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Our Mission
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is dedicated to providing students with the highest quality instruction and conducting research that serves society. Our students and faculty generate new knowledge that enhances the discussion of important social, economic, and public policy issues and leads to innovations in industry, government, and non-profit organizations. We prepare our students for meaningful careers, advanced professional training, and an active role in public life.

The College’s strategic plan is to build on our existing strengths to:
• transform the educational experience for our most outstanding students;
• expand new programs to help prepare tomorrow’s leaders in business, politics, government, and the non-profit sector for a global society;
• build world class research and teaching programs focusing on issues related to equality of opportunity, aging, and health that are critical to the state of Florida;
• develop an international research and teaching program on the impact of culture and social and political institutions on such issues as poverty, economic growth, terrorism, and international relations;
• use our path breaking research to generate innovative solutions to economic, political and social problems; and
• achieve top quartile status among all of our Ph.D. programs.

On the cover
Participants at the 25th-anniversary banquet of the World Affairs Program.

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Student Spotlight
The spotlight shines on only a few of our exceptional students. Majors in the college account for 44 percent of FSU students who are in the Office of National Fellowships’ Hall of Fame; but they represent only 12 percent of the entire student body.

World Affairs Turns 25
This Model U.N. Program enhances the university’s national reputation every time it competes against premier private institutions. It’s past accomplishments and future promise were showcased at the 25th anniversary banquet.

LeRoy Collins Institute Sees Trouble Ahead
Many local governments in Florida have made promises to retirees that they cannot keep. The Collins Institute’s research program on “Tough Choices” facing Florida and its communities gives legislators and citizens information that needs to be part of public discussions on the future of our state.

Preparing for Disaster
The Center for Disaster Risk Policy has an international reputation for its work to prepare public and private responses to large scale natural and man-made disasters. Students and professionals receive training in the Center’s The Emergency Management Academic Program.

Lecture Series
Distinguished Alumna: Col Lettie J. Bien
A World Class Faculty
Department News
Development
The cover story for this year’s annual report features the student-run World Affairs Program, our highly successful participant in Model U.N. competitions. I believe that this program is representative of the university at its best. These students prepare for rigorous debates against the premier universities of the country and win. Their participation inevitably develops leadership skills and the ability to organize group activities. Program alumni remain actively engaged with the students and through their own success demonstrate that the World Affairs Program provides leadership for the future.

Developing more opportunities for our students to reach their full potential is a high priority for the College. Graduating from college is an important goal, but in today’s competitive environment the most successful graduates will have been more fully involved in activities such as research projects with faculty, international study, and student programs such as World Affairs. The support of alumni and friends is critical to expand these opportunities that help our students take their rightful place among the best and brightest in the nation.

“Public Policy” was added to our name because much of our teaching and research activity addresses questions of the role of government in improving social, economic, and political outcomes. The Collins Institute and the Center for Disaster Risk Policy are excellent examples of how the social sciences can provide important insights into the effective operation of government. The Collins Institute, under the direction of Collins Eminent Scholar Chair Carol Weissert, has focused on the tough choices that face Florida and its local jurisdictions. The Center for Disaster Risk Policy offers a Certificate in Emergency Management and is recognized internationally for its work in this important area of policy.

We are proud of the achievements of our students and faculty. Our students recognize the important role that faculty play in their success. Students every year have an opportunity to nominate faculty members for university-wide awards that recognize outstanding teaching, mentoring of graduate students, and honors thesis advising. I am pleased to report that this year our students nominated 16 faculty members for these prestigious awards.

Sherry Phillips has served every dean since the college was founded in 1973 and it is with regret that I announce her retirement on September 30, 2011. Her experience and diligence made her invaluable in serving students, faculty, and especially the dean. She will be missed and I wish her a fulfilling retirement.

I hope you will be able to join us for Homecoming weekend. Please come to the Distinguished Alumni Reception that will be held in the DeVoe Moore Center (Room 150 E in the Bellamy Building) on Friday, November 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can look forward to good food and excellent conversation with some very impressive students.

With very best wishes,
Political Science majors Kristen Holder, Gabriella Lloyd and Samantha Sanfilippo received the Outstanding Senior Scholar Award at the University Honors Night Ceremony in April. Only 14 of 4100 graduating seniors received this honor which requires successful completion an Honors Thesis and graduate summa cum laude. “That three of our students received this high honor reflects the commitment of our faculty to providing excellent students opportunities for individual research,” according to Chris Reenock, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Political Science.

Kaiser Shekka (Sociology) received an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant to support her research on the determinants of welfare state spending.

Three students from the College have been chosen to serve as Gubernatorial Fellows for 2010. This program provides leadership training to outstanding Florida’s graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in public service. Congratulations go to Reginald Cuyler and Megan Duda (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy) and Andrew Johnson (Urban and Regional Planning).

Geography Ph.D. student Derek Morgan won the “best poster” award at the prestigious international GIScience conference that was held in Zurich, Switzerland.

Melissa Peach, an International Affairs major in the Emergency Management Program received the TIEMS Rhormann Scholarship at meetings of the International Society of Emergency Managers.

Students in the Interdisciplinary Social Science Program have reactivated FSU’s Zeta chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, the national social science honorary. Matthew Tucciarone, president of the new chapter, reports that there are already 65 dues paying members with five officers on the executive board and six committee chairs. They have adopted a highway, are participating in a colon cancer program, and will participate in national organization’s triennial convention in Washington, D.C. Among its plans is the development of a career day for students in the College.

Congratulations to Danica Sun who was the College’s nominee for the president’s Humanitarian of the Year Award. A senior International Affairs and Political Science major helped set up a sexual education awareness program at a local high school.

Melissa Peach (right) with her award for best student paper at The International Emergency Management Society (TIEMS) Annual Conference, Bucharest, Romania, June 2011.

William Doerner (Economics) and Giuseppina Valle (Sociology) were among the six graduate students in the university to be named 2011 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Each winner received an award of $500 and a certificate.

Two students in the Urban and Regional Planning Master’s program received the prestigious Eisenhower Graduate Transportation Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Transportation for the 2011-12 academic year. Alexander Garcia (MSP 2012) and Marie Scheetz (MSP 2012) received this award which is designed to attract the brightest minds into the transportation workforce.
The Florida State World Affairs Program (WAP) is a student-run academic program housed in the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. Participating students travel to compete in Model United Nations and Crisis Simulation Conferences. The conferences, which are held in cities such as Atlanta, Berkeley, Calif., Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Montreal, are academic arenas where participants must combine public speaking, research, diplomacy, and crisis management skills as they represent their assigned country and position to the best possible degree.

For 25 years, the World Affairs Program has prepared students to represent Florida State at these conferences. Commonly known as the “Ivy League Circuit” of Model U.N. and Crisis Simulation, the conferences feature quality competition. Florida State has made a name for itself as our students compete and excel against participants from Ivy League schools, military academies, and other renowned national and international universities. A veritable juggernaut since 2000, WAP has placed first overall 12 times and second overall six times at these conferences. Florida State has earned a reputation as a top-notch school and our students are respected by other conference participants.

To field the best possible team, WAP holds competitive tryouts for every conference. This gives students numerous chances to travel as part of the team, ensuring that more of them get to participate.

