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Annual Report

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Our Mission
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is dedicated to providing students with 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 business, government, and nonprofit organizations. We prepare our students for meaningful careers, advanced professional training, and an active role in public life.

Strategic goals
We intend to:
• Transform the educational experience for our most outstanding students to help prepare tomorrow’s leaders in business, politics, government and the nonprofit sector for a global society
• Build world class research and teaching programs that focus on issues related to equality of opportunity, economic development, aging, health, and environmental quality that are critical to the state of Florida and the nation
• Develop an international research and teaching program on the impact of cultural, social and political institutions on equality of opportunity, economic growth, terrorism, and international relations
• Engage in research to generate practical solutions to economic, political and social problems
• Achieve and retain top 20 status among U.S. public universities in all program areas and departments

On the cover
Social Science Scholars
See story on page 6

Student Spotlight
Our students continue to garner national honors as they received Fulbright, Pickering, and Eisenhower Fellowships among other awards.

Social Science Alums Honored
Eleven of the 30 alumni under 30 who were honored by the Alumni Association received a degree from the College.

A Story of Perseverance, Determination, and Hard Work
Shane Lusk overcomes a catastrophic injury, to earn a B.S. in Biological Science and a Master’s in Public Health.

Social Science Scholars are Off to a Great Start
Eighteen students in the Social Science Scholar Program take advantage of this new opportunity to enhance their undergraduate experience.

Sociology Professor Works to Make FSU Veteran Friendly
Veterans enroll in a seminar that studies the transition from military service to campus life.

Students on the Move
Alumni play a major role in facilitating international education through their contributions to scholarship funds.

To the Donors of the Dean’s Travel Scholarship
In an open letter a scholarship recipient writes, “I truly hope that one day I will be able to pass this sort of opportunity on to another girl with a long shot distant dream.”

Lecture Series
Distinguished Alumnus: Steven Lawry
A World Class Faculty
Department News
Development
Our cover story features the inaugural cohort of the Social Science Scholars Program. Being selected for this program is the highest honor that the College bestows on a student. The article details the special opportunities that these extraordinary students experience as part of this program. These Social Science Scholars are within the College’s tradition of highly successful graduates. Our students account for 12 percent of the student body but receive about 30 percent of all the major national scholarships and awards that are garnered by FSU students. And when the Alumni Association honored 30 alumni under 30 years old, Social Science alumni accounted for 11 of the “30 under 30” (36 percent).

As Dean I am privileged to meet students whose accomplishments can make everyone associated with the College proud. Shane Lusk, a recent graduate of our Master’s in Public Health program, is such a student. His journey from being a professional motorcycle racer to a pursuing career in medicine is a story of perseverance, determination, and hard work.

Last fall we started an initiative that we call “Get More Than a Degree.” In our increasingly competitive and global economy, most students in the College will find their career opportunities are enhanced if they take advantage of learning opportunities that are outside the regular curriculum. We are committed to encouraging students to study abroad, get internships, and engage in research projects with faculty. Thanks to alumni support, numerous students were able to study abroad and engage in professional development activities. One recipient of your financial assistance wrote in a letter to donors, “You have my warmest considerations and appreciation, and I truly hope that one day I will be able to pass this sort of opportunity on to another girl with a long-shot, distant dream.”

Homecoming is October 27, 2012, and I invite you to join us for the reception honoring our distinguished alumnus, Steve Lawry. This event will be in the DeVoe Moore Center, 150 Bellamy, on Friday, October 26 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

I hope that you will stop by to say hello whenever you come to campus.

With best wishes

David W. Rasmussen
Dean of the College of Social Sciences & Public Policy
Amanda Fidalgo, a senior political science major, was awarded a National Science Foundation Research Fellowship that provides $40,000 annually to pursue graduate study in political science. She participated in the Research Intensive Bachelor’s Certificate Program in Political Science where she studied how federalism influences the protection of human rights.

Senior Cameron Cankaya (International Affairs and Political Science) received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in South Korea. Cameron was an honors student in the Research Intensive Bachelors Certificate program whose research focused on the effectiveness of economic sanctions in shaping state behavior.

Also receiving a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in South Korea was Ariel Giumarelli (Economics).

Jared Lyon (interdisciplinary social science, 2011), U.S. Navy veteran, was named the National Student Veteran of the Year by the Student Veterans of America. President Barron said that “Jared has motivated our university and now others across the country to give veterans the support they need to transition from soldier to student.”

Bessie Reina (Urban and Regional Planning) received a Fulbright Fellowship to work on transportation issues facing Sophia, Bulgaria.

Sandy Noel and Armando Mendez (International Affairs) received Fulbright Fellowships to teach English in India and Spain respectively.

Alex Garcia (Urban and Regional Planning) was selected to participate in the Eno Transportation Foundation Leadership Development Conference that was held in Washington, D.C. in June 2012. Each year the Eno Foundation invites 20 of the nation’s top graduate students to get a firsthand look at how national transportation policies are developed.

Students in the Research Intensive Bachelor’s Certificate Program offered in the political science department presented their work at professional meetings. Amanda Dugan, Amanda Fidalgo, and Norberto Morales gave papers at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in Chicago, while Kristen Reve O’Keefe and David Hammet presented their papers at the Southern Political Science Association meetings in New Orleans.

Juliana Crump (Political Science and Sociology) received Phi Eta Sigma’s top honor, the 2012 Thomas Arkle Clark National Scholar Leader of the Year Award. The $10,000 scholarship for graduate study is given to one student per year; Juliana plans to study public administration at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

John Mazzoni, a junior in economics and a member of the Social Science Scholars Program, received a $6,000 scholarship from the national Phi Eta Sigma honor society.

Andrew Stephens (International Affairs and Psychology) received a Pickering Graduate Fellowship, and plans to pursue a master’s degree from the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Amanda Dugan, Amanda Fidalgo, and Norberto Morales also received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in South Korea.

Cammie Gimbrel, a senior in economics, and Andrea Arce-Trigatti (International Affairs) and Sungkyu Jang (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy).

The Student Leadership Council sponsored an introduction to the College for new majors in September 2011 with a theme of “Get More Than a Degree.” Attendees learned about extra-curricular organizations, international travel, internship opportunities and the College’s applied master’s degree programs. The SLC also sponsored presentations on Chinese business culture and a discussion with Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams when she was visiting FSU as part of the Peace Jam program.

Haley Gentile, senior in sociology, won FSU’s Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award to support her research.

Four COSS students have been selected by Governor Rick Scott as 2012-2013 Gubernatorial fellows, the State of Florida’s most prestigious program for leadership in Public Service. They are Keturah Brown, a graduate student in Public Administration; Jacob Horner, a graduate student in Public Administration; Margaret Sanders, a graduate student in Public Administration; and Adam Kramarow, a graduate of International Affairs and Political Science FSU, and a third year law student at FSU.

Members of the FSU student chapter of the National Association for Business Economists attended the national NABE meeting in Dallas that was held September 10-13, 2011. A member of the NABE Board officially recognized the FSU attendees, saying that “[t]he FSU chