators.

Deserving nominees not chosen for the Lawton Distinguished Professorship are carried forward for consideration in following years. Nominators should be prepared to update nominations and the candidate's folder each year that he or she is not selected.

Nominations, new folders and updated materials should be sent to: The Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Committee, Office of the President, Suite 211 Westcott Building, Mail Code 1470. Questions should be directed to Genevieve Scott, (850) 644-0799.

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CAMPUS *In Action*

HONORABLE AND NOTABLE

Julianna Baggott (English) has written a new novel under her pen name Bridget Asher, "All of Us & Everything," which was listed in "People Picks" in the Nov. 30, 2015, issue of *People*. In addition, Baggott was a guest speaker at the PEN/Faulkner Reading Series at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., Nov. 23, 2015. Her book "Harriet Wolf's Seventh Book of Wonders" made the *New York Times* 100 Notable Books of 2015.

Cheryl Goodson, B.S. (Student Veterans Center), received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award at the national conference of the National Association of Veterans Programs Administrators, Nashville, Tenn., October. As assistant director for benefits, Goodson manages the staff and process of certifying federal and state benefits for Florida State students who are active/former members of the armed services and their dependents. The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an administrator of a campus- or community-based veterans program. For her venerated service, FSU student-veterans also presented Goodson with the 2015 Guidon Award during their annual military ball in Tallahassee, April.

Mary Lawhon, Ph.D. (Geography), is part of a multidisciplinary research team funded by the Swedish Research Council and composed of researchers from Sweden, Uganda, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States that will develop crucial knowledge about urban infrastructure challenges in Africa and the developing world. Lawhon will focus on waste and sanitation in Uganda.

KynderMed, a medical device start-up company with technology developed by **James Olcese**, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), has finalized a funding agreement with the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research to support the commercialization of Olcese's research and KynderMed's business team as they bring products to market. This includes Olcese's light-emitting device that uses blue light spectrum therapy to prevent pre-term labor in pregnant women.

Lori J. Walters, Ph.D. (Modern Languages and Linguistics), has received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to conduct a research project, "The Books of Christine de Pizan (1365-ca. 1431)," Sept. 2016-Aug. 2017.

BYLINES

Florian Duclot, Ph.D., and **Mohamad Kabbaj**, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, "The Estrous Cycle Surpasses Sex Differences in Regulating the Transcriptome in the Rat Medial Prefrontal Cortex and Reveals an Underlying Role of Early Growth Response 1," published in the journal *Genome Biology*. In



Cheryl Goodson



Mary Lawhon

addition, Duclot and Kabbaj co-wrote another paper, "Regulated Internalization of NMDA Receptors Drives PKD1-mediated Suppression of the Activity of Residual Cell-surface NMDA Receptors," with colleagues from other institutions, published in the journal *Molecular Brain*.

Roger Kaufman, Ph.D. (Educational Research, emeritus), has written a paper, "What Each Person Brings with Them," published in *ATD Links*, the publication of the Association for Talent Development, October 2015.

David Kirby (English, Creative Writing) has written a collection of poetry, "Get Up, Please: Poems," which will be published by LSU Press, March 2016. It celebrates the rhythms of everyday life, from the streets of India, Russia, Turkey and Port Arthur, Texas, to the imaginations of fellow poets Keats and Rilke, and to ruminations on the mundane side of life via the imperfect sandwich.



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Sanjay Kumar, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, "Layer-specific Modulation of Entorhinal Cortical Excitability by Presubiculum in a Rat Model of Temporal Lobe Epilepsy," with biomedical sciences alumnus **Saad Abbasi**, Ph.D., published in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*, Vol. 114, No. 5, Nov. 17, 2015.

Surjyendu Ray, **Ruei-Ying Tzeng**, **Lisa DiCarlo**, **Joseph Bundy**, **Cynthia Vied**, Ph.D., **Richard Nowakowski**, Ph.D., and **Michelle Arbeitman**, Ph.D. (Biomedical Sciences), co-wrote a paper, "An Examination of Dynamic Gene Expression Changes in the Mouse Brain During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period," which has been accepted for publication in the journal *G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics*.

Robert A. Reiser, **Alison L. Moore**, **Terra W. Bradley**, **Reddick Walker** and **Weinan Zhao** (College of Education; Office of Research) co-wrote a paper, "Supporting Faculty Efforts to Obtain Research Funding: Successful Practices and Lessons Learned," which has been published in the *Journal of Faculty Development*, Vol. 29, No. 3, September 2015.