While the competitions are always fierce, Florida State students make friends with other students who are among the best and brightest of their generation. These friendships can last a lifetime. By connecting our students with peers who have similar interests and goals, WAP creates strong personal connections between the leaders developing here at Florida State and at prominent schools throughout the world.

The program’s primary mission is to maintain Florida State’s worldwide status as an academic leader, but it is also committed to developing leadership abilities and international understanding among students campus-wide. Each year WAP hosts several events for the benefit of all Florida State students, including weekly training meetings where any student may come to learn the art of public speaking, diplomacy and research techniques. At the Regional Training Conference held every fall, students are invited to take part in an on-campus Model U.N. Simulation where WAP members teach them what it takes to compete. Students from Tallahassee Community College, the University of Florida and other schools also participate in this training session.

When they go out into the world, students in the World Affairs Program show that they attend a top-tier university and can compete with the brightest graduates of the best universities in the world. They gain experience and confidence that prepares them to be productive citizens in the global 21st century.
Robert Johnson Director’s Award
“The Sword”
The Sword is given to the incoming student Director of the Program at the annual banquet. It is named for the organization’s founder and first Director Robert Johnson. Robert, now a board member and donor, had the vision that led the program through its formative years and remains active to this day. The Sword itself is a replica Union Civil War Calvary Officer’s sabre and inspires visions of those who led their teams into conflict with bravery and honor. Each Director’s name and year of service is inscribed on the sheath.

James G. Parker Alumni Award
“The Shield”
The Shield is given at the annual banquet at the discretion of the alumni board. It is named for the founder of the alumni group and the Program Director in 2000-01. James Parker is the Chairman of the Board and a donor to the Program. The Shield is a replica of the Shield of El Cid Campeador. The 11th century Castilian nobleman, military leader, and diplomat was revered for his defense of his people and inspirational leadership in preparation for battle. To date the award for outstanding defense of the Program has been given to Vice Chairman of the Board Joshua D. Curry and former Dean of the College of Social Sciences Dr. Marie Cowart. Each recipient’s name and year awarded is placed on the shield.

John Windmueller Best Delegate Award
“The Rocket”
The Rocket is given annually to the Program’s best delegate of the year. It is named for the Program’s first member to win eight consecutive first place awards at national competitions. John Windmueller is an active alum and donor who set the standard for all future delegates to follow. The Rocket itself is a M735 Armor Piercing Projectile, commonly known as a “Tank Killer.” The Rocket was selected because it represents a weapon specifically designed to destroy a battlefield’s most potent weapon, the tank. WAP’s best delegate is recognized for having successfully taken on the best students that the service academies, Ivy League, Georgetown, Berkeley, and others have to offer. Each Rocket winner’s name and year is attached to an actual M735 practice round for the student to keep.
President Eric Barron learned of the World Affairs Program early in his tenure at Florida State. A student in the program told him about a Model U.N. competition at which a member of the Harvard University team asked, “Why does a southern public university bother trying to compete here?” She told President Barron, “It sure was nice to beat them.”

The President has often told this story when talking to alumni because it reveals a fundamental truth about the World Affairs Program and the university at large: FSU students can compete with any students in the nation.

On April 9, 2011, WAP held a dinner to celebrate its 25th anniversary as an organization at FSU. More than 125 current students and program alumni attended the event and some of those who could not come sent video greetings to the assembled diners. Greetings came from Iraq, Germany, Turkey and England. Another had just returned from Afghanistan where he was working on a development project. It is clear that their interest in international affairs does not diminish after graduation.
"I do not know of another student group that has such close ties with its alumni," says Dean David Rasmussen. They assist in getting the team ready to compete each year and take them to dinner when they compete in cities where several alumni are living. Most important, these young alumni have stepped up to the plate and have helped fund the program that has, like the rest of the university, suffered from budget cuts.

On the occasion of the 20th reunion dinner, alumni pooled their resources to commit $25,000 to start an endowment fund for the program. This year, they presented President Barron a symbolic check representing the $100,000 they will be adding to the fund over the next five years. James Parker and Joshua Curry, who lead the alumni support group, were enormously grateful to the President when he committed another $25,000 for the fund.

Parker said that "support of College of Social Sciences Deans Cnudde, Cowart, and Rasmussen has been critical to our success and we are awed by the support that President Barron has showed us."

James G. Parker, Capt. Kathryn Fitzgerald, Allin M. Hedge, Josh Curry. These four plus Emir Sirker were the core members that founded the alumni group.
LeRoy Collins Institute sees Trouble Ahead: The Debate Over Local Retirement Benefits in Florida

In a year when Florida’s public pensions have been a focus of concern of the press, policymakers and the public, the LeRoy Collins Institute in FSU’s College of Social Sciences and Public Policy has been able to provide substance to what is often an emotional debate about retirement benefits of local officials, including police and fire-fighters.

As part of the institute’s long-term work on state-local relationships in Florida, it issued its first report in February titled “Trouble Ahead: Florida Local Governments and Retirement Obligations.”

The institute’s research highlights the growing obligations that Florida’s cities and counties have undertaken flowing from promises made to their employees. The report documents that Florida’s county pension contribution averaged more than $21 million in FY 2009—a sharp uptick from contributions made only six years earlier of almost $12 million. Overall, Florida counties saw 8.1 percent of their total expenditures dedicated to predetermined public retirement promises including both pensions and health insurance benefits. The average annual retirement obligations for Florida cities in 2009 accounted for 8.3 percent of their current expenditures.

Not surprisingly, there was variation across the state, especially for cities that do not participate in the state retirement system. Some cities had pension obligations for fire, police and general employees totaling as much as 20 percent of their expenditures.

The generally recognized standard of sustainability for pension plans requires that they have 70 percent of their liabilities covered by their assets. When David Matkin, lead researcher for the project and assistant professor in the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, examined individual plans (jurisdictions often have different plans for police, fire and general employees), he found that 30 percent of the plans fell below this standard.

The research also highlights a major, but largely overlooked, component of local retirement obligations called other post-employment benefits (or OPEBs). The largest component of OPEBs is health insurance. In FY 2009, a typical Florida county had an outstanding liability of almost $30 million to cover OPEBs. Although OPEB obligations are significant—and growing—they are not currently reported to or overseen by any state agency.

Based on the research, the institute’s board adopted the following recommendations for local governments on retiree benefits, for state government on health benefits, and for state and local government on administration and transparency:

- The minimum age before a retiree qualifies for benefits should be gradually raised. A reasonable age to begin receiving benefits could be approximately 60.
- Localities should not include overtime or additional earnings/bonus pay in the base salary used to calculate pension benefits.
- Among other options, Florida lawmakers should give much consideration to repealing current state law requiring the implicit subsidization of health care benefits for local governmental retirees.
- Oversight by a relevant state agency should be provided in statute to manage local retiree health benefit obligations. This agency should establish standards and provide technical assistance, if desired, to local government staff and officials.
- Municipalities should set a contribution rate to ensure minimal contribution levels during good years and reduce the need to increase contributions during periods of fiscal stress.
- Localities should improve the accessibility of information about funding, actuarial reporting and liabilities.

Matkin and Carol Weissert, LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar chair, professor of political science, and director of the LeRoy Collins Institute, made numerous presentations to legislative committees, the State Cabinet, and public policy forums throughout the state. The report also garnered significant press coverage and editorial response.
The 2011 Florida Legislature enacted some local pension reforms and included several recommendations of the institute such as setting a minimum age before a retiree qualifies for benefits, limiting the use of overtime or additional earnings or bonus pay in the base salary used to calculate pension benefits and providing more transparency in the administration of local pension and health insurance plans.

