

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

# SOUTHERN NEWS

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FLORIDA SOUTHERN





## A letter *from the president*



One of the greatest challenges for any American college today is achieving continuous improvement throughout the entire institution. The FSC faculty, administration, and student leaders constantly pursue enhancements to academic programs, services, activities, and outcomes measurements of student success. This issue of *Southernnews* contains many examples of campus results that demonstrate our success in meeting this challenge, which we do with great enthusiasm.

One of our newest programs was the Child of the Sun Distinguished Speakers Series, which focused attention on the sciences outside the classroom, for not only science majors, but also all students who are interested in scientific discoveries. The series included presentations by Dr. William Phillips, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, and Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman in space. The first Marine Science Symposium was also launched, which featured a return visit from our 81<sup>st</sup> honorary chancellor, the renowned ocean explorer and conservationist, Jean-Michel Cousteau.

FSC faculty members continue to garner important recognitions for their impressive achievements. Professor of History James M. Denham, Ph.D., received the Rembert Patrick Award for best scholarly book on Florida history by the Florida Historical Society and was named the 2016 Distinguished Author by Florida House on Capitol Hill. Dr. Risdon Slate, professor of criminology, was honored with the John Howard Award for significant contributions to the practice of corrections by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

The entire FSC community celebrated the wonderful news that Professor of Chemistry Carmen Gauthier, Ph.D., was named a Fulbright Scholar, one of the world's highest academic achievements. Dr. Gauthier is well known as a researcher and as an advocate for quality science education. FSC is fortunate to have professors such as Dr. Denham, Dr. Slate, and Dr. Gauthier, who have gained national acclaim for their academic contributions.

In addition to these exciting examples of continuous improvement, we also feature an article on the achievements of alumni who exemplify attainment of the College's mission, which is to prepare students to make a positive and consequential impact on society. I hope you will enjoy reading about three of our Distinguished Alumni, who were chosen for induction in the inaugural class of the U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Hall of Fame. Florida Southern remains proud to have an ROTC battalion, which celebrated 65 years on our campus this past year. These graduates have distinguished themselves in their service to the nation, which is an important element of the College's current and historical source of pride.

We are also proud of our women's lacrosse team, which brought Florida Southern its 29<sup>th</sup> national championship this year. The team, led by Head Coach Kara Reber, has continued our FSC winning tradition.

As you read this issue of the *Southernnews*, we are hard at work launching a new academic year. It is an exciting time to be part of Florida Southern as we continually strive to become one of the finest private colleges in the nation. We welcome your help in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

Anne B. Kerr, Ph.D.  
President

### ***On the cover:***

*Marjorie Rodolosi, co-captain of the FSC Equestrian Team, practices jumps while mounted on Captain at English Oaks Equestrian Center in Lakeland. The team is the first organized riding program at FSC in more than 65 years.*

# SOUTHERN NEWS

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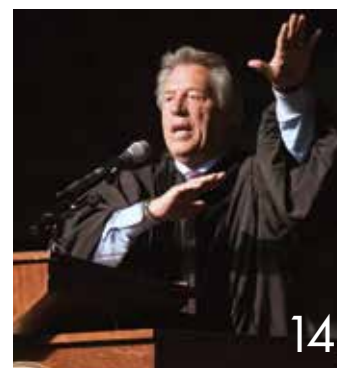
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Class notes may be submitted to the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@fsouthern.edu](mailto:alumni@fsouthern.edu). The College reserves the right to edit all copy. Items for *Southernnews* should include names and class years (if applicable). Photos must be high resolution to be considered for publication (minimum of 2"x2" at 300 dpi) and all people pictured must be identified.

Direct comments or questions to: [cmcmullen@fsouthern.edu](mailto:cmcmullen@fsouthern.edu) or 863.680.4975

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES WELCOMES Three New Members

*Distinguished executives in the funeral and furniture industries and a respected former member of the bench are the newest members of the FSC Board of Trustees. The board voted to invite **Sonji Coney Williams '01, William K. Pou, Jr., and the Hon. Robert G. Stokes '59** to join its membership, and at its meeting in June, the Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church gave its approval of the appointments.*

*The chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Robert L. Fryer, Jr. '70, said the new board members will bring valuable skills and experience to the College.*

*"I know I speak for all the members of the board when I say that we are delighted to have Mrs. Williams, Mr. Pou, and Judge Stokes join us in leading Florida Southern into the future. Their wisdom and judgment are unquestioned, and the College will benefit greatly from their service on the board," he said.*



Sonji Coney Williams, owner of Coney Brothers Funeral Home, was named an FSC Distinguished Alumna at the Founders Day Convocation in March, and her career accomplishments can be seen in the article on page 5.

She is a member of the national and Florida chapters for the Society, Inc.; the National Congress of Black Women—Polk County Chapter; Florida Morticians Association; Epsilon Nu Delta; Independent Funeral Directors Association; and 100 Black Women of Funeral Service. Mrs. Coney Williams is a former executive board member of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, Police Athletic League, and Polk Arts Alliance. She is listed in *Who's Who of Executives and Businesses for Women*, and is an active member of the Lakeland Yacht and Country Club. Mrs. Coney Williams has worked as a mentor with Girls Inc., Girls Scouts of America, PACE Center for Girls, and the Clint Wright Foundation. In addition, she has been a sponsor for Destiknee Place, Inc., which serves as a place of refuge for women who have been incarcerated and/or are currently incarcerated and seeking to rebuild their lives.

She is married to Andrew Williams, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, and they have three children, Julius, Ersula, and Almontè.



William K. Pou, Jr., is executive vice president of W.S. Badcock Corporation, the famed home furnishing retailer founded by his great-grandfather, Henry S. Badcock. He first joined his family's business in 1973. Between 1979 and 1998, he owned and operated several independent dealer stores in Central Florida. He became a director of the corporation in 1988. In his current position, which he has held since 1997, he oversees retail operations of stores in eight states throughout the Southeast.

Mr. Pou was a founding director of the First National Bank of Polk County, which later merged to form CenterState Bank. He is on the Board of Directors of the bank's subsidiary, CenterState Bank of Florida, and has served on various board committees. He is a past director and chairman of the Heart of Florida Hospital and past president of the Haines City Rotary Club. Currently, he is chairman of the board of Lakeland Regional Health Foundation. During his tenure, Lakeland Regional has received its largest gifts in its history.

Mr. Pou and his wife, Kathy, have contributed generously to Florida Southern College. They are major donors to the Frank Lloyd Wright Tourism and Education Center. In addition, they have provided invaluable support for The Roberts Academy and for the Pou Family Scholarship.

Mr. Pou is a graduate of Mercer University, in Macon, Ga. Bill and Kathy Pou have three children, William, Benjamin, and Andrew.



The Hon. Robert G. "Bobby" Stokes is an attorney with GrayRobinson, P.A., and former judge for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, Judge Stokes served as a municipal judge for the City of Lakeland (1966–1967), as assistant city attorney (1967–1969), and as vice president of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (1969–1970) before his election to the Circuit Court bench, a position he held from 1973 to 1980. In private practice he specialized in alternative dispute resolution. With his son, Jeffrey, he operates Stokes Groves, Inc., a co-operative fruit company, and Stokes Cattle Company, based in Bartow.

A respected community leader, Judge Stokes served as president of the Polk County Farm Bureau for four terms; as lieutenant governor for Kiwanis of Lakeland; and as a lay leader for the First United Methodist Church of Lakeland. He was named Man of the Year by the Sertoma Club, a nonprofit organization that provides services and support to individuals coping with hearing loss. He served 25 years on the board of Citrus & Chemical Bank and is a member of the board for Latt Maxcy in Lake Wales.

Judge Stokes holds a B.S. in citrus from Florida Southern and a law degree from Stetson University's College of Law. He and his wife, Patricia "Patsy" K. Stokes, are generous supporters of the College. Of special note, they contributed to the Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr., Archives Center and spearheaded the successful campaign to raise funds for the Bishop Robert E. and Faye Fannin Campus Ministries Center. In addition to their son, Jeffrey, the Stokes also have a daughter, Jenny Kay.

In recognition of his outstanding service to his profession and community, Judge Stokes was honored by the College with its Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

*Bestselling Author*

# NICHOLAS SPARKS

*Named 2016*

## Honorary Chancellor



In a Founders Day Convocation address that was by turns humorous, thought-provoking, and poignant, *New York Times*-bestselling author Nicholas Sparks challenged his audience to consider the cost of success.

Enumerating the desire for a fulfilling job, a satisfying romantic relationship, good health, money, and friends, Sparks said, “Telling me you want those things doesn’t tell me anything about you, because who wouldn’t want those things? The most interesting question that will define you is this: How will you choose to suffer? Because the truth is, you can’t have a pain-free life. Success requires struggle and suffering. If you want anything, you have to pay the cost.”

Sparks was the speaker at the College’s 131<sup>st</sup> Founders Day on March 18, and he was awarded the honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters and invested as honorary chancellor. One of the world’s most beloved storytellers, he is the author of 18 novels—including *The Notebook*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, and *The Choice*—and two nonfiction books, which have sold more than 100 million copies worldwide, have been published in more than 50 languages, and have been made into 11 feature films.

Sparks related the ways in which he suffered on his path to success. His mother, father, and sister died from accidents and illness at crucial times in his life, and he had failed in his attempts to enter law school and start his own businesses. It was only after starting a family and settling into a sales job that he wrote his first published book. He noted that his writing career has required spending a lot of time away from his family.

“It’s a sacrifice I’m willing to make to be successful, which tells you a lot more about me than how many books I’ve sold,” he said.

A scholarship track athlete at the University of Notre Dame, Sparks said he had always dreamed of winning an Olympic gold medal, but never committed himself to training hard enough to achieve that goal.

“If you find you wanted something badly but month to month and year to year you never got it, maybe you didn’t want it in the first place,” he said.

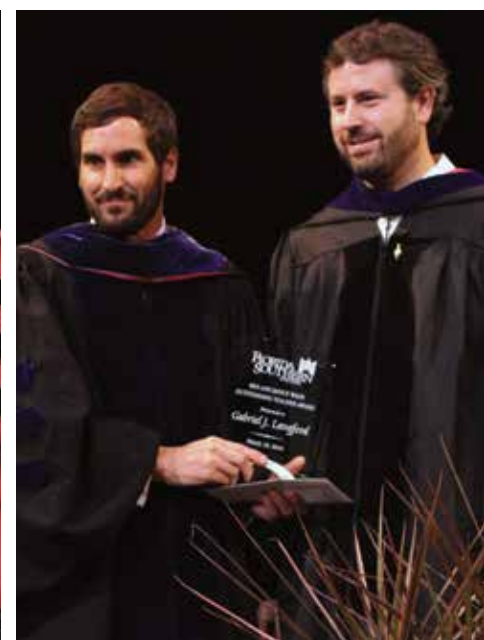
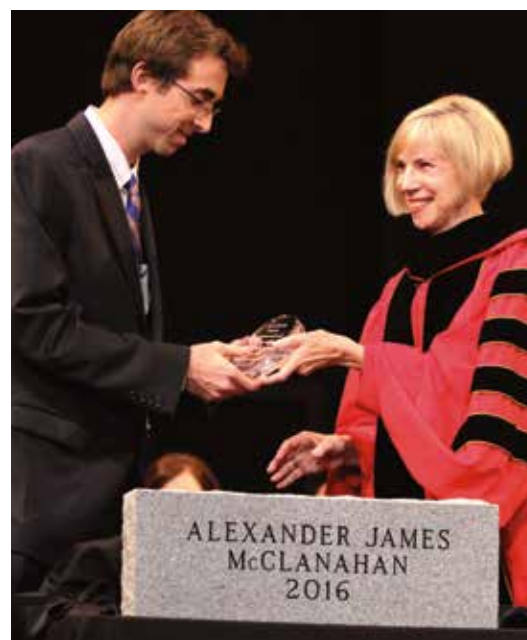
As he was presented with the Honorary Chancellor’s Chain and Medallion, President Anne Kerr joked, “Dr. Sparks, here is your gold medal!”

### HONOR WALK

At the Founders Day Convocation, Alex McClanahan was named the 2016 Honor Walk student, the highest individual honor bestowed on a student by the College. McClanahan, who majored in biochemistry and molecular biology, is a President’s Scholar, a member of Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, and was a member of the men’s basketball team that won the 2015 national championship.

### WADE AWARD

Provost Kyle Fedler presented Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Gabriel Langford with the Ben and Janice Wade Outstanding Teacher Award. The award is conferred annually upon a classroom teacher who has demonstrated outstanding teaching performance.



## FOUR ALUMNI RECOGNIZED WITH

# Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards

*At its Founders Day Convocation in March, the College bestowed one of its highest honors on four alumni who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their professions and their communities. The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes professional achievement, civic leadership, and a commitment to the highest ethical standards.*



**Dr. Dennis T. Alter '80** has had a distinguished career as an orthopedic surgeon both in military service and in private practice. As an undergraduate student at Florida Southern, Dr. Alter served in ROTC and was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society, the Society of Physics Students, the American Chemical Society, and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He earned his M.D. from the University of South Florida College of Medicine and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Alter served as flight surgeon at the Pentagon attached to the 89<sup>th</sup> Special Air Missions (Air Force One) at Andrews Air Force Base, providing medical care for the White House, Congress, and chiefs of staff on overseas missions. He was accepted into the Orthopedic Surgery Residency program at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and after his residency, he was assigned to Maxwell Air Force Base and the War College, where

he served as chief of Orthopedics. Following completion of his military service, Dr. Alter opened a private practice in Palm Coast, which has been nationally recognized as a Center of Orthopedic Excellence. He has served two terms as chief of staff and two terms on the Board of Directors of Florida Hospital–Flagler, and recently he was named national advisor for orthopedics, directing change both nationwide and in the region for the Adventist Health System.



A passion for education has marked the community service and philanthropic career of **Laurette “Laurie” McCain Alter '80**. A business administration major at Florida Southern, Mrs. Alter was inducted into the Phi Chi Theta professional business fraternity and was president of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society and Kappa Delta sorority. She was also Miss Lakeland, a Pi Kappa Phi Sweetheart, and Miss Southern (now known as the Agnes Johnson Rowe Award). She earned an MBA from the University of South Florida and worked for the defense and space corporation E Systems, Inc., as an administrator on the production of the AWACS surveillance aircraft. While in Washington, D.C., she was a volunteer in the literacy campaign of First Lady Barbara Bush. Upon returning to Florida, she assisted her husband with the establishment of his orthopedic practice while raising their five children, three of whom would attend FSC. She served as a member of the Flagler County Education Foundation and president of the Palm Coast High School Advisory Council. Her policy,

“The Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, the highest honor the College bestows upon its graduates, recognizes individuals who exemplify the mission of Florida Southern College through their significant contributions to their professions and their communities and by doing so have brought great distinction to their alma mater.”

— President Anne Kerr

later adopted by the Flagler County School Board, determined how school advisory councils and parent-teacher organizations operate and distribute state-awarded funds. She also served as chairperson of the regional chapter of the American Heart Association. Mrs. Alter is the past president of the Florida Southern National Alumni Board of Directors and is the author of the board’s current standing bylaws.



**Charleene Closshey '02** has displayed her many talents on Broadway, television, and around the world as a singer, musician, composer, actress, and producer. Ms. Closshey is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Florida Southern, with a degree in business administration and concentrations in marketing, exercise science, and management. While a student at FSC, she was a McClurg Scholar, the recipient of the Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key Award, and winner of the Outstanding Management Award, as well as a member of the Philosophy Club and “Who’s Who in America” for three straight years. Classically trained in violin and voice, she has sung on the international stages of Rome and St. Petersburg and has played in the Trans-Siberian and Mannheim Steamroller orchestras and with such artists as Josh Groban and Charlie Daniels. Ms. Closshey’s film credits as an actress include *A Thousand Cuts* and *An Evergreen Christmas*, a film she co-produced and for which she composed the score. She was executive producer and composer for the short film *Walking with Francis*. In 2014, she made her debut on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning musical *Once*. She was co-producer and composer of the score for the musical *Feather*, which premiered in the 2013 New York Musical Theatre Festival. Ms. Closshey is co-founder of Ideas & Innovations, a strategic consulting and marketing management firm, and she has served on the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council.

A prodigy in the funeral industry, **Sonji Coney Williams '01** opened her first funeral home while still in her early twenties. She got her start in the industry by helping her father, who owned a burial vault business. A native of Polk County, she is a 1984 graduate of Lakeland Senior High School and graduated from the Lakeland Regional Medical Center School of Radiology the following year. She then enrolled in one of the most prestigious mortuary science programs in Florida at the College of Boca Raton, now Lynn University. After an equally impressive internship at one of Florida’s most distinguished funeral homes, she returned to Lakeland and opened Coney Funeral Home, which quickly gained a reputation for delivering compassionate, state-of-the-art service to families in times of grief. The success of her business led her to open a second location in Tampa in 1990. A few years later, now married with children, she decided to pursue a degree in sociology from Florida Southern, where she joined Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Red Rose Society. She serves in numerous community and professional organizations, including the Florida Mortician’s Association, the board of the Imperial Symphony Orchestra, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, Lakeland Yacht and Country Club, and The Salvation Army. She is a graduate of Leadership Lakeland and Focus on Leadership and is founder of The Rose Foundation. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Florida Southern College.





# PAST AND FUTURE CAME TOGETHER AT HOMECOMING 2016

It was back to the future at Homecoming 2016. With a nostalgic theme of “Greetings from Florida,” evoking Florida from the 1960s as a travel destination, Homecoming offered a look backward at days when alumni were young and a look forward at the future of FSC. The Class of 1966 was inducted into the Golden Mocs Club, FSC veterans were honored at the ROTC Salute, and alumni were given a show by the award-winning FSC Water Ski Team. Alumni also could see a bright future shining in a tour of the Becker Business Building and the new Dr. Keith R. Berend Biology Laboratories, where students are discovering potential new antibiotics; and in a report on future expansion plans for the campus. See for yourself how the past and future came together at Homecoming 2016.

1. The Rev. Bob Hornback '66 receives his certificate admitting him to the Golden Mocs Club from President Anne Kerr at the Golden Mocs Dinner.
2. FSC staff members were persuaded to try out the dance floor, led by President Kerr (second from right) at the Blast from the Past party at Lone Palm Golf Club. Also on the floor is Stephen Bell '13 (center).
3. Mary Evans '79 (right) and her husband, Edward, get to know ODK student member Rachel Belli during the ODK Breakfast.
4. Distinguished Alumnus H. Jennings Rou II '60 and his wife, Ann, arrive at the Spivey Society Spring Reception.
5. Two members of the National Alumni Board of Directors— Ingrid Johnson Petrus '80 (second from left) and Tom Argersinger '80 (far right)— and spouses Frank Petrus (left) and Alison Jakes Argersinger '81 (second from right) shared a few memories at the All-Alumni Luncheon.
6. The FSC Water Ski Team put on a dazzling show on Lake Hollingsworth, to the delight of gathered alumni.
7. The Alumni Book Festival allowed FSC alumni who are also authors to talk about their books and sign copies. Here former Florida Representative and Senator Robert W. McKnight '66 signs the jacket of his book, *The Golden Years*, a memoir of his service in the Florida Legislature in the 1970s and 1980s.





8. The Class of 1966 marked its new status as Golden Mocs. Here they are recognized during the Founders Day Convocation.

9. These pink-clad members of Phi Mu sorority were on hand for the All-Alumni Luncheon.

10. Cadets from the Moccasin ROTC Battalion salute during the National Anthem at the ROTC Salute. The cadets presented a tactical demonstration and paid tribute to alumni veterans.

11. The Golden Mocs Dinner honored the Class of 1966.

12. National Alumni Board of Directors members Mike '80 and Susan '80 Phipps enjoy themselves during the Blast from the Past party at Lone Palm Golf Club. Mike was the chair of the 2016 Homecoming Committee.

13. At the annual breakfast for alumni and student members of FSC's nationally recognized circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, Peter Oddo '14 was presented the Grad Made Good Award. At right is Faculty Advisor Lawrence Burke '74, associate professor of music.

14. The 2016 Evett L. Simmons '79 Multicultural Award was presented during Homecoming to Albert V. Misan '72 (second from right), one of the first two students from Brazil to attend

FSC. A member of the National Alumni Board of Directors, Mr. Misan worked in banking and finance for more than 36 years in Brazil and Florida and recently retired. On hand were many of his classmates and Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers. Also pictured are (from left) Dr. Robert L. Fryer, Jr. '70, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Trustee Evett L. Simmons '79; and President Anne Kerr.

15. This year, Homecoming featured a Family Fun Zone where children of alumni could play games and have snacks. Fraternities and sororities helped out, and here a couple of tykes engage in a tug-of-war with a member of Gamma Phi Beta.



# FORMER FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH

## Issues Call to Service at Mother's Day Event

*Former First Lady Laura Bush is greeted prior to the Mother's Day Lunch by the Roberts family.*

*Below right: From left, Belinda Roberts '96, Julia Roberts '91, Dr. Hal Roberts, Mrs. Bush, FSC Trustee Dr. Marjorie Roberts, Dr. James H. Roberts III '92, and his wife, Cynthia Crosby Roberts '89.*

The critical importance of literacy and service was the message from former First Lady Laura Bush to a sold-out audience at the College's annual Mother's Day Luncheon to benefit The Roberts Academy. In her inspiring speech, Mrs. Bush praised the mission of the academy and urged those present to help others in ways big and small.

"I believe every child should learn to read. Literacy is essential to a democracy," Mrs. Bush told the audience of more than 550 people that gathered in the George W. Jenkins Fieldhouse on May 4.

I believe every child should learn to read.  
Literacy is essential to a democracy.

Mrs. Bush, the wife of former President George W. Bush, was the guest speaker at the luncheon, which raises funds for The Roberts Academy, the transitional school for children with dyslexia run by the School of Education at Florida Southern College. Her daughter, Jenna Bush Hager, was last year's speaker. A former teacher and school librarian, Mrs. Bush has long stressed the importance of literacy, especially when she was First Lady.

