



SPRING /
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2016

Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

History in the making

*FSU program
helps students
find careers
in historical
administration
and public history*



Letter from the dean

DEAN

Sam Huckaba

PUBLISHER

Nancy Smilowitz

EDITOR

Barry Ray
beray@fsu.edu

DESIGNER

Martin Young
martin@youngdesign.us

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ray Stanyard
raystanyard@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Lois Hawkes, Senior Associate Dean

WRITERS

Barbara Ash
Kristen Coyne
William Lampkin
Barry Ray
Mary Jane Ryals
Jeffery Seay
Zilpha Underwood
Ben Walford

TO MAKE A GIFT

Nancy Smilowitz
Assistant Dean for Development
Office: (850) 644-9324
Cell: (850) 294-1034
nsmilowitz@fsu.edu

Jeff Ereckson
Director of Development
Office: (850) 644-3370
Cell: (850) 445-3177
jereckson@fsu.edu

Brett Lee
Development Officer
Office: (850) 645-9544
Cell: (850) 294-3937
blee@foundation.fsu.edu

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Florida State University ended 2015 with a flourish and started this year with great momentum. In November of 2015, President John Thrasher (B.S. Business, '65, J.D., '70) announced the appointment of Sally McRorie as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. Then in December, the president announced a \$100 million gift, the largest in FSU's history, to launch a new School of Entrepreneurship. As 2016 began, the College of Arts and Sciences welcomed a record enrollment of majors, and its faculty headcount reached its highest level since 2007-2008. Over the past five years, the addition of more than 100 energetic young faculty members has brought tremendous energy to our degree programs and research endeavors.

Among the stories in this spring edition of *Across the Spectrum*, we visit with the MagLab's new chief scientist and celebrate the great generosity of two recent sets of donors.

The hiring of National Academy of Sciences member and president-elect of the American Physical Society Laura Greene as Francis Eppes Professor of Physics and chief scientist was a landmark achievement. We are sure that Laura will exceed FSU's high expectations, and we are proud to feature her.

The Department of Physics is also the home of esteemed emeritus Lawton Professor and former Vice President for Research Kirby Kemper. Kirby and his wife, former attorney Margaret-Ray, have left a permanent impact by establishing an endowed professorship in Physics. Tommy Warren (B.S., Business, '70, J.D., '73) and Kathy Villacorta (B.A., Mass Communication, '74, J.D., '76) have a history of supporting FSU and have now expanded their reach to the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory by establishing an endowment to support Arts and Sciences graduate students. We are forever grateful to both of these couples for gifts that will provide benefits for years to come, and especially pleased to highlight them in this issue.

In this edition, we also explore the remarkable success of two degree programs, recognize with pride the marking of 50 years of great productivity for the Department of Religion, and share the stories of two Arts and Sciences students whose memories of FSU will prominently include quality time spent with the Marching Chiefs.

As always, thank you so much for staying in touch with the College of Arts and Sciences. Best wishes for a productive spring and summer.

Gunzburger named 2015-2016 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor

Max D. Gunzburger, a world-renowned computational scientist and mathematician in the College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Scientific Computing, has been named the 2015-2016 Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, the highest honor given by the university faculty to one of its own. "As one of the best computational scientists in the world and the acknowledged leader in several areas of inquiry, Max Gunzburger represents the best of academic endeavor at Florida State, and we are exceptionally proud to name him as this year's Lawton Distinguished Professor," FSU President John Thrasher said. As part of the honor of being named a Lawton Professor, Gunzburger was selected to speak at one of FSU's two fall 2015 commencement ceremonies. "It's a huge pleasure for me to congratulate every one of you for being here for the achievement that it represents," Gunzburger told the graduating students. "I hope you take a lot of pride in and treasure what you have accomplished." Watch a short video of Gunzburger discussing his work at <https://goo.gl/Rf1g2H>.



Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



On the cover

A graduate of FSU's program in Historical Administration and Public History, Tiffany Baker now serves as director of the Florida Historic Capitol Museum in Tallahassee. See page 16.

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Ray Stanyard

Rewriting the English major

The Editing, Writing and Media program offers 21st-century approaches to thinking and writing

By Mary Jane Ryals

In 2009, a call to support 21st-century writing came from Kathleen Blake Yancey, a professor of English at Florida State University, in a special report to the National Council of Teachers of English. The provocative document stated that now “People write as never before — in print and online.” We need big changes, Yancey wrote: We face educational challenges, to be sure, but they also present opportunities to develop new models of writing and to design a new curriculum for them.

Yancey’s report reflected a new way of thinking about how students could work with the written word from books and other hard-copy texts and connect them to the worlds of online writing, visual and audio media, with the hope that such efforts could help young people grow up in a society that values knowledge, hard work and public spirit.

In line with that new thinking, FSU’s Editing, Writing and Media (EWM) program was created by a group of faculty in literature, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition and launched in August 2009. EWM now is the largest academic track for students pursuing a major in the Department of English.

So when Michael Neal, an associate professor in the EWM program, hears, “What do English majors do when they graduate?” he answers, “They work — in businesses, nonprofits, law, health care, publishing, PR and much more.”

Do some go on to be educators? Do others wait tables while they are looking for jobs? Sure, said Neal. But that stereotype doesn’t represent the reality of what students are doing today in the EWM program.

Among those affiliated with the Editing, Writing and Media track are, from left, Stephen McElroy, director of the FSU Reading-Writing Center and Digital Studio; Lauren Kume of FSU's Career Center, who helps EWM students find jobs after graduation; Jeff Naftzinger, a doctoral student in rhetoric and composition who teaches several English courses; Associate Professor of English Michael Neal; Jake Buck, who earned his bachelor's degree in the EWM track in December 2015; current student Brenna Opelka; and Kathleen Blake Yancey, FSU's Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English and a Distinguished Research Professor.

The EWM program has blossomed since its establishment in 2005. The numbers back this up: Of the 1,212 currently declared majors in English, 488 are enrolled in the EWM program. (English majors at FSU can also pursue tracks in literature and creative writing.)

EWM students and former students have landed jobs and internships in places as far away as the Netherlands and Great Britain and as near as Orlando and Tallahassee. They love literature and writing, they have excellent critical thinking skills, and they've been passionate about different technologies since they were kids.

Just a few job titles of the many students who have passed through the EWM program include digital media strategist, content strategist, public relations and outreach coordinator, junior associate (lawyer), senior account executive, public relations representative, account coordinator (marketing and creative services), creative recruiter, e-commerce marketing manager, director of marketing and media, assistant editor and social media manager/copywriter.

Students who don't fit into a traditional major are discovering that their many media and technological interests and passions for reading, writing and theorizing can be wrapped together in the EWM track, offering them careers they can truly embrace.

"EWM instilled in me a new kind of forward, advanced and modern way of thinking about the way we communicate our thoughts and ideas," said Jake Buck, who earned his bachelor's degree in English in December 2015.

Buck found his home in the program and saw lights come on for his future as he was able to use a variety of media when he began the EWM program. Among the opportunities the program presented to him were working on storyboards, scripts, poetry, song synopses, coding for websites, and "writing" with the lens of his video camera.

"I was getting to use videos, and photos, graphs, and Web design," he said.

Buck completed an internship (a requirement of the program) with The Gotcha Group, a company that gives free rides to college students on and off campus in eco-friendly electric vehicles and "smart bikes" through campus bike-share programs. The company loved his EWM skill set because he was so versatile in all of the different media it utilizes.

Amazon Prime saw a light come on, too, when they viewed Buck's video résumé. The international company invited him for an interview in London that is coming up soon.

When Brenna Opelka, who graduates with her B.A. in EWM this spring, first came to FSU, she had no idea what direction she wanted to go in.

"All I knew was that I wanted to aim for a career in the fashion industry," she said. "After learning about the EWM program, I realized that it could potentially open so many doors for me, whether it be writing for a magazine or working social media for a company."

She now has an internship with World Ballet Inc. in Tallahassee.

"As their writing intern, I am responsible for posting on their social media accounts, writing pieces for the blog, and writing articles and press releases about upcoming performances and events," Opelka said.

The EWM degree allowed Opelka to study a variety of subjects.

"While I might be studying history or theory in one class, I'm working on writing original essays and editing them in another class," she said. She thinks this makes EWM students well-rounded: "When it comes down to finding jobs and internships, we can apply ourselves in so many useful areas."

Yancey, FSU's Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English and a Distinguished Research Professor, said the EWM track works because it's a collaborative effort. The curriculum is oriented to traditional English studies as well as to the 21st century, she explained.

"The students have core courses that require them to study the history of texts and technologies, the history of rhetoric, and traditional and new practices in writing," she said. The students learn critical thinking, writing and theory as well as multimedia skill sets in order to graduate.

Lauren Kume, who works a liaison between the Humanities and the Career Center at FSU, is at the core of matching EWM students to jobs. The center had 408 visits from students in English in 2014, and 947 in 2015 when Kume took up her space part time in the Williams Building to assist students.

She makes sure the students have polished résumés that help them speak to their qualifications and talks with students about why these employment documents would appeal to potential employers. She assists them with digital portfolios, which help them get even more attention. But the lion's share of getting internships and jobs falls on the students, Kume said.

"Brenna and Jake are totally responsible for everything they have gotten so far, because they are amazing!" Kume said. "We just guide with resources. I connect students to the resources they need, and when a job posting or internship matches their interests, I try to make sure they know about the open opportunity."

Buck, for example, appealed to Amazon and to more than 11,000 YouTube viewers by creating a sophisticated, eye-catching video with poetic and practical audio. (The video can be seen at <https://goo.gl/RVDF5b>).

The subject of the video is drones; as Buck said, "Drones help us communicate in ways that we don't even quite understand yet. They are exciting, enabling and empowering." The EWM graduate is profoundly passionate about what he has learned already and what he will learn in the future. And, Buck said, "I can always go higher."

Learn more about the Editing, Writing and Media program at www.english.fsu.edu/ewm.