Throughout 2011 the institute will release the findings of additional research on: pension plan-based analysis, best practices employed in cities across the state, and an assessment of other post-employment benefits including health insurance. Other upcoming research on state-local relationships includes analysis of long-term trends in county and city spending and revenues and the impact of state mandates on localities in Florida.

The institute is also working with the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center at FSU to make local financial information available through interactive online mapping. The city and county data will be on both the Collins Institute and the Florida League of Cities websites in the form of maps that can be “drilled down” to county and city levels. The information available via the maps will be revenue and expenditure data from 1974 to 2009 for all Florida counties and cities. Pension and other retirement benefit data from 2004 to 2009 for all Florida counties and the 100 largest Florida cities will also be available.

Research on state-local relationships is funded in part by the Jessie Ball du Pont Fund and the Florida League of Cities.

COSSPP Dean David Rasmussen serves on the Collins Institute board. Allison DeFoor, a Tallahassee-based public policy consultant, chairs the board. The complete board membership, the institute’s policy studies, and more information on the Collins Institute may be found at http://collinsinstitute.fsu.edu.
Preparing for Disaster

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy (CDRP) and Emergency Management Academic Program have enjoyed a rewarding year working alongside state and local agencies on a variety of disaster management projects, as well as educating hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students in emergency management.

In 2010 the Emergency Management Academic Program began offering online courses, which grew out of 12 years of experience teaching emergency management courses in a traditional classroom environment. The online program has grown to support an average of 440 graduate and undergraduate students each semester. Students from all over Florida, the United States and abroad are capitalizing on the opportunity to earn a Certificate in Emergency Management via this robust distance-learning program.

CDRP is currently offering ten emergency management related courses throughout the year in both the online and classroom environments. Our instructors are continuing to develop interactive techniques for distance learning, and we have recently launched a new initiative to record and digitize classroom lectures and embed these videos into the distance-learning content. Spring 2011 saw the launch of a new classroom-based special topics course, “Risk, Insurance, and Recovery in Emergency Management.” This course focuses on the financial, insurance and business aspects of emergency management, particularly as they apply to disaster recovery.

Nine FSU students in the Emergency Management Academic Program earned scholarships to attend the Florida Governor’s Hurricane Conference in Fort Lauderdale. The scholarship competition was significant, and students were judged on essays, personal goals, and emergency management coursework and training. Based on these criteria, our nine students claimed 39 percent of the available scholarships—far more than any other university. The students who attended the conference on scholarship were: Patrick Cuff, Jie Fan, Elena Ortega, Jamie Price, Michael Resto, Raymond Rodgers, Kristin Samulkewitsch, John Selph, and Jason Walters.

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy has decades of emergency management experience in Florida and is an active participant in preparedness, mitigation, and recovery activities.

The center founded the Disaster Contractors Network (DCN) in 2003 in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state agencies. The DCN is designed to provide accurate and timely situation reports to member organizations during a disaster, based on information provided by DCN staff in the State Emergency Operations Center. In addition, the DCN functions as a clearinghouse for contractors to find information about construction licensing and permitting changes after a disaster, as well as the names of other contractors available for subcontract work. This is crucial in the recovery phase due to the overwhelming need for contracting services. Finally, the DCN has evolved as a place for consumers and homeowners to find and contact contractors who can assist with repairs.
The Center for Disaster Risk Policy has established strong ties in the international disaster management community including both practitioners and academics. As part of these relationships, CDRP hosted two delegations of South Korean practitioners and academics in 2010, and several CDRP staff visited Seoul, South Korea, in April 2011. This trip revealed the differences in disaster response policies and provided valuable discussion and insight regarding preparedness and international cooperation and coordination. The information gained has fueled ongoing research and new course material.

During the past academic year, students and faculty also participated in international conferences on terrorism in Oxford, England, and Bucharest, Romania.

CDRP has a long tradition of excellence in emergency management exercise design and execution. These exercises simulate disasters in a cost-effective way to train first responders. Most recently, the center won a contract to create and conduct the 2010 Florida Governor’s Executive Tabletop Exercise. Designed in conjunction with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the 2010 exercise featured a cyber-terrorism scenario—a first for the state of Florida. Intended for the executive leadership of state agencies, “Cyber Sunset” was created to test policies and procedures that come into play in a statewide crisis. The exercise was conducted in June 2011.

CDRP has also received a grant to work with the Florida Department of Health to develop and conduct a series of full-scale exercises throughout Florida to test the department’s ability to deploy epidemiological and environmental health strike teams to a disaster site.

The center is currently working with several counties in Florida and Pennsylvania to improve the way citizens with functional needs are accounted for and assisted during a disaster. These issues have proven important during crises, as this segment of the population typically requires more assistance with evacuation, communication and warnings. CDRP is a leader in the development of software and policies to address these issues, and has licensed much of this technology to a private company through the university’s technology transfer initiatives.

CDRP and the Emergency Management Academic Program look forward to continuing the growth and scholarship of our programs.
Laird B. Anderson and Florence H. Ashby Lectureship on Public Policy Journalism

1: Martin A. Dyckman
Journalist, and Author
“What Has Happened to Florida and is it Beyond Repair?”
Tuesday October 5, 2010

2: Bill Bishop
Author of:
“The Big Sort; Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart”
Monday February 7, 2011

3: Paul Steiger
Editor-in-Chief and President of ProPublica
“Investigative Reporting: Why do we need it? How will we get it?”
Thursday April 21, 2011

Shepard and Ruth K. Broad International Lecture Series

4: Ambassador Wendy J. Chamberlain
President, Middle East Institute Washington, D.C. and former US Ambassador to Pakistan
“Pakistan: the Implications of the Current Humanitarian Crisis on Global Stability”
Tuesday September 21, 2010

5: Paul Hirschson
Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico
“The Path to Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East: An Israeli Perspective”
Thursday October 7, 2010

6: Taleb Salhab
Program Director for the Peace and Security Program and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund
“The Future of U.S. Relations with the Muslim World”
Thursday October 28, 2010

7: Murat Somer
Associate Professor of International Relations at Koç University, Istanbul, and A Fellow at the Institute for International and Regional Studies at Princeton University
“Changing Values, Interests or Both? Turkish Politics, Foreign Policy, and Western Relations in a Changing World”
Thursday February 10, 2011

8: David Makovsky
Ziegler Distinguished Fellow and Director, Project on the Middle East Peace Process
“Obstacles and Opportunities for Arab-Israeli Peace”
Monday February 21, 2011

9: Steve Simon
“Iran, Israel, and Obama’s Middle East Policy”
Thursday March 3, 2011

The Joseph P. Cresse Ethics in Government Lecture Series

10: Dr. Guy B. Adams
Professor of Public Affairs, Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri, Columbia MO.
“The Problem of Administrative Evil in a Culture of Technical Rationality”
November 12, 2010
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is dedicated to preparing students for meaningful careers, advanced professional training, and an active role in public life. Viewed from the perspective of these goals, Col. Lettie Bien is a truly distinguished alum. After earning her B.S. degree in political science, her career has been characterized by service to our country, continuous professional development, and engagement in her community.