She said the most inspiring people she and President Bush met in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks were first responders, people who joined the military, and volunteers who helped improve their communities.

"What all these people have in common is service," she said. "My challenge to you is one I have given to myself. Never forget that one friendly smile, one reading lesson, or one busy hour given to someone in need can make all the difference in the world," she said.

After her speech, Mrs. Bush sat on the stage and read aloud to a group of assembled second- and third-grade students from The Roberts Academy. She read from the latest book she co-authored with her daughter Jenna, *Our Great Big Backyard*, about America's national parks.

The Roberts Academy was established in 2010 for gifted children with dyslexia, a learning difference that makes reading difficult. The school has expanded rapidly to meet the demand, from 24 students to its current enrollment of 120 in grades 2 through 6. Recently Dr. Tracey Tedder, dean of the School of Education and head of school at the academy, announced that four more classrooms would be added for the 2016–2017 year, bringing the expected number of students enrolled to 130.

FSC Trustee Marjorie Roberts, who with her husband, Hal, gave a generous gift to create The Roberts Academy, said after the luncheon that she is thrilled at the school's success.

"I can't believe we are adding more new classrooms. God has really blessed this school. All these parents tell us the same thing: 'I knew my child was smart, but he was struggling in school until he came here,'" she said.

Prior to Mrs. Bush's speech, Dean Tedder recognized the Roberts' daughter, Julia Roberts '91, for her advocacy about dyslexia on behalf of her children, which inspired Hal and Marjorie Roberts to establish the school at the College.





“To be an ambassador and to build relationships between Peru and America is incredible.”

## Professor Carmen Gauthier Awarded Prestigious Fulbright Scholar Grant

Professor of Chemistry Carmen V. Gauthier has achieved a rare mark of academic distinction. She has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant to study and teach in her native Peru.

Dr. Gauthier, who holds the Jessie Ball duPont Fund Chair in the Natural Sciences at FSC, was notified in February by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board that she has been named a 2016–2017 Fulbright Scholar, joining a highly select group of academics. Dr. Gauthier will use the Fulbright grant to conduct research and teach at the Catholic University of Peru from August to December.

“I was thrilled when I learned I had been accepted,” said Dr. Gauthier. “It feels very special, because I am an immigrant. To be an ambassador and to build relationships between Peru and America is incredible.”

Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement. Only about 500 Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar grants, such as Dr. Gauthier received, are awarded annually, and only a few—embracing all academic disciplines—are awarded to scholars wishing to study in Peru.

Dr. Gauthier, who earned a Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire, joined the FSC faculty in 1999 and was named to the Jessie Ball duPont

Fund Chair in 2010. Her research projects at FSC, with which her students assist, focus on constructing compounds known as metal-organic materials, which have a wide range of applications in biological and materials sciences, from drug delivery systems to building construction.

At the Catholic University, located in the capital, Lima, she will teach a course in materials chemistry and continue her research, with a particular emphasis on applications to solve problems faced by Peru, such as air quality and preservation of historic structures threatened by increased rainfall due to the weather phenomenon of El Niño.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 to promote international cultural and scientific understanding. It is administered by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. About 8,000 students and scholars from the United States and abroad are awarded grants annually to study, teach, and conduct research in other countries.

“This is a great honor for Dr. Gauthier and one that she deserves,” said FSC President Anne Kerr. “Dr. Gauthier is a brilliant chemist and a beloved teacher. On behalf of the faculty and administration at Florida Southern, I congratulate her and know that her research will be an asset in the field of metal-organic materials science.”

FULBRIGHT

# Child of the Sun

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

## GETS OFF TO ROUSING START

The first lecture in the new Child of the Sun Distinguished Speakers Series at FSC ended with a bang—literally.

Near the end of Nobel Prize-winning physicist William Phillips' lecture, "Time, Einstein, and the Coolest Stuff in the Universe," he filled a soda bottle with liquid nitrogen, sealed it, and placed it on the floor under a wastebasket. After a few minutes, the bottle exploded with a loud bang, sending the wastebasket bouncing off the low ceiling above the chancel of the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel. Demonstrating the difference in temperature between the super-cooled gas and ordinary room temperature, it was one of several simple experiments he performed during his highly informative and entertaining lecture on February 4.

The lecture was a rousing start to the Distinguished Speakers Series, which was launched with the theme "The Year of Science." In addition to Dr. Phillips, the other lecturers in the spring were Dr. Mae Jemison, a physician, former NASA astronaut, and the first African-American woman in space; and Dr. Scott Barry Kaufman, cognitive psychologist, author, and scientific director of The Imagination Institute at the University of Pennsylvania's Positive Psychology Center.

The stated mission of the series is to bring speakers of national and international renown to FSC and Lakeland several times a year to explore some of the most compelling issues and events of our times. Featuring highly regarded experts, the series aims to provoke thought, stimulate conversation, and inspire action on a wide range of topics.

Dr. Phillips, distinguished university professor of physics at the University of Maryland, College Park, devoted his lecture to explaining his work on laser cooling, a technique to slow the movement of gaseous atoms in order to better study them, for which he was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1997. Thanks to his simple explanations of the principles involved—supplemented by amusing demonstrations such as stuffing several large balloons into a small bucket filled with liquid nitrogen—he held spellbound the audience, which packed the chapel.

"We're doing things nobody imagined were possible. That's the great thing about science—you don't know what you can do until you do it," Dr. Phillips said.

The lecture series continued on Feb. 24 with Dr. Jemison, whose lecture, "Creativity, Potential, and Daring," exemplified her career as a doctor, space explorer, and entrepreneur. She was a mission specialist on the Space

Shuttle Endeavour STS-47 mission in September 1992, performing experiments in material science, life science, and human adaptation to weightlessness. Upon leaving NASA in 1993, Dr. Jemison founded The Jemison Group, a technology consulting company that develops and markets appropriate technology for daily life, and BioSentient Corporation, a medical technology devices and services company focused on improving health and human performance through physiologic awareness and self-regulation.

"Our time is limited but has infinite possibilities."

"Our time is limited but has infinite possibilities," Dr. Jemison said. "Let's not stay with the mundane. Let's consider the extraordinary."

Dr. Jemison also spoke about her experience in space aboard Spacelab and her current work leading 100 Year Starship, an initiative to address issues related to interstellar space travel. Asked by an audience member why this is important, she said, "Because we need to do something that hasn't been done. The Earth will always be here. We may not."

The lecture series concluded on April 19 with Dr. Kaufman's lecture. With engaging humor, he described his work in positive psychology, which focuses on what enables individuals and communities to thrive rather than treating dysfunctions. He related that as a child, a series of infections left him nearly deaf, and he was placed in special education classes because of his inability to respond promptly during intelligence tests. He went on to win a Gates Scholarship to Cambridge University and earn a Ph.D. from Yale. Dr. Kaufman said instead of standardized intelligence tests, we should use tests that compare students to their past and future selves.

"Standardized tests do not allow an individual to discover what his or her arc or success might be," he said.

Dr. Brad Hollingshead, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at FSC, said the inaugural lecture series was a great success, drawing enthusiastic audiences from the College and the Lakeland community.

"We are already planning an equally inspiring and dynamic roster of speakers for next year."



“We’re doing things nobody imagined were possible. That’s the great thing about science—you don’t know what you can do until you do it.”



*Above: Dr. William Phillips  
Above right: Dr. Mae Jemison  
Right: Dr. Scott Barry Kaufman*

PIANIST  
*Julian Gargiulo*  
 DAZZLES AND DELIGHTS IN  
 BRANSCOMB CONCERT

No one can accuse Julian Gargiulo of making classical music dull. Gargiulo's delightful January 28 concert at Branscomb Auditorium demonstrated that great art can be both moving and fun.

Gargiulo, an internationally acclaimed pianist, is known for his artistry and his style of concertizing, in which he informally and humorously interacts with the audience between pieces. Sporting an unruly mop of hair and wearing a black leather jacket rather than formal attire, Gargiulo created a rapport with the audience at Branscomb even as he was dazzling them with his performances of Chopin, Debussy, and Beethoven.

In one particularly hilarious moment, Gargiulo chose two students from the audience to pantomime a man asking a reluctant woman to marry him, as Gargiulo played a Chopin waltz. The result resembled a scene from a silent film comedy.

In an interview prior to the concert, which was part of the College's Festival of Fine Arts, Gargiulo said he does not see himself as a "classical music comedian" like the late Victor Borge.

"I tell stories that are not so serious. I feel it's a conversation. There is a fair amount of the unknown going into each concert, which also makes it interesting for me," he said.

Gargiulo, a native of Italy who lives in Paris and speaks four languages fluently, holds a doctorate in piano performance. He acknowledged



that classical music has lost some of its appeal to the general public, and his concerts are an effort to remove some of the intimidation people may feel toward about it.

"Invariably what I hear from people who come to my concerts is, 'This is different from what I expected.' The music is amazing, and if in between the music I can get people comfortable with being there, that's great," he said.

Gargiulo gave a master class to about 30 music students the afternoon of the concert and told them that there is no standard career path in classical music today.

"Being a pianist is the greatest decision I ever made, but it is a decision I have to keep making," he said. "The question you should be asking yourself at all times is, 'What am I doing with myself?' You can do amazing things, and it should be fun. It shouldn't be a nightmare."

Julian Gargiulo's appearance at FSC was so compelling, he was invited to return to campus for a return engagement in January. The visit will involve more than just a concert, however. Gargiulo will be artist-in-residence for a week, interacting with FSC students in a series of master classes. Be sure to mark your calendar for his concert on January 26 at 7:30 PM.

The scheduled events include a seminar in entrepreneurship and the business of music, a master class with FSC piano students, an improvisation and jazz clinic with the FSC Jazz Ensemble, and a composition workshop.

*"Our students thoroughly enjoyed interacting with Julian and instinctively felt that he had much more to share. We are pleased to offer our students—and members of the community—the opportunity to interact with this charismatic performer who has made such a positive impact on the concert world with his musical and personal message of humor, warmth, and honesty."*

— Paula Parsché, chair of the Department of Music





## Among the features of the new apartment complex:

Each apartment offers 3 or 4 private bedrooms and two full baths

An open kitchen-living area floor plan

A secure, gated parking area

Interior bicycle storage

## COLLEGE BUILDS NEW OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENTS

In its ongoing drive to increase student housing options to accommodate the College's growing student enrollment, FSC has begun construction of an off-campus apartment complex.

The College received final approvals from the Lakeland City Commission in December for the apartment complex, which is being built on a previously vacant 1.3-acre site at the intersection of Lime Street and Ingraham Avenue, about six blocks north of campus. When completed, the complex will house about 115 students.

The complex will consist of three, three-story buildings. The first of

the three buildings is already complete and housing students, and the other two buildings are to be completed later in the fall. As with three other off-campus apartment complexes owned by the College, the units will be reserved for juniors and seniors.

The new complex will bring apartment-style housing to approximately 700 beds. The College's master plan calls for an enrollment of 2,500 full-time undergraduates, up from the current total of about 2,335.

Wallis Murphey Boyington of Lakeland designed the buildings, and Rodda Construction is in charge of building the complex.

Dr. John C. Maxwell delivers  
the commencement address.

# Ethical Leadership Stressed at Spring Commencement



Ethical leadership was the theme of the College’s spring commencement ceremony, with internationally renowned leadership expert Dr. John C. Maxwell issuing a challenge to graduates to live a successful and significant life, and longtime Publix executive Ed Crenshaw being recognized with an honorary degree.

The ceremony, which concluded the College’s 133<sup>rd</sup> academic year, took place May 7 at The Lakeland Center. Degrees were conferred on 352 graduates, including 140 with honors.

Dr. Maxwell—an author, pastor, personal growth coach, and founder of The John Maxwell Company—told the graduating class success may take time to achieve, but “you can be significant today by living a life for others.” There are three keys to success, he said: knowing your purpose in life, growing, and sowing seeds that add value to other people. He noted that we reach our potential by growth, which is not automatic.

“I hate to tell you, but everything worthwhile will be uphill. There is no such thing as accidental achievement,” he said.

Dr. Maxwell stressed that living a life for others is “my greatest challenge to you” and leads to a life of not just success but significance.

“Be intentional in living a significant life. Every day, value people. Think of ways to add value to people. Do things to add value to people, and encourage others to add value to people,” he said.

The College conferred honorary Doctor of Business degrees on Dr. Maxwell and Mr. Crenshaw, chairman of the board of directors

and recently retired CEO of Publix Super Markets, Inc. In the proclamations conferring the degrees, President Anne Kerr praised the ethical standards and leadership qualities of both men.

Dr. Crenshaw is “among the most respected and admired leaders in the food and retail industry,” whose achievements “reflect a genius for strategic planning and operations and brilliant leadership,” she said.

President Kerr cited Dr. Maxwell’s achievements as a bestselling author “whose philosophy of leadership informs his life’s work—to train others to become successful and ethical leaders.”

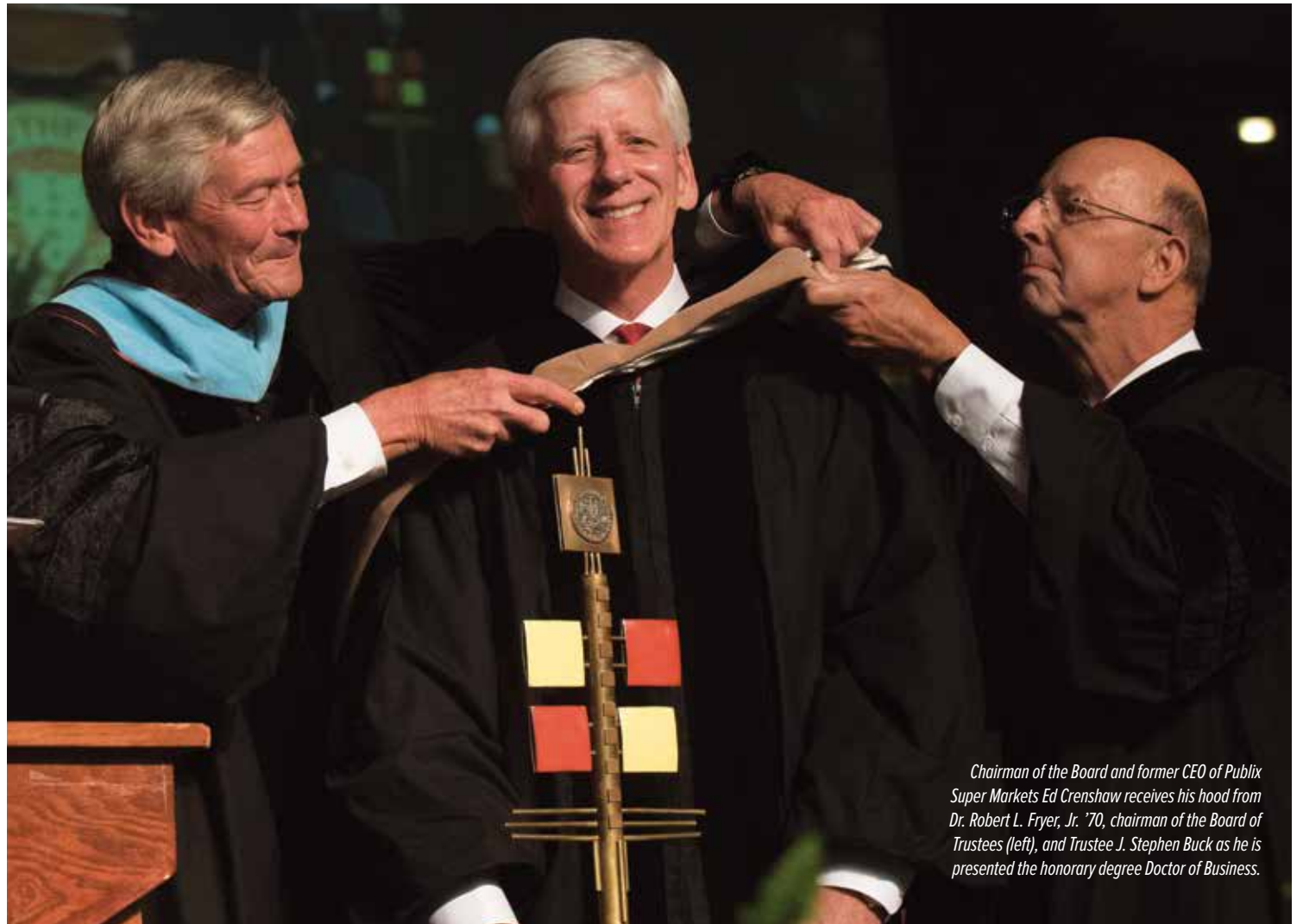
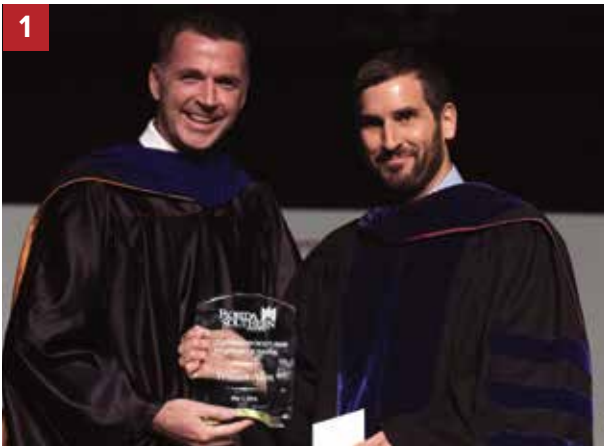
The senior speaker at the convocation was Taylor Duwe, a dual-degree student in business administration and Spanish, who encouraged her fellow graduates to “always strive to be the best you can be.”

The President’s Scholar Medal was awarded to Steven Spoto, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology *summa cum laude* and who has been accepted to the University of Florida School of Dentistry. The medal is awarded to a graduating senior with academic standing in the top one percent of the class who has demonstrated commitment to scholarship, student leadership, and service.

The Miller Distinguished Faculty Award was presented to William Allen, assistant professor of communication. In presenting the award, Provost Kyle Fedler said Allen has encouraged students’ work in visual media and created his own award-winning documentaries.

“He exemplifies the best traditions of the College,” Dr. Fedler said.





**1** Associate Professor of Communication William Allen is presented with the Miller Distinguished Faculty Award by Provost Kyle Fedler.

**2** Riley, FSC's on-campus therapy dog, congratulates some of the seniors as they gather prior to the commencement ceremony.

**3** The decorated mortarboard of Jonathon Timpanelli (right) has the desired effect on a fellow graduate.

**4** Senior Speaker Taylor Duwe addresses the graduates and the audience during commencement.

**5** Steven Spoto (left), who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology summa cum laude, was named the recipient of the President's Scholar Medal.

Chairman of the Board and former CEO of Publix Super Markets Ed Crenshaw receives his hood from Dr. Robert L. Fryer, Jr. '70, chairman of the Board of Trustees (left), and Trustee J. Stephen Buck as he is presented the honorary degree Doctor of Business.



Lt. Gen. J. Mark Curran '74, USA, Ret.



Lt. Gen. Donald L. Kerrick '71, USA, Ret.



Florida Supreme Court Justice R. Fred Lewis '69

## THREE FSC ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO Army ROTC Hall of Fame

Outstanding graduates who participated in the U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program were recently inducted into the inaugural class of the National ROTC Hall of Fame, and three Florida Southern alumni were among them.

Lt. Gen. J. Mark Curran '74, USA, Ret.; Lt. Gen. Donald L. Kerrick '71, USA, Ret.; and Florida Supreme Court Justice R. Fred Lewis '69—all of whom are FSC Distinguished Alumni—were among the 326 men and women inducted into the Hall of Fame in a ceremony at Fort Knox, Ky., on June 10. They joined the ranks of luminaries such as former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State Gen. George C. Marshall and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

“Our inductees are outstanding alumni, and it made me proud to be a Moc.”

Lt. Gen. Curran was present at the ceremony, as were Lt. Col. Rocky Vaira, professor of military science and commander of the ROTC battalion at FSC; and Larry Stahl '70, president of the FSC National

Alumni Board of Directors, representing the College. More than 100 inductees were in attendance for the ceremony to be recognized for their service to the country.

Stahl, also a graduate of the College's ROTC program, said the ceremony was very moving.

“Regardless of time served, it was an important part of our lives, and as many of my peers have said, a critical and influential part of the persons we grew to be,” he said. “Our inductees are outstanding alumni, and it made me proud to be a Moc.”

The ceremony and the new Hall of Fame commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ROTC program, which has produced many of the nation's most distinguished military, political, and business leaders. The U.S. Army Cadet Command commissions the majority of the Army's new officers each year through the ROTC program.

The Moccasin Battalion at FSC has contributed more than its share of those leaders, including nine alumni who attained the ranks of general officers.

“When I was made general, there were five general officers on active duty who had attended Florida Southern, which is phenomenal for a school of that size. It speaks to the quality of the students and of the school,” said Lt. Gen. Curran.



## Lt. Gen. J. Mark Curran '74, USA, Ret. Leadership and Vision

As a young man, Mark Curran wanted to fly, and he joined the ROTC program with the intention of becoming a pilot. He got a lot more out of the bargain.

“ROTC helped me mature my abilities to work with people, to lead others and be part of a team,” he says. “Florida Southern, its values and culture, promoted that as well.”

Curran trained as an attack helicopter pilot, then became a flight instructor and ultimately chief of the Aero Scout Branch at the Army Aviation Center. During Operations Desert Shield and Storm, he was commander of an attack helicopter battalion in the legendary 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division that attacked and assisted in the capture of two Iraqi battalions.

For his demonstrated leadership, he was promoted to Army aviation branch chief and commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Center and School at Ft. Rucker, Ala. He oversaw a new flight training program that set higher standards and graduated more proficient aviators.

Curran’s last duty assignment was as deputy commanding general of the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command and director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center. In this strategic planning role, Curran’s center oversaw the development of a new modular design for Army formations, now in use in Afghanistan and throughout the Army.