New chief scientist

**FSU recruits
leading physicist
Laura Greene
to help shape
future of
MagLab**

By Kristen Coyne



Laura H. Greene was hired by Florida State University last year as the Francis Eppes Professor of Physics and chief scientist at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. But to better understand the expected impact of this eminent scientist and president-elect of the American Physical Society (APS), it will be helpful to first digress into a sociology lesson, courtesy of best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell.

In his book “The Tipping Point,” Gladwell explores how ideas and behaviors spread through societies. For trends to, in modern parlance, go viral, three kinds of people are needed: mavens, the source of the information, knowledge or idea; connectors, who spread ideas through their vast social networks; and salesmen, charismatic women and men who persuade you to believe an idea or adopt a behavior.

If you’re none of the above, you’re among the rest of us, playing a minor role by getting connected, educated or persuaded. Or you’re Laura Greene, that rare specimen who, thanks to her scientific expertise, far-reaching circles and outgoing personality, is a maven, connector and saleswoman, all wrapped up into a single, high-energy package.

“That to me is what makes her so special: She’s so strong in all three of those areas,” said Greg Boebinger, director of the National MagLab Director. “The contributions she’ll be able to make to the MagLab in getting us plugged in to new spheres of influence will be immense.”

The Maven

Greene’s 82-page CV details the publications (upwards of 200), awards, fellowships (APS and American Academy of Arts and Sciences) and memberships (most notably in the National Academy of Sciences, one of science’s highest honors) that mark a woman at the apex of her profession — a physics maven of the highest order.

Greene’s 82-page CV details the publications (upwards of 200), awards, fellowships (American Physical Society and American Academy of Arts and Sciences) and memberships (most notably in the National Academy of Sciences, one of science’s highest honors) that mark a woman at the apex of her profession.

Greene happens to study one of the hottest materials in condensed matter physics, high-temperature superconductors, which hold great promise for future energy applications. Ever since their discovery in the 1980s, Greene has been trying to learn exactly how electrons behave in them — one of the holy grails of modern physics.

“I’m really intrigued by fundamentally what’s going on in these correlated electron materials,” said Greene, “and if we could understand them, can we predict their behavior, and can we predict new materials with higher functionality?”

As much as she knows about things such as Andreev bound states and time-reversal symmetry breaking, Greene also stands out for her forays into other areas of science. A member of several multidisciplinary science organizations, she said it makes for good science.

“Some of the discoveries that I’ve made were by just looking at places where people didn’t look before, looking in between — like the cross between chemistry and physics, materials science and physics,” Greene said. “That’s where all the little gems were.”

That approach bodes well for the MagLab, too, said Boebinger, who would like to see more biologists, chemists and engineers among the physicists.



“The contributions she’ll be able to make to the MagLab in getting us plugged in to new spheres of influence will be immense,” says lab director Greg Boebinger.

“I think there’s a huge benefit to the lab in getting increased visibility in those other areas of science,” said Boebinger, who has known Greene for close to three decades.

In fact, Greene’s intellectual curiosity ventures well beyond physics. Singing was an early passion for Greene, which still asserts itself in conversation with an occasional outburst of song. A self-taught guitarist and vocalist, the teenage Greene performed in her synagogue’s choir and the folk scene around her native Cleveland.

Since marrying renowned pianist and conductor Ian Hobson 10 years ago, when both held endowed chairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Greene has picked up a lot about classical music.

“She has a very, very good instinct, a good ear,” reported Hobson from South Korea, where he is completing an appointment at Seoul National University before relocating to Tallahassee and a position at Florida State’s College of Music.

For most of her life, however, Greene’s music has been eclipsed by science. As a child she watched Carl Sagan and Mr. Wizard on TV, plastered her bedroom walls with astronomy posters and avidly followed the space program.

“I remember when I started kindergarten that I already had all the distances of all the planets to the sun and from each other memorized,” she said.

Still, predilection isn’t destiny, and circumstances conspired to try to kick Greene off the road to science. For starters, she didn’t do particularly well in science in high school, which she chalks up to dull coursework and her music gigs. So by the time she discovered physics as an Ohio State University freshman, she lagged behind her peers.

Petrified of failure, Greene drew on a determination that has boosted her over hurdles throughout her life. Lacking the required background in trigonometry, she aced a six-week crash course. When she needed extra help, she made sure she got it.

“She was extremely committed, hardworking,” recalled her major professor, James Garland. “Quite a remarkable person, really.”

National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Though Greene could rely on her grit to master coursework, she had less control over a climate that discouraged women pursuing science. When she looked into an engineering major, she was warned she would never find a job. While the physics department chairman was more welcoming, the facility itself, lacking a single restroom for women, was not. Even Greene's parents opposed her choice of major as both impractical and unpalatable to prospective husbands, said Marcia Milchiker, one of her two sisters.

"My parents actually felt, because there were three girls, we should all become teachers," said Milchiker, who, like her baby sister, ended up with a science degree nonetheless. "So that if anything happened to your husband, you could make money and be in school the same time your children were in school."

Against these snags, Greene deployed three strategies. First, she worked very hard. Second, she didn't dwell on the negative, finding an upside even to prejudice: Being dismissed on account of her gender made her feel freer to ask questions, she said.

Third, she got a little help from her friends. "If you are a minority — and women are minorities (in the sciences) — you do kind of feel left out and you may not get the networking you need," Greene said. "It can be really lonely. I really encourage young women to find girlfriends. I don't know what I would have done without my girlfriends in graduate school."

The Connector

Girlfriends, sisters, two sons (both studying geochemistry), a husband, seven stepchildren, numerous collaborators, postdocs, students, colleagues, acquaintances: The threads in the web at which Laura Greene is the nexus are too numerous to track.

Greene has chaired, co-chaired or sat on more than 100 search committees, advisory panels, review panels, editorial boards and the like, leaving one to wonder if there remains a single physicist of any consequence whom she has yet to meet.

"I have a hard time saying no," said Greene, who has nonetheless started to do so to devote more time to Florida State and the MagLab.

There's a reason Greene is so sought after: She dives into assignments many of her peers simply slog through.

"A more typical response is, 'Oh, this is one of four things I have to do this week. I'll try to get through this as fast as I can,'" Garland said. Greene, however, embraces the work. "I think whatever she is interested in at the moment is the most important thing in the world for her."

Managing a demanding schedule of his own, Ian Hobson admires his wife's work ethic.

"She is absolutely single-minded when it comes to these things," he said. "She doesn't dabble about things and let them go."

The exception to that rule is social media. She posts infrequently on Facebook and, after discovering last year that her long-neglected Twitter account had been hacked, shut it down for good. Her connections are measured not in tweets and followers but in trips and miles traveled — about 100 and 300,000, respectively, last year alone, according to Greene. She prefers the face-to-face chat, the personal touch.

While most of us might manage a phone call or social shout-out on a distant sibling's birthday, Greene jetted into town on her sister's birthday last year, took her to dinner, then flew back to her packed schedule the next day.

"She can buy a house, she can sell a house and run a big conference all at the same time," said Elinor Greene, "and still have time to listen to a problem I'm having personally or at work."

Greene has the frequent-flier lifestyle down to a science, packing sensible snacks in her red carry-on, and reusing the same easy-care wardrobe trip after trip. She also skillfully manages priorities and brain bandwidth. Too busy to bother with more, she made do for months with little more than a bed in her new Tallahassee home. After briefly considering a new outfit for her travel wardrobe, she dismissed the time-sucking idea before redirecting her neural network to a more important task.

Greene doesn't pretend to have the perfect work-family balance.

"There is no balance," Greene once told an interviewer. "It's a constant state of semi-controlled crash. You do the best you can. Keep a sense of humor and throw money at it."



Along with Greene, FSU also is gaining an acclaimed pianist, conductor and professor of music — her husband, Ian Hobson.

The Saleswoman

Along with honesty, a strong work ethic and intelligence, a sense of humor is key to Greene's personality. It's part of what makes her good at what she does.

One only need observe her in action at an annual APS meeting. Greene dusts off her smoky alto at the event's sing-alongs, crooning lyrics at once brainy and silly and best appreciated by fellow physicists. Throughout the gathering, old and new friends, colleagues and students are drawn to her, her renown made less intimidating, perhaps, by her corny physics jokes and easy smile.

"Laura will tend to be the center of attention," Garland said. "She's the person who tends to drive the conversation. If she sees someone who is ill at ease, she will seek them out and try to make them comfortable."

Even as a young scientist, Greene defied the introverted stereotype, sporting pink high-tops and bringing the fun to parties along with her famous broccoli casserole.

"She just wouldn't look like a physicist," remembered Elinor Greene, who became the first in the family with Florida State ties with a Ph.D. in instructional systems design. "Her style is confidence."

That confidence serves her well as a seller of science. Whether inspiring her nephews to do science fair projects on superconductivity, working within the APS on outreach initiatives, or lobbying her congressional representatives for more funding, Greene is a powerful science ambassador.

Having grown up during the space race, Greene feels it is important to convey not just the facts of science, but the excitement.

“I didn’t go into science because I wanted to study superconductivity,” she said. “I went into science because it was science. So if you get excited by stars or planets or science fiction — which many of the early physicists who worked on the Manhattan Project did — that’s OK.”

Greene’s own career is an advertisement for how exciting the profession can be, particularly those first, frenzied years of high-temperature superconductivity research. In 1987, an

adrenaline-filled year for anyone involved in that exploding area of research, Greene once sped across New York’s Long Island in an effort to be the first to submit and publish a new finding, and later presented her research to a packed ballroom at an APS meeting so mind-blowing it was later dubbed the Woodstock of Physics.

That passionate young researcher is today president-elect of an organization representing 51,000 fellow physicists across the country. Having such a high-profile leader in Florida State’s Department of Physics is an almost guaranteed boon, said department chair Horst Wahl.

“Whenever somebody of her caliber joins the department, that helps the visibility and reputation of the department,” Wahl said. “Even if she didn’t do anything for the department.”

Little chance of that: Greene has already voiced interest in teaching, supervising graduate students, developing curricula, and helping develop an interdisciplinary program in materials science, arts and design. Ambitious goals for someone also heading up science at the MagLab, but Wahl is not putting it past her.