Lettie retired in 2007 as an Army Colonel (USAR); a civil affairs officer who completed her career assigned to a policy office in the Pentagon. During her 30 years of combined active duty and reserve service, COL Bien served for almost a year as the US Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals in Baghdad, Iraq. During her service there she served as a civilian Highly Qualified Expert for the Commander of Multi-National Corps- Iraq. Her portfolio included the issues of Economic Development, Rule of Law and Women's Initiatives.

Other military positions held during her career include Battalion Commander, Assistant Inspector General- 82nd Airborne Division, South Florida Area Coordinator for Admissions at West Point and a special active duty assignment as the Relocation Director for the move of the US Southern Command from the Republic of Panama to Miami. She is a lifetime and active member of numerous professional military and Veteran organizations.

She has received the Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Lettie’s distinguished career includes advanced degrees, civilian employment and active service to her community. She has earned an M.S. in Public Administration and Management from Webster University and a J.D. from the University of Miami. A process improvement advocate, she has her Six Sigma Green Belt certification from Villanova University.

She was the Director of Marketing and Business Development for Investor Solutions, an independent, fee-only investment management firm in Miami and has practiced law with a major law firm and her own private practice. She held the position of President/CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. She currently is a project consultant for various private and public sector entities.

Lettie has served as the past chairman of the Military Affairs Council of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and is a founding member of the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance, an organization that obtains funding for military projects in Miami-Dade County. Ms. Bien is a frequent speaker on the topic of community economic development, privatization of foreign state controlled enterprises and US military and veterans issues. She has been an active member of numerous organizations which include the International Women’s Forum, the Discover Orange Bowl Committee, and Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

She is married to Dr. David Schmitt, an Internist/Infectious Disease Specialist. Their daughter, Maggie, lives in Madrid, Spain.
Congratulations to Sean Ehrlich (Political Science) and Svetlana Pevnitskaya (Economics) for their promotion to associate professor.

University sabbaticals were awarded to James Bowman (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy), William Moore (Political Science), Carl Schmertmann (Economics) and Koji Ueno (Sociology).

The FSU Council of Research and Creativity gave research grants to four members of the faculty: Bill Berry and Chris Reenock (Political Science), Deana Rohlinger (Sociology), and Christopher Coutts (Urban and Regional Planning).

Kathryn Tillman, Associate Professor of Sociology and Research Associate of the Center for Demography and Population Health, received a Developing Scholar Award from the FSU Council on Research and Creativity. The Developing Scholar Award recognizes outstanding accomplishment in the early career and is intended to be a springboard to an increasing professional impact during mid-career.

Lora Holcombe (Economics) received an Undergraduate Teaching Award for 2011. Students and alumni nominate faculty who have made notable contributions in the many aspects of teaching that contribute to successful teaching and learning.

Other faculty nominated by their students for various teaching awards are Jason Barabas and Cherie Maestas (Political Science), Alan Rowan (Public Health), Lisa Jordan (Geography), Elwood Carlson and Douglas Schrock (Sociology), and Rebecca Miles and Robert Deyle (Urban and Regional Planning).

Robert Jackson (Political Science) received the Burning Spear Society’s award that is presented to one faculty member in each college for outstanding contributions to the university.

The Graduate Faculty Mentor Award honors faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students. Phillip Steinberg (Geography) and Richard Feiock (Public Administration) received this award at the 2011 faculty awards ceremony. William Moore (Political Science) was also nominated for this award.

Three political science faculty were nominated for the Honors Thesis Mentors Award: William Moore, Carol Weissert, and John Ryan.

Jill Quadagno (sociology) received the 2011 University Distinguished Teacher Award, the highest teaching honor that is given to an FSU faculty member. Jill has inspired dozens of current and former graduate students in sociology to pursue careers in academic and policy settings. Indeed, the Sociology Graduate Student Union recognized her with their Professional Mentor Award this year.

In 2010 Jill was elected a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. This election is considered one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.
Department of Economics

Bruce L. Benson, Chair

Students in economics and three decades of alumni from the program probably know Carol Bullock and Karen Wells, as they have both worked in the economics department for a very long time. Both are retiring, Carol on August 11, 2011, and Karen at the end of the fall 2011 semester. They will be missed by everyone associated with the department. Hopefully, we will be able to keep functioning reasonably well without their hard work and experience.

The economics department continues to be very productive in teaching, with 441 undergraduate majors in the spring of 2011 (up from 415 the year before), along with 30 master’s and 32 Ph.D. students. In the 2009-10 academic year, 194 bachelor’s degrees were awarded. Twenty students earned master’s degrees at the summer and fall 2010 graduations, and 21 did so in the 2009-10 academic year. Nine students finished their Ph.D.’s in 2009-2010 and four more have done so in 2010-11, with five to seven more expected to graduate during the remainder of 2011.

Gifts from the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (CGK), the BB&T Bank Foundation (BB&T), Manley Johnson and the DeVoe Moore Center also allow us to expand the number of newly funded students in our Ph.D. program from nine in 2010-11 to eleven in 2011-12. In addition, one student has a BB&T Dissertation Fellowship in 2011-12 and two more are supported by DeVoe Moore Dissertation Fellowships.

Earlier this year, the National Research Council (NRC) released the results of its survey of Ph.D. granting programs. This survey indicates that the department ranks between 49th and 51st, depending on the category considered. The previous NRC survey published in 1993 ranked the FSU economics program 62nd, so the department’s academic reputation is substantially stronger. Some of the other strong programs now ranked at or below FSU’s level include the universities of North Carolina (49-52), Illinois (53-58), Indiana (56-59), Virginia (57-77), Texas (58-60), South Carolina (62-65), and most importantly, Florida (75-77).

The department is pleased to announce that Svetlana Pevnitskaya was promoted to associate professor with tenure and that Tim Salmon was promoted to full professor. In addition, Daphne Chen will be joining the department as a tenure-track assistant professor in August. Professor Chen received her Ph.D. from the University of Texas. Her research and teaching focus is in macroeconomics.

Unfortunately, as new faculty members were added, others are being lost. Tim Salmon and Tim Sass have resigned in order to accept positions at Southern Methodist University and Georgia State University, respectively. While FSU was able to make substantial counteroffers, they found these other institutions to be more attractive than FSU for both family and professional reasons. University budgetary problems continue to have an impact on the department, however, with limited raises in five years and increasingly constrained travel and expense budgets. Nonetheless, the department has actually done quite well considering the overall budget situation. With the help of generous friends and alumni, our graduate and undergraduate programs continue to improve.
The geography department has been busy capitalizing on its reputation for geospatial skills and environmental ventures by establishing multiyear agreements with the USDA Forest Service and the U.S. National Park Service. In addition, our students continue to secure employment in public and private sectors.

Two new assistant professors joined the geography faculty: Tetsuo Kobayashi (Ph.D. Utah) will explore space-time mobile objects, and Joe Pierce (Ph.D. Clark) will focus on urban sustainability. Both come to us during a particularly sad period which has seen Lisa Jordan, Tony Stallins and Kelly Watson all leave for pastures new. Lisa is heading to New Jersey while Tony and Kelly will be Kentuckians, at Lexington and Richmond, respectively.