He retired in 2007 and joined L-3 Communications, an aircraft maintenance and manufacturing contractor, as vice president of Army Programs and Huntsville Operations. He is married to Cindy Templon Curran '74, and they have three married daughters, two of whom are FSC graduates, and five grandchildren.

“So many fantastic officers have gone through ROTC. It is quite an honor to be chosen for the Hall of Fame,” Curran says.

## Lt. Gen. Donald L. Kerrick '71, USA, Ret. Serving at the Highest Echelons

Like many young men during the Vietnam War, Don Kerrick faced a military obligation to fulfill upon graduation. Fortunately, after completing the mandatory two years in the ROTC program, his instructors offered him a scholarship and a chance to become an Army aviator.

“They took a kid like me, who didn’t know anything about the military, and taught me foundational skills and values which opened doors to a career,” he says. “Leadership appealed to me. Great leaders help people become successful.”

Kerrick flew reconnaissance missions during the Vietnam War and provided intelligence that assisted U.S. personnel in the 1975 evacuations of Phnom Penh and Saigon. After the war, he served in command roles in Army intelligence in Berlin, Germany, and South Korea, then as deputy intelligence officer for the Third U.S. Army during Desert Shield and Storm, and commander of the 701<sup>st</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade and Field Station in Germany. Promoted to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, his career took an unexpected turn into the highest policy levels of the government.

Kerrick joined the National Security Council Staff at the White House under President Bill Clinton as deputy national security advisor and chief of staff and staff director of the National Security Council. Other significant assignments included military advisor to the secretary of state, and director of operations of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also served as principal negotiator on the international Bosnia peace delegation that ended the Bosnian War.

“It was a unique opportunity very few get,” he says. “It was a great honor to support the one person elected by all the American people.”

Kerrick retired from the Army in 2001 and worked for several years as vice president of strategic development and international business for General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems, Inc. He now serves on several boards and speaks frequently on national security and military affairs. He is married to Thayne Kerrick and is a member of the FSC Board of Trustees.

*President Bill Clinton is seen here with his deputy national security advisor, then-Maj. Gen. Donald L. Kerrick '71. Gen. Kerrick was later promoted to lieutenant general and served in several top intelligence and security posts.*



*Lt. Gen. J. Mark Curran '74, USA, Ret. (center) wears the medal he received after being inducted into the inaugural class of the U.S. Army ROTC Hall of Fame at a ceremony on June 10 at Fort Knox, Ky. With Gen. Curran are Lt. Col. Rocky Vaira, commander of the ROTC battalion at FSC (left), and Larry Stahl '70, president of the FSC National Alumni Board.*



*Then-Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis '69 (right) congratulates Gov. Charlie Crist following his swearing-in ceremony before the Florida Legislature in 2010. Mr. Lewis continues to serve as a justice on the Florida Supreme Court. Seen at center is Justice Barbara Pariente.*

## Justice R. Fred Lewis '69

### A Sense of Responsibility

Growing up in Beckley, W.Va., Fred Lewis had lots of examples of people who served in the military, and it instilled in him an obligation to do the same.

“From a very early age, I had a sense of the importance of serving, like members of my family did, in the military,” he says.

Lewis came to FSC intent on becoming a lawyer, and his ROTC training was split between FSC and the University of Miami, where he attended law school. At Miami, he was commander of the Corps of Cadets and graduated as its top student, receiving the Order of World Wars Superior Achievement award.

“From a very early age, I had a sense of the importance of serving, like members of my family did, in the military.”

Lewis spent six years as an Army officer in active duty and the reserves. He was assigned to the Adjutant General Corps, the Army’s administrative branch, which oversees the operations of its bases, including support services for soldiers and their families.

Upon leaving the Army, Lewis fulfilled his dream of becoming an attorney, practicing civil and appellate law in Miami. He was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 1998 by Gov. Lawton Chiles, where he continues to serve. He has been actively involved in a number of civic and community efforts, most notably in the creation of Justice Teaching, a civic education organization that sends lawyers and judges into the public schools.

Lewis was selected for the ROTC Hall of Fame for his “character and distinguished service,” epitomizing the qualities of Army ROTC.

“It was an integral part of my formation. I learned so much from the officers and non-commissioned officers who were my ROTC instructors, especially how to deal with people,” he says.

Lewis is married to Judith Munc Lewis '69 and they have a daughter and two granddaughters. A second daughter passed away in 2012.

# ROTC Marks 65 Years at FSC

The Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Florida Southern was established in 1951. Current enrollment remains steady between 60 and 80 cadets.

In addition to **Lt. Gen. Donald L. Kerrick '71** and **Lt. Gen. John M. Curran '74**, the ROTC program at FSC has produced seven officers who attained the rank of general:



**Brig. Gen. E. Ann Hoeffly '53**  
(d. 2003), U.S. Air Force  
the first woman to reach the rank of general in the Air Force nursing corps



**Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm '64**, U.S. Marine Corps  
former commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command



**Brig. Gen. David C. Godwin '69**  
former commander of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, Florida Army National Guard



**Maj. Gen. Charles A. Cartwright '75**, U.S. Army  
former program manager of the Future Combat System



**Maj. Gen. James A. Musselman '61**, U.S. Army  
former vice director of operations for the Joint Staff



**Brig. Gen. Daniel A. Doherty, '67**, U.S. Army  
former commanding general of the Criminal Investigation Division Command



**Brig. Gen. Roger W. Scearce '71**, U.S. Army  
former deputy director for finance, Defense Finance and Accounting Service



*Lt. Col. Rocky Vaira, professor of military science and commander of the Mocs Battalion, welcomes guests to the commissioning ceremony at Annie Pfeiffer Chapel in May.*

*Maj. Gen. Aundre Piggee congratulates 2nd Lt. Khaleesha Williams following her commissioning as an Army officer.*

*2nd Lt. Laura Dauphinais receives her first salute from retired Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Downing following her commissioning as an Army officer.*

*Maj. Gen. Aundre Piggee lends a hand to pin the insignia on 2nd Lt. Nicholas Chioffe as he is commissioned as an Army officer.*

## FSC Cadets Commissioned as Army Officers

The spring commissioning ceremony for U.S. Army officers was a special moment for Lt. Col. Rocky Vaira. It was just the second such ceremony he has presided over since becoming ROTC Mocs Battalion commander in August, but it was also the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his own commissioning as an officer. The ceremony in Annie Pfeiffer Chapel on May 6 saw nine FSC senior cadets commissioned as second lieutenants.

“I’m immensely proud of these newly commissioned lieutenants. They are ready to become U.S. Army officers,” said Lt. Col. Vaira, who is also professor of military science at FSC.

The ceremony included the administration of the oath of office, the pinning of rank insignia by family members, and a traditional first salute administered by a noncommissioned officer of the cadet’s choosing. The nine new officers, who graduated from FSC the following day, were assigned to duties that include the Army’s Transportation

Corps, Medical Services Corps, Nursing Corps, and Cyber Command; and the Army Reserve’s military intelligence branch and office of the Adjutant General.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was Army Maj. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, director of Logistics and Engineering at United States Central Command (CENTCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, and Lt. Col. Vaira’s former commanding officer. In his remarks, Maj. Gen. Piggee told the cadets that they would be joining the best trained and most effective military the world has known.

“Trust what you know. The education and training you have received at Florida Southern has prepared you to be good leaders,” he said. “Your character and your integrity above all else will determine your success. Work hard, always do your best, treat others with dignity and respect, and keep faith in God.”



## PRINCETON REVIEW EXECUTIVE TELLS ALUMS FSC HAS MUCH TO BE PROUD OF

Prospective students today are asking hard questions about whether they should attend college, but Florida Southern is among the schools that can respond with confidence: Yes, you should.

That was the message of Rob Franek, senior vice president and publisher at The Princeton Review, which annually publishes the widely respected college guide, *The Best 380 Colleges*. Mr. Franek spoke to alumni, faculty, and staff in an address during Homecoming weekend.

“Students are asking questions that were taboo just five years ago. What is the return on my investment? Is college worth it?” he said. “You have to come up with reasons it’s worth it.”

Mr. Franek said statistics show that college graduates are more mobile, live longer lives, and have lifetime earnings of \$1 million more than those who do not attend college.

“Colleges that are enlightened are listening to students and able to answer that question—is it worth it—confidently,” he said.

Mr. Franek noted that there are four things that make a good fit between a student and a school: academics; campus culture, which includes the accessibility of professors and whether students engage with one another; financial aid; and career services. He praised FSC as a school that meets these criteria.

“I’ve long thought Florida Southern College is a school to watch. I’m in awe not only of the students on campus but your prospective students,” he said. “I love the leadership and moxie on campus. You’re saying, ‘Look at us!’ You have much to be proud of,” he said.

In addition to its college guide, The Princeton Review also offers preparatory courses, which are used at FSC, for professional- and graduate-entry examinations, including the LSAT, MCAT, and GRE.

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**Colleges that are enlightened are listening to students and able to answer that question—is it worth it—confidently.**

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## CLASSROOM DEDICATED IN BECKER BUSINESS BUILDING

In February, a classroom in the new Bill '65 and Mary Ann Becker Business Building was dedicated with a plaque honoring the generous donation from Mrs. Ann Rou to honor her husband, Distinguished Alumnus H. Jennings Rou II '60. Mr. Rou, one of six members of his family to graduate from FSC, is the owner of H. Jennings Rou, Inc., a citrus services company that pioneered new harvesting techniques. He is director emeritus of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and helped guide the citrus industry’s recovery from the devastating freeze of 1989.

*Top: Seen here at the ribbon cutting for the classroom are (from left) former Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise Dean Bill Rhey; President Anne Kerr; Mr. Rou’s daughter, Jennifer Rou Woodbury '83; Mr. Rou; his wife, Ann; his daughter, Alison Rou; his son, H. Jennings Rou III; FSC Trustee M. Clayton Hollis, Jr. '80; and Bishop-in-Residence Robert E. Fannin '58.*

*Left: Mr. Rou and his wife, Ann, are seen next to the plaque dedicating the classroom in his honor.*

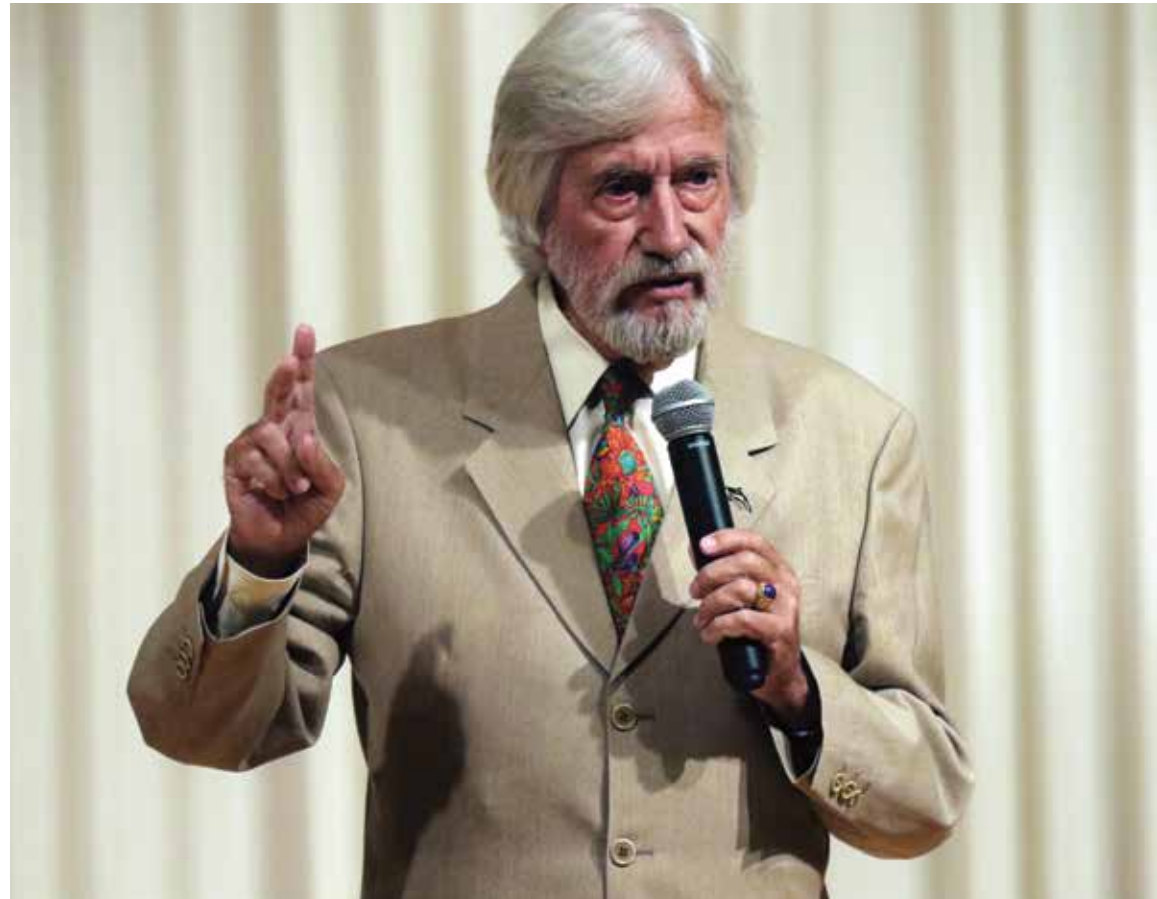
# Jean-Michel Cousteau

## *is Featured Speaker at* Marine Science Symposium

Explorer, ocean conservationist, and documentary film producer Jean-Michel Cousteau, FSC's 81<sup>st</sup> honorary chancellor, made a return visit to the College as the plenary speaker at FSC's first Marine Science Symposium on April 16.

The symposium brought together faculty and students in marine sciences from seven colleges and universities in Florida and Georgia, as well as researchers and representatives from state and local agencies and members of the general public, to hear lectures and view poster presentations.

The symposium was organized by Dr. Bryan Franks and Dr. Melanie Langford, assistant professors of marine biology. The symposium was designed to allow undergraduates and graduate students to present their research in marine science and to share ideas, network with mentors, peers and colleagues, and educate others on a variety of topics in marine and ocean conservation, Dr. Langford said.



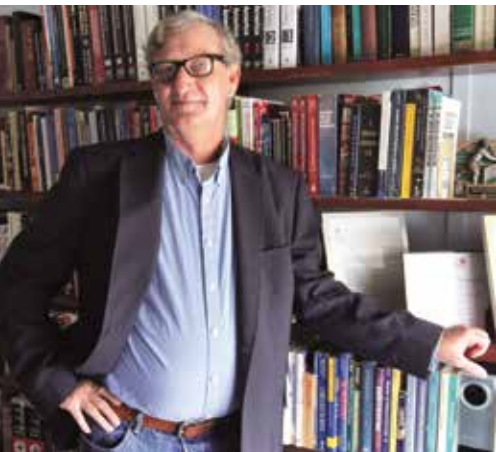
The marine biology program is relatively new to FSC, established as a major just two years ago, but it has experienced phenomenal growth. There are currently 51 students majoring in marine biology, and the department expects to have 89 students in the program this fall.

Mr. Cousteau, founder of the Ocean Futures Society, carries on the work of his father, the late ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, by producing environmentally oriented films, adventure programs, television specials, and multimedia programs. He has received numerous honors and awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation. He was the 2015 Founders Day speaker at FSC.

At the symposium, he spoke about a variety of ocean conservation topics, including the importance of reducing plastic waste in the oceans and sustainable fishing practices, and the work of the Ocean Futures Society to conserve our oceans. Mr. Cousteau also spoke about his childhood and the influential role his parents played in his love of the ocean. He gave a preview of his newest film, *Jean-Michel Cousteau's Secret Ocean 3D*, which gives a spectacular look at the beauty and diversity of some of the smallest plant and animal life in the oceans.

"There are not a lot of undergraduate-oriented symposia," said Dr. Franks. "This was a very successful event, not only in the number of students but also in the variety of schools that participated."

## NEW CENTER FOR POLLING AND POLICY RESEARCH GETS NATIONAL ATTENTION



Dr. R. Bruce Anderson

With the release of its first major poll in February, showing Florida's presidential primary preferences, the new Florida Southern College Center for Polling and Policy Research made an immediate impact. The Florida Southern Poll's results were reported by such national media outlets as *Politico* and the *Huffington Post*, providing new information about how Republican and Democratic candidates were faring in Florida, one of the most crucial campaign states in the nation.

The center, organized and directed by Associate Professor of Political Science R. Bruce Anderson, is the culmination of more than two years of work. It started

in conversations with Dr. Anderson and President Kerr.

"Dr. Kerr asked why there were no polling centers in Florida like the one at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. There was a kind of vacuum for this kind of work. If you're not familiar with Florida politics, you may not ask the right questions," Dr. Anderson said.

Running a scientific polling center requires careful preparation and planning, which Dr. Anderson said would have been impossible if not for the support of the College administration, including Provost Kyle Fedler, and Dean of Arts and Sciences Brad Hollingshead. The preparations included procuring a proper space with a bank of phones, obtaining lists of phone numbers purchased from a commercial provider, and preparing carefully worded survey questions to ensure the data collected represents a true random sample of potential voters.

The manpower for conducting the Florida Southern Poll was provided by about 15 of Dr. Anderson's students, who logged more than 300 person-hours soliciting opinions on the phones. The students gained invaluable experience, learning the theory and practice of scientific polling, a perfect example of Florida Southern College's commitment to experiential education.

"This is very tough work. It's exhausting. You get turned down, and people yell at you," commented Dr. Anderson. "But the students had a ball, and they learned a ton about polling. They got really good at it. They learned a skill, and they learned it quickly. It gives them an extra skill to take to the open market when they graduate."

The Florida Southern Poll will continue to disseminate polling results on a wide range of political, policy, and social issues, Dr. Anderson said. Its focus will remain on the opinions of Floridians, providing a valuable source of information to the public and to the state's leaders.

## Education Students and Alumnus Help Develop New Teacher Assessment Test

With the help of the College's Testing Services office and the School of Education, a new generation of teacher assessments is being developed.

In February, 11 junior and senior education students participated in a three-day trial of a new teacher licensure test currently in the research and development phase by Educational Testing Service (ETS), the nonprofit corporation that developed the SAT and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), among other products.

The readiness of future teachers is assessed through teacher licensure tests, which are usually administered by paper and pencil. Those tests demonstrate a teacher candidate's theoretical knowledge but not her ability to put knowledge into action, said Paul Rybinski '87, senior assessment specialist for ETS. Rybinski is helping ETS develop the next generation of teacher licensure tests in an interactive computer simulation format. The new test is designed to assess two critical skills, Rybinski said.

"These are called 'high-leverage' practices—leading a discussion and eliciting student thinking. We said, what if we can develop an interactive assessment to show they can demonstrate these skills," he explained.

The trials were conducted in FSC's Testing Services laboratory with the assistance of Sara Penny '82, director of testing services. Each FSC student

spent two hours interacting via Skype with a simulated classroom. The classroom "students" were not actual elementary school students but actors, portrayed on the screen as "avatars," or animated representations that were manipulated by testers at a remote location. The teacher candidate is given a brief lesson and a limited amount of time to accomplish certain goals.

"The avatars feel like real students," said FSC junior elementary education major Emily Suglia, one of the test subjects. "It is incredible how they each take on a different personality, typical of elementary students."

The trial sessions were recorded and will be analyzed by a team at ETS.

"We want to find out whether the students are hitting the right points, whether the questions are clear, and to ensure fairness," Rybinski said.

Paul Rybinski '87 (right) shows FSC student Emily Suglia the protocol for the teacher assessment test.





# Madoff Whistleblower

## KEYNOTES FRAUD CONFERENCE

Accounting schools are teaching students the right way to perform their duties in a legal manner, but unscrupulous accounting firms are showing them tricks that lead to fraud and financial disaster.

That was the message of Harry Markopolos, noted for uncovering the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme, at the first Fraud Conference hosted by the Institute for Accounting Excellence at FSC in May. Mr. Markopolos was the keynote speaker at the conference, a fundraising event for the institute.

The purpose of the Institute for Accounting Excellence is to improve accounting education for students and local accountants through regular lectures and continuing education events, said Dr. Lynn Clements, professor of accounting, holder of the Dorothea C. Tanner Chair in Ethics in Business and Economics, and director of the Institute for Accounting Excellence.

“Instead of doing three days of continuing professional education, we decided to make the conference one of those days. I’m a certified fraud examiner, so fraud is one of my research interests,” Dr. Clements said.

In addition to Mr. Markopolos, speakers at the conference included Brian Callahan '92, the whistleblower in the Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corporation fraud case in 2009; James Rothe, supervisory special agent in the Complex Financial Crimes Unit of the FBI; and Stephen Menge, economic crimes investigator in the Office of the State Attorney for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit in Bartow.

Mr. Markopolos, a former portfolio manager at Rampart Investment Management in Boston, was one of three men, including Rampart principal Frank Casey, who tried to alert authorities about Madoff between 2000 and 2005. He is credited with the forensic analysis that demonstrated Madoff’s \$65 billion investment fund was fraudulent and personally sent evidence to the SEC. He is the author of *No One Would Listen: A True Financial Thriller* and is now an independent forensic accounting analyst.

Nobody did their job. People assume once you get to be so big, you’re beyond reproach.

Mr. Markopolos said Madoff got away with his Ponzi scheme for so long because checks and balances designed to prevent it were ignored.

“Nobody did their job. People assume once you get to be so big, you’re beyond reproach,” he said.

Mr. Markopolos said that accountants are learning in the field how to aid and abet fraudulent schemes like Madoff’s.

“We are seeing some of the worst behavior from accounting firms—faking balance sheets, evading audits, and falsifying numbers,” he said. “The FBI is now using some of the same techniques they use to track insider trading on accountants. We’ve got to make an example out of somebody.”

Dr. Clements said she was pleased with the conference.

“We had very dynamic speakers. The program was well rounded, and it was very well received by the community,” she said.