“She has shown us that she is apparently able to ride 10 horses at the same time,” he said.

As APS president next year, Greene intends to focus on human rights. United by their love of discovery, physicists have an important role to play, she said. She recalled a recent meeting in Oman that drew a diverse group of scientists — Indians, Pakistanis, Palestinians, Omanis, Yemenis, Sunnis, Shiites, Jews.

“We get together from very disparate backgrounds that on paper should not be getting along at all,” she said. “But we typically don’t give a hoot about that. We just care about interacting over science.”

The idea of a bunch of physicists helping bring about world peace may sound like a pipe dream. But there may be no one better equipped than Laura Greene to chase it.

◀ In addition to heading up science at the MagLab, Greene has also voiced interest in teaching, supervising graduate students, developing curricula, and helping develop an interdisciplinary program in materials science, arts and design at FSU.



Ray Stanyard

A grand heritage

FSU's Department of Religion celebrates a half-century

By Jeffery Seay

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 the granting of more than 50 doctoral degrees and three faculty members who, over the years, have received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship, which is a highly competitive, mid-career award that recognizes 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.



Bill Lax/University Communications

In addition, Cuevas is a past fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, which is located at Princeton University, 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.

Prominent faculty members include, clockwise from top, John Kelsay, 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 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.

“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, from 1996 to 2006 and from 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 religion 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.

The Contemporary Department

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. But 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.

In addition, 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



Department of Religion faculty from the mid-1970s. Pictured in the front row are, from left, John Priest, Richard Rubenstein, John Carey, Bob Spivey and Jackson Ice. In back, from left, are Walter Moore, William Jones, Leo Sandon, Robin King, Robert Linne, Charles Wellborn and Lawrence Cunningham.



Faculty members during the 1995-1996 academic year. Pictured in the front row, from left, are John Kelsay, Leo Sandon, Tessa Bartholomeusz and David Levenson. In the second row, from left, are Galen Amstutz, Walter Moore, Kathleen Erndl and Corrine Patton. In the third row, from left, are Charles Swain, John Priest, Maureen Tilley (in purple jacket) and Marc Ellis (in dark blue jacket). In back, from left, are William Jones (in dark green), David Lamberth and Stephen Angell.

Courtesy of the FSU Department of Religion



Professor John Kelsay speaks with Kamila Kavka, mother of Professor Martin Kavka, during a reception marking the department's 50th anniversary.

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 sciences 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 it's 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.

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 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 Future

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 the department's courses are now 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.



A number of current and former faculty members posed for a photo at a recent reception marking the department's 50th anniversary. Retired faculty members in the front row are, from left, Bob Spivey, Walter Moore, Gloria Priest (widow of the late Professor John Priest), Richard Rubenstein and Leo Sandon. In the back row, from left, are current faculty members Aline Kalbian (chair), David Levenson, Martin Kavka (behind), Matthew Goff, Bryan Cuevas, Sumner Twiss, Amanda Porterfield, Kathleen Erndl, Joseph Hellweg (behind), Kristina Buhman and John Kelsay.

Courtesy of the FSU Department of Religion

Investing in the future

Private support is helping students reach their fullest potential

By Barry Ray

Among Florida State University's 16 colleges, the College of Arts and Sciences stands apart for a variety of reasons. Chief among these is its sheer size: Approximately 11,000 of FSU's 42,000 students are pursuing undergraduate, graduate or specialized degrees within the college — almost twice as many as in the second-largest college, Business.

The diverse spectrum of its academic offerings also makes the College of Arts and Sciences unique. Students interested in the sciences can pursue coursework in disciplines ranging from biology and chemistry to physics, oceanography, meteorology, geology, psychology, computer science, statistics, mathematics, scientific computing and anthropology. Those interested in the humanities have academic choices as varied as classics, philosophy, religion, history, English and modern languages. The college even helps to prepare graduates for careers in the military via its departments of Military Science (Army ROTC) and Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC).

Naturally, a college as large and as multifaceted as Arts and Sciences provides numerous opportunities for private supporters to align their philanthropic interests with the needs of the college. Wherever one's passion lies, a contribution to the college as part of the ongoing initiative "Raise the Torch: The Campaign for Florida State" (<http://raisethetorch.fsu.edu/>) can have a powerful effect on specific academic programs, students and faculty.

Student needs are a critical area that can be supported via targeted gifts that, alone or combined with other contributions, allow for the creation of endowed funds. Such endowments might fund merit-based scholarships at all levels, as well as study-abroad scholarships, internships, graduate



fellowships or student research opportunities — providing just the types of support that talented and capable students often need to succeed during their college years and beyond.

Consider just a few of the ways in which the generosity of private donors is already helping the College of Arts and Sciences to meet the needs of its students:

- Through a series of contributions, the late Dan Walbolt and his wife, Sylvia, created a set of three fellowships that enable a number of FSU history graduate students each year to pursue their graduate research or work on their dissertations.
- FSU alumna Ermine Owenby has made several gifts to fund the Ermine M. Owenby Jr. Fund to Promote Excellence, which provides support for female students enrolled in any of the graduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences so that they might present papers at professional conferences.
- The Ting Jui "John" Ho Endowed Graduate Fellowship in the Department of Anthropology was established in 2015 in honor of the late John Ho, a longtime professor in that department. A recent gift from his son, also named John Ho, significantly enhanced the existing endowment.

Another significant area of need within the college involves faculty recruitment and retention. Often, the availability of privately funded, endowed chairs and professorships can have a transformational effect on a specific department by making it possible to hire nationally and even globally recognized scholars and teachers — or to reward highly accomplished faculty who might otherwise leave for greener pastures. Faculty of this caliber also bring valuable relationships to the university that may not otherwise exist, especially in the areas of research, teaching and philanthropy.

On page 12 of this magazine, you will read about one such gift — the new Kirby W. Kemper Endowed Professorship in the Department of Physics — that is supporting the work of an important faculty member within that department.

If you're interested in learning more about the college's "Raise the Torch" campaign priorities or other giving opportunities, contact Assistant Dean for Development Nancy Smilowitz at (850) 294-1034 or nsmilowitz@fsu.edu. To make an online contribution to Florida State University's College of Arts and Sciences, visit <http://fla.st/1Q6bmO0>.



Another philanthropic opportunity: FSU's Great Give 2016

This spring, for the fifth year in a row, Florida State University will host FSU's Great Give, a 36-hour online giving campaign in support of academic programs and scholarships throughout the university. Last year's campaign was a great success, with 1,234 donors contributing a total of \$163,320.

This year's Great Give will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 14, and continue until 9 p.m. on Friday, April 15. Donors wishing to support a project with the most immediate and tangible results within the College of Arts and Sciences will have the option of contributing to the Arts & Sciences General Development Fund during that timeframe. Among other possibilities, this fund enables the college to supplement graduate fellowships; assist talented students in attending professional conferences and conducting important research; contribute to the establishment of endowed funds for lecture series or graduate lectureships; and help fund endowed professorships to assist in recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty members.

Stay tuned to <http://foundation.fsu.edu/GreatGive2016/> and <https://www.facebook.com/FSUGreatGive/> for updates on FSU's Great Give, and remember to make your online contributions on April 14-15.

The physics of philanthropy

Kirby and Margaret-Ray Kemper endow a professorship in the Department of Physics

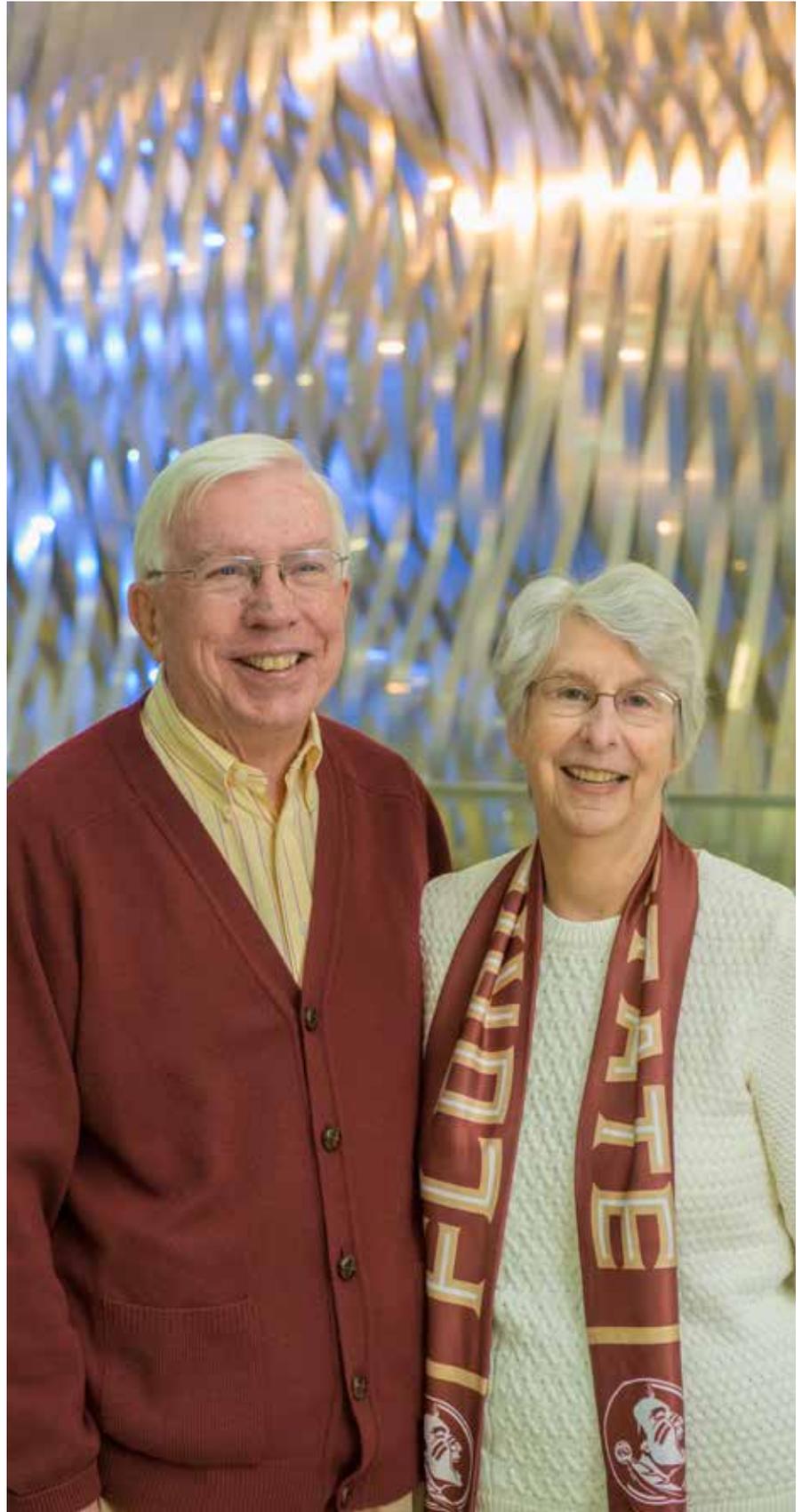
By Barry Ray

As a longtime faculty member in Florida State University's Department of Physics, Kirby Kemper understood the importance of being able to follow one's scientific curiosity wherever it may lead. Today, as an emeritus professor, he wants to give others in the department a similar opportunity.