Department highlights include Phil Steinberg’s resignation after five very successful years from the directorship of the Living-Learning Community initiative; a major NSF grant awarded to Mark Horner on developing a statistical time geography for analyzing animal movements and interactions; two more edited books from Xiaojuan Yang (“Urban Remote Sensing”, Wiley-Blackwell) and (“Advances in Earth Observation of Global Change”, Springer); and a graduate student research and creativity award to Ph.D. student Heather Gamper.

Our programs remain as popular as ever. The geography major and environmental studies major are both serving a sizeable student body, keen to explore and understand how global changes are affecting society and how modern computer-based methods help to represent and visualize these changes.

The GIScience Applied Master’s program continues to equip high caliber students with state-of-the-art geospatial software skills essential for a variety of careers that exploit the precise location of people and the environment. And our online Certificate in GIS is taking off with more employees across Florida and further afield taking advantage of our unique geospatial research. We now have over 80 graduate students, 40 of whom focus on GIS, as well as 22 doctoral students.
Political Science

Dale Smith, Chair

Political science continues to be one of the most popular majors at Florida State. From summer 2010 to spring 2011, 386 graduated with degrees in political science, and if you are one of our new alumni, congratulations! We hope to stay in touch with you over the years and keep you connected to your department.

Two years ago the department began the Research Intensive Bachelor’s Certificate to provide our very best students, beginning in their junior year, a three-semester, small-class curriculum which develops their research and presentation skills in preparation for graduate or professional schools. This is a very rigorous program, but our best undergraduates are flocking to the program, understanding how important it is to develop these skills in preparation for the next stage of their education. Last January, five RIBC students were invited to the Southern Political Science Association meetings to present their research on topics that included federalism and human rights, environmental audit protection and firm compliance, political satire and candidate evaluation, and the determinants of asylum acceptance decisions in the United States.

Over the past year, department faculty have also done an impressive job of including undergraduates on their federally-funded research projects, in the form of the National Science Foundation’s Research Experience for Undergraduates grants. Professors Jennifer Jerit and Jason Barabas have received an REU grant studying the effects of media on public opinion. A similar grant was received by Professor Will Moore and (former doctoral student) Courtenay Ryals Conrad to fund more than twenty undergraduates to assist on a project to collect a new data set on the extent to which governments mistreat or torture those in their custody. The undergraduates’ experiences with this project are documented on the following web page: www.coss.fsu.edu/news/torture-project.

We have two annual awards, each named for former political science faculty, which are given to top undergraduates. Last spring the Thomas R. Dye Scholarship went to Cameron Cankaya, and Edward Kring received the Charles Billings Award for Public Service. Both are extraordinarily talented and deserving students.

We continue to attract students from across the nation with our Masters in Applied American Politics and Policy, and more of our undergraduates are deciding to remain for another calendar year to complete this master’s program. If you are interested in coming back for an advanced degree that will prepare you for a career in campaigns, lobbying, or consulting, please click the "prospective students” link at our website: polisci.fsu.edu.

Our Ph.D.’s continue to enjoy great success on the academic job market. This fall, recent graduates will be taking up tenure-track assistant professor positions at Notre Dame (Emilia Powell), American University (Joseph Young), West Virginia University (Jessica Ice), University of North Carolina-Charlotte (Justin and Courtenay Ryals Conrad) and Gardner-Webb University (Ben Gaskins). Daniel Hill was awarded an ACC Traveling Scholar Award and will be spending the year at Duke University, and Daniel Milton was selected for a visiting lecturer position at Brigham Young University.

After losing a number of faculty and not being able to hire due to budget cuts, the department will welcome a new assistant professor this fall. Megan Shannon did her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Iowa, and her research explores how countries manage and peacefully settle disputes, as well as the influence of international organizations on conflict management.
Sociology

Ike Eberstein, Chair

This has been a very good year for sociology at FSU. Here are a few illustrations:

Jill Quadagno, Mildred & Claude Pepper Eminent Scholar in social gerontology and faculty associate of the Pepper Institute on Aging and Policy, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. She is the only FSU faculty member to be invited to join this highly prestigious and influential organization. Jill also received the 2011 Distinguished University Teaching Award during the spring FSU awards ceremony. Eligibility for this award requires prior receipt of a University Teaching Award and demonstrated continued excellence in the various aspects of teaching and learning. She is the first member of the faculty of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy to be so recognized.

Other faculty and students have also been recognized within the department and university this year. Departmental recognitions went to Lisa Weinberg, visiting lecturer, who received the J. Michael Armer Faculty Teaching Award, Melissa Bamford for the Graduate Student Teacher Award, Byron Miller for the Graduate Student Paper Award, and Christopher Robb for the Undergraduate Paper Award. The Sociology Graduate Student Union presented their Graduate Education Award to Doug Schrock, associate professor, the Mentoring Award to Jill Quadagno, and a Peer Mentorship Award to Patrick McGrady, a current doctoral student. Patrick just finished serving for a year as the Program for Instructional Excellence teaching associate for the department. Summer McWilliams is taking on that position for the next year.

These awards tell only part of the story of sociology this year. We have continued to teach approximately 3000 undergraduate students per semester in regular face-to-face, online, and hybrid classes. Based on expressions of interest from undergraduate students, we are moving to revitalize our honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta. We are considering how to infuse additional research experience and more generally how to continue to advance the quality of our undergraduate curriculum. Our graduate program enrolls approximately 50 M.S. and Ph.D. students in four specialty areas of demography, health & aging, social psychology, and stratification/social justice.

Over the past few years our Ph.D. graduates have gone on to work as faculty, researchers, and program administrators in a wide range of colleges, universities, and federal, state and private agencies. This year our intellectual work has received new grant/contract support from the National Science Foundation and the State of Florida, and reports of our research were published in a wide range of refereed professional journals. Faculty members have been interviewed in the national media on important topics of public concern and their research has been reported in the national press.

There have been a few transitions in department personnel during the past year. We welcome Hernan Ramirez, who joined us in August as assistant professor. Hernan received his Ph.D. this summer from the University of Southern California. His dissertation focused on socioeconomic mobility among self-employed Mexican immigrant gardeners and their American-born children. We extend our best wishes to Brian Starks, assistant professor, who has taken a position at Notre Dame. There have also been some changes among staff. Jesse Taintor, long time computer support specialist in sociology and other departments, retired this year. He was replaced by Brad Sorensen, who came to the College from elsewhere at FSU. Tonja Guilford, office manager, moved to the Dean’s office to specialize in human resources. She has been replaced by Kelly Collins, who moved to sociology after sixteen years as an office manager of the psychology department.
Earle Klay, Director

The faculty members of the Askew School continue to be some of the most productive scholars in the nation in the publishing of refereed articles. They also have been very active in applying knowledge to improve the functioning of governments and of nonprofit organizations. For example, Professor Rick Feiock leads an effort (in cooperation with FSU’s Institute for Energy Systems, Economics and Sustainability) to help local governments greatly improve their energy efficiency through Energy Savings Performance Contracting. The project was enabled by funds from the U.S. Department of Energy. Feiock and Professor Kaifeng Yang have also been awarded a three year grant of $317,000 from the National Science Foundation to learn more about how receiving grants influences local governments’ policy priorities. This is likely to yield knowledge that can help to improve future grant programs.

Professor Frances Berry has been serving as the president of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, the nationwide accrediting organization for university programs in public administration. Professors David Matkin and Robert Eger, in association with the Leroy Collins Institute, did research on public pension plans in Florida that was presented by Matkin to the Florida Cabinet and Legislature. Courtesy Professor Neil Crispo, who coordinates the school’s internship program, served as a member of the Good Government Transition Team for the gubernatorial transition.