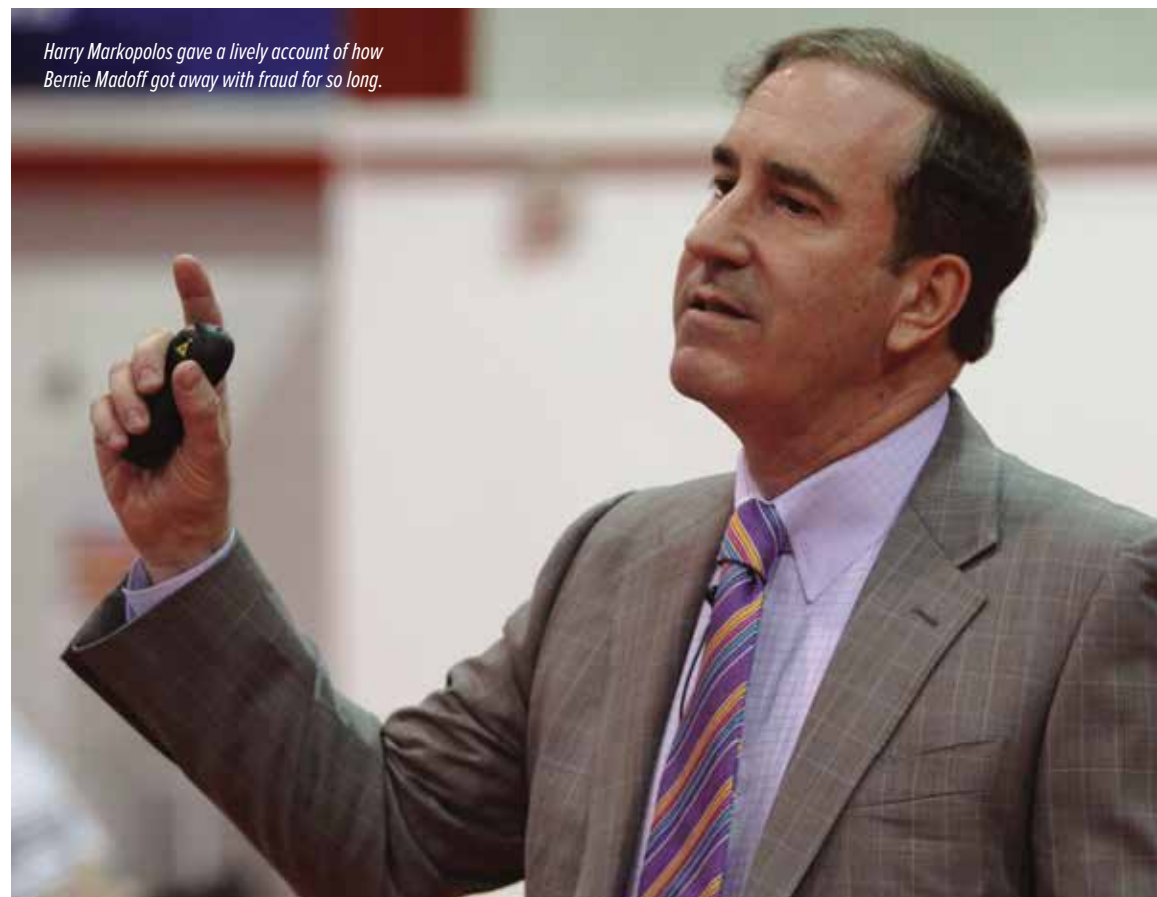
*The speakers at the first FSC Fraud Conference were (from left) Stephen Menge, economic crimes investigator with the Office of the State Attorney, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit; Madoff whistleblower Harry Markopolos; James Rothe, supervisory special agent in the FBI’s Complex Financial Crimes Unit; and Brian Callahan '92, whistleblower in a major Florida fraud case.*



*Dr. Lynn Clements*



*Harry Markopolos gave a lively account of how Bernie Madoff got away with fraud for so long.*



# BEREND LABORATORIES

## GIVE BIOLOGY EXTRAORDINARY LEARNING SPACE

The science programs at FSC are going through a period of rapid growth, which is a cause for celebration, but it also creates the usual problems of overcrowding. The Department of Biology especially was constrained by the laboratory facilities in the Polk Science Building and in need of more modern equipment.

The department got a huge boost, thanks to a generous donation from renowned orthopedic surgeon and FSC Trustee Dr. Keith Berend '92 and his wife, Cindy, which allowed for the creation of three new biology laboratories in the Jack M. Berry Science Building. The first floor of the building was renovated, and the new Dr. Keith R. Berend Biology Laboratories are a gleaming, glass-fronted showcase for the sciences at FSC.

The laboratories are being outfitted with sophisticated equipment that allows the Department of Biology to conduct a much wider range of research and to teach students more advanced courses and techniques, said Dr. Nancy Morvillo, Nelson C. White Professor of Life Sciences and chair of the Department of Biology.

For example, a new tissue culture cabinet and a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator allows faculty and students to work with eukaryotic cells, which are many times more complex than primitive life forms such as bacteria. A new course, which will include working with mutated cell lines, including cancers, is being developed to take advantage of the equipment.

*Below Dr. Nancy Morvillo and her students lead alumni on an exploration of the new labs at Homecoming 2016.*

"If students know how to create these cultures and work with these cells, it is a real advantage in applying to graduate programs or to work in laboratories," Dr. Morvillo said.

Other new devices, a thermal cycler and a microplate reader, allow researchers to make multiple copies of DNA from a single small sample for purposes of analysis, a technique used frequently in forensic laboratories. Two new microscopes incorporate digital screens, allowing multiple students to see specimens under examination instead of the one looking into an eyepiece. In addition, the laboratories are getting new and better autoclaves (sterilizers), centrifuges, and other supporting equipment.

"It is unusual for an undergraduate institution of our size to have laboratories like this," said Dr. Morvillo. "We desperately needed more space, but with our emphasis on student research, they are now working with the most modern equipment and that significantly advances our teaching."

**The new Dr. Keith R. Berend Biology Laboratories feature some of the most modern and sophisticated equipment to be found in an undergraduate science lab. They include**

A Bio Safety cabinet and a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator used in the cultivation of eukaryotic cell cultures

Specialized centrifuges for the separation of materials, including a refrigerated centrifuge obtained through a gift from Jane E. Jenkins '80

An Evos Core Imaging System microscope that displays the specimen field on a digital screen

A thermal cycler and a microplate reader used in molecular PCR, a process that amplifies and copies DNA

Two spectrophotometers, which measure very small quantities of material

An E-Gel imager, which allows the analysis of DNA through the generation of digital codes

Specialized autoclaves and water purifiers which are required for more advanced research



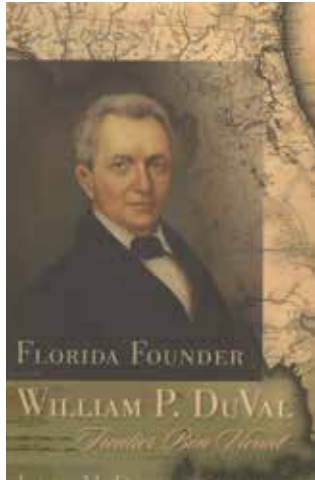
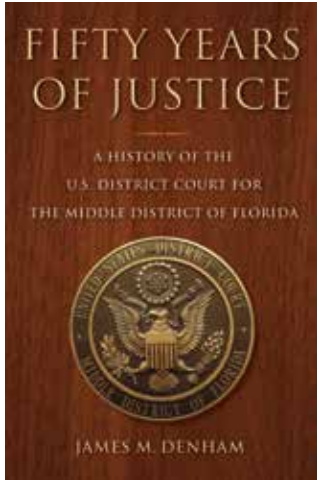


# Prof. James M. Denham

## RECEIVES NOTABLE HONORS FOR HIS BOOKS

Professor of History James M. Denham continues to receive honors, including one that took place in the nation’s capital, for two of his books that were published last year.

Dr. Denham was named the 2016 Distinguished Author by Florida House in Washington, D.C., for his biography of Florida’s territorial governor, *William P. DuVal: Frontier Bon Vivant*. Florida House is the nation’s only “state embassy” and a gathering spot for visiting Floridians, dignitaries, elected officers, and others, and each year it selects one Distinguished Artist and one Distinguished Author.



Dr. Denham was presented the 2016 Distinguished Author award at Florida House’s glittering annual banquet, held at the National Archives gallery on April 28. Among the dignitaries present at the ceremony were Sen. and Mrs. Bill Nelson, Florida First Lady Ann Scott, U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross of Lakeland, and Dr. Sarah D. McKay, FSC Trustee.

Dr. Denham noted that many of the dignitaries present expressed high regard for Dr. McKay, a major donor to Florida House.

“It was one of the greatest honors of my life,” said Dr. Denham. “I was able to meet so many distinguished and civic-minded Floridians, which was a wonderful experience.”



Melissa Putnam, wife of Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and a trustee of Florida House, congratulates Professor of History James M. Denham for being named Florida Distinguished Author of the Year by Florida House on Capitol Hill. The award was presented at a banquet at Florida House in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Florida Historical Society selected Dr. Denham to receive the Rembert Patrick Award for his book *Fifty Years of Justice: A History of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida*. The award recognizes achievement in scholarly publishing on an aspect of Florida history and is considered the ultimate honor for any Florida historian. It was presented in May in Orlando at the annual banquet of the Florida Historical Society.

“The Rembert Patrick Award is the one every Florida historian strives for,” Dr. Denham said. “This is my sixth book, and each year I always hoped this would be the year I would win. I’m honored that this year I was chosen.”



## FLORIDA HOUSE SHOWS STATE’S CULTURE, THANKS TO TRUSTEE SARAH MCKAY



Commanding a spectacular view of the Capitol Dome, Florida House is the only state embassy in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the beautifully restored 1891 Victorian house has welcomed visiting Floridians, students, dignitaries, elected officials and those doing business in the nation’s capital. The mission of Florida House is to showcase the state’s education, business, arts, and culture. It was purchased and is maintained solely by contributions from the citizens of Florida. FSC Trustee Dr. Sarah D. McKay was one of its founders and continues to be one of its major benefactors.

# Prof. Risdon Slate

Honored by

## Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Professor Risdon Slate, who has waged a courageous battle against the unjust treatment of the mentally ill in the criminal justice system, has been awarded the highest honor of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Dr. Slate, professor of criminology and chair of the Department of Criminology at FSC, was given the John Howard Award at the annual meeting of the academy in Denver on April 2. The award recognizes an individual “who has made significant and sustained contributions to the practice of corrections.”

Dr. Slate, a former U.S. probation officer, is the author of *The Criminalization of Mental Illness: Crisis and Opportunity for the Justice System*. He has been forthcoming about his own bipolar disorder and how that has affected his efforts to change public policies, but for years after his diagnosis, he hid his condition.

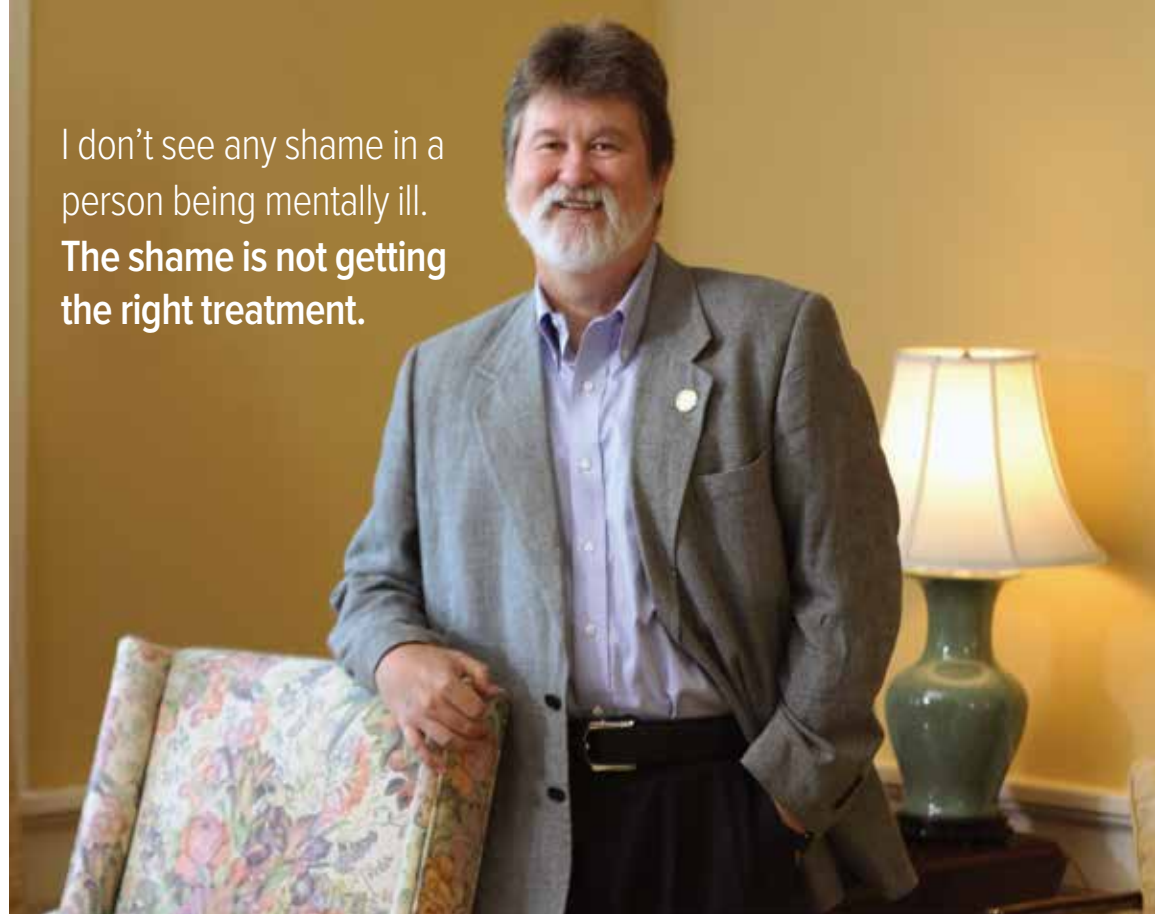
“I was ashamed and embarrassed I had been diagnosed with a mental illness. No one knew about it,” he said.

Dr. Slate joined the FSC faculty in 1993. The following year he suffered a delusional episode while visiting another state. He was arrested and put in jail before a friend got him out.

“I made a conscious decision I wouldn’t stay in the shadows anymore. If it could happen to me, it could happen to anyone,” he said. “What I have striven for is to have structures put in place in the criminal justice system.”

Dr. Slate has testified before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee on the need for mental health courts and is internationally renowned

I don’t see any shame in a person being mentally ill. The shame is not getting the right treatment.



for his efforts to train police and corrections officers on how to deal with mentally ill offenders.

In acknowledging the honor, Dr. Slate said it is gratifying to be recognized for his work in removing the stigma associated with mental illness and ensuring that the criminal justice system is better educated about disorders that affect behavior.

“I don’t see any shame in a person being mentally ill. The shame is not getting the right treatment,” he said.

President Anne Kerr said the John Howard Award is a wonderful recognition and well deserved.

“We are proud of Dr. Slate for his scholarly achievements, as well as for his honesty and courage. He provides strong advocacy for just treatment of the mentally ill in communities throughout the nation,” she said.



The College said farewell to two faculty members who retired at the end of the 2015–2016 academic year. Dr. Kenneth Henderson, Jr. (far left), professor of computer science and mathematics, and Dr. Joseph Macedonia (second from right), associate professor of biology, were honored at a reception in April. They are seen here with Provost Kyle Fedler and President Anne Kerr. Dr. Henderson joined the faculty in 1999. He helped create the College’s computer science program and also served as chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics. “You can’t be a good teacher if you don’t have good students, and I have had great students. It has been my honor and privilege to be a member of the Florida Southern family,” he said. Dr. Macedonia joined the faculty in 2007 and was praised by Dr. Nancy Morvillo, chairman of the Department of Biology, for encouraging and fostering the highest quality student research.



By Cary McMullen and Chelsea Kidd '19

*NEW FSC EQUESTRIAN CLUB*

*CLEAR'S  
ITS  
FIRST  
FENCE*





About 30 students signed up. They approached Director of Athletics Pete Meyer, who was receptive to the idea, and after some paperwork was addressed, the club became official. There is a competitive track and a social track. Experienced riders can compete in shows, while those who have never ridden on a horse before can participate in team-related functions as they learn the sport.

“We want this equestrian team to be open to as many people as possible, so anyone—students, staff, faculty—who wants to can ride for leisure or competitively,” said Tynan, who is team co-captain.

The club also is interested in reaching out and serving the community in the near future.

“We hope to work with nonprofit organizations like 4-H and Wounded Warriors, as well as work with rescue horses,” explained Sophie Morgan, who leads the club’s philanthropic efforts. “Programs for people with special needs utilize horseback riding as a healing activity, so we plan to get involved with equine therapy.”

The new team needed a coach, and members scouted local stables and asked Morrell if she would coach the team.

Marjorie Rodolosi, co-captain of the Florida Southern Equestrian Club, is practicing at English Oaks Equestrian Center, and she’s having trouble with her mount, Captain, a big chestnut thoroughbred, who seems more interested in having a snack than taking another turn around the fences course.

“You have to show him, this is the rule,” calls out Shannon Morrell, Rodolosi’s coach and the owner of English Oaks. “He’s a big animal, and you have to be as big as he is.”

Rodolosi brings Captain around at a canter for another pass. In one of those magical moments in which horse and rider work together, the horse lifts cleanly over the fence, and Rodolosi praises him with a pat on his neck.

FSC has not had a competitive equestrian team since 1948, but a group of enthusiastic students has revived that tradition and is off to a successful start, thanks to support from the administration, including President Anne Kerr, a novice rider herself (see page 31). Along with the water ski team, the equestrian team is now one of two club sports at Florida Southern.

The team was organized by Rodolosi, Sophie Morgan, and Paige Tynan, who discovered a mutual interest in competitive horse shows shortly after arriving as freshmen at FSC last year. Except for a few years in high school, Rodolosi has been riding since she was five and regularly competed in shows in her native New York.

“When I came for advising before my freshman year, I asked if there was an equestrian team and was told no, but you could start one. So that was my goal,” she said.

The students learned that Associate Professor of Psychology Leilani Goodmon-Riley is also a rider and asked her to assist them in their efforts to form a club.

“Once the girls approached me, the first thing we had to do was see how many students were interested,” said Goodmon-Riley. “Fortunately, the students had already started a Facebook page to increase awareness.” (You can see the team’s Facebook page by searching for “Florida Southern College Equestrian Team.”)

*Far left: Taylor Derrico takes a jump in the over fences event at the University of Florida Invitational Show.*

*Below: The founders of the Equestrian Club at FSC are, from left, Sophie Morgan, Paige Tynan (mounted), and Marjorie Rodolosi.*





*Top: Shannon Morrell is the coach of the Equestrian Club.*

*Above left: Shana Whitfield grins after coming off the course at the University of Florida Invitational.*

*Above right: Lauren Davis (left) shows her blue ribbon in the walk, trot, and canter event. Team co-captain Paige Tynan is at right.*

*Right: Co-captain Marjorie Rodolosi shows off her mount, Captain, after finishing a run.*

“A few of the girls have been riding competitively. Most had not ridden for awhile but were so excited to get back. It renewed a passion for them,” Morrell said. “They have all been super nice. They’re very cohesive as a team.”

The team practices at English Oaks, which stables a number of horses and has a course where the students practice taking the horses over jumps. Those who are only familiar with equestrian competitions at the Olympics might think that it’s all about horses jumping over fences. In fact it is a complex and demanding sport with numerous events—many of which do not involve jumping—that requires precise posture and appearance in addition to proper riding skills, known as equitation. Riders in intercollegiate shows do not ride their own horses but are assigned a mount by random draw, testing the rider’s ability to control the horse.

In its first show, the University of Florida Invitational on March 12 at Kimberden Farm in Ocala, FSC competed against 17 other schools in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association’s Zone 5. Nine FSC riders were entered in 14 events and took seven ribbons in Hunter

Seat Equitation flat (non-jumping) and over fences classes, including a first-place blue ribbon for Lauren Davis in the Walk, Trot, and Canter event. In addition to Davis’s ribbon, the team took two third-place, one fourth-place, and three sixth-place ribbons.

“We took the attitude that it was a learning experience, and we were just there to do our best and get an idea of collegiate shows. We were ecstatic that we were able to place so many riders,” Rodolosi said.

The team is already making plans to enter as many as five shows in the fall but is hoping for some financial assistance, since as a club sport the expenses are borne by the members.

“It is an expensive sport,” Goodmon-Riley said. “We are looking for sponsors to help with expenses such as fees and apparel.”

Nevertheless, it appears that the Equestrian Club is back at FSC to stay, and Rodolosi expressed satisfaction that she has helped to revive a long-lost sport.

“It made us happy to be able to bring this tradition back to Florida Southern,” she said.



# *THE LADY AND HER HORSE: Dr. Anne Kerr Is an Aspiring Equestrian*

It certainly didn't hurt the new Equestrian Club at FSC that it had an influential advocate: President Anne Kerr. Although she came to the sport only recently, she already has become an enthusiastic equestrian.

"I always wanted to ride but never had an opportunity," she said. "Whenever I visit our Trustee, Dr. Marcene Christoverson, I always admire a photograph of her riding her white stallion, so when a good friend who has horses invited me to ride at her ranch, I accepted. From that moment on, I fell in love with Paso Finos," she said.

Dr. Kerr's friend, Heather Shea, breeds and shows Paso Fino horses, a breed with a distinctive quick-step gait, at her Spring Lane Ranch in Lakeland. Descended from Spanish breeds (the name means "fine step" in Spanish), Paso Finos are known for the smoothness of their ride, as well as for their stamina and athleticism. The Paso Fino Horse Association holds its own equestrian shows in which horses and riders are judged on events that demonstrate how well the horse shows off its gait, including riding the horse over a sounding board so that judges can hear the regularity of its step.

Dr. Kerr acquired a nine-year-old Paso Fino stallion named Bacardi del Conde and began taking lessons from Ms. Shea. She was captivated by her horse and by the experience.