Lindsey Schier, Ph.D., and **Alan C. Spector**, Ph.D. (Psychology; Program in Neuroscience), co-wrote a paper, "Behavioral Evidence for More than One Taste Signaling Pathway for Sugars in Rats," published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, Vol. 36, No. 1, Jan. 6, 2016.

GRANTS AND PATENTS

Laura Lee, Ph.D. (Modern Languages and Linguistics; Art History) has received a \$1,924 grant from the Northeast Asia Council, with the support of the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, for research travel to Japan.

Stephanie Pau, Ph.D. (Geography), has received a \$13,000 FSU Council on Research and Creativity grant to do fieldwork and satellite imagery analysis of deforestation in Sumatra, Indonesia, over the summer of 2016.

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

KEY PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

George Bishop has been named associate dean of FSU Panama City. Bishop, who began the position Jan. 4, is collaborating on new academic programs, hiring and coordinating faculty and adjunct instructors, and overseeing student affairs. He also is overseeing academic policies and regulations. His prior job was vice president of academic affairs and learning at Gulf Coast State College.

James Zedaker has been named the founding director of the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program within the College of Medicine. Zedaker's appointment takes effect this month. Before joining FSU's faculty, Zedaker was the founding director of a new physician assistant studies program at Ohio University, where he also served as a clinical assistant professor. Prior to that, he was a founding faculty member and academic coordinator for a new physician assistant studies program at Indiana University. Zedaker earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska.



James Zedaker

ITS NEWS

Information Technology Services

its.fsu.edu

myFSU Mobile app to offer personalized content

Between social media, news and email alone, it hardly comes as a surprise that mobile users spend 89 percent of their media time on mobile apps, according to Nielsen.

To keep up with the ever-rising demand, Information Technology Services (ITS) is making significant updates to Florida State University's official mobile app, myFSU Mobile. The app — which can see an average of 500 new downloads a day — pulls the best mobile functionality from all over campus under one location, including emergency notifications, campus maps, bus tracking and university calendars.

Starting in December, the myFSU Mobile app received a significant facelift. The new look brought a more contemporary layout, simplified navigation and updated branding to the app homescreen to deliver a modern user experience. The new app also has the ability to display emergency alert banners and send emergency notifications to app users.

In the future, the app will provide personalized content and targeted messaging. Access to employee and manager self-service features as well as student-centric capabilities are also on the horizon. By integrating the app with existing university systems, employees and students can look forward to easier, secure access to personalized information.

"The updates will enable users to access more information than ever before and have a more personalized mobile experience in the future," said Michael Barrett, Florida State's associate vice president and chief information officer.

To take advantage of the latest functionality, download or update the myFSU Mobile app today, and check back often for new features. Use the Feedback feature to take a quick survey and comment on the new app. The app is free and can be downloaded from Apple and Android app stores. A Web version of the app is available by visiting m.fsu.edu.

To learn more about myFSU Mobile, visit its.fsu.edu/Mobile.



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 <https://my.fsu.edu> and navigate to: "HR," "Main Menu," "Self Service," "Learning and Development" and "Request Training Enrollment." Follow the prompts to submit the request. To view a course description, click on the icon.

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

BENEFITS

>>IMPORTANT CHANGES TO STATE OF FLORIDA

FSA/HSA PROGRAMS: Chard Snyder was named the new administrator of the university's flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health savings accounts (HSAs), effective Jan. 1. Employees who are enrolled in one or more of these accounts for 2016 should look for important communications from Chard Snyder and People First. Employees who are participants in the FSA and/or HSA plans in 2016 will receive a Benny prepaid benefits card, which can be used to pay for eligible expenses. Administrative changes include a new user-friendly, secure participant portal to view account balances, file claims and pay providers.

More information: Chard Snyder (855) 824-9284.

>>VERIFY ADDRESSES AND PAYCHECK DEDUCTIONS

IN OMNI: All employees should verify their current home and mailing addresses in the OMNI employee self-service system. Incorrect home addresses in OMNI will result in delays of any critical information sent by vendors concerning health, life, supplemental and retirement programs. In addition, employees are reminded to periodically review their paycheck deductions for accuracy. Employees should pay particular attention to any changes made during the recent state of Florida group insurance Open Enrollment period. Deductions for any Open Enrollment changes began with the Dec. 11, 2015 paycheck. Employees who find any discrepancies should contact the Benefits Office at (850) 644-4015 or email benefits@fsu.edu immediately.

>>LEAVES OF ABSENCE AND INSURANCE COVERAGE:

A leave of absence may effect 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 send an email to benefits@fsu.edu within 60 days of the leave start date.