Under the directorship of Robert Lee, Senior Executive in Residence, the Center for Florida Local Government Excellence (CFLGE) has continued to receive strong support from its sponsors and has delivered numerous training and consulting services to local governments in Florida. This year, the CFLGE launched its “Building Better Communities in Florida Initiative.” The center is seeking endowment support to enable it to assist local leaders to transform their communities into better places to live and raise children. The school’s Florida Center for Public Management (FCPM) has continued to receive strong support from Florida’s local governments and state agencies, in spite of their budget woes. The FCPM’s Certified Public Manager training program continues to be one of the largest in the nation.
Urban and Regional Planning

Tim Chapin, Chair

The department of urban & regional planning (DURP) has had one of its most successful years ever, retaining its high national ranking, seeing several students win competitive awards, and generating scholarship that will help to improve the quality of life in Florida and elsewhere for decades to come.

In May 2011, Planetizen, an eleven year old online network for planning, design, and development, released its much anticipated rankings for urban planning programs. DURP ranked 22nd out of the over 100 programs for which rankings were generated. In addition, the department’s academic reputation remained very strong despite the loss of several senior faculty in the past several years and ongoing fiscal challenges to the university. Scholars responding to Planetizen’s reputation survey ranked DURP as the 14th best program in the nation, ahead of the University of Florida, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Michigan, as well as private schools like Harvard.

Several master’s students won competitive awards during the academic year, including:

- Current students Alexander Garcia and Marie Scheetz were both awarded prestigious Dwight David Eisenhower Graduate Transportation Fellowships from the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Alexander and Marie are studying the relationship between transit and non-motorized transportation and the built environment.

- Claire Forbes (MSP 2011) was selected to receive the Helene M. Overly Scholarship. This was established in 1981 by the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) to encourage women to pursue career paths in transportation.

- Current student Elizabeth Hernandez was chosen to participate in the highly competitive Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Hernandez worked this past summer in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention as an Environmental Protection Specialist in Washington, D.C.

In the area of scholarship, the DURP faculty continues to generate research that is of great value to policymakers and planners in communities throughout Florida and elsewhere. The year 2011 will see three new books published by the unit’s faculty. Professors Tim Chapin and Chris Courts had their book, titled “Growth Management and Public Land Acquisition: Balancing Conservation and Development”, published in April 2011 by Ashgate Press. Professor Rebecca Miles’ book, “School Siting and Healthy Communities: Why Where We Invest in School Facilities Matters”, is set to be published by Michigan State University Press later this year. Professor Petra Doan’s book, “Queerying Planning” (Ashgate Press), will be available for bookshelves sometime this fall. These books illustrate the breadth of the unit’s research into issues of land development and land conservation, community building through infrastructure investments, and planning for all members of the community.

The department also continues to attract outside funding to support the work of the faculty and our students. Professor Jeff Brown and Ph.D. students Torska Bhattacharya, Tuna Batuhan, and Michal Jaroszynski received an $80,000 grant from the Mineta Transportation Institute to study the effects of the restructuring of Tallahassee’s transit network. Plans for this restructuring emanate in part from a DURP Planning Studio led by Professor Greg Thompson several years ago, and this restructuring is being implemented by several DURP alumni now working with StarMetro. Tim Chapin led a team of faculty and students that obtained a $479,000 grant from the Florida Division of Emergency Management to complete a “State of Florida Local Mitigation Strategy Plan Revision and Update.”

DURP also welcomed two new faculty members to its ranks, professors Andrew Aurand and Will Butler. Professor Aurand earned a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Pittsburgh, and undertakes research in the areas of affordable housing, housing policy, and community development. His primary teaching will be in the areas of housing and community development, including neighborhood planning, methods of community development, housing policy, and research methods. Professor Butler joins DURP after earning his Ph.D. in Environmental Design and Planning from Virginia Tech. His research is in the areas of environmental planning, collaborative planning, and planning theory, teaching courses on environmental planning, collaborative governance, and food systems planning.

Despite the many challenges facing planners in Florida and the state’s ongoing economic woes, the department experienced one of its most productive and successful years in its 46-year history. The faculty, staff, and students continue to appreciate the great support we have received from our alumni, the friends of the program, and the many agencies, firms, and nonprofits that hire our students, visit our classrooms, and engage the department in professional work.

Will Butler and Andrew Aurand
International Affairs

Lee Kendall Metcalf, Director

This has been a year of profound changes for our program. Patty Lollis retired in October 2010 after many years of service. She had ably advised countless students over the years and trained several new directors, including me. Her calm demeanor and comprehensive knowledge of the university and its often byzantine procedures will be sorely missed. We are pleased to welcome Kaley Boggo as her replacement. Kaley has both her B.A. and M.A. from the International Affairs Program so she is very familiar with the program requirements, and she is quickly learning to navigate the university bureaucracy. Jason Jordan, the director of undergraduate studies, is leaving to take a job at Drew University and Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm has joined us as the director of professional development. This latter change will make it possible for us to serve our students more effectively as they try to navigate a difficult job market.

Beginning in fall 2011 we will be assuming responsibility for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program in addition to the other two area studies programs. Given the increasing significance of countries such as Brazil in the international economy, this will help further our mission of preparing students to compete in a globalized world.

We have also been very proud of the accomplishments of our students. The internship placements they receive, the study abroad programs they participate in, the service they provide to the university and the community, and the awards they receive in recognition of all of the above amaze me. I invite you to look at the profiles of some of our students at the university’s Office of National Fellowships Hall of Fame (http://onf.fsu.edu/fame.html).

Our alumni continue to support the program in a variety of ways as well. Navarro Moore who is a political officer with the State Department returned to talk to students about career options, Christopher Mullins-Silverstein is currently serving as a supervisor for one of our interns at the Scottish Nationalist Party in London, and many others provide financial support for the program and for student scholarships.

DeVoe L. Moore Center

Keith Ihlanfeldt, Director

During the 2010—2011 academic year, the DeVoe Moore Center (DMC) made great strides in continuing to advance its teaching and research missions. These missions are to 1) educate Florida State University students about the effects, both positive and negative, that government regulations have on a market economy and on individual participants within the economy, and 2) conduct research on the effects of regulation and disseminate our findings in journal articles, books and policy briefs.

Regarding our teaching mission, William Doerner, a graduate student in economics being supervised by DMC Director Keith Ihlanfeldt, taught our two-course sequence, “Land Use, Housing, and Government Regulation.” He won one of the University’s six Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards. Will also won a prestigious Lincoln Land Institute Dissertation Fellowship. His research will focus on the efficiency and equity of property taxation.

The center also supports the Economics Club, which provides all students, regardless of their major, the opportunity to learn more about our free enterprise system outside of the classroom. Activities of the club include panel discussions, movie nights that feature films that contain economic principles and concepts, and guest speakers.

Samuel Staley joins the center as a teaching specialist to teach courses on the impacts of regulation and to serve as the associate director of the center. In the latter capacity, he will focus on community outreach and grants to support student research. Staley is comes to us from the University of Dayton.

Fundamental to our research mission are the center’s Critical Issues Symposia that have both instructional and research components. This past year there were two symposia: “Public Choice in a Local Government Setting” and “Government Intervention into Real Estate Markets.”