To that end, Kemper and his wife, Margaret-Ray Kemper, have made a \$150,000 gift to the physics department to establish the Kirby W. Kemper Endowed Professorship. The endowment will provide \$6,000 per year to a faculty member selected by the department. The named professor will be able to spend the funds in a manner that furthers his or her research activities; possible uses include research, conference fees, travel, graduate-student and postdoctoral-fellow support, or other scholarly activities as the named professor elects.

The idea to establish the endowed professorship had its origins in Kemper's own tenure at FSU. In 2002, he was named a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor — the highest honor granted by the FSU faculty to one of their own. One of the perks of the named professorship was an annual stipend.

Kirby and Margaret-Ray Kemper have deep roots at Florida State University, where they first arrived in 1968 when he accepted a position as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Physics.



Ray Stanyard

“A Lawton Professor receives an annual stipend,” Kemper said. “And while it’s not a lot of money, it gives you enormous freedom, because you can use it for traveling or supporting undergraduates, or whatever. With federal grants there are severe restrictions on how you spend the money, making it difficult, for example, to explore a new research area. So I found that money to be very useful in my research activities, and I wanted to give a professor in Physics a chance to have a little bit of money to give him or her the freedom to work on things that the professor would like to work on that maybe are not grant-supported.”

The inaugural holder of the Kirby W. Kemper Endowed Professorship is Harrison Prosper, a highly respected researcher in high-energy physics who has been at Florida State since 1993. Calling him a “fantastic scientist” and a friend of more than two decades, Kemper said Prosper was an easy choice.

“He’s well regarded in the high-energy physics community,” Kemper said. “He was one of FSU’s leaders in the Higgs boson search at CERN (the largest particle physics laboratory in the world, located in Switzerland). He’s given many public lectures all over the world. And he’s just a person that I enjoy talking to a lot about physics. I have great respect for him.”

Prosper called the professorship a great honor.

“I was so taken by the Kempers’ generosity that when I first learned about the endowed chair from Kirby, I was left literally speechless,” he said. “Not only is this an extraordinary gesture by Kirby and Margaret-Ray, it is also a moving affirmation of Kirby’s conviction that the FSU physics department, which he helped build, is a great place with a bright future. The Kemper Endowed Professorship will allow me and future recipients of the award to remain fully engaged in international collaborative projects by providing the means to work with colleagues and students from around the world.”

After earning his Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from Indiana University, Kemper came to Florida State in 1968 as a postdoctoral fellow before joining the physics faculty as an assistant professor in 1971. He recalls that his joining the faculty almost didn’t happen.

“It was a time when we were not hiring,” he said. “Florida was in another real estate bust, so money was tight and the job market in physics had collapsed — all of the money for research was going into the Vietnam War. So it was a very difficult time. The chairman of the department at the time, Norman Heydenburg, had decided to retire, and Bob Lawton, who was our dean then, somehow found the salary for an assistant professor position for me in the physics department.”

Thus began a long and fruitful career at FSU. Over the years, Kemper moved up the ranks from assistant to associate to full professor; he also served as director of the FSU Nuclear Accelerator Laboratory from 1990 to 1997, as chair of the Department of Physics from 1997 to 2003, and as the university’s vice president for Research from 2003 to 2012. He “retired” in 2013, although he still maintains an office on campus and works with undergraduate and graduate students and the other nuclear-physics faculty on experiments.

It all comes down to following his scientific curiosity, Kemper explains.

“For me, the big picture is trying to understand the origins of stars and the elements in stars,” he said. “I’ve always worked in an area called nuclear reactions. Basically, it’s changing one element into another element and seeing what the probability is that that’s going to happen. And in later years, we as a group have gotten into how elements are made in stars.

“The elements of which we’re made, the heavy elements, were made in some sort of stellar process, a stellar explosion called a supernova or a nova,” Kemper elaborated. “So the question is, how did those elements get there? And how do you make them? That’s primarily what I study — how do you take a lighter element and convert it into a heavier one, and what’s the probability that that will happen? And you would hope that, eventually, after all these years, you would know how it all works, but you don’t.”

Outside of her husband’s connections to Florida State, Margaret-Ray Kemper has her own ties to the university. She earned a juris doctorate from the FSU College of Law in 1975 and went on



Ray Stanyard

“I was so taken by the Kempers’ generosity that when I first learned about the endowed chair from Kirby, I was left literally speechless,” said Harrison Prosper, the inaugural Kirby W. Kemper Endowed Professor in the Department of Physics.

to a career as a land-use attorney. She is also an ardent supporter of Seminole athletics, while Kirby Kemper describes himself as more of a music booster. The couple have three grown children who grew up in Tallahassee.

It is those deep roots, formed over nearly five decades, that have kept the Kempers committed to FSU.

Kirby Kemper is also deeply appreciative of the opportunities that working at Florida State have provided.

“I have been blessed with having the ability to carry out a wonderful research program here at Florida State thanks to the support of the administration,” he said. “It’s been intellectually challenging and has allowed me to continue the innovative research of the nuclear physics group. I’ve had outstanding undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and other faculty colleagues to work with. I really enjoyed teaching first-year and pre-med physics. It’s just been a wonderful career.”

Launching scholarship to sea

Warren and Villacorta's gift is "the most substantial donation the Marine Lab has received," says lab director Felicia Coleman. "With the endowment, we will be funding graduate students in a very substantive way."

Endowment will benefit both Florida's coastal waters and its future researchers

By William Lampkin

Florida's coastal waters — as well as Florida State University students — will be the beneficiaries of a \$100,000 gift to the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory.

FSU alumni Tommy Warren and Kathy Villacorta's gift creates the Coastal and Marine Conservation Student Research Endowment to provide support for graduate student research into protecting and conserving coastal and marine habitats, ecologically and economically important marine species, and sustainable fisheries.

"There's a lot going on out there," Warren said. "Like the canary in the coal mine, the health of the Gulf tells us a lot about what's going on around the planet. These scientists are at the cutting edge of that. (Their research) is important for, in our view, trying to make the planet a better place. And graduate students fit into that overall plan."

Florida's coastal waters have been an important component of Warren's life. He grew up in South Florida, spending a lot of time outdoors fishing and hunting.

"I always was impressed with the ocean," Warren said. "When I was 15, I had scuba gear, and we'd scuba dive in the Keys, snorkel, catch Florida lobster with our hands, and all that stuff."



Ray Stanyard

"There's a lot going on out there," says Tommy Warren, pictured with wife Kathy Villacorta. "Like the canary in the coal mine, the health of the Gulf tells us a lot about what's going on around the planet. These scientists are at the cutting edge of that."



“We were up close and personal with coral reefs as far back as I can remember. To think that those are now on their way out in our area — and in other parts of the world, too — is not just sad, but sends a message that there’s something badly out of kilter with the planet. The sooner the factors can be determined what’s going on, hopefully the sooner something can be done to turn that all around.”

Warren attended FSU on a football scholarship, playing quarterback in the late 1960s. He earned a B.S. in business from FSU in 1970 and graduated from FSU’s College of Law in 1973. He is a civil rights lawyer in Tallahassee. Villacorta graduated from FSU in 1974 in psychology and mass communication, and from the College of Law in 1976.

Warren and Villacorta have a house near the Marine Lab, where their family has continued to enjoy aquatic activities, including fishing and boating. That’s how they became aware of and interested in the Marine Lab. Warren has served on the lab’s board for two years.

The Marine Lab board has been very interested in getting students involved in research, says Felicia Coleman, the lab’s director. “Particularly right on site.”

The lab is about an hour’s drive from FSU’s main campus. “So to attract students,” Coleman said, “we provide free transportation and dormitory space, and for the last few years, graduate scholarships to help fund their research conducted at the lab.”

The board “has generously donated scholarship money for graduate students for the past five years,” Coleman said. “Tommy and Kathy’s contribution is the first outright gift to establish an endowment.”

The couple “had given a similar type of scholarship to the law school,” she said. “So they already had a sense that this was something that they wanted to do, and when they suggested it to us, I just thought it was a wonderful idea.”

(In 2004, Warren and Villacorta donated \$100,000 to establish the Calvin Patterson Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship at the College of Law, and gave another \$100,000 to that endowment in 2011.)

Coleman hopes to award the first scholarship for the summer 2016 term.

“It’s the most substantial donation the Marine Lab has received,” she said. “With the endowment, we will be funding graduate students in a very substantive way.”

Ocean research wasn’t the only factor behind the couple’s gift. They also wanted to help students. As part of the gift agreement, the College of Arts and Sciences will provide tuition waivers for the first five years, which can be extended by the dean following a review by the Marine Lab.

“It’s about giving an opportunity to people who are in a situation similar to the one I was in,” said Villacorta, who also grew up in South Florida.