"I'll never love another horse like Bacardi. He's hardworking, and whatever I ask him to do, he does it," she says. "Plus, he is the most handsome horse in the world."

With her characteristic determination, Dr. Kerr has progressed quickly enough to be a competitor at shows in Asheville, N.C., and Ocala. She accumulated enough points to participate in the Paso Fino Grand National Championship Show in Lexington, Ky., in September.

Dr. Kerr credits Ms. Shea's superb staff with helping her and Bacardi to work as a team. The staff includes respected trainer Alex Zapata; Director of Equine Services Javier Torres, who provides daily care; and renowned equitation instructor Betsy McHugh, who provides expert horsemanship lessons.

"Bacardi really does all the work. I'm just the passenger," she said with a laugh. "You have to be the one in charge, and I'm having to learn how to cue him better. Darrel Shea, also an experienced trainer and national award winner, constantly motivates me to take charge of our rides."

"It's a wonderful athletic endeavor. I've studied ballet and attempted basketball, so I've always been athletic, but this is the most fascinating discipline," she said. "There is something new to learn every time. The joy of partnering with a horse is indescribable. Heather and the Spring Lane experts are a blessing. We are all full of Moc pride."



*Dr. Kerr and Bacardi*

# EXPANDING

T H E B O R D E R S O F

# KNOWLEDGE

FSC  
STUDENTS  
CONDUCT  
**ORIGINAL  
RESEARCH**

From business to the sciences to the humanities, Florida Southern College thrives on research. Although the College is a teaching institution, its emphasis on engaged learning across departments encourages students to inquire, research, reflect, and think critically about their subjects. Research helps students develop strategies to deal with real-world challenges.

As a result, FSC students have a remarkable record of collaborative research with their professors. Each year, students and faculty routinely produce academic papers that have been accepted for presentation at peer-reviewed conferences and symposia.

The following pages contain just a sample of some of the exciting research projects carried out by FSC students in the past year on cutting-edge topics in marketing, biochemistry, psychology, marine biology, and history. Whether in the laboratory, library, or in the field, these students and their professors have delved into dark corners to bring to light new gems of knowledge and helped expand the boundaries of our understanding.

*Biochemistry student Suzanne Wilson (left) and Dr. Deborah Bromfield Lee have been analyzing samples of organisms to isolate their antibacterial compounds.*



## CHEMISTRY

### On the Track of the Next Antibiotic

Last year, Florida Southern's Department of Biology was one of a select number of schools invited to participate in Yale University's Small World Initiative, a program that endeavors to discover new antibiotics needed to combat the growing problem of infections resistant to long-used antibiotics. FSC biology students cultivated bacteria from soil samples and noted which ones showed potential for producing compounds that would kill other bacteria.

A conversation between FSC Assistant Professor of Biology Brittany Gasper, who was overseeing the Small World research, and Assistant Professor of Chemistry Deborah Bromfield Lee prompted Dr. Lee to take the research to the next level. Why not try to isolate and identify the compounds that have antibacterial properties?

Dr. Lee is a specialist in organic chemistry, the branch that works on complex carbon-based compounds found in life forms, and she recruited students Lauren Harris and Suzanne Wilson to assist her in the research project. The task has not been simple or easy. The different compounds, known as metabolites, produced by the bacteria, first had to be purified.

"Purification takes a lot of effort and thought. Identification takes even more," said Dr. Lee. "It's like a jigsaw puzzle where the picture is fuzzy."

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"Purification takes a lot of effort and thought. Identification takes even more. **It's like a jigsaw puzzle where the picture is fuzzy.**"

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Wilson, a junior biochemistry and molecular biology major, worked on the project last summer. She spent most of that time just figuring out what purification protocols to use. Finally the procedure produced small samples of pink-colored liquid suspension that still showed antibacterial activity. But what was it?

Wilson and Lee have faced several problems trying to identify the compound. First, the gas chromatograph used to analyze the liquid requires a minimum amount of the sample, and the purification procedures sometimes did not yield enough.

"We have to try different methods and instruments and figure it out as we go along," Dr. Lee said.

Another problem is that the samples decompose, especially if exposed to light, as Wilson discovered to her chagrin.



"The compound is generally pink, but it turns red or orange after exposure. I left some samples out in the lab one day and the next they were all orange," she said.

Wilson and Dr. Lee have not yet been able to identify the chemical structure of the compound. The project is still ongoing, but Dr. Lee thinks that the compound belongs to a class of metabolites known as prodigiosins, which have been used in antifungal, immunosuppressant, and antibacterial agents.

"It's a very wide range of compounds. Our samples show the same response to ultraviolet light but with a different pattern," she said.

For Wilson, it's an opportunity to conduct research in her field of choice.

"I really wanted to do something related to biochemistry, and this has been a challenging project," she said.

## BUSINESS

### Using Social Media in Marketing

Small businesses traditionally have been at a disadvantage in marketing their products or services, lacking the money and personnel to mount massive ad campaigns like big corporations. Social media has been a powerful equalizer, with its do-it-yourself capacity to inexpensively produce marketing campaigns that can target large numbers of potential customers or clients.

Students of Assistant Professor of Marketing Jennifer Dapko wondered how effectively small businesses are taking advantage of social media

as a marketing tool. With Dr. Dapko's guidance, they applied for and received a grant from the Faculty Professional Interest Committee at FSC to conduct a summer research project.

Four undergraduate students—Sarah Kahn, Matthew Lalli, Breanna Wilson, and Sam Parsons—plus MBA student Nicholas Palmerton carried out two studies and a portion of a third. In a sign of how the digital world has made long-distance collaboration possible, Lalli conducted his portion of the research from his home out of state and communicated with the rest of the team via Skype.

“The project focused on best practices on Facebook,” Dapko explained. “We looked into what businesses should do on Facebook to increase their engagement with their customers. The students had to design the study, administer the surveys, and analyze the data.”

The students examined literature from academics and practitioners to identify best Facebook marketing practices, then investigated consumers' expectations about the information they want to see on a business's Facebook page as a measure of attracting new customers and retaining existing ones.

The students documented more than 1,000 practices businesses should or should not do and categorized them. The study showed that businesses make best use of Facebook as a marketing tool when they post photos, ask customers questions, and include a variety of content, links, and sales incentives to keep them interested.

Breanna Wilson, who used a research tool in the Roux Library to help track down existing literature, said she learned that research is not just an academic exercise.

“A lot of people are interested in the results of research projects like these. Many people in the course of the study asked what kind of patterns we uncovered and what kind of impact this could have on how they were using social media,” she said. “The impact of the findings are more far-reaching than just what we learned here at FSC.”

## HISTORY

### Finding Lessons from Salt and Oranges

The lessons of history are often gleaned from times of crisis, and that was the case for two students of Assistant Professor of History Erika Vause. Analyzing commodities in two very different places—salt in Northwest England and citrus in Central Florida—yielded insights about the nature of capitalism and human behavior.

Dr. Vause teaches a course on capitalism and commodities in world history, and she requires her students to pursue independent research on a related topic.

Junior history major Michael Davidson's interest was peaked by problems in the salt mining region of Cheshire County, England, in the late 1800s. Over-mining of salt caused cave-ins, resulting in destruction of homes and businesses. An act of Parliament compensated the miners.

“That fueled the salt union, and its power grew. What started as a family-owned business became a monopoly,” Davidson said.

Davidson had to find archive websites containing primary documents of the time and books that explained the effects of Parliament's act.

“Being able to turn the research into a valid argument and a paper increased my research and writing skills,” said Davidson, who is planning to attend graduate school at George Washington University.

Junior history major Michael Leake found a topic closer to home—the freeze of 1895 that had a disastrous effect on the burgeoning Florida citrus industry.

“Something that so many people relied on was wiped out. I found it fascinating because it represented such a dramatic reversal of fortune,” he said.

Leake primarily used newspaper accounts of the freeze and found secondary sources of the number of oranges picked and sold. He concluded that natural disasters aren't the end of aspirations.

“In the agriculture industry, even if the worst happens, if there is a spark of hope, people will try to rekindle the fire,” said Leake, who is considering attending law school.

The papers Davidson and Leake wrote on their respective topics were accepted for presentation at the Richard Robinson Business History Conference at Portland (Ore.) State College in April.

“It's important for undergraduates to have these opportunities to present their research. They had strong arguments and use of primary sources, but they also explored the intersection between business and the environment,” Dr. Vause said. “This demonstrates the humanities have real-world implications.”



*Above: History students Michael Davidson (left) and Michael Leake (right) produced research papers on the commodities salt and citrus for Dr. Erika Vause (center) that were accepted for presentation at the Richard Robinson Business History Conference at Portland (Ore.) State College in April.*

*Below left: This team of students, under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Marketing Jennifer Dapko (far left), conducted a summer project on the best practices for the use of social media by small businesses. The students are (from left) Sam Parsons, Bree Olson, Matthew Lalli (on screen via Skype), Sarah Kahn, and MBA student Nick Palmerton.*





*Above: Dr. Bryan Franks takes field notes on conditions in Tampa Bay.*

*Right: Dr. Bryan Franks and marine biology students Samantha Rucker and Jenna Karr cruise into the shallows of Tampa Bay during a field trip to study bonnethead sharks.*

*Far right: Marine biology student Elise Pullen shows one of the bonnethead sharks captured in Tampa Bay.*



*Dr. Franks prepares to release a bonnethead shark back into Tampa Bay.*



## MARINE BIOLOGY

### The Habits of the Bonnethead Shark

The shallow waters beside a mangrove forest near Apollo Beach may look like an unremarkable stretch of the eastern shore of Tampa Bay, but they are a field laboratory for Dr. Bryan Franks, assistant professor of marine biology, and his students. These coastal flats are the home to an amazing ecosystem of small marine life, including the target of Dr. Franks's research, bonnethead sharks.

Dr. Franks is a specialist in sharks and regularly takes his students on field trips, including occasional visits to a noted marine biology laboratory in Bimini, The Bahamas. The research project in Eastern Tampa Bay is examining the diet and internal parasites of the local bonnetheads, the smallest species of hammerhead shark, which only grow to be 2 to 3 feet long.

"They're fairly common, but this area has not had a lot of research about bonnetheads. We're trying to learn about their ecology and biology," he said.

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"I learned a lot about the protocols of gathering samples. I got a lot of experience on how to conduct research. I also learned about the marine food web. **It was a great experience.**"

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Over the past year, Dr. Franks has been assisted by four students, including Jenna Karr and Samantha Rucker. Last summer, the team set gill nets and caught a number of sharks, some of which were kept

for later dissection while others had their stomach contents extracted. How does one remove the stomach contents of a shark?

Franks explained that sharks regurgitate by turning their stomachs inside out. He and his students anesthetize the sharks and use forceps to duplicate that process. The sharks are then released unharmed, if a bit famished, and the stomach contents are bagged for examination.

Rucker, a senior marine biology major, assisted with both the diet and parasite phases of the research, dissecting the specimens and preparing slides for microscopic examination. She found two species of parasites in the sharks' digestive tracts, a roundworm and a nematode.

"Parasites in sharks have been poorly studied," said Dr. Franks. "These species of parasites can be specific to particular species of sharks, suggesting they evolved together. That led us to wonder what they were eating."

In the samples so far, Rucker has found the bonnetheads mostly feed on blue, horseshoe, and spider crabs. More samples will be needed before the research will produce a scientific paper.

"I learned a lot about the protocols of gathering samples. I got a lot of experience on how to conduct research," said Rucker, who intends to pursue graduate work in marine biology at Nova Southeastern University and someday work at a shark laboratory. "I also learned about the marine food web. It was a great experience."

As with any research, answers only lead to more questions. Dr. Franks is now interested in how the sharks' diet may affect its reproductive cycle.

"The bonnetheads in Tampa Bay give birth about two months later than other bonnetheads," he said. "We don't know why that is, but diet may be a big factor."

## PSYCHOLOGY

### What Happens to Young Caregivers?

Some research projects, even if they're conducted in an objective fashion, have a personal meaning for the researcher. So it is with junior psychology student Kelsey Bacharz. When Kelsey's mother, a single parent, developed cancer, Kelsey became her emotional caregiver.

"My mom and I are very close. She relied on friends for her physical care, but she confided in me for emotional support and about her treatments," Kelsey said.

At a seminar about how cancer patients experience post-traumatic stress disorder, she asked about PTSD in caregivers and was told that no studies had been done on caregivers in her age group. Under the guidance of Associate Professor of Psychology Leilani Goodmon-Riley, Kelsey resolved to conduct her own research.

"I have a couple of friends who have gone through the same thing. They all had the same feeling, of being different from their peers," she said.

In the first phase of her project, Kelsey looked at prior research and found studies about the psychological effects of illness on children and on parents and adults. She then conducted a series of surveys using standard, validated scales to gather information on social supports and levels of financial security. She surveyed a pool of

participants in the Department of Psychology and then a second, online survey and compiled the results.

"I found that if you've been a caregiver, you're more at risk for PTSD and depression," Kelsey said. "Also, you feel a lot less secure financially, and you're anxious about that."

Dr. Goodmon-Riley said Kelsey's findings support those of previous studies.

"The goal is to find out what factors insulate young caregivers from developing stress and depression. Are they more resilient? Is there an environmental factor that can alleviate stress?" she said.

Kelsey wrote a paper on her project and presented it at two conferences in the spring, the meetings of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society in San Diego, Calif., and the Southeastern Psychological Research Association in New Orleans. She was one of two students to win an award in San Diego and was selected to give an oral presentation in New Orleans, which is rare for an undergraduate.

Although her mother survived cancer, and Kelsey is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical health psychology, she is left with a haunting question about young caregivers like herself who weren't so fortunate.

"What about people who had to drop out of college?" she said.



*Psychology student Kelsey Bacharz (right) conducted a study on how young persons are affected by caregiving, under the supervision of Dr. Leilani Goodmon-Riley. She presented a paper on her project at two conferences in the spring.*

# TWO ALUMNI WIN PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



Above left: Jasmine Childress (right) engaged in undergraduate research of parasites while at FSC and is now pursuing studies in the graduate ecology program at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Above right: Grace Beggs (left) graduated from FSC with degrees in chemistry and biology and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Duke University.

In a tribute to their superior academic promise and training, two recent FSC graduates have been awarded highly prestigious Graduate Research Fellowships from the National Science Foundation.

Grace Beggs '15 and Jasmine Childress '15 won the highly competitive fellowships, which are awarded to less than 15 percent of applicants and provide \$34,000 of annual financial support to allow students to pursue graduate study that leads to a research-based

master's or doctoral degree in science or engineering. The rigorous peer-reviewed application process selects individuals on the basis of their demonstrated potential for significant achievements.

Grace is a *summa cum laude* graduate in biology and chemistry. She is now pursuing a Ph.D. in biochemistry at Duke University, conducting research on proteins that cause antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Jasmine, the 2015 Honor Walk student, is a *summa cum laude* graduate in biology, minoring in chemistry. She is now enrolled in the graduate ecology program at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

“The undergraduate research conducted by Jasmine and Grace at FSC undoubtedly helped them write successful grant proposals,” said Dr. Mary Crowe, associate provost for undergraduate research at FSC. “They showed a fundamental grasp of how to conduct experiments, and that is a testament to their scholarship and to the science program at Florida Southern.”



Top: Dr. Shameka Shelby loads a sample into the ultra-high speed centrifuge in the College's new biochemistry laboratory.

Above: The refrigerated centrifuge can generate 15,000 times the force of gravity.

## Donations Fuel Creation of **New Biochemistry Lab**

Recent significant gifts from several generous donors have not only enhanced laboratories in the Department of Chemistry and Physics but also have facilitated the establishment of a new biochemistry laboratory. The gifts allowed the department to purchase sophisticated new equipment that is used in teaching and research and is crucial to preparing students like Jasmine and Grace (above) for success. The donors and the equipment purchased with their gifts include:

### **Joe Florence '77**

An ultra-cold freezer capable of minus-80 degrees Celsius and a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for storing eukaryotic (animal) cells

### **Dr. Ann '70 and Mr. Grant Hansen '70**

An ultra-high speed centrifuge which can generate 150,000 times the force of gravity, used to separate sub-components of cells

### **Jane Jenkins '80**

A refrigerated centrifuge used for sedimentation of organic materials

### **The John A. Leighty Family Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation**

A polarimeter, used to confirm the identity of complex molecules

Two rotary evaporators with vacuum pumps

A gas chromatograph mass spectrometer, which analyzes the components of a substance

AMAX ClusterMax Density UP Series Super Computer

### **Dr. Edward J. Meszaros '84**

Specialized software employed in the laboratories' computer cluster

### **Mrs. Maida B. Pou**

A nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer for identifying and characterizing chemical entities

A Raman microscope, which uses laser imaging to produce high-resolution micro-analysis without destroying the sample being studied

### **The Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation**

An X-ray powder diffractometer, which analyzes the structure of molecules in solids

### **The Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, Inc.**

Data acquisition probes

### **Dr. Rudi E. Moerck '69 and U.S. Nutraceuticals, LLC**

A mini-centrifuge that generates up to 16 times the force of gravity

Tanks and cells for performing electrophoresis, a technique to separate biological molecules including DNA and proteins, plus an imaging system to visualize the separated molecules

### **Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC**

A platinum crucible



# Men's Golf Team Finishes Third

## AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Led by Division II Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year John Coultas, the FSC men's golf team advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Division II national championship tournament before losing in match play to No. 2-ranked Chico State University. The Mocs finished the season tied for third at the championships, held in May at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club in Denver.

The Mocs qualified for match play after the opening rounds and defeated California Baptist 3-2 in the quarterfinals, coming from behind in the final nine holes to win. In the semifinal against Chico State, the Mocs lost 4-1, bringing an outstanding season to an end.

Just two weeks after the national tournament, Coultas, a sophomore, was given the highest honor in collegiate golf. At the PGA's Memorial Tournament, he was named the 2016 Division II Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year by the Golf Coaches Association of America. Coultas is the first Moccasin to win the award, which was presented by Nicklaus, the Hall of Fame golfer. He finished the season as the No. 2 ranked player in Division II with an adjusted scoring average of 70.95.

In addition to the Nicklaus Award, Coultas was named the 2015-16 Sunshine State Conference Male Athlete of the Year and SSC Men's Golfer of the Year. He and teammate Jimmy Jones were named First-team All-Americans and First-team All-SSC, and sophomore John VanDerLaan earned Second-team All-American and All-SSC accolades.



*John Coultas (left) is presented the 2016 NCAA Division II Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year Award by Hall of Fame golfer Jack Nicklaus. At right is FSC Head Coach Doug Gordin.*



## Q&A *with* Nicklaus Award Winner JOHN COULTAS

**Q: How did you get interested in golf?**

A: I started playing with my dad when I was 5 or 6. I loved the ability to continuously improve—hit the ball farther, lower my score.

**Q: You did well as a freshman, but this was a phenomenal year for you. What happened?**

A: I knew I could compete, but I needed consistency in my mental game to compete every week. Coach Gordin helped me out a lot. This year if I got off to a bad start, I stayed focused.

**Q: What were your goals for the year?**

A: Winning tournaments, and I won two. Being First-team All-American, and lowering my scoring average. I had a good fall season, and I knew I had to stay consistent. I switched putters, and I putted well after that. It was a key to the year I had. I never finished out of the top five.

**Q: Tell us about winning the Nicklaus Award.**

A: It was awesome. It's the most rewarding honor I've had because it showed that I played well throughout the year. Mr. Nicklaus is such a nice guy. He took two hours out of his day to meet with the award winners.

**Q: What are your future goals?**

A: Obviously, winning nationals, as an individual and a team. Eventually, I'd like to give professional golf a go after my senior year.



*The men's golf team poses with the third-place trophy from the NCAA Division II National Championship. From left, Coach Doug Gordin, John VanDerLaan, John Coultas, Christian Anderson, Jimmy Jones, and Michael VanDerLaan.*



Junior attacker Kendall Kerge advances against Adelphi's defense.  
(Sara Hertwig/Metro State University Athletics)

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! Mocs Stun Adelphi to Win Women's Lacrosse Title

Top: The team celebrates moments after winning the national title.  
(Brett Wilhelm/NCAA photo)

Above left: Goalkeeper Taylor Gillis, who was named Most Outstanding Player in the championship tournament, holds the championship trophy.

Above right: Head Coach Kara Reber shows off the championship trophy as she arrives with the team on the FSC campus.

In an upset as stunning as any in the history of college sports, the FSC women's lacrosse team won the 2016 NCAA Division II national championship in Denver on May 21 with a thrilling, come-from-behind 8-7 victory over undefeated, two-time defending champion Adelphi University. The Mocs won 14 in a row to finish the season with a 19-3 record and give Florida Southern its 29<sup>th</sup> national championship in team sports.

It has been a rocket-like ascent for the FSC women's lacrosse program, which was started just five years ago. The Mocs, who won the Sunshine State Conference regular-season and tournament titles this year, are 77-17 under Head Coach Kara Reber. FSC is the first team outside the Northeast to win a Division II women's lacrosse title.

Adelphi, which has won seven national women's lacrosse titles and was undefeated in championship games, led 6-3 at halftime, but the Mocs outscored the Panthers 5-1 in the second half, with sophomore All-American attacker Meghan O'Brien scoring two of her four goals during the run. Her last goal gave the Mocs their first lead of the game at 7-6 with 17:44 remaining.

"We just had to stay positive and tell ourselves, 'We can do this. We can play with them.' I couldn't be more proud of what we've accomplished," O'Brien said.

Reber said she saw the momentum turning in her team's favor.

"When we had a timeout with about 18 minutes left, I looked around at the team and I thought, now they know that they have a chance to win," she said.

Junior attacker Kendall Kerge added two goals, sophomore All-American midfielder Emily Santoli scored what proved to be the game-winning goal, and junior goalkeeper Taylor Gillis, who was named the championship tournament's Most Outstanding Player, made eight saves against Adelphi's high-powered offense. Led by senior All-American defender Gabby Barowski, the Mocs forced 10 turnovers.