The first symposium was organized by DMC faculty member Randall Holcombe, who succeeded in bringing to the conference some of the top scholars from both the United States and abroad who are known for their work in public choice economics. The papers presented at the conference are to be published in a special issue of Public Choice, which is the premier journal in the area. The second symposium was jointly sponsored with the Business School’s Center for Real Estate Education and Research.

In February 2012 the center will host the Critical Issues Symposium, “The Local Benefits of Sustainability: Rhetoric or Reality?” This symposium is being organized by DMC faculty member Rick Feiock of the Askew School and Chris Coutts of the department of urban and regional planning. Papers presented at the conference are to be published as a special issue of Cityscape, which is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s professional journal. The journal has a huge readership base, which will further enhance the center’s international reputation. In April 2012 the DMC will co-sponsor a Critical Issues Symposium with the Bergstrom Center at the University of Florida. This is an exchange program where UF will host the conference in 2012 and we will host the conference in 2013.
Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy

John Reynolds, Director

Associates in the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy made significant contributions to academic research and policy discussions on aging and health during the 2010-11 academic year. Their recent publications appeared in outlets such as American Political Science Review, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Journal of Gerontology, and Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law. Their research is supported with funding from external grants at the federal level ($4.8 million in active grants from NIH, NIMH, and NSF), the state level ($725,000 from the Florida Department of Transportation), and private foundations. Pepper Institute faculty associates contributed to national dialogues on aging policy through their memberships in the National Academy of Social Insurance and the Institute of Medicine.

The Pepper Institute hosted, and co-sponsored with the department of sociology, several talks related to aging and health policy. The speakers were David Bradford (University of Georgia) on “Time and Risk Preferences in the Choice of Health Insurance Coverage,” Kyriakos Markides (University of Texas, Galveston) on “Hispanic Paradox in Adult Mortality, Aging, and Health,” and Kenneth Ferraro (Purdue) on “Enduring Effects of Early Mortality, Aging, and Health.”

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at FSU, sponsored by the Pepper Institute, celebrated 20 years of providing lifelong learning to Tallahassee and surrounding communities. In 2010-11, its membership reached the 500 member mark and thus became eligible for a $1 million endowment from the Bernard Osher Foundation. OLLI also entered into partnerships with Tallahassee’s Westminster Oaks Retirement Community and North Florida Community College to extend its membership catchment area. OLLI offered classes taught by FSU, FAMU, and TCC faculty and FSU graduate students on “Song Through the Ages,” “Climate Change,” and “Evolution: The Greatest Show on Earth.” OLLI members also took educational field trips, including a special viewing of the Baroque exhibit at the Brogan Museum, FSU Opera and School of Theater productions, and trips to Gainesville and Savannah.

Public Health

William Weisert, Director

Florida State’s Master’s in Public Health (MPH) Program continued its steady growth this year, maintaining its upward trend of around 14 percent annual growth every year since its inception in 2003. The program began as the Master’s in Health Policy Research (MHPR) but converted to the MPH in 2004 when that degree was approved by the State Board of Education. The MHPR was officially discontinued this year.

Enrollment will likely exceed 60 students for the 2011-2012 year. Most students spend two years taking courses and meeting other requirements, though a few full-time workers attend school part-time and earn their degree over several years. Every graduate to date has found employment or gone on to medical school or another graduate degree.

Program faculty underwent some important changes during the past year, adding three bright, young and impressive scholars jointly appointed in the MPH program and tenure-track positions in the department of sociology or economics. The new hires are Amy Burdette and Terrence Hill, both social epidemiologists, meaning they study the relationship between health status and its determinants in the society from income and education to culture and lifestyle. They teach medical sociology, applied public health data analysis, neighborhood and health status, and social epidemiology.

Health economist Katie Showman, who had been teaching in an adjunct position, joined the economics department and the MPH program as a full-time faculty member teaching health economics and health policy statistics.

Health geographer Lisa Jordan left the program to move with her husband Jason Jordan to another university. (Jason was also a former MPH faculty member who helped build the program through its early years before moving on to another COSS program). The geography department and the MPH program are mounting a joint search for Lisa’s replacement. Both Lisa and Jason were gifted teachers and will be very much missed.

The MPH program also moved past an important milestone toward national program accreditation: Its application for accreditation by the Center for Education in Public Health (CEPH) was approved at the center’s June 2011 board meeting. Approval followed the board’s review of a detailed and rigorous program description, the first step in a more than two-year process involving a year-long program self-study, a consultation visit, a site visit by outside critical reviewers, and CEPH board review of the program’s documentation and reviewers’ reports. A decision on accreditation at the end of that process is expected in 2014.
LeRoy Collins Institute

Carol S. Weissert, PhD, Director

The LeRoy Collins Institute continues its research and outreach in the area of state-local relationships in Florida funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Although much of the research has been on the sustainability of local pensions in Florida (conducted by Professor David Matkin from the Askew School of Public Administration and Public Policy), the institute has also compiled an extraordinary data set on county and municipal revenues and spending from 1974 to the present. Robert Eger from the Askew School of Public Administration and Public Policy headed this data-collection effort. He oversaw a process that included inputting years of data by hand, cleaning the data by examining any anomalies or missing data and finding out the correct information, and providing a uniform accounting format so data can be compared over time.

The institute issued two reports in early 2011. One focused on local governments’ pension and other retirement obligations and included recommendations to state and local policymakers to help make these programs more financially sustainable. Matkin was the author of this report. The second focused on the possible impact of a binding revenue limit on local governmental revenues. Eger authored this report. The Legislature did not impose this limit on localities but did put a proposal limiting state revenues on the 2012 ballot. The Collins report found that an especially important (and binding) component of such a limitation is the choice of “base year.” In the case of the localities—and the state—the base year selected by the Legislature is one where governmental revenues were low relative to past years. The choice of this base year will likely serve as a real limitation for governmental revenues in better economic times. Both reports may be found on the Collins Institute web page: http://collinsinstitute.fsu.edu.

Matkin, Eger and Political Science Professor Carol Weissert, director of the LeRoy Collins Institute have presented papers based on this research at meetings including the Midwest Political Science Association, the Public Management Research Conference, and the Global Conference on Transparency Research. They have also presented the findings at a number of Florida venues including the Florida League of Women Voters annual meeting, the Florida American Society for Public Administration conference, and meetings of the Broward Workshop and Argus Foundation. Matkin also testified before the State Cabinet and the Florida House Government Operations Subcommittee on the local retirement study.
Karin Brewster, Director

In August 2007, the first cohort of students entered a streamlined version of our long-standing program leading to the Master of Science degree in Demography. Although our students now move through the program in just 12 months, they receive the same high-quality demographic training as evidenced by their success in this very tough job market. Seven of the nine summer 2010 graduates are employed as professional demographers—at the U.S. Census Bureau, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Population Reference Bureau, and at Geoscape in Miami, a private-sector firm that provides demographic projections for firms like Pepsi and Astra Zenica—and one cohort member turned down an offer from Census to pursue a doctoral degree. In August of this year, we welcome the fifth cohort, whose members hail from Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Nigeria.