“When I was an undergrad, I lived in a scholarship house,” she said. “I borrowed money

for tuition. I worked three jobs, and I didn’t have a car. I was taking the bus out to Montgomery Ward, and then getting a ride back because the bus service didn’t run after I got off work. I worked for a professor, and I babysat.”

“It’s kind of win-win, in that there’s something that we can be doing to support the goals of the Marine Lab, but also providing some kind of financial support to students,” Villacorta says.

Coleman echoes those sentiments. And, she says, the gift provides an opportunity for a graduate student to concentrate on developing her or his own research, without the diversions that come from relying on unrelated sources of funding.

“By having a research assistantship, a lot of that problem is solved for them,” Coleman said. “It gives them the freedom and opportunity to focus completely on what they hope will be their life’s work.”

And the tuition waivers from the College of Arts and Sciences “provide more bang for the buck, which was our hope,” Warren said. “It will provide more resources, help the lab expand, and hopefully, get a little snowball effect going here.”

Villacorta says that they hope the endowment “opens doors for students who might not otherwise have even considered that (research) was an option for them.”

Warren added, “I mean, the whole idea — and, of course, this is supposed to be the university’s mission in general — is to produce people who go out and help the world become a better place.”

Looking forward to history

Alumni find rewarding careers far and wide in historical administration and public history

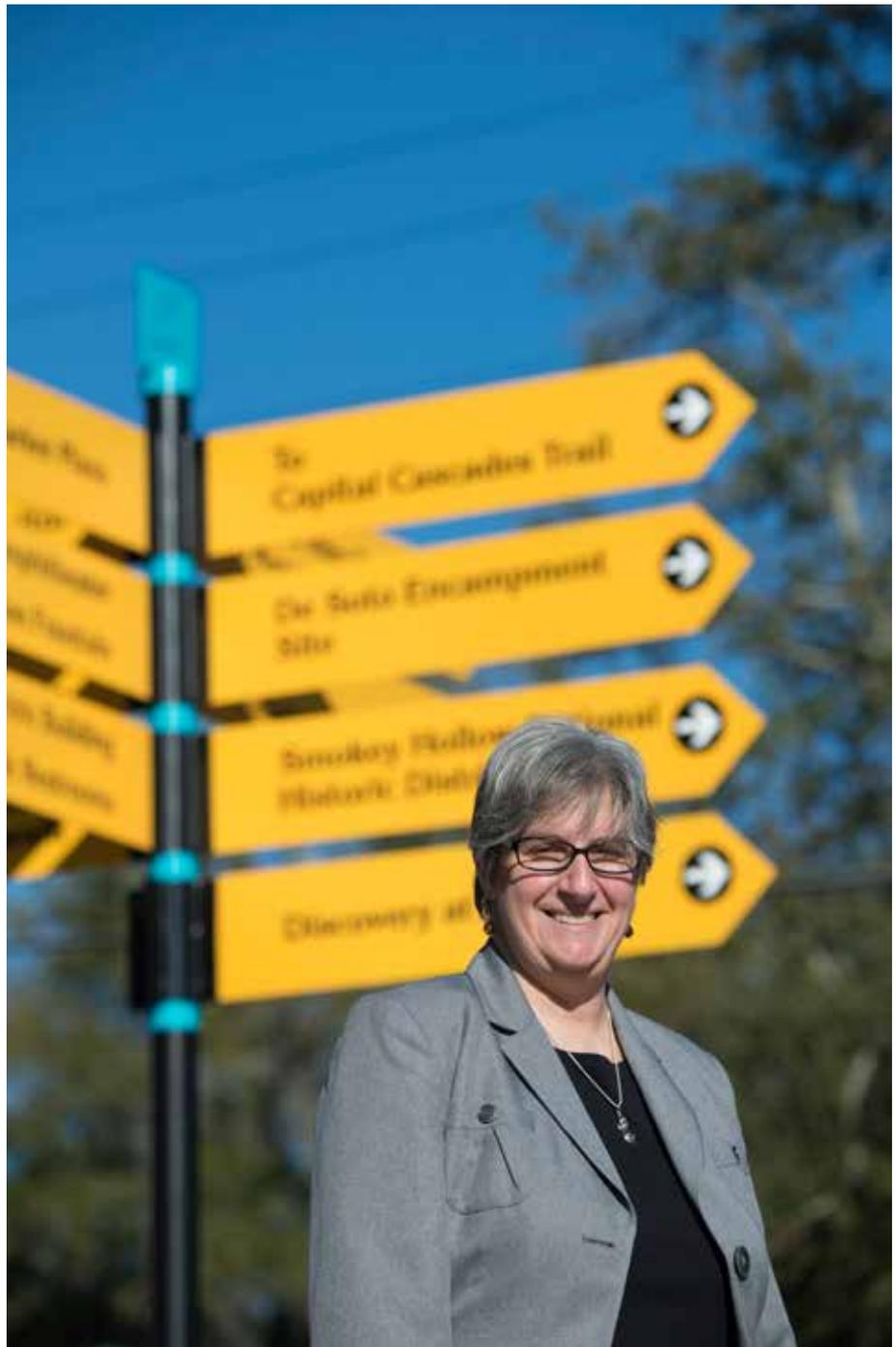
By Barbara Ash

If your travels take you to museums and historic sites around the country, don't be surprised if you run into one of the graduates or students of Florida State University's program in Historical Administration and Public History.

They are scattered from Florida to Hawaii, working or interning at places such as the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives in Washington, D.C.; and the Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Florida; the Mississippi Department of Archives; the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center in Tennessee; and the Joint Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency in Honolulu. Just to name a few.

These alumni, enthralled since childhood by the past, are well prepared for their field and say the FSU program gave them an edge in securing positions as museum directors, historians, docents, grants writers and cultural-resources managers. That passion for exploring historic experiences and sharing cultural knowledge with the public in myriad and creative ways could be a rewarding career, was a welcome discovery.

"I didn't really understand that working in museums and being a professional historian was an option for me," said Tiffany Baker, who earned an undergraduate degree in history from American University and her graduate degree in public history from FSU in 2009.



Ray Stanyard

Baker credits FSU with helping her land an appointment by Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner and House Speaker Steve Crisafulli in 2014 as museum director at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum.

Associate Professor of History Jennifer Koslow stands at the site of Tallahassee's "New Cascades Park" project, which uses interpretative signs and "spirit houses" to tell the story of the city's old Smokey Hollow neighborhood.



Photo courtesy of Esther Berumen

“The program allowed me to experience different specialties in the field and gain a skill set that made me particularly valuable to small and midsize institutions,” she said.

Esther Berumen, a 2009 graduate, first became aware of history as a profession as a teenager.

“When I visited the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History for the first time and viewed the flag that inspired the National Anthem, President Lincoln’s top hat, and the Woolworth counter from Greensboro, North Carolina, I realized there were individuals whose job required the study and preservation of these items. I was awed.”

As an FSU graduate student, she interned at the National Archives & Records Administration, researching the men who served as substitutes for

those drafted into the Union Army. Her research is included in the “Discovering Civil War” touring exhibit and, as a result, she found herself in the company of Allen Weinstein, the archivist of the United States, and filmmaker Ken Burns.

Today, Berumen is the supervisory archivist at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency at Hickam Field, located at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Its mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing members of the military to their families. She is responsible for 2,000 cubic feet of research material used by historians, analysts and scientists in support of the organization’s worldwide operations. Recently, as part of her job, she briefed the People’s Liberation Army Archivist of China and his staff on proper preservation techniques and now is assisting with the creation and training of staff for the Modern History Branch Archives at the Papua New

FSU alumna Esther Berumen, pictured, is the supervisory archivist at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency at Hickam Field, located at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Its mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing members of the military to their families.

Guinea Museum & Art Gallery in Port Moresby.

Like Baker and Berumen, 2008 graduate Cody Rademacher recommends FSU’s Historical Administration and Public History program particularly for individuals who love being surrounded by artifacts and historic documents, but don’t want to enter the teaching or purely academic fields.

As curatorial specialist at the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida, Naples, Rademacher is responsible for creating



FSU's program in Historical Administration and Public History "allowed me to experience different specialties in the field and gain a skill set that made me particularly valuable to small and midsize institutions," said Tiffany Baker, director of the Florida Historic Capitol Museum in Tallahassee.

Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation, and Mission San Luis, for example.

"The benefit of preserving public history is to keep it for all time in the collective memory," Koslow said. "Preserving a site, for instance, gives us a tangible connection to our past."

One of those sites Koslow and her students took on is the Smokey Hollow neighborhood near downtown Tallahassee, just a couple of miles from the FSU campus. From the 1890s to the 1960s, Smokey Hollow was home to working-class and middle-class African-Americans. After World War II, Florida's state government removed houses, stores and churches to make way for post-World War II urban renewal projects that did not materialize until recently, when Cascades Park was unveiled.

As part of an effort to commemorate the neighborhood and its displaced residents, "The New Cascades Park" project was created. It tells the story of Smokey Hollow through "spirit houses" and interpretive signs. FSU students, Koslow and faculty colleagues did archival research for the project and conducted oral histories with former residents. This formal historical documentation provides the crucial foundation for commemoration, Koslow said.

"A whole African-American community was destroyed for the 'greater good' because it was described by some as blighted and crime-infested," she said. "The people who had lived there may have been poor, but they had very fond memories, and those were taken away."

"Our work there has been empowering, because families and kids were displaced and they never knew why they were displaced. What we are doing allows them to say, 'We were here. We were important to the development of Tallahassee.' The benefit to doing this is that it preserves for all time the collective memory."

and maintaining exhibits and cataloguing and preserving artifacts.

"In my exhibit creation and design class, I worked with special collections librarians, the Brokaw Institute on World War II and discovered I enjoyed working directly with artifacts," he said. "The coursework gave me a good blend of practical and academic experiences that has prepared me to help this museum achieve high standards of presentation and collections management."

The Historical Administration and Public History program blends theory with practice, providing students with a fully integrated education in historical methods, scholarship and practical application.