"Our attack, they were killing it. So when we scored a goal, it would pump me up. It was an all-around team effort," Gillis said.

A large crowd of faculty, staff, students, and community supporters welcomed the team back to campus the following day, with the bus given an escort by the Lakeland Police Department.

Reber was named Division II Coach of the Year by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association and by *Inside Lacrosse* magazine. She credited her team and their families.

"This team is amazing, not just because they won, but because they are phenomenal people. The families we have in this program are outstanding and we couldn't do it without them," Reber said.

*(Editor's note: Information from Lacrosse magazine (laxmagazine.com) was used in this article.)*



Senior attacker Meghan O'Brien had four goals for the Mocs. (Sara Hertwig/Metro State University Athletics)

# Women's Basketball Team Finishes Season in the Elite Eight

*Top: The FSC women's basketball team is seen here after defeating Benedict 64-56 to win the NCAA Division II South Region championship, which put the team in the Elite Eight tournament.*

*Left: Coach Betsy Harris shared Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year honors.*

*Right: Mariah Harris finished her career in FSC's top 20 in scoring and rebounding.*

Bidding to add another national title in basketball to FSC's trophy case, the FSC women fell just short, suffering a hard-fought 73-69 loss to undefeated eventual NCAA Division II National Champion Lubbock Christian University in the Elite Eight quarterfinals in Sioux Falls, S.D., in March.

The Moccasins, who were playing in just their second-ever Elite Eight and the first since 1995, closed the 2015-16 season with a 27-6 overall record. The 27 wins were one short of the single-season school record set by the 1994-95 team.

The Mocs, who trailed by as much as 11 points late in the third quarter, outscored the Lady Chaparrals 22-16 in the final quarter and had three chances to tie or take the lead in the final two minutes of the game. Senior guard Shaquita Snow missed a shot with 28 seconds remaining that would have tied the game at 71, and Lubbock Christian held on for the win. It was FSC's first non-conference loss of the season.

"Lubbock is a good team, but I thought our kids came today and played hard. You can't take that away from them. I feel like we played good enough to win the game," said Moccasin Head Coach Betsy Harris, who is in her second year at FSC.

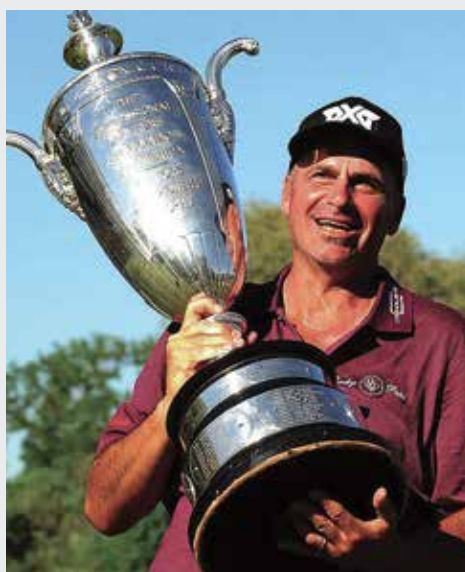
Senior forward Mariah Harris led the Mocs with 19 points and closed her career with 1,049 points, which is 18<sup>th</sup> on the school's all-time scoring list, and tied for 11<sup>th</sup> on FSC's all-time rebound chart with 637.

"I didn't expect the season to go the way it did and right now it hurts the way we lost, but it was an amazing experience and what a great way to end my career—in the Elite Eight," she said.



Members of the team garnered several honors. Mariah Harris was named First Team All-SSC. Sophomore guard Jensen Blassage was named Second Team All-SSC, and freshman guard Camille Giardina was named SSC Freshman of the Year. Betsy Harris shared SSC Coach of the Year honors with Nova Southeastern's LeAnn Freeland.

## SPORTS BRIEFS



**Rocco Mediate**, a former member of the Mocs men's golf team, won the Senior PGA Championship in May. His winning score of 265 broke the tournament record set more than 40 years ago. It was his first major tournament title.



**Sarah Kohlbrenner '07** (right, with FSC Director of Athletics Pete Meyer) is a new member of the Sunshine State Conference Athletic Hall of Fame. Kohlbrenner, who was inducted into the Florida Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014, helped lead the Mocs to three Sunshine State Conference softball championships. She was a two-time All-American and four-time All-SSC, and was selected to the SSC's Silver Anniversary Softball Team. She was inducted at a ceremony on March 5 in Daytona Beach.

# Blum National Coach of the Year

## Mocs Swimmers Win Men's and Women's SSC Title



Alli Crenshaw



Kelsey Gouge



Lauren Reynolds

It was a great way for Head Coach Mike Blum to end his first year in charge of the swimming program.

Blum was named National Men's Coach of the Year by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America following the Division II National Championship meet in March, where the FSC men's team finished third. Blum was also named the Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year for both men's and women's teams. He was promoted to the head coaching position last summer.

Under Blum this year, the Moccasin men's team captured gold medals in the 200-medley and 400-medley relays, junior Marco Palacios won a silver medal in the 100-backstroke, and they set seven school records at the meet.

The Moccasin women's team finished 15<sup>th</sup> at the National Championships.

Senior Kelsey Gouge finished her career with 22 All-American certificates as an individual or relay swimmer, the most in school history. Senior Lauren Reynolds finished with 21 All-American certificates, and senior Alli Crenshaw finished with 20. Crenshaw is the only Mocs women's swimmer to win All-American awards all four years of her career.

The teams qualified for the national meet after sweeping both the men's and women's titles at the Sunshine State Conference Swimming Championships in Orlando in February. The FSC men came from behind to win their fourth consecutive title. The women's team won its first SSC Championship after finishing as runner-up in three of the past five years.

Jesus Marin, Matthew Holmes, Palacios and Antonio Nunez-Alvarez were named first-team All-SSC for the men, and Sean Kim was named SSC Men's Freshman of the Year. The FSC women were led by Crenshaw and Gouge, who were named first-team All-SSC.

*The FSC men's swimming team poses with the third-place trophy following the Division II National Championship meet in March. Coach Mike Blum (front row, second from right) was named National Men's Coach of the Year by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America, as well as Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year for both men's and women's teams.*



Men's basketball guard **Dylan Travis** and women's swimmer **Kelsey Gouge** have been selected as the 2016 Pat McFadden Award winners, which is given annually to Florida Southern's top male and female scholar-athletes. The awards were presented at the Athletic Awards Banquet on April 25. A senior from Omaha, Neb., Travis was a two-year letterman for the Moccasins and was the team's leader in points, rebounds, assists, and steals in 2015–16. Gouge, a senior from Snellville, Ga., is the most decorated women's swimmer in the history of the program. She earned All-American certificates in 22 events in her collegiate career, including five All-American honors this season.



**Allan Gutierrez '15**, a former swimmer for the Mocs seen here representing his native Honduras at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, once again made the Honduran Olympic national team. He swam in the 100-meter butterfly event at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August. As far as can be determined, Allan is FSC's first Olympian.

## Students



**Lauren Morgan** was named to the U.S. World University Water Ski Team that will compete at the 2016 International University Sports Federation World University Water Ski Championships Sept. 6–11 in Akita, Japan. **Ellie Horton** was named as an alternate. Morgan also took first in the women’s slalom as a member of the Midwest Region team at the Collegiate All-Stars Water Ski Championships in May.



Junior swimmer **Diego Gimenez** has been named the 2015–16 Sunshine State Conference Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. In addition, he and senior **Kelsey Gouge** were named First-team Academic All-Americans by the College Sports Information Directors of America. The men’s and women’s swimming teams earned Scholar All-American honors from the College Swimming Coaches Association of America, with the men’s team having the highest cumulative GPA in Division II and the women’s team having the second-highest GPA.



Sixteen students from the Department of Musical Theatre visited the Carpenters Home Estates retirement center in December to bring some Christmas cheer. Each of the students chose a musical theater or Christmas song to sing and all visited with the residents afterward.



The Florida Southern College Opera Theatre performed a specially devised one-act opera with an anti-bullying message in Polk County schools. The opera, *Rumpelstiltskin: Ultimate Bully*, is based on the Brothers Grimm story and used music from Strauss’s operetta *Die Fledermaus* in a kid-friendly way. The Opera Theatre performed the work at three Polk County Schools, conveying the anti-bullying message while at the same time introducing children to opera.

## Faculty and Staff

**President Anne Kerr** was presented the Distinguished Citizen Award in May by the Greater Tampa Bay Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The award honors a citizen who has made a difference in the local community. In December, Dr. Kerr was elected to the board of directors of the Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation in Winter Park.



Provost Kyle Fedler announced that at its meeting in May, the Board of Trustees awarded tenure for the following faculty members, with promotions for the ones noted: **Dr. William Quilliam**, associate professor of accounting; **William Allen**, promoted to associate professor of communication; **Dr. James Farrell**, promoted to associate professor of finance and economics; **Dr. Beth Gibbs**, promoted to associate professor of music; **Dr. Gabriel Langford**, promoted to associate professor of biology; and **Kelly Sturhahn**, promoted to associate professor of art.

**Lynn Mason Dennis ’71**, executive assistant to the president, was elected president of the Downtown Lakeland Partnership for 2016–2017. The Partnership promotes the commercial and cultural life of Central Lakeland.



**Dr. Cat Eskin**, associate professor of English, organized a program, “Our Jewish Communion,” held on campus in February. The program presented the results of Dr. Eskin’s project that recorded an oral history of the Jewish community in Lakeland. Some of her students assisted in the project, which was funded in part by a Florida Humanities Council grant. The program was recorded and broadcast on the *Florida Matters* show on WUSF 89.7 FM in Tampa. Dr. Eskin’s project was also mounted as an exhibition at the Polk County History Center in Bartow, *Jewish Families of Polk County (1909–present)*, from May to August. She gave a lecture at the History Center as part of the exhibition’s opening.



**Dr. Keith Huneycutt**, professor of English, and **Dr. Malcolm Manners**, John and Ruth Tyndall Professor of Citrus and Horticulture Science, collaborated with rose grower Art Wade to create a new rose named for the late Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Yearling*. The rose was unveiled in a planting ceremony at the author’s home, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park in Cross Creek, at which Dr. Huneycutt gave a short speech.



The FSC Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa continues to receive high accolades at the national level of the honor society. At the National ODK Conference in Grand Rapids, Mich., in June, **Rachel Belli '16** was named one of five national Leaders of the Year, representing communication, mass media, and journalism. This very competitive award—FSC's third in the past 10 years—comes with a \$1,000 graduate school scholarship. Also, Faculty Advisor **Larry Burke '74**, associate professor of music, was appointed to the National Advisory Council and awarded the Robert L. Morlan and Robert Bishop Outstanding Faculty Officer of the Year. The FSC Circle once again was designated a Presidential Circle, the highest award given to ODK circles.



**Dr. H. Alex Rich**, assistant professor of art history and director of the Melvin and Burks Art Galleries, was chosen to be a juror for the 2016 Hunting Prize. The prize is a premier U.S. competition open to Texas artists who are 18 years of age or older. Its \$50,000 prize is historically the most generous annual award in North America for painting and drawing.



**Dr. Larry Ross**, Anne and Bill France Professor of Business Administration, was a main presenter at a conference of the Asian Golf Industry Federation in Singapore in April. A member of the Club Managers Association of America, Dr. Ross taught courses at the conference in the CMAA's Business Management Institute curriculum.

**Brenda Lewis**, director of the Evett L. Simmons '79 Multicultural Center, was a nominee for the She Knows Where She's Going award, presented annually by Girls Inc., of Lakeland to honor women for their commitment to community and mentorship of young girls.



Nursing students under the direction of Assistant Professor of Nursing **Teresa Lyle** partnered with Polk County high schools to promote Battle of the Belts, a nationwide safety campaign aimed at getting teen drivers and passengers to use seat belts.



**Dr. James M. Lynch**, professor of athletic training, and **Sue Stanley-Green**, associate professor of athletic training, were hosts of the sixth annual Florida Athletic Training Educators Symposium in May. Speakers included the president of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA). In addition, Sue and her husband, Athletic Director for External Operations and Head Athletic Trainer **Al Green**, were members of the Athletic Training Association of Florida's Legislative Task Force that was recognized with NATA's Dan Campbell Legislative Award, given to a state association that demonstrates efforts to pass or update legislation.



The late **Robert MacDonald**, Wilhelmina MacDonald Professor of Music Emeritus and Artist-in-Residence, was inducted posthumously into the Polk Artist Hall of Fame on April 28, at the intermission of a concert by the FSC Symphony Orchestra in Branscomb Auditorium. The award was presented by the Polk Arts Alliance for his contributions to the arts in Polk County and accepted by Professor MacDonald's wife, Ingrid. He was a faculty member for 47 years, served as chairman of the Department of Music, and created the College's Festival of Fine Arts. Professor MacDonald died in 2013.



**Dr. Erika Vause**, assistant professor of history, is co-editor of a new book, *The Cultural History of Money and Credit: A Global Perspective*, in which nine scholars present original research into the historical development of money and credit during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and explore the social and cultural significance of financial phenomena from a global perspective.

## Trustees

Bishop-in-Residence **Bob Fannin '58** and his wife, **Faye Thomas Fannin '59**, were honored with a resolution from the World Methodist Evangelism Institute at its Founders' Dinner on April 18 in Dunwoody, Ga. The resolution honored the Fannins "for their dedication to Jesus Christ, committed leadership in WMEI, and, hence, their outstanding work in worldwide evangelization." Bishop Fannin is former chairperson of the World Methodism Evangelism Institute Committee.

Chairman of the Board Emeritus **Dr. T. Terrell Sessums** was named Tampa Metro Civitan Citizen of the Year on February 4 at the Florida State Fair's Governor's Day Luncheon. Dr. Sessums was honored for his support of higher education, public schools, and other good causes, including the arts, the Museum of Science and Industry, Boy Scouts, and the PTA.



**Evett L. Simmons '79** has been appointed chair of The Florida Bar's Continuing Legal Education Committee, which assists the members of The Florida Bar in their continuing legal education, and facilitates the production and distribution of quality programs and publications. She also serves on the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

# CLASSNOTES

## Share Your News Change jobs? Moving? New addition to the family? Retiring?

There are two ways to share your personal news with your classmates and the College. Use the form on our website: [www.flsouthern.edu/alumni/info-update](http://www.flsouthern.edu/alumni/info-update) or send an email to [alumni@flsouthern.edu](mailto:alumni@flsouthern.edu)

Class of  
**1948**



**The Rev. David C. Groves** recently recorded a video at the Library of Congress recounting his experiences during World War II, where he fought with the U.S. Army's 19<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry in three major battles and helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp. He is a retired United Methodist pastor. He is seen here with his wife, **Marilyn Kelley Groves '69**, who was recently honored as a Goodwill volunteer of the year. They live in Bartow.

Class of  
**1950**

**Ruth Bandy Howard** has been the piano accompanist for the choirs of Ocala West United Methodist Church for the past 10 years and is thankful for her music education at FSC.

Class of  
**1951**

**Bob Black** was named 2016 Alumnus of the Year at Tilton School, the prestigious New Hampshire preparatory school. He was honored for his ongoing involvement with the school and his long career in journalism. Bob is back in the newspaper business as a correspondent for South Hillsborough County for the *Tampa Bay Times*. His career now stretches over 67 years, starting with *The Southern*, and including stints on *Stars & Stripes* in Tokyo, the *New York Herald Tribune* and the Associated Press. "Old newsmen never die," Bob says, "they just keep scribbling."

Class of  
**1953**

**Merlin E. Karlock** was given the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award by the *Daily-Journal* of Kankakee Valley, Ill., for his contributions to education and development in the area. He has been a rancher, banker, real estate developer, and entrepreneur. He lives in Bourbonnais, Ill.

Class of  
**1954**

**Betty Ann Moyer** is retired after teaching elementary school for 31 years. She was also a councilwoman for the Danville (Penn.) Borough, where she lives, for 27 years. She continues as a trustee at the Danville State Hospital, where she serves on the human relations and ethics boards. She writes that she is fortunate to be active and enjoys everything she is involved in.

Class of  
**1958**

**Herb Livsey** was recently promoted to lead scout for the Denver Nuggets of the NBA, marking his 57<sup>th</sup> year in basketball as a coach, teacher, and scout. He retired in 1996 from teaching and coaching and has been a scout for professional basketball teams since then. His wife, **Gerry Grieve Livsey '59**, is a retired teacher and coach who plays golf and, at the international level, pickleball. The Livseys live in Indio, Calif.

Class of  
**1959**

**Dr. Charlene Poland Holt** served 22 years with the U.S. Army Medical Corps, served as director of the Madigan Foundation, which provides military patients and their families with

supplemental assistance, and finally retired—for the third time—in 2000. She has conservation land on which she cares for rescue animals and is active in the American Legion. She lives on Anderson Island, Wash.

Class of  
**1960**

**Joe Hudek, Jr.**, writes that he travels a lot to visit his six grandchildren, all of whom are in college. He retired in 1990 from a career in finance and lives in Tampa. His wife, **Sue McDonald Hudek '61**, died in 2006.

Class of  
**1961**

**Dr. Paul Marer** returned to his native Hungary in 2000, where he is professor of international business at CEU Business School in Budapest. Previously, he spent 25 years teaching at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He was principal architect and co-director of the Hungarian-International Blue Ribbon Commission, a multi-year effort during 1989–90 to direct Hungary's transformation to a market economy following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**Maj. Gen. James Musselman, USA, Ret.** was presented the George B. Inskip Outstanding Alumnus Award by the Alumni Association of Fairfield High School in Fairfield, Penn., at a ceremony in June. He is the former vice director of operations of the Joint Staff.

**Mylene Hannigan Zerr** is retired from teaching in Anchorage, Alaska, where she met her husband, Richard, an award-winning ice sculptor. They live in Castle Rock, Colo.





**Walter Manley II '69** (right) is pictured here at ESPN's *The Home Depot College Football Awards* show broadcast from the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta on December 10 with Jim Thorpe Association and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame president Eddie Griffin and Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin. Walter is a Thorpe voter and founder of the Biletnikoff Award, which annually provides college and vocational scholarships to high school seniors who have overcome significant barriers to achieve at the highest academic and extracurricular levels. He also is a voter for several other major sports awards, including the Outland Trophy and the Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award, as well as basketball's Oscar Robertson Trophy and Henry Iba Award.

Class of  
**1962**

**David P. Cayce** and his wife, Mary, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Nov. 29. In April 2015, he received a 35-year Distinguished Service Award from Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd. The Cayces live in Winter Haven.

Class of  
**1963**

**The Rev. Frank Becker** is president of Cross Trainers Ministries, Inc., has published seven books, including the novel *War's Desolation* and *The Depression Proof Church*, and occasionally attempts landscape or portrait painting. He is a retired pastor, technical writer, and talk show host. He and his wife, Joy, have four children and 14 grandchildren. They live in Spring, Texas.

Class of  
**1964**

**Leonard "Len" Shapiro** and his wife, Pat, gave a \$1 million charitable annuity trust to the Moorestown (N.J.) Friends School to help endow scholarships. Len, who is a graduate

of the school, is co-founder and co-owner of Saltchuk Resources, a holding company that includes maritime transportation, fuel distribution, and real estate businesses. The Shapiros live in Mercer Island, Wash.

Class of  
**1965**

**Sue Tisdale Torres** writes that her husband, Juan Torres, who attended FSC, passed away in November. At the time of his passing, the Torreses lived in Ajijic, Mexico.

Class of  
**1966**



**Stu Brackney** attended Homecoming in March and writes that it was a weekend to remember: "The food was awesome, but I may have eaten too much!" He is seen here with President Kerr sporting his FSC beanie.



Distinguished Alumna **Anne Nichols Reynolds** has published a new book, *Mast Island*. It is a mystery/suspense novel, her third. She is seen here with a copy of the book at the Book Festival at Homecoming 2016.

Class of  
**1967**

**Jackie Jonas McCollum-Bridges** recently published a book, *Between You and Yourself—How to Heal Our Most Broken Relationships*. She owns Associates for Counseling Services in Leesburg and has been in private mental health practice there for 27 years.

Class of  
**1968**

**The Hon. John Antoon II** was presented the prestigious 2016 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the federal 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit in May at the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judicial Conference in Point Clear, Ala. He is a senior judge on the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, where he has served since 2000. The award is presented to a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character, unquestioned integrity, and dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.

Class of  
**1969**

**Dr. Gerry Getman** has retired as CEO and president of BIOSAFE, Inc., after a long career in directing industrial research groups with several major chemical companies. Most recently he launched a startup biotech firm in Pittsburgh, Penn. Gerry and his wife, Katy, split their retirement between Boca Grande and McMurray, Penn. They keep busy with gardening, traveling, antique sales, and publishing family genealogies.



Mocs Make History, Claim 2016 Women's Lacrosse National Championship  
@FSCWLax

**Jon and Martha Lou Wilson Luce** started attending weekly dances at the Magnolia Building on Lake Mirror in Lakeland while they were dating at FSC, and they are still dancing. They were quoted in an article in *The Ledger* about the Thursday night dances at the Magnolia Building.

Class of  
**1971**

**Col. Robert "Doc" Mirelson**, retired from the U.S. Army and from being a press spokesman with NASA, is a chef mentor at the First Coast Technical College Culinary Arts School in St. Augustine.

**Peter Platt** retired in 2013 after 44 years in the insurance business. He and his wife have five grandchildren and live in Hingham, Mass.

**Julia Stevens** continues to pursue her passion as a painter of Florida landscapes. She has had her work exhibited and won several awards in shows in South Florida. She lives in Broward County.

**The Rev. Marie Palmer Williams** recently retired after 43 years of ministry in the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. She lives in Baton Rouge.

Class of  
**1972**

**Diane Mundhenk Baum** has retired from Lakeland Regional Medical Center and is celebrating her younger daughter's recent marriage. She is married to Professor of Biology Emeritus **Bob Baum**, and they continue to live in Lakeland.

After a 40-year career in the law, the **Hon. John L. Phillips** will retire in October as a family and probate judge with the 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida. He has been a judge since 1986 and served with the 15<sup>th</sup> Circuit since 1990. He is married to **Lynn Powell Phillips '73**, and they live in Jupiter.