Our students’ successes are, of course, a reflection of our faculty, all of whom maintain active research programs in addition to their teaching and mentoring duties. In 2010 and 2011, CDPH faculty reported their research in many well-respected demographic, health, and public policy and planning outlets, including Demography, Population Research and Policy Review, Perspectives in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Journal of Environmental Health, Journal of the American Planning Association, and the Journal of Gerontology. The research programs of two CDPH faculty members will be particularly productive during the 2011-2012 academic year. Kathryn Tillman (sociology) received a Florida State University Developing Scholar award—the first COSSPP faculty member to receive this prestigious award. Financial support from this award will allow Tillman to spend the spring 2012 semester furthering her work on immigrant youths’ families. Carl Schmertmann (economics) will be in Rostock, Germany, at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, working on his project, “Bayesian Forecasting of European Fertility Rates.”

CDPH welcomed two new faculty research associates this year: Amy Burdette and Miles Taylor, both assistant professors of sociology. Burdette (UT-Austin, 2007) joins us following a post-doctoral fellowship at the Carolina Population Center and a faculty position at Mississippi State University. Her areas of expertise are social epidemiology and the effects of religious participation on health. Taylor (Duke, 2007), who also completed her post-doctoral work at the Carolina Population Center, specializes in the sociology and demography of aging.

CDPH celebrated two events of note in March. Scott Lynch, professor of sociology at Princeton University and faculty associate at Princeton’s Office of Population Research, gave the seventh Nam lecture, “Selective Mortality in Life Course Research: Consequences and Solutions.” The lecture is supported by Charles B. Nam Professor, Woody Carlson. Christina Hayford received the William J. Serow Scholarship for outstanding potential in Applied Demography. Christina is an intern in the Health Statistics and Assessments Division of the Florida Department of Health, where she is assisting with a statewide health assessment and the state’s Population Atlas, under the supervision of Elizabeth (Betty) Serow.
The Stavros Center
James D. Gwartney, Director

There are two major programs located within the Stavros Center for Economic Education and Free Enterprise. The Excellence in Economic Education program (EEE) focuses on the promotion and development of excellence in the teaching of economics. The six faculty members in this program are specialists who are passionate about teaching and the development of creative materials and activities that will help bring economics alive to students. The center’s other major program is the Study of Political Economy and Free Enterprise (SPEFE), which focuses on research designed to enhance the understanding of the institutions and policies supportive of free enterprise. Two new assistant professors, Danila Serra and Shi Qi, joined the SPEFE program this year.

The center seeks to promote excellence in the teaching of economics at all educational levels. In this regard, the center conducts an annual workshop on “Creative Ideas for the Teaching of Basic Economics.” This event, co-sponsored with the Stavros Center of the University of South Florida, was held on February 3-4 in Tampa. More than 60 college and high school teachers of economics participated and presentations were made by several of the nation’s leading economic educators, including Bill Wood, a winner of the Southern Economic Association’s Kenneth G. Elzinga Distinguished Teaching Award; Niels Veldhuis from the Fraser Institute; and Bill Walstad, editor of the Journal of Economic Education.

The center works closely with the College of Education to enhance the training of those planning future careers in teaching. Two special economics courses designed especially for social science education majors are taught on a regular basis by center faculty. In addition to the course content, these courses provide special training that will help these future teachers communicate economic concepts in an interesting and exciting manner. The center is currently working with the College of Education to expand the opportunities available for graduate education majors with a specialty in economics. Center faculty are also involved in the development of materials for online teaching of economics. In the future, graduate students will receive special training in this expanding method of educational delivery.

Shi Qi and Danila Serra
“SU loses $19.3 million in state budget” was a headline in the Tallahassee Democrat when the 2011 Florida legislature adjourned. After five years of declining state budgets the university lost almost $105 million in state support. This inevitably reduced the number of faculty which, with no decline in the number of students, caused the student faculty ratio to rise.

Alumni may legitimately ask what role their contributions to the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy play in this era of declining state support. The College receives a budget from the university which is primarily based on a state allocation and tuition receipts. The good news is that Florida’s tuition is much lower than the national average and that we have ample room to increase it without significantly affecting student access to our educational opportunities. Faculty also contribute by receiving state and federal research grants.

The fundamental resources that are required for our students to get a Florida State degree—classes and advising—are provided by state support and tuition that is paid by students.

In today’s competitive global economy, it takes more than “a degree” to compete at a high level. When evaluating college graduates, employers demand success in the classroom—but the margin that separates the most successful job applicants is activity beyond the traditional classroom. Students are more competitive when they study abroad, demonstrate leadership skills in organizations, have internships, engage in directed research projects with faculty, participate in service projects, and appreciate the importance of ethics in personal and professional relationships.

Your contributions to the College’s general development fund help provide all of these opportunities that can greatly enhance our students’ professional opportunities after graduation.
A New Initiative: Social Science Scholars Program

During fall 2011 the College will launch its new Social Science Scholars Program, which will provide 15 outstanding undergraduate students beginning their junior year with transformational experiences outside the traditional curriculum. This will be the highest honor that the College bestows on a student. Social Science Scholars will enroll in a 3-credit hour leadership seminar during the spring semester of their junior year and in a one credit hour leadership seminar in each semester of their senior year. Each scholar will receive up to $5,000 in scholarships for approved extra-curricular educational activities that will include off-campus internships, travel to professional conferences, international study, and service learning projects.

We intend to have the Social Science Scholars funded entirely by private support provided by alumni and friends of the College. Donors who contribute $6,000 a year are recognized as a sponsor of a named Social Science Scholar. Benefactors of the program will endow named scholarships with a gift of $150,000.

Gifts of any amount will be greatly appreciated and can be designated for the Social Science Scholars Program fund within the college. Please contact Jesse Colvin at (850)-644-1920 or by email jcolvin@foundation.fsu.edu if you would like more information about the Social Science Scholars Program.
In 1977 The Florida State University Foundation established The Presidents Club to recognize an exceptional group of donors who earned a place of distinction and honor through their outstanding response to the University’s need for private support. The College of Social Sciences & Public Policy gratefully honors the following donors whose generosity ensures the continued growth and excellence of the College’s academic programs. Please note that this listing of Presidents Club members is based solely upon cumulative lifetime giving to the College of Social Sciences & Public Policy and does not reflect gifts to other academic units of the University.

### Presidents Club

**2010-2011 College Members of The Presidents Club**

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- Anonymous #165
- Anonymous #166
- BB&T Charitable Foundation
- Rod and Hope Brim (both deceased)
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Friday, November 18

Join us for a reception honoring the 2011 Distinguished Alumna Award Recipient Col. Lettie Bien
3:30 – 5:00PM
DeVoe L. Moore Conference Room, 150 Bellamy.
Colonel Bien is a graduate of Political Science and her career has been characterized by service to our country, continuous professional development, and engagement in her community. Check the COSS website at www.coss.fsu.edu for her extended biography.

Game Day

All College Alumni Tailgate
Saturday, November 19
Start Time: 4 hours prior to kickoff ending 1 hour prior to kickoff to allow for return to the stadium
Location: President Eric and Molly Barron will be the tailgate hosts for this event. The tents will be located in the backyard of the President’s Home next to the Alumni Association buildings. Buses will run between the stadium and the alumni association.
There will be food, entertainment, and a cash bar.

$15 donation, which will be applied to the Alumni Scholarship fund, includes the buffet and one drink ticket.
Children 5 and under free.
Go to www.alumni.fsu.edu to prepay and make your reservation.