The program is directed by Jennifer Koslow, associate professor of history, who joined the FSU Department of History faculty from the Dr. William M. Scholl Center for Family and Community History at the Newberry Library

in Chicago, where she was assistant director. As such, she organized exhibits, scholarly works-in-progress seminars and professional development programs for history teachers.

As the assistant curator on the "Outspoken" exhibit, Koslow spent a year producing a collaborative exhibit between the Newberry and Chicago Historical Society of more than 120 items detailing Chicago's free-speech tradition. She was also the lead instructor for two federally funded Teaching American History grants (the "Chicago History Project" and "Connecting with American History"), working closely with the Chicago Metro History Education Center, the Chicago Historical Society and the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Chicago.

In addition to working with FSU faculty, students have the opportunity to take classes with community leaders in public history. The program has established relationships with area public-history institutions, such as the Museum of Florida History, the Florida State Archives, the

Grads Made Good

FSU honors three who have pushed boundaries, redefined standards

By Ben Wolford

Dale Burton was always a talented mathematician. The two scholarly articles he published as a doctoral student have been cited 349 times. But who could have guessed he'd end up flying 37 combat missions over Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, implementing the surveillance system he patented that helped make the war so brief?

J. Marshall Shepherd knew he wanted to be a meteorologist since the sixth grade: He was working on a science project about bees and got stung, so he swapped insects for weather. Since then, he has spent 12 years at NASA, published more than 75 journal articles and even has his own TV show on The Weather Channel.

Wendy Clark's family moved frequently, and for that reason she lacked confidence in school. For years, she considered herself shy. Now, she's one of the world's foremost extroverts, managing marketing strategy for what is perhaps the world's most well-known brand: Coca-Cola.

Despite the diversity of their accomplishments, these three professionals have something in common: At one time or another, the Florida State University College of Arts and Sciences marked a turning point in their lives. Now, these former students are among the four recipients of this year's Grads Made Good award, one of FSU's most prestigious alumni prizes.

"The Grads Made Good award is really in a class by itself, the highest recognition of professional success for FSU alumni," said Scott Atwell, president of the FSU Alumni Association, which presents the award along with the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) national leadership honor society. "To single out just four from among 320,000 gives an idea of its significance — and the difficulty in making the selections."

Laura Osteen, faculty secretary for FSU's ODK circle, said three or four alumni are selected each year by a committee that studies the extent to which the nominees have used their college experience to make a difference in the world. Alumni are often nominated without their knowledge, by friends, family, classmates, colleagues and former professors.

"This is not an award for just getting promoted or just because you did well in your career," Osteen said. "We have tons of grads who've done great things in their profession. These men and women have done that and more. There's a wow factor for each of them."

In the cases of the three College of Arts and Sciences grads, the wow factors are obvious.

Burton, who earned a Ph.D. in applied mathematics in 1981, went to work at Northrop Grumman Corp. in 1987, helping to design the Joint Surveillance Target Attack



Dale Burton is sector vice president and chief technical officer at Northrop Grumman.



J. Marshall Shepherd is the host of "WxGeeks," a program on The Weather Channel.



Wendy Clark is senior vice president for Coca-Cola's soft drink products.

Radar System, better known as Joint STARS. With sophisticated surveillance tools mounted on an airplane, the military can track troop movements from this flying command and control center and relay information to commanders.

By 1988, Burton had already been promoted to chief systems engineer, a rapid ascent in that company. In 1991, the U.S. Defense Secretary put Joint STARS to use — and Burton along with it.

“Dale was the only civilian who flew an impressive 37 combat missions during Desert Storm,” wrote Northrop Grumman President Tom Vice, in a letter supporting Burton’s Grads Made Good nomination. Another colleague said, “In five short years, Joint STARS had evolved from a blank piece of paper to a combat-proven system due in part to Dr. Burton’s leadership.”

Burton is now sector vice president and chief technical officer at Northrop Grumman.

While Burton was working on the nation’s national security apparatus, Shepherd was working on his undergraduate degree at Florida State. He would go on to earn master’s and doctoral degrees in physical meteorology, becoming the first African-American student to receive a Ph.D. in meteorology from the university. But Shepherd is keen to point out that his college career involved far more than just study; he pledged to Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and met his wife during his time at FSU.

Since graduating, Shepherd has gone on to become a prolific researcher and speaker on weather and climate. At NASA, Shepherd was deputy project scientist for a space mission called Global Precipitation Measurement, which, in 2014, launched a satellite that will track the rain and snow falling all around the world. He has sat on intergovernmental committees crafting climate-related policies, and in 2013, he was president of the American Meteorological Society. In February of that year, he briefed the U.S. Senate on extreme weather and climate change.

Lately, Shepherd has increased his public persona. In 2014, he became the host of “WxGeeks,” a program on The Weather Channel. He comments regularly in such media as *Time*, CNN, NPR, *The Washington Post* and “The Today Show.” He’s even spoken at TEDx.

These kinds of appearances are what Shepherd has become best known for because they rank high in Google searches. But that’s not how he spends most of his time.

“I am a scientist who believes that academics has to get out of the ivory tower,” he said, but added that “the bulk of my day is still spent teaching classes, doing research.” Shepherd is a professor at the University of Georgia, where he is director of the Atmospheric Sciences program. But he still credits his time at FSU for much of the life he now enjoys.

“My career, my family and my closest friends were shaped at Florida State,” he said.

Clark’s job, meanwhile, involves a little more art than science. But that doesn’t make it any easier.

“Wendy now holds what many marketing academics and practitioners consider as the world’s highest office of brand responsibility,” wrote Michael D. Hartline, interim dean of the FSU College of Business, in her Grads Made Good nomination.

Clark didn’t disagree. She said the job is a gift, but, yes, a big responsibility, too. Coca-Cola is 129 years old, with revenues of \$46 billion a year. As senior vice president for the company’s soft drink products, she and her team have managed massive marketing operations, including the 2010 World Cup and the 2012 Olympics in London.

“What you don’t want to do is let down the 129 years of work that came before you,” she said.

Clark didn’t always know what she wanted to do in her career. In fact, she didn’t even major in marketing. When she first enrolled at FSU, it was in the accounting program. But she quickly

realized it wasn’t for her and headed for the Department of English. Her degree is in creative writing, and she sometimes jokes that she has a good answer for people who ask, “What are you going to do with an English major?”

After getting her foot in the door, first by taking a job as a receptionist at an ad agency, she eventually worked her way up through the industry. Clark is the reason Cingular Wireless (and its bouncing orange logo) no longer exist: She and her creative team led the effort that collapsed Cingular into AT&T.

Now she’s in the Advertising Hall of Achievement, has been named *Fortune* magazine’s “40 under 40” twice, and was described by *Advertising Age* magazine as “one of the most important women in marketing.”

As a girl who attended five different schools between fifth and ninth grade, Clark credits FSU for giving her a stable testing ground to shape the person she is today.

“FSU for me became a place that was a permanent community that I hadn’t felt that much growing up,” she said. “So it has an awful lot of meaning to me.”

All of the Grads Made Good returned to campus last November for Homecoming festivities and to accept their awards. For Dean Sam Huckaba, it was an opportunity to praise their achievements while holding them up as evidence for current students: proof that you can turn an FSU degree into anything you want.

“On behalf of the college, I salute Dale, Wendy and Marshall for their spectacular successes and for representing FSU and the college so well,” Huckaba said. “It was a great pleasure to take part in the celebration as they received these awards. We are proud to call them alumni.”

Playing to the crowd



Ray Stanyard

◀ Dalton Smith, a trumpet player in the Marching Chiefs, majored in history before graduating with honors in December 2015. Senior Lauren King is majoring in psychology and plays clarinet.

Marching Chiefs did what any quality band does, acting as one voice to pull people together, reminding them they're all part of a community.

At the same time, the band also needs individual students — strong, disciplined and willing to put in two hours of practice a day, five days a week. This is on top of their studies and other work. As well, the band can have extra weekend rehearsals, sometimes at 6:30 a.m. To be a member takes dedication.

Undergraduate students Dalton Smith and Lauren King, both from FSU's College of Arts and Sciences, exemplify this particular love and loyalty to the Marching Chiefs. Both of these band-leader students are competitive and ambitious, but neither is gladiatorial.

Smith, a trumpet player, graduated in December 2015 as an honors student in history. He always knew he wanted to be a Marching Chief. He was self-effacing, and said of being a trumpet player, "I'm a screecher." He described himself as just another student.

Before this practice, when he was a graduating senior, he proved to be anything but just another student. He had a clean-cut authenticity about him, and said his greatest joy in the band came with feeling the ceremony and sense of camaraderie when "the whole stadium is one."



Some 400 students strong, the Marching Chiefs consists of students from almost every academic department within the university.

College of Arts and Sciences students step lively in the Marching Chiefs

By Mary Jane Ryals

On a Wednesday afternoon, a breeze just blew up on the band scaffold, called "the tower," on the Florida State University Marching Chiefs' rehearsal field at Manley R. Whitcomb Band Complex. The band members stood in a U-shape around the perch, two-plus stories high, ready to rehearse. The 400 instruments held by students shone in the light as they practiced.

Patrick Dunnigan, Director of Bands at FSU, shouted instructions into a microphone that reached to speakers below so the students could hear him. "Stay with the note!" and "Put some air behind the horn!" Dunnigan announced. The students wore comfortable athletic gear in every color of the rainbow.

A Kentucky native, Dunnigan has served at FSU for 25 years, and has developed a sense of humor, appreciating the changes that have occurred over that stretch of time.

"This used to be a swamp," he said, pointing around the field, "and was surrounded by drainage ditches. Snakes would crawl around in here." And, he added, the students often rehearsed in "either dust or mud." It's changed a lot.

Suddenly, the 400-member band became one harmonious note of bright brass, reedy woodwinds and pounding percussion. The

How did he manage to write a history honors thesis, work as the Marching Chiefs' co-uniform manager, act as vice president of Kappa Kappa Psi (the music fraternity), teach the "rookies" in band how to step, and work with high-schoolers in Young Life, a Christian ministry?

"It's a question I ask myself sometimes," he smiled and shrugged. "Prioritizing."