Class of  
**1973**

**Susan Cady Murphy** is a senior wellness consultant for a large multi-state insurance company and is a certified intrinsic coach and lifestyle counselor. She and her twin sister started an outdoor women's adventure club and spend their free time hiking, backpacking, and kayaking in fun and far-off places. She and her husband, **James S. Murphy '73**, have two grown children and a grandchild. They live in Garland, Texas.

**Julie Parker Perry** writes that last year she sold the music store she owned and operated for 28 years, took a trip to Africa, and enjoys spending more time with family, including her 10 grandchildren. She lives in Collierville, Tenn.

Class of  
**1974**

After years of working on the space shuttle program in Florida, **Kathy Karmazin-Calin** recently accepted a position as director of enterprise resource planning for Harris Health System in Houston, Texas, responsible for the human resources, financial, and supply chain management systems.

**Bill Percy** has been elected to the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame's class of 2017. The induction ceremony will take place in January in Anaheim, Calif. Bill is the head baseball coach at St. Mary's High School in Colorado Springs, Colo., a position he has held since 2007. Since 1990, he has traveled to four

continents coaching and teaching baseball to players and coaches worldwide. He and his wife, Marian, have three children living in Colorado, Florida, and Michigan.

In January, **Thomas Smith** became a wood component estimator for Building Component Supply in Green Cove Springs. Previously he was a customer service associate, pro sales specialist, and department manager for Lowe's.

Class of  
**1975**

**Rod Musselman** has joined Mainstreet, a skilled nursing facility developer in Carmel, Ind., as development manager. Prior to Mainstreet, he served as senior vice president at Miller Valentine, where he oversaw apartment development. He is a three-time winner of the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation and Adaptive Re-use.

**Rebecca Baird Petrie** writes that she retired from the Polk County School District in December 2014 to continue her fight against cancer. As of March, she is cancer-free and volunteers as an interpreter with the deaf ministry at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland.

**Alan Reed** has retired as boys' basketball coach at Zephyrhills High School after taking his team to the 5A state semifinals in February. He came out of retirement to take the coaching job two years ago, and it was his fourth stint as boys' basketball coach at Zephyrhills.

Class of  
**1976**

**Dr. Dan Crews** has been the music teacher at Suwanee County Primary School since 1990. He was featured in a recent article in the *Suwanee Democrat*.



@BW Ranks @FLSouthern's Barnett School of Business & Free Enterprise Among Best Undergraduate Business Programs  
@StephenRBell

**Bill Dake** recently retired after 40 years of teaching. He continues as the music minister of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Port St. Lucie, a post he has held for 32 years. He also is in his 25<sup>th</sup> year as host of the *Sunday Smooth Jazz Brunch* on radio station 97.1 FM WOSN.

Class of  
**1977**

**Ed Bahns**, a member of the 1975 national champion baseball team, will be inducted into the athletic hall of fame of East Hampton (N.Y.) High School, his alma mater, this fall. He is a former varsity baseball coach at the school and oversees its driver education program.



**Dr. Eugenia Hitchcock Scott** has a private psychotherapy practice in Malibu, Calif. She has been a therapist for 30 years and is a board certified registered art therapist. She has published peer-reviewed articles on the topics of trauma, addiction, and the creative arts for numerous journals and publications and has lectured nationally and internationally.

Class of  
**1980**

**Glenn Isaacson** has joined the New York office of global real estate services firm Cushman and Wakefield as vice chairman. Previously he was executive vice president with commercial real estate firm CBRE.

**James M. "Jim" Long** has been named CEO of Hendry Marine Industries, Inc., and Gulf Marine Repair Corporation in Tampa, one of the Southeast's leading tug-barge shipyards. Previously he was CEO of several companies, including an environmental services company.



These alums are all serving as teachers at the same school, Forest Hill Elementary in Morganton, N. C. They are (from left): **Angelina Franco '92**, **Heather Bailey '91**, **Tammy Robinson '81**, and **Leicha Rittgers '85**.

Class of  
**1982**



**Kathy Deatherage Woodell** is the U.S. director of *Clothed in Hope*, a nonprofit started by Kathy's daughter, Amy, which empowers vulnerable women in Zambia through education and economic opportunity. Pictured are Kathy (right) and Amy (left) with the program's Zambian director, Elina, during a month-long trip to Lusaka, where they visited the women in the program.

Class of  
**1983**

**Scott Brockman** is president and CEO of the Memphis-Shelby County (Tenn.) Airport Authority. He was featured recently in an article in the *Memphis Business Journal*.



W.S. Badcock Corporation has announced that **Robert B. Burnette** will become president of the 320-store furniture company based in Mulberry, beginning January 1. Rob has been

with the company for 31 years and was recently named chief operating officer. He and his wife, **Jane Knickerbocker Burnette '86**, live in Lakeland and have two grown children.

**Marty Jenkins Harris** recently got married. She and her husband, Tim, live in Superior, Colo.

**Ivadene Howell** is a core measure specialist at Lake Wales Medical Center, ensuring the hospital meets standards in dealing with Medicare patients. She was recently featured in an article in *The Ledger*.

Class of  
**1984**



**Rob Collins** has been named to the newly created position of senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Carmike Cinemas, Inc., based in Columbus, Ga. Previously he held senior positions at Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., Paramount Parks, Universal Studios Orlando Resort, and Nickelodeon.



## OLD MOCSIE, NEW MOCSIE

During halftime of the men's basketball game against Lynn University on Jan. 23, FSC mascot Mocsie retired and was replaced by a new Mocsie (seen at right). The old Mocsie had been the mascot since 2005 and received a warm send-off, with gifts from local business mascots, including the GEICO gecko, and a set of golf clubs from Athletic Director Pete Meyer. In his early days, Mocsie wore glasses but underwent a makeover, including a Lasik procedure and a new wardrobe, in 2010. "I want to thank Mocsie for great service to the Florida Southern community," said President Anne Kerr. "Mocsie was a great ambassador for FSC, and I look forward to working with our new mascot."

**David Glod** is founder and president of Tour Edge Golf in Batavia, Ill., a company that manufactures golf clubs. Some of the company's clubs are used by top PGA professionals. David and his company recently were featured in the Chicago-area *Daily Herald*. He's a former member of the Mocs men's golf team.

**Jennifer Kunde Yordan** is taking some time off after working as a sales representative for Hilton and Golf Resort Properties and then for pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies. She is "enjoying traveling and more importantly family and loving it for now." She has been married for 26 years to Victor Yordan, and they have a son, Michael, and a daughter, **Gabby**, who is a sophomore at FSC. Along with her sister, **Carrie Kunde Showalter '86**, Jennifer is "proud to be a three-Moc family."

### Class of 1985

**Shaun Steggles Hoyle** is the founder of Life Lessons of Manasota, which has offered parenting classes, coaching, and training since 2002. She lives in Bradenton.

**Sarah Beasley Owen** is CEO of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation in Fort Myers and was a finalist for *The News-Press*' annual Person of the Year. She and her husband, David, have three children.

**Raymond Titus** is CEO of United Franchise Group in West Palm Beach, a franchising organization with a diversified list of more than 1,400 franchisees.



### Class of 1986

**Nyda Bittmann-Neville**, president and CEO of TNB Consulting Group, Inc., in Waynesville, N.C., marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her

firm in June. The firm creates, designs and implements customized marketing strategies for clients in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Nyda also is an image and brand doctor, executive coach, professional speaker, certified corporate trainer, certified color specialist, and author.

**Layla Alo Caballero** has joined Azteca America as general manager of WDGT in Miami and WXAX in Tampa. She was previously director of display, classified, and digital sales for Las Américas Multimedia Group.

**Susan Callahan Nations** has been appointed principal of Wilkinson Elementary School in Sarasota. She is a former Teacher of the Year for the Sarasota County School District. She and her husband, Don, have three adult children and two school-age children.

**Paul Walker** helped coach wheelchair tennis at the Invictus Games for disabled military veterans in Orlando in May. He has been a tennis coach for both wheelchair and able-bodied athletes for almost 20 years and is head coach for the U.S. Tennis Association's national women's wheelchair team. He is also assisting FSC women's tennis head coach Trish Riddell.

### Class of 1987



**Mark Hawkins, MBA**, has announced his retirement as president and CEO of Altura Credit Union in Riverside, Calif., effective in February. He has been chief executive of the

organization, formerly the Riverside Schools Credit Union, since 1988, and it has grown to become the largest credit union in inland Southern California.

### Class of 1989

**Karen Larson Roth** earned an MBA from Florida Atlantic University and is a senior credit analyst with Regent Bank. She and her husband, Keith, have been married 25 years and have three children, **Brendan**, a junior at FSC, and high school students Kyle and Natalie. The Roths live in Davie.

### Class of 1990

**Patricia "Trish" Gadberry Wade** is the volleyball and track coach at St. John (Kansas) High School. Her volleyball teams have won three state championships, and she is a three-time Kansas Volleyball Association Coach of the Year. She and her husband, Jay, have a daughter, Teresa, a former All-America volleyball player, and a son, Dean, a member of the Kansas State University basketball team.



Distinguished Alumnus and FSC Trustee **Dr. Keith Berend '92** participated in a grueling bicycle race in June to raise funds for Operation Walk, a nonprofit organization that provides free knee and hip replacement operations in underdeveloped countries. His team of eight amateur cyclists covered 3,000 miles in 12 states over seven days.

**Peter Williston** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the Birmingham, Ala., Police Department.

Class of  
**1991**

The U.S. Army recently promoted **John Insetta** to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He is serving as the chief of the Security Cooperation Authorities and Programs Branch at United States European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

**Matthew J. Stevens** is a franchise consultant for FranChoice, which offers consultation services to prospective franchise business owners. His office was among FranChoice's top 10 percent in 2015. He and his family live in Powell, Ohio.

Class of  
**1992**

**Kellie Robinson Bosco** was inducted into the Polk County Sports Hall of Fame in June. She was a four-time All-American softball player for the Mocs. Head Coach Chris Bellotto presented her with her Hall of Fame jacket, and former Athletic Director Lois Webb attended the ceremony.

Class of  
**1993**



**Robert E. "Robb" Fannin, Jr.**, was named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Tampa Bay area chiefs of police at a ceremony in January. Robb, a corporal with the Tampa Police Department, was chosen from among

local, state, and federal law enforcement officers in a seven-county area and was cited for

removing an unusually high number of guns from the street. Pictured with his wife, Julie, he is the son of Bishop-in-Residence **Robert E. '58** and **Faye '59 Fannin**.

**Lisa Intagliata** has a new position as assistant vice president of constituent engagement at the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, where she is responsible for alumni relations and advancement services. She is a certified fund raising executive, and previously she was director of development at Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Inc.

Class of  
**1994**



In January, **Matt Brown** was named Search and Rescue Responder of the Year for the state of Florida for his contributions to urban search and rescue. He was presented the award at the Florida Fire Chiefs Association Conference in Daytona Beach. Matt is a lieutenant with the Lakeland Fire Department, and he also is an adjunct instructor in FSC's Department of Athletic Training. He is married to **Lorie Gleason Brown '94**.

Class of  
**1996**

*Editor's note:* In the Winter 2016 edition of *Southernnews*, we noted that **Kip Kimberley** is living in Pecos, Texas, where he works for Walmart and is active in local high school athletics, but we referred to him as "she." Our apologies to Kip. We regret the error.

Class of  
**1997**



**Kelley Lindley Magnuson**, U.S. Air Force **Lt. Col. Robert Magnuson**, and their daughters are seen here at Joint Base Edwards in Washington, D.C., where Robert is stationed. He is a pilot who has flown C-21, C-17, and C-32 jets and has earned masters' degrees in business administration and military operational art and science. Kelley is director of adult faith formation at Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Owings, Md.

**Heather Ripple Matthews** is a purchasing agent for HAECO Airframe Services in Lake City. She is married to Alec Matthews, and they have two sons, Jonathan, 13, and Travis, 11.

**Tom Reidy** is the new president of Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich. He was previously principal and headmaster of Tampa Catholic School.

**Nathan Ritter** has been elected to a second term as president of the Florida Green Building Coalition. He is vice president of GreenBuilt Solutions in Orlando and has spent the last 16 years in sustainable construction and consulting on high-performance homes and commercial structures.



@FLSouthern off-campus apartment buildings continue to progress at corner of Lime St. and Ingraham Ave.

@garywhite13

**Joe S. Dawson, Jr.**, is head boys basketball coach at Grandview Preparatory School in Boca Raton. His team won its second 2A state title in four years in February.

Class of  
**1999**

**Paul Rossano** is a lead trainer for MPactWealth, a financial advice and training company. He was formerly a real estate broker and investor in New York City. He lives in Cardiff, Calif.

Class of  
**2000**

**Sue Sandlin Briley** was appointed interim chief financial officer of Ruby Tuesday, Inc. She continues in her position as vice president of finance for the company, which owns more than 700 restaurants across the country. She has been with Ruby Tuesday since 2014.

**Alain Douge** has been named principal of Lake Gibson Middle School in Lakeland. He was previously assistant principal of Lake Gibson High School. He is married to **Natalie Birr Douge '03**.

**Dr. William "B.J." Garrison** has been a chiropractor with Caring Concepts clinic in his hometown of Plant City since 2007. He was recently featured in an article in *The Plant City Observer*.

**Ben Harben**, a graphic designer, is a partner in Love Tell Discover, a business that sends each month to subscribers a new T-shirt showing something little-known about Florida. His partner is FSC student **Austyn Lindsey**.



Class of  
**2001**

**Adam L. Bantner II** was elected president of the Hillsborough County Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and has been appointed by Commissioner Stacy White to serve on the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners' Citizens Advisory Committee. He is an attorney with Brandon Legal Group. He also serves on the Alumni Advisory Board of Sigma Chi fraternity.

**Terence Hannum's** latest art work was part of a two-person exhibition, "Weight Over Time: Joy Curtis and Terence Hannum," at the Tiger Strikes Asteroid artists' space in Brooklyn, N.Y., in April. Terence lives in Baltimore.

**Stephanie Herring Kauffman** has been appointed vice president of global partnerships at TripAdvisor, the travel website. Previously she was chief communications and engagement officer for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) and worked for Universal Studio's Partnerships, Licensing, and Digital department. She is based in New York City.

Class of  
**2003**



**Dr. Michelle Wilson Bombaugh** earned her Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of South Florida in August 2015. She has worked at USF for 11 years and

is currently a first-year retention advocate. Her husband, Jason Bombaugh, also works at USF with the Herd of Thunder Marching Band. They have one daughter, Sydney, who was born in 2010. Pictured are (from left) her brother, Matthew Wilson; her parents, Dr. James and Roxanne Wilson; Sydney, Michelle, and Jason.

**Donna Spence Whiting MBA '07** is a senior financial analyst for WestRock, a paper and packaging corporation, at its Covington (Va.) Mill, responsible for general accounting, audits, and asset management. She was previously a senior tax accountant with CliftonLarsonAllen CPAs.

**Lindsey Ludwick Whitney** is a real estate agent at National Realty of Brevard County. She is part of National Realty's Platinum Group, which closed more than \$16 million in sales in 2015. She is married with three children, aged 8, 7, and 5, and lives in Melbourne.

Class of  
**2004**

**Jamielyn Daugherty** is an instructor in biological sciences at Warner University in Lake Wales, where she now lives.

**Doug DeMyer** has been named head football coach at Lake Gibson High School in Lakeland. He had been an assistant coach there under his father, Keith.



**Sarah Rosenberg** has joined the staff of Matthew's Hope, a nonprofit ministry to the homeless in Winter Garden, as a licensed clinical social worker. She has a master's in social work from the University of Central Florida and is pursuing a certificate in child-parent psychotherapy from the University



**Shanida De Gracia '79**, seen here with President Anne Kerr, was one of many alums who attended an alumni reception in February at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa.

of California–San Francisco. In addition, Sarah is the founder of Renewed Hope Missions in the Dominican Republic, which ministers to several villages outside of Santiago.

Class of  
**2005**

**Ryan Cahalan**, a member of the Moccasins' 2005 NCAA National Championship baseball team, is returning to campus in the fall as an assistant professor of accounting in the Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise. Ryan was a relief pitcher for then-Head Coach Pete Meyer, who now serves the College as the director of athletics and dean of wellness.



**Mitchell Stiles, Jr.**, has been promoted to vice president of dealer retail operations with W.S. Badcock Corp., a home furniture company based in Mulberry. He is a fifth-generation member of the Badcock family to work for the company. He is the son of **Mary Badcock Stiles '79** and the late Mitchell "Mike" Stiles, Sr. He lives in Lakeland with his wife, Angee, and their family.



**Robert Stuckey** graduated from Georgia Tech with a master's in global business in December 2015. He works for Shaw, Inc., as the director of hospitality and retail.

**Johnathan Torres** is a candidate for mayor of the city of Occoquan, Va. He helps run a family business, DC Trails, Inc., a private charter bus company.

**Corey Tremble**, the Detroit Tigers' minor league rehabilitation coordinator, was named Professional Athletic Trainer of the Year by

the Athletic Trainers Association of Florida. The honor is given to an athletic trainer who practices with a professional sports team and has displayed a high level of professionalism. He was presented the award at the ATAF's annual meeting in July in Orlando.

Class of  
**2006**

**Jessica Corrigan Harkness** is a third grade teacher in the Pinellas County School District. She has three daughters, Courtney, Katelyn, and Alisha, and lives in Clearwater.



**Salma Nawlo MBA '12** was elected co-president of the League of Women Voters of Polk County in March. She is a writer on the staff of the Department of Enrollment Management at FSC.

Class of  
**2007**

**Allen Ellison** is a Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from Florida's 17th District. He lives in Sebring with his wife, **Samantha Bethel-Ellison '06**.

**Michael C. Wright** has been named assistant principal of Combee Elementary School in Lakeland. He was previously a math coach at Wahneta Elementary School.

Class of  
**2008**

**Leah Gustavson Burford** is a buyer for New York Air Brake. She and her husband, Jason, were married in 2010, and they have two children, Brooke and Brayden. They live in Watertown, N.Y.

**Sara McDowell** is a clinical data quality analyst at Family Care Partners in Jacksonville, where she recommends the most efficient and highest quality healthcare for patients. She earned a master's in public health and graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of North Florida and lives in Jacksonville, where she also volunteers with local healthcare services and animal services philanthropies.



**Jackie Barenborg Stoelting** qualified to play in the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament in July. She is playing on the Symetra professional tour this year and won two tournaments back to back in June.

Class of  
**2009**

**Maggie Cox** is a health and fitness coach, entrepreneur, and business mentor in Portland, Ore., where she lives with her boyfriend, Jonathan, and their dog, Meatball.

**Liz Gorman** is a fitness trainer who owns a studio in Los Angeles. She also is a fitness and fashion model, a branding consultant, and a three-time Lingerie Football League defensive player of the year, playing for the Los Angeles Temptation.

**Emil A. Kumlin** is a consultant with College Scholarships USA, an organization that assists international athletes with finding college scholarships in the U.S.

**Jessica Paugh** is working as an event producer for *Interior Design* magazine in New York City.



**Sam Glynn '10** opened a new restaurant, Statesman Tavern, in Bristol, R.I., in April. It is his second restaurant, following the success of his first one, Chomp, in Warren, R.I., where he lives with his wife, **Lauren Glynn '09**.

## Class of 2010

**Michelle Bullerdick McSwain** has been promoted to personal safety and community awareness program director for the Child Protection Center of Sarasota. She has worked for the center since 2013.

In September, **Lyndsay Primosch** was appointed as a commissioner of the District Court of Montgomery County, Maryland. She was previously the clerk of the court. Lyndsay earned an M.S. in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida in 2011. She lives in Germantown, Md.

## Class of 2011



**Dave Bollen** is the new director of the Trailblazer program at Camp Kanuga, a summer camp affiliated with the Episcopal

Church in Hendersonville, N.C. Dave recently earned a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School. He and his wife, Lauren, will be living at the camp.

A new symphony for the band, *Telelestai*, composed by **Andrew Boss**, was given its Florida premiere by the USF Wind Ensemble in April.

**Andie Carrozzella** completed a master's degree in teaching at Simmons College in Boston.

**Kimberly Milton**, a mezzo soprano, performed at a fund raising event on behalf of the Orpheum Theatre and Academy of Performing Arts in Bartow in February. **Jenny Heidtman '98** is organizing efforts to restore the historic theater and turn it into a cultural center.

**Yuichi Sasaki** has taken a position as an athletic trainer with the Malaysian Olympic team in their PODIUM program. He previously was a staff athletic trainer at Lee University.



**Jami Sharik MSN '14** has joined the staff of Watson Clinic in Lakeland as a certified nurse practitioner assisting cardiology patients. She holds certifications as a medical-surgical registered nurse and in advanced cardiac life support.

**Tanja Speaker** is assistant varsity basketball coach and head junior varsity coach at Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, Ky. She is in her second year at Thomas More, the 2015 Division III women's national champions.

**Danielle Stone** is a women's director for Kids Across America, a Christian organization in Branson, Mo., that operates camps for urban youth.

## Class of 2012



**Matthew Cicanese** has been awarded a prestigious National Geographic Young Explorers Grant, which supports scientists, journalists, photographers and conservationists ages 18 through 25 working

around the world, giving them an opportunity for field work and a chance to be featured in National Geographic's media outlets. Matthew used his grant to facilitate a two-week expedition in August to Iceland, where he documented its biologically diverse lichens through photography, filmmaking, and other media.

**Stephanie Meyers Davis**, a doctoral student in molecular pharmacology and physiology at the University of South Florida, recently had an article published in the journal *Molecular Neurobiology*. She also presented her research at the International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles in February.



**Kassie Johns** (right) is the public relations representative at Precision Athletic Training in Lynnfield,

Mass., and chair of the public relations committee of Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts, the state professional association. She is pictured here with Gayle Olson, clinical instructor in the FSC Athletic Training department, who spoke at an educational conference in June sponsored by ATOM.