>>RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION LIMITS UNCHANGED

FOR 2016: The Internal Revenue Service has announced 2016 calendar-year limits for elective contributions to retirement accounts, including FSU-sponsored tax sheltered annuity plans 403(b), post-tax Roth 403(b) and state of Florida-sponsored Deferred Compensation 457 plans. For the 2016 calendar year, the annual contribution limit for 403(b) plans remains at \$18,000. The contribution limit for the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan also is \$18,000. At any point in the 2016 calendar year, employees who are age 50 and above are eligible to contribute an additional \$6,000 to a 403(b) and/or a 457 retirement plan.

More information: Benefits Office, (850) 644-4015 or retirement@fsu.edu.

2016 Sick Leave Pool Open Enrollment

The open enrollment period for University Sick Leave Pool membership is Feb. 1-19, 2016. Open enrollment applications received in Human Resources before Feb. 1 or after Feb. 19 will not be accepted.

Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to, full-time or part-time employment as a Faculty, Executive Service, A&P or USPS employee who:

- has been continuously employed with the university for one year or more;
- has a sick leave balance of at least 72 hours after leave accruals process for the pay period ending Feb. 25, 2016; and
- has an average sick leave use of fewer than nine days for each year of university employment.

Upon acceptance into the Sick Leave Pool, employees donate eight hours of sick leave to the pool and remain members until they leave the university or request in writing to be removed from the pool. The eight hours donated to the pool are non-refundable. Members may be asked to make additional donations if the pool balance falls below 240 hours. Members who terminate their employment also may donate up to 40 hours of their sick leave to the pool upon their separation from the university.

Complete Sick Leave Pool information, including the application and other related forms are available on the HR website at www.hr.fsu.edu/index.cfm?page=FacultyStaff_BenAndPerks_SickLeavePool.

Questions: Lisa Rosenthal, Sick Leave Pool administrator, lrosenthal@admin.fsu.edu or (850) 644-7936.

DISTANCE LEARNING, from 1

Miller, Geography. Awards for excellence were presented to Michael Brady, Marketing; Elwood Carlson, Sociology; Parmjeet Cobb, Mathematics; Kyle Killian, Art History; Owen Mundy, Art; Jeffrey Paterson, Accounting; and Christopher Witulski, Ethnomusicology.

Honorable Mention in Online Course Design awards were presented to Nari Jeter, Family and Child Sciences; Chad Marzen, Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies; Onsurang Norrbinn, Economics; Banyon Pelham, College of Applied Studies; and Darren Prum, Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies.

Ensuring that students enjoy a collaborative learning experience was a key goal in online course design.

"We wanted to give students an interactive experience," said Michael Brady, honored for his course, Basic Marketing Concepts. "We're in a multimedia lab and I feel like I'm speaking directly to students and that's important to me, but it's also important to the students. That was the driving factor in the design of the course, and it's had an impact throughout all we do. I want

students to feel like they're important because they are important, and I want them to feel like they're having a great experience that they really couldn't get in a live setting."

Excellence in Online Teaching acknowledged the effective use of online teaching strategies that demonstrate superior methods of instruction and student engagement. An award for excellence with distinction was presented to Charles Nyce, Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies. Awards for excellence were presented to Ken Armstrong, Program in Interdisciplinary Computing; Michael Brady, Marketing; Parmjeet Cobb, Mathematics; Shannon Hall-Mills, School of Communication Science and Disorders; and Markus Huettel, Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science.

Honorable Mention in Online Teaching awards were presented to Melissa Gross, School of Information; Kathleen McCullough, Risk Management/Insurance, Real Estate and Legal Studies; and Christopher Witulski, Ethnomusicology.

For instructors, connection and student engagement were critical elements of the online teaching process.

"Online teaching really facilitates a stronger connection between the students and myself than a live course would," said

Christopher Witulski, lauded for his course, A Social History of America's Popular Music. "I tried to create a series of group projects in an effort to create an online course that really does foster that sort of interaction and cooperation and collaboration that I think can come through in an online course."

Parmjeet Cobb, honored for her course, Discrete Mathematics II, agreed about the importance of connection.

"In order to connect, I wanted to make sure that the students were engaged," she said. "The main goal of an instructor, I believe, is to create a self-learner so that they're able to do this on their own. As the instructor, I'm there to facilitate that process and make students as engaged as possible."

Online mentoring awards recognized the successful use of strategies for student support and engagement in the course materials and learning environment. An Excellence in Online Mentoring award with distinction was presented to Ji Yae Bong, College of Education.

Honorable Mention in Online Mentoring awards were presented to Sarah Buck, College of Fine Arts; Judith Cuadra, College of Social Sciences and Public Policy; Katherine Gorman, College of Medicine; and Mehnaz Gul, College of Communication and Information.

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