Smith's honors thesis was no small matter. The son of a Pensacola minister, he chose to investigate the history of the Southern Baptists after the Civil War.

"It changed during the Civil War," he explained, his eyes shifting toward the serious. "The South collapses, and since the Baptist Church was mission-minded and believed God was on their side, and the South lost, the church had to look inward."

"The church went from thinking the South was the Promised Land to looking for the Promised Land."

Baptists generally thought they needed to repent, he said. The one thing they didn't consider was their racism, Smith added, and the hypocrisy of enslaving other humans.

This thinking is not conjecture, Smith said. He was awarded a grant to study the letters, journals and speeches of early Southern Baptist Convention leaders in Nashville, Tennessee. In one person's journals, he found something profound: the sales document for the purchase of a slave.

Smith became animated when he talked about history, and he made clear that he wanted to teach history to high school students after graduation, possibly back in his hometown.

"History is influential on who we are today and how we think of ourselves," he said.

Of Smith's trumpet-playing ability, Director Dunnigan said, "Something Dalton would never tell you is that he can 'screech' incredibly high notes." Dunnigan hesitated, stared into

the middle distance, and added, "I only see one of those about every 20 years." Then he chuckled. "It's freakish."

Just as down-to-earth and modest was Smith's co-uniforms manager and staffer, Lauren King. She and Smith have held high positions in the band hierarchy as staffers, and row leaders. King, a psychology major, shook hands with poise, and combined that with a sunny friendliness of small-town Iowa meshed with Central Florida, both places where she grew up.

One of King's gifts to her clarinet section is her calm and focus in the midst of performance. She stood out, not only because she's slightly taller than many in the band but also because she showed leadership, consistently standing still, studying her music, while others multitasked by chatting and stretching out their jitters.

The co-director of the Marching Chiefs, David Plack, who himself graduated from FSU, agreed.

"She has shown herself to be very poised under duress," he said. "She has held numerous leadership positions in both the Marching Chiefs and our service sorority, Tau Beta Sigma. I have never seen her lose her poise or become angry or flustered, regardless of how stressful a situation might be."

As a row leader, King (as well as Smith) taught the rookies "the chief step" and how to "pop and snap."

King took her love of music from her older brother, a star pianist and music director in Central Florida.

"My brother was great at everything (in music)," she said. "I was bad at trumpet, but then I tried the clarinet and decided to go for it." That was in fifth grade, and she hasn't stopped playing clarinet since.

Her youthful enthusiasm doesn't stop her from an intense maturity and philosophical approach to life. When she moved from a tiny town in Iowa to a much larger, tougher Central Florida, she had to drop any assumptions about people being the same everywhere.

"I'm more well-rounded, because of the tough change," she said. "Everyone's different, and there's more than one way to do things."

Plack said of King, "Most importantly, she is simply someone that everyone likes and respects. She treats everyone with equal kindness on and off the field, and for that reason, she is considered one of our top leaders in the organization."

King finishes her degree this spring and has begun to apply to graduate schools in speech pathology.

"I love teaching and motivating," she explained. Being a drill leader has helped show her this.

King spoke with conviction about her new interest.

"Speech and linguistics are so fundamental," she said. "Language and our use of language is essential to how we live our lives."

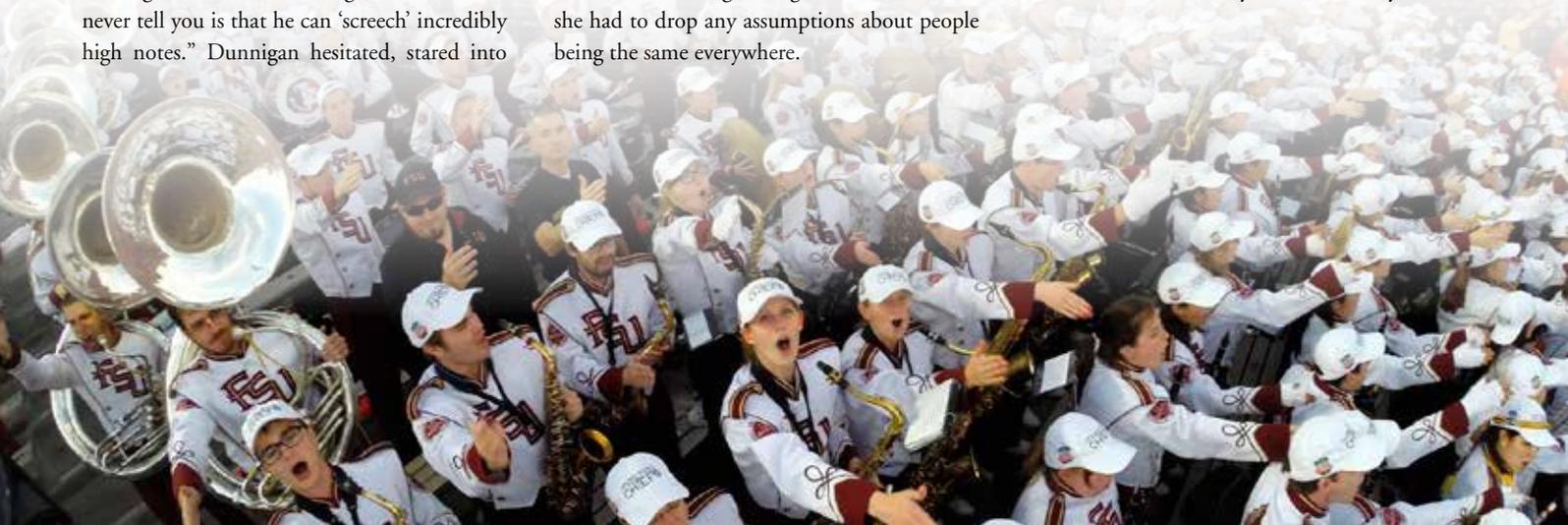
Like Smith, King considers the band the fun thing, the passion that's not work.

"As a senior, I was burned out after hours of study," King said. "But I've never stopped loving band." She talked about the Fall Skull Session and the pregame performances.

"The way it feels," she said. "First, the field is empty, and then we start to play and the air is electric. We get people excited. No one is down by 10 (points)." It's that great feeling of expectation.

Smith and King have loved the unity the band creates. "It's 400 people playing together," she said, adding, "People who all want to be there with all their hearts."

Back on the rehearsal field, the band played a pop hit, which echoed out of the field as the band members shuffled around, Michael Jackson-style. No snakes, no swamp or mud or dust were to be seen — only a sapphire fall sky and students who clearly loved what they did.



Duly Noted

News and notes from around the College of Arts and Sciences

In Memoriam

FSU alumnus and art collector William Lee Pryor



The cover story of the Autumn 2014 issue of *Across the Spectrum* highlighted the generosity of William Lee Pryor, a humanities educator, two-time graduate of Florida State University's Department of English and lifelong art collector, who had just made a bequest of his large art collection to FSU. Pryor died on July 14, 2015, at age 88.

A professor of English at the University of Houston for 42 years until his retirement in

1997, Pryor was a man of eclectic tastes. He traveled to 43 countries over his lifetime, collecting art in media ranging from paintings to sculptures, tapestries, urns, rare furniture and rugs. His collection will be housed for display at FSU in what will be called The Dahl, Lottie, and William Lee Pryor Drawing Room, to honor Pryor as well as his parents. The drawing room will be located in the Museum of Fine Arts where the public will be able to freely enjoy the collection.

A .pdf version of the Autumn 2014 issue of *Across the Spectrum* can be viewed at <http://fla.st/1o3ODqV>.



Biology professor emeritus Kurt Hofer

The Autumn 2014 issue of *Across the Spectrum* also featured a profile of Kurt G. Hofer, a renowned biologist and educator who served on the FSU faculty for more than

three decades. Hofer passed away on Sept. 20, 2015, at the age of 76.

With his wife, Maria, Kurt Hofer made a gift to Florida State in 2014 in the form of a house and land that they owned in the Florida Panhandle town of Wewahitchka. The gift, valued at \$160,000, enabled the establishment of the Kurt and Maria Hofer Endowed Fund for the Department of Biological Science, which now supports an annual graduate fellowship that is awarded based on academic merit. FSU's Coastal and Marine Laboratory receives annual funding as well.

A member of FSU's biology faculty from 1971 to 2003, Hofer estimated that he taught more than 15,000 students over the years in everything from large, introductory-level biology courses to small, graduate-level classes in radiation and cancer research. The excellence of his teaching was recognized by the university when it awarded Hofer the University Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990, and asked him to serve as chair of the President's Council on Excellence in College Teaching.

Simultaneously, as a prolific researcher and scholar, Hofer was regarded by peers as "one of the founders of modern radiobiology." A pioneer in the study of radiation therapies for the treatment of cancers, he conducted basic and applied research that showed how raising the temperature of cancer cells and infusing them with oxidizing agents made the cells much more sensitive to the effects of radiation. Hofer's research led to FSU being granted numerous patents, both in the United States and abroad, and had important medical applications that saved untold lives.

For his many accomplishments at Florida State, Hofer was named a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor — the highest honor that the FSU faculty can bestow on a colleague — in 1994.

Other News

Three researchers elected fellows of prestigious chemistry society



Three faculty members in Florida State's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry have been elected fellows of the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry.

Professor Thomas Albrecht-Schmitt, Associate Research Professor Steve Acquah and Professor Hedi Mattoussi, pictured above, were selected as fellows of the society, which recognizes unique and unparalleled contributions to the field of chemistry.

"To have three fellows elected at the same time is quite a feat and really illustrates the quality of our department here at Florida State," said Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry chair Tim Logan.

Established in London in 1841, the Royal Society of Chemistry has more than 51,000 members around the world and works to train and educate future generations of scientists while also fostering the growth of the field of chemistry.

Its members work everywhere from academia to industry to government and are committed to the highest level of research activity.

Being elected a fellow denotes an exceptionally high level of accomplishment as a professional chemist. To be elected a fellow, chemists must have a minimum of five years professional experience and have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of chemical sciences as a field of study or a profession.