## Class of 2013

In 2015, **Mary Baltimore** participated in the Yale School of Management Global Pre-MBA program, one of only 62 students worldwide who were chosen to participate in a two-week program. In March, she received a promotion and relocated to the Lockheed Martin headquarters in Bethesda, Md.

**David Carson** has joined Compass, a luxury real estate company in Miami, as an agent, specializing in property markets in Miami and Miami Beach.



**Seth Evans**, a former standout member of the men's basketball team, is the new head golf coach and assistant men's basketball coach at Elmhurst (Ill.) College, which competes in the NCAA Division III.





With their 10<sup>th</sup> round pick in the 2016 @MLBDraft, the Tigers select RF Sam Machonis from FSC.

@DetroitTigersPR

**Brandon Freedman** earned an MBA from Endicott College and is director of marketing at Wayne Alarm Systems, Inc., in Lynn, Mass.

**James A. “Jim” Gravley IV** is director of citrus at Arcadia Citrus Enterprises and also is the owner of Old Florida Citrus Growers in Southwest Florida. He sits on the University of Florida’s Citrus Research and Production Board of Directors and the Citrus Advisory Committee of the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. He lives in Fort Myers.

**Sanford Siegel, MBA**, has been named laboratory manager-quality control, research and development at Anuvia Plant Nutrients, a company that creates products for farmers, turf managers, and homeowners, based in Zellwood. He was previously with The Mosaic Company, where he worked as a chemist and laboratory supervisor for quality control.

### Class of 2014

**Brad Fretti** was named chief financial officer of Elite Books, Inc., a startup online book seller, based in Frisco, Texas.

**Belkis Mena Garcia** is an ESE teacher for the Polk County School District. She lives in Poinciana.

**Ross Johnson, MBA**, was recently named global marketing manager for retail for Potatoes USA, a trade group in Denver, Colo., where he will

develop marketing programs both for the U.S. and international markets. He previously worked for ConAgra Foods.

**Katie Luecht**, the 2014 Honor Walk student, graduated in May from the University of Alabama at Huntsville with an M.A. in experimental psychology with an emphasis in psychology and law. Her thesis was on the effect of exposure duration and post-identification feedback on eyewitnesses.

**Catherine Miller** has been accepted into the doctor of physical therapy program at Washington University of St. Louis, one of the top programs in the country. She recently completed a master’s degree in athletic training from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.

**Trenton Moore** had several of his photographs from his series, *Retracing America*, published in May by *Aint-Bad*, an independent publisher of new photographic art. He is based in Washington, D.C.

**Wesley Paul, MBA**, was recently promoted to assistant hospital administrator at LifeStream Behavioral Center in Lake County.

**Trey Vavra** was named to the Florida State League All-Star team as a member of the Fort Myers Miracle, a minor-league affiliate of the Minnesota Twins. He played in the FSL’s 55<sup>th</sup> All-Star game on June 18.

**Lauren Williams** sang the role of Adele in the Imperial Symphony Orchestra’s production of Johann Strauss’s operetta *Die Fledermaus* in January, alongside her former teacher, FSC Artist-in-Residence and Professor of Music Mark Thomsen.

### Class of 2015

**Stephen Battle** played basketball overseas with the Kayldall Red Miners of the Luxembourg-Total League, where he averaged 12.8 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. He was a starter on the Mocs’ 2015 national championship team.

**Zachary Grossman** is a customer representative with the global investment firm Vanguard in Charlotte, N.C., helping maintain client accounts and providing investment guidance. He joined the firm in February.

**Wade Kirkland** was chosen for the Texas League All-Star Game in June. He plays second base for the minor league Midland RockHounds.

**Lindsay Smith** is in the management training program at GEICO. She lives in Macon, Ga.

### Class of 2016

**Rebecca Schild** is a preschool teacher with the Bright Horizons School at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She writes that she will be continuing her love for theater, dance, and teaching in Boston.

**Cheyenne Tyler** will be a teacher at Auburndale Central Elementary School. In May, she was the first member of her family to graduate from college.



**Erin Ferguson '13** and Stephen Knothe were married Feb. 7, 2015, in Apopka. **Katie Luecht '14**, **Brittany Archer '12** and **Alyssa Raiford '13** were bridesmaids. Erin and Stephen live in Winter Haven.



**Emily LaBarbera '13** and **Jake Morris '13** were married on Nov. 7, 2015, at Isola Farms in Groveland, Fla. Bridesmaids included **Alex Jorge '13**, **Alec Slamal '15**, former student Corin Cassario, and current student Becky Levy. Groomsmen included **Tony North '13**, **Jacob Sharp '13**, and **Jovaughn Howard '13**. The couple live in Tampa. Emily, who was captain of the Mocs cross country and track teams, is an office administrator for GeoPoint Land Surveying and a running coach. Jake recently earned a master's degree in mental health counseling and works at PAR, a nonprofit substance abuse clinic in Clearwater.



**Jill Finnerty Ricardo '90** and her husband, Jason, recently adopted two daughters within two weeks of each other. Ruby, 16 months old, arrived on June 19, 2015, and the Ricardos received a surprise phone call two weeks later that they were chosen to parent Raphaela, 1 week old. The adoptions were finalized in October and November. Jill is a stay-at-home mom and homeschools the oldest four of their seven children. She also works as a Disney vacation planner in affiliation with Mousekeplanner LLC. The Ricardos live in Dade City. Pictured are (from left) Rhett, 12; Ruby, 1; Jason Ricardo; Rhys, 2; Roman, 14; Jill Finnerty Ricardo; Raphaela, 5 months; Rio, 6; and Reagan, 8.



**Amy Diethelm '92** (second from left) and her husband, Michael, celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Roswell, Ga., in November. Fellow FSC and ZTA alumni who attended were (from left to right) **Christina Alfieri '94**, **Nancy Hoskinson Preble '93**, **Melanie Hill Edmondson '93**, and **Jillian Easton Lineberger '93**.



**Ryan Alvarez '02** and his wife, Jazare Alvarez, were married in November 2014 and welcomed their first child, Ryker Alvarez, on Jan. 2, 2016. Ryan has been a teacher for 14 years. He is a teacher and varsity cross-country coach at Imagine School in North Port, where he has been a finalist for Teacher of the Year for three years. He also has his own pet product line, LoyaltyPetProducts.com.



**Dr. Erin Smith Berling '05** and **Ross Berling '05** have welcomed their first child, Landry Sara Berling.



**Lindsey McKnight Scarpatti '05** and her husband, Thomas Scarpatti, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Thomas William Scarpatti. Thomas was born Dec. 10, 2015, weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz., and measuring 22 inches long. Lindsey was recently promoted to vice president of national accounts for Deutsche Asset Management, and Thomas is a sales executive at Fisher Printing. The Scarpatis live in Chicago, Ill.

**Dr. Allison Greenstein '04** married John Henry Yow III on December 20, 2015, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. FSC alumni present included **Rebecca Greenstein Wood '04**, **Heidi Peterson Leftwich '03**, and **Hank Leftwich '04**. The Yows live in Harrogate, Tenn.

**Laura Schall Young '04** gave birth to her third child, Brennan William Young, on Jan. 9, 2016. He joins older sister, Ava Rose, and brother, Lucas.

**Malena Frett Allison '07** and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, Leo Michael Allison, born on June 25, 2015. The Allisons live in Tallahassee.

**Caitlin Wilson '10** and Austin Beyke were married Sept. 19, 2015. They live in Lakeland.

## 1930s

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**Mary Emma Luther Majewski '35** of Brevard, N.C., died Jan. 29, 2016.

**Mary Shuler Harden '39** died March 8, 2016, in Lake Wylie, S.C.

**Sarah Haupt Pearson '39** of Lutz died Dec. 9, 2015.

**Juanita "Nita" Lewis Sawyer '39** of Lakeland died Jan. 9, 2016. At the time of her death, she was believed to be the oldest alumna of FSC.

**Alva Zebendon Swilley '39** died Dec. 23, 2015, in Lakeland. Memorial gifts may be made to FSC.

## 1940s

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**Helen Chapman Hoyt '41** died Nov. 19, 2015, in Sarasota. She was preceded in death by her husband, the **Rev. Paul C. Hoyt '43**.

**Mary Curtis Perry '41** of Southbury, Conn., died May 23, 2016.

**Dorothy Scholl Ellis '42** of Rosemont, Penn., died March 26, 2016.

**Patricia Collier Miller Ricketts '42** of Oak Harbor, Wash., died Nov. 25, 2015.

**Katheryn "Kitty" Roux Goodyear '45** of Melbourne died April 29, 2016.

**Emogene Conrad Strickland '45** of Lakeland died March 6, 2016.

**Margaret Shepard Brown '46** of Ocean Ridge died Jan. 18, 2016.

**Maria Becerra '47** of New York, N.Y., died Dec. 10, 2015.

**Dr. Philip J. Bright '47** of Jacksonville died May 21, 2016.

**Margaret Swain Nichols '47** of Winter Haven died May 3, 2016.

**Betty Smith Miller '48** of Lakeland died Feb. 12, 2016.

**The Rev. Emory C. Gilbert '49** of Columbus, Ga., died Jan. 1, 2016.

**Mabel Adams Hipp '49** of Sarasota died June 5, 2016.

**Willie Kenneth "Ken" McInvale '49** of Orlando died Jan. 31, 2016.

**R. Blye Bittle Pegg '49** died Nov. 22, 2015, in Tampa. Survivors include a brother, **William G. Bittle '59**.

**Harry J. Robarts '49** of West Columbia, S.C., died April 29, 2016.

## 1950s

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**John A. Erwin '50** of Timberville, Va., died Dec. 27, 2015.

**Jack H. Pilsbury '50** of St. Petersburg died Feb. 12, 2016.

**Mary Margaret Schwencke Clendenny '51** of Seminole died March 11, 2016. Survivors include her husband, **Ewell J. Clendenny '51**.

**Harry W. "Buck" Dandridge '51** of Eustis died Jan. 17, 2016.

**Rosemary Donovan Killermann '51** of Jupiter died March 29, 2016.

**Lt. Col. Charles B. Ladendorf, Jr. '51** of Lakeland died Jan. 1, 2016.

**The Rev. James S. "Jim" Thompson '51** of Woodburn, Ore., died Feb. 23, 2016.

**John R. White, Jr. '51** of St. Augustine died Feb. 27, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife, **B. Jane Cameron White '50**.

**Mary Sloan Funk '53** of Pittsburgh, Penn., died March 28, 2015.

**Dr. William W. "Bill" Carlton '54** of Owensboro, Ky., died March 24, 2016.

**Priscilla Roberts Gelfo '54** of Miami died April 26, 2016.

**Betty Pollock Thornhill '55** of Lakeland died March 3, 2016.

**Charles Walton "Wally" Adams, Jr. '56** of Winter Haven died Jan. 7, 2016.

**Edgar W. Justice '56** of Port Charlotte died May 16, 2016.

**Laurene Parrish Powell '56** of Bradenton died Jan. 3, 2016.

**James L. "Jimmy" Cade '57** of Seville died Feb. 11, 2016.

**Col. Henry L. Hunt '57** of Belleview died Dec. 11, 2015.

**Peter A. Vasiloff '58** of Clearwater died Sept. 8, 2015.

**Marcus D. "Dave" Smith, Jr. '59** of Ponte Vedra Beach died Dec. 31, 2015.

## 1960s

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**Harold M. Hendry '60** of Tampa died Jan. 16, 2016.

**Paul M. Keen, Jr. '60** died Dec. 10, 2015, in Bonifay.

**Ralph R. Umsted, Jr. '60** of Lewes, Del., died Feb. 22, 2016. Survivors include his wife, **Christena Parker Umsted '60**.

**John W. Kmetz '61** of Galloway, N.J., died Dec. 23, 2015.

**Jeannette Brinson Anderson '63** of Lakeland died Jan. 30, 2016.

**Robert K. Bowden '63** of Vero Beach died May 5, 2016.

**Nancy Brookshire Gilliam '63** of Anderson, Ind., died Nov. 29, 2014. Survivors include her husband, **Robert H. "Bob" Gilliam, Jr. '63**.

**Phyllis Wade Valus '63** died March 12, 2016, in Inverness.

**Larry W. Cornillaud '64** of Clearwater died Dec. 11, 2015.

**Robert G. Conklin '65** of Columbia, S.C., died Feb. 15, 2016.

**Donald T. Geiger '65** of Lakeland died May 12, 2016. Survivors include his wife, former Professor of Nursing Jewel Geiger, and a son, **Brian D. Geiger '91**.

**Joseph D. Sarria '66** of Houston, Penn., died Nov. 6, 2015.

**Jerry Lee Brown '67** of Summerville, Ga., died May 9, 2016.

**Norman R. Wolfinger '67** of Titusville died Jan. 5, 2016. He was awarded FSC's Alumni Achievement Citation in 1995. Survivors include a daughter, **Amy Wolfinger Harlan '11**.

**Kenneth W. Smith '68** of Lakeland died Dec. 11, 2015.

**Bonney Leslie Reynolds '69** of Lake City died April 4, 2016.

## 1970s

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**Christine King Deuto '71** of Cedar Crest, N.M., died Jan. 19, 2016. Survivors include her husband, **Bernard Deuto '68**.

**Walter Carl "Pete" Case '72** of Orlando died Jan. 6, 2016.

**Duane S. McKinley '75** of Knoxville, Tenn., died March 1, 2015.

**Jonathan J. "J.J." Currie '78** of Jacksonville died Dec. 30, 2015.

## 1980s

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**John Collier '80** of Titusville died Jan. 2, 2016.

**Margaret Jessop Vandewalker '81** of Lakeland died May 13, 2016.

**Master Sgt. Owen T. Wilson '81** of Summerville, S.C., died Jan. 7, 2016.

**Joseph N. "Joe" Hancock '82** of Dade City died May 28, 2016.

**Lynn E. Roberts '82** of Lakeland died Feb. 15, 2016.

**Nancy Cox Clifton-Herder '84** of Auburndale died Feb. 21, 2016.

**Lawrence S. "Wally" Lowe III '85** of Vero Beach died March 3, 2016.

**Claude S. "C.J." Hollis '89** of Fort Walton Beach died Feb. 28, 2016.

## 1990s

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**Frederick L. Radke '95** of Las Cruces, N.M., died April 13, 2016.

**Darlania Woodcock Hughes '97** of Indian Trail, N.C., died Jan. 2, 2016.

**Thomas A. Davis '99** of Winter Garden died Nov. 13, 2015.

## 2000s

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**Emily A. Biondi '05** of Ellicott City, Md., died June 11, 2016.

## FACULTY

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**Gale L. Doak** of Lakeland died March 22, 2016. She was assistant professor of art emerita, serving on the faculty from 1976 to 1997.

**Lt. Col. Artis T. Lofton** of Little Rock, Ark., died April 21, 2016. He was professor of military science and chairman of the department of military science from 1990 to 1994. It is believed he was the first African-American department chair at FSC.

**Dr. Margaret Hermanek Peaslee '59** of Camp Hill, Penn., died Feb. 14, 2016. She was a former assistant professor of biology at FSC. Survivors include her husband, **David R. Peaslee '57**.

**Dr. Barbara M. Sreenan** of Jupiter died Oct. 18, 2015. She was assistant professor of sociology at FSC from 1976 to 1989 and 1995 to 1996.

## STAFF

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**Sara Kloepfer Wells** of Lakeland died Nov. 26, 2015. She was a nurse in the FSC Student Health Center.

## FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE

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**O. Herman Lewis** of Lakeland died April 2, 2016. He was an entrepreneur and philanthropist. Survivors include his daughter Lynda Buck and her husband **FSC Trustee J. Stephen Buck** and daughter Barbara Lewis and her husband Judge Daniel Lewis. Memorial gifts may be made to the Lewis Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship at FSC.

**Marian Backus Molthrop** of Franklin, N.C., died May 9, 2016. She and her late husband, David M. Molthrop, established the David M. and Marian B. Molthrop Endowed Scholarship at FSC, to which memorial gifts may be given. Survivors include a daughter, **Susan M. Bridgers '65** of Naples.

**The Rev. Dr. James Clayton Rowan** died March 7, 2016, in Lakeland. A United Methodist minister in Florida for more than 50 years, he was awarded the Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* from FSC in 1978.

**Helen H. Usher** died April 1, 2016, in Gainesville. She and her late husband, Etter Usher, established the **Tommy Usher '82** water ski scholarship in memory of their son.

*For more complete obituaries that include accomplishments, military service, and survivors, please go to [flosouthern.edu/alumni](http://flosouthern.edu/alumni) and click on the In Memoriam link. Locations are in Florida unless otherwise noted.*

# Why We GIVE

## Dr. Robert S. & Ann Trinkle



FSC Trustee Dr. Robert S. Trinkle has a natural talent for estate planning and a strong desire to support higher education. He and his wife, Ann, have supported Florida Southern generously over the years, including gifts from IRAs. Now the Trinkles have given another donation to the College, the first under a new federal law that makes it easier to direct IRA distributions to charitable organizations.

Dr. Trinkle is an attorney and a senior partner in the firm of Trinkle, Redman, Swanson, Coton, Davis, and Smith, P.A., in Plant City. His father, John Trinkle, started the partnership in 1928, and Dr. Trinkle grew up in the small town east of Tampa, where he was captain of the Plant City High School football team. He earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, then returned to his hometown to join his father's practice.

Dr. Trinkle has a long history of civic involvement in Plant City, where he was a member of the board of directors and president of the popular Plant City Strawberry Festival, and he was given the Heritage Award for lifetime service by his hometown in 2006.

A longtime member of the United Methodist Church, he served as president of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, where he oversaw the establishment of an endowment for Florida Southern, to which he has generously contributed over the years.

"I always had a interest in education. The College was right next door, so to speak, and I knew about it because many of my high school teachers were graduates of Florida Southern," he says.

Except for a brief hiatus, he has been a member of FSC's Board of Trustees for more than 20 years, serving on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee and as vice chairman of the board. He was presented an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree by the College in 2001.

Most of Dr. Trinkle's career focused on real estate law and estate planning, and although he is now mostly retired, he stays abreast of new developments.

"I still have a key to the office," he says with a laugh. "I keep an eye on things."

Although it has been possible in the past for donors to direct distributions from their IRAs to charitable organizations, it required the approval of the government. Then in 2015, the PATH Act was passed, which made permanent the option for IRA owners over 70½ to donate distributions between \$10,000 and \$100,000 per year directly to charities.

Dr. Trinkle approached the College and offered to have distributions from an IRA given directly to FSC. It is one of the first instances of a donor to the College taking advantage of the change in the law. He says it offers benefits to the donor and the College, making it a win-win situation.

"An important consideration in making our gift was the recent change in tax law that allows the distribution to be excluded from income which would otherwise be taxed at ordinary income tax rates," Dr. Trinkle says.

**EDUCATION IS THE FOUNDATION OF CITIZENSHIP.  
I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYTHING MORE  
IMPORTANT TO OUR COUNTRY THAN EDUCATION.**

The donation from his IRA will go to the Trinkle Family Scholarship, which when fully endowed will provide full tuition to a Florida Southern student annually. Assistant Vice President for Advancement Heather Pharris says the Trinkles' donation is an important step in the College's ongoing fundraising efforts.

"They are wonderful people, and each year a worthy student will benefit from their generosity. Dr. and Mrs. Trinkle have shown us a powerful new way of allowing donors to help the College accomplish its mission," she says.

The Trinkles are parents of three adult children, and his concern for future generations is an important motivation for his generosity to FSC.

"Education is the foundation of citizenship," Dr. Trinkle declares. "I don't think there is anything more important to our country than education."

# THE GREATEST SHOW ON CAMPUS

Laaaadiieees aaannd gennntlemennn! Boys and girls of all ages! Step right this way to see the greatest show...on campus!

For several years, between roughly 1951 and 1958, the circus came to Florida Southern—not a traveling circus like Barnum & Bailey, but FSC’s own circus, composed of a troupe of students who designed acrobatic stunts and clown sketches, trained for weeks, and gave performances. It was a regular feature of Founders Week, and at its peak, the FSC Circus gave shows in Central Florida before thousands of fans.

The circus was the brainchild of the late Associate Professor of Physical Education Emeritus Sam Luce '41, a longtime member of the faculty. He taught gymnastics, and as early as 1947, the *Interlachen* yearbook showed photos of a gymnastics demonstration, described as the “athletic circus,” held either outdoors or in the old Gilbert Gymnasium during Founders Week.

The Nov. 9, 1951, edition of *The Southern* newspaper announced plans to create a circus as a club athletic activity, like the one at Florida State University. At first, the FSC Circus used borrowed equipment and later managed to buy or build its own.

It was a grueling physical activity. Performers practiced five days a week. The acts imitated those of the big commercial circuses, including trapeze, trampoline, and balancing acts on various pieces of equipment. Clown skits also livened up the shows, as well as music, usually provided by the ROTC band.

“It was fun,” said Sidney Lanier Easterling '59, who was a member of the troupe as a freshman. “I was in the flag corps and performed on the triple trapeze, which was a hanging horizontal bar. My routines were nothing real dramatic. The guys did most of the acrobatics.”

The acts could be dangerous. In March 1953, a performer suffered a dislocated elbow after falling 15 feet while performing a trapeze act, and three years later, two girls were injured during practice when a rigging collapsed.

Performances on campus were held on the athletic field. Starting in 1953, the FSC Circus went on the road each spring, performing for public schools and civic groups. In April 1956, *The Southern* reported

that the circus performed for the St. Petersburg Lions Club in front of fifteen to twenty thousand people.

In December 1956, *The Southern* declared that four shows were scheduled with new acts, including one on “a flaming tightrope.” But apparently the circus quietly disbanded soon after. It was not mentioned further in the newspaper, and its appearance in the 1957 *Interlachen* was its last. The reasons are not clear, but it may have been due to declining interest and lack of funds.



Mr. Luce’s son, Jon Luce '69, recalls that the circus operated on a shoestring budget and required an enormous amount of work.

“It was a passion for my father, and a special part of the history of FSC,” he said.



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