Read more about the three researchers at <http://fla.st/1DnXr1y>.



Poet David Kirby honored by Florida Humanities Council

David Kirby, FSU's Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of English, has been recognized by the Florida Humanities Council.

In February, the organization selected him as the seventh recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing. An independent panel of five judges picked Kirby from a field of 19 nominees, calling him "one of Florida's literary treasures."

"I take this as encouragement," Kirby told the *Tampa Bay Times*. "I take it as my marching orders from the Florida Humanities Council: Get out there and get to work!"

Kirby, who at 71 is currently teaching a full load at FSU, just published a book in December and has another on the way. Even he isn't sure how many books he has published.

"If you pin me down, I'll say 34 books," he told the *Times*, as well as hundreds of book reviews and essays. Most of his books are poetry collections, the newest of which, "Get Up, Please," will be published in March. His collection "The House on Boulevard St." was a finalist for the National Book Award for poetry in 2007.

Read more of the *Times'* article on Kirby at <http://goo.gl/MU30fl>.



English alum Adam Johnson wins National Book Award

Just three years after winning the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel "The Orphan Master's Son," renowned writer and Florida State

alumnus Adam Johnson has added another trophy to his mantle. In November 2015, Johnson's collection of short stories "Fortune Smiles" was named the winner of the National Book Award for fiction.

The award, which is given in the categories of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and young people's literature, comes with a \$10,000 prize and a bronze statue. Flannery O'Connor, William Faulkner and Ralph Ellison are among the many critically acclaimed writers who have won the award.

Johnson, now the Phil and Penny Knight Professor in Creative Writing at Stanford University, earned a doctorate in creative writing from Florida State's Department of English in 2001. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, he is a past winner of the Whiting Award and has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In an August 2015 NPR interview, Johnson called "Fortune Smiles" a kind of return for him as a writer.

"I think the short story is a machine, and it has lots of gears that turn: voice, style, architecture, chronology, scene selection," he said. "I think they're difficult, but they can be very perfect and powerful — I missed them, working on a novel for many years."

Cause for celebration

FSU advocate and legend Kitty Hoffman turns 101

By Zilpha Underwood

“I never imagined I would live so long,” said Kitty Hoffman, tireless advocate for the liberal arts and sciences and Florida State University alumna extraordinaire.

It’s a remark she’s uttered many times — even before turning 101 last August.

Katherine Blood “Kitty” Hoffman’s long life has been one of love for and service to Florida State.

As a young woman, Kitty was determined to attend Florida State College for Women, despite the fact that the world was in the midst of the Great Depression. Demonstrating characteristic ingenuity, she bartered some of her father’s citrus crop to cover the cost of room and board for her second year at FSCW. She also worked in the Suwannee Dining Hall and finally won a scholarship for her final year.

While never neglecting her academic duties, Kitty played on FSCW’s baseball team and was captain of the volleyball team. She became active in student government as a freshman and eventually was elected president of the Student Government Association. She excelled during her time in Tallahassee and showed herself to be a leader.

In 1936, Kitty graduated from FSCW with a bachelor’s degree in bacteriology. She then moved to New York City to attend Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons and earned a master’s degree there in 1938.

To fulfill her dream of becoming a physician, Kitty was set to attend Duke University’s School of Medicine, but when she discovered that women med students were not permitted to be married, she changed course. She was in love with Harold Hoffman, a fellow chemist, whom she had known since her childhood in Winter Haven.

Katherine Blood “Kitty” Hoffman’s long life has been one of love for and service to Florida State University. Here, she admires her birthday cake on the occasion of her 101st birthday during a party last Aug. 1 at the Wakulla Springs Lodge south of Tallahassee.



Kitty Hoffman, left, poses during birthday festivities with longtime friend Penny Gilmer, FSU’s Nancy Marcus Professor Emerita of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The two were married and in 1940 moved to Tallahassee, where Kitty joined the faculty of FSCW. Five years later, the Hoffmans’ son Norris was born.

Kitty continued to teach chemistry when FSCW became Florida State University. From 1967 to 1970 she served the university as its dean of women and from 1980 to 1982 she was president of the Faculty Senate. She taught chemistry until her retirement in 1984. Esteemed by her peers and loved by her students, Hoffman has received many accolades for her work — the Coyle E. Moore Jr. Award for excellence in teaching in 1964, the Ross Oglesby Award for service and leadership in 1978, the Gift of Wisdom Mentor Award in 2013 and others. The Hoffman Teaching Laboratory was named in her honor in 1984.

Kitty never forgot the challenge she faced paying for her education. In 1994, she and Harold established the Katherine Blood Hoffman Endowed Fund in Chemistry. That gift of \$115,000 has helped undergraduates ever since.

Kitty’s support for her alma mater goes way back, according to Betty Lou Joanos, longtime friend and retired associate director of Alumni Affairs at FSU.

“Oh, she’s always been a leader” when it comes to financial support for FSU, both personally and by encouraging others to give, Joanos said. “While Kitty was at Columbia working

on her master’s degree, she established an alumni club in New York City. And, that was in the late ’30s.”

This generosity alone would establish Kitty’s dedication to FSU, but she has continued to support academics, particularly the liberal arts, with large sums of money.

She gave \$50,000 to finance a symposia for the liberal arts that brought Arianna Huffington and Jean Kirkpatrick to the stage of Ruby Diamond in 1998. And, along with her fellow FSCW alumnae, Hoffman established the Edward Conradi Chair within the Department of Psychology. She also funded a lectureship in environmental chemistry and many other opportunities for students to experience the best of what a university can provide.

It’s doubtful that Kitty Hoffman would ever sit down and make a list of all her accomplishments, all the lives she’s touched and all that she has done for the university, but if she did, she might be surprised by all she has gotten done in a mere 101 years.



Photo courtesy Penny Gilmer

Nancy Smilowitz



Assistant Dean

Office: 850.644.9324
Cell: 850.294.1034
Email: nsmilowitz@fsu.edu

Assistant Dean for Development Nancy Smilowitz loves working with people who have a thirst for knowledge and a desire to enhance higher education. May 2016 marks 18 years that Nancy has been in the Office of Development at Florida State University's College of Arts and Sciences. She began at FSU as an associate director of development, became senior director in 2002 and assistant dean in 2008. In her 18 years as a liaison between the college and the FSU Foundation, Nancy has raised nearly \$40 million through outright and deferred gifts.

Nancy earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Penn State University, where she also worked part time raising funds in the phone center. Between her time at Penn State and her arrival at FSU, Nancy served as the assistant director of annual giving at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Torri Miller



Development Coordinator

Office: 850.644.1652
Email: tmiller@fsu.edu

Torri Miller, born and raised in Miami, graduated from FSU in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in residential science. The first time she visited Tallahassee and toured the campus, she realized that FSU was the place for her. Torri met her husband, Blake Miller, while a student, and they were married shortly after her graduation. From 2002-2008, she worked at the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center, where she learned all about catering events and the restaurant industry, and from 2007-2010, she worked at the Tallahassee Builders Association as their marketing coordinator. In April 2010, Torri joined the College of Arts and Sciences, where she is happy to be working at the university where she experienced some of the best moments of her life.

Torri and her husband, Blake — also an FSU grad — are the proud parents of two young boys.

Jeff Ereckson



Director of Development

Office: 850.644.3370
Cell: 850.445.3177
Email: jereckson@fsu.edu

Jeff Ereckson was born and raised in the Florida Panhandle, growing up in Panama City, and graduated from high school in Pensacola in 1980. He earned his bachelor's degree in finance from FSU in 1985 and enjoyed a 17-year career as a financial consultant in Atlanta before returning to Tallahassee in 2005 to become Director of Planned Giving at the FSU Foundation. He also helped raise funds and gifts-in-kind to build the new FSU President's House, which was completed in 2007. In 2009, Jeff joined the College of Arts and Sciences as Director of Development; became the PA announcer for the FSU baseball team in 2015; and continues to serve FSU in both roles today.

While in college, Jeff was a student senator and member of the Renegade Team, and was Chief Osceola in 1983 and 1984. As an alumnus, he was an active member of the Atlanta Seminole Club and served on the FSU Alumni Board and the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Council for eight years. He and his wife, Renee, live in Tallahassee and have two grown sons.

Barry Ray



Media & Communications Officer

Office: 850.644.6510
Email: beray@fsu.edu

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Fla., Barry Ray graduated from FSU in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in English literature. He credits his college studies with helping him to hone the skills needed to become a successful writer, editor, and communications professional. He has held communications positions in state government and with a statewide association, and has worked extensively as a freelance writer and editor. In 2005, Barry returned to FSU, working with University Communications to focus national and international media attention on the groundbreaking research and accomplishments of Florida State faculty.

Barry moved to the College of Arts and Sciences in 2013 and is excited about this opportunity to promote the college. He and his wife, Susan (a 1987 FSU grad), whom he met while he was working his first job at a daily newspaper in Tallahassee, have two children.

Brett Lee



Development Officer

Office: 850.645.9544
Cell: 850.294.3937
Email: blee@foundation.fsu.edu

Brett is a native of Crestview, Fla. In 2011, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from Florida State. After graduation, he immediately accepted a position in Data Management with the FSU Foundation and worked most recently in the Department of Gift Processing before moving over to the College of Arts and Sciences.

For fun, Brett plays on the FSU Foundation flag football team and enjoys hiking and kayaking. In his role as a development officer, he advances the many initiatives of the college and works with faculty, staff and students throughout the university to raise interest and awareness among current and prospective donors.

Florida State University
College of Arts and Sciences
P.O. Box 3061280
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1280

Online:

artsandsciences.fsu.edu/philanthropy/

Fax:

850-645-3258



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Office of the Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
P.O. Box 3061280
The Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1280

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Ray Stanyard

Florida State University alumni Kathy Villacorta and Tommy Warren love Florida's natural environment. That's why they have given \$100,000 to FSU's Coastal and Marine Laboratory to provide support for graduate student research into protecting and conserving coastal and marine habitats, ecologically and economically important marine species, and sustainable fisheries. Read more about how and why they choose to support the Marine Lab on page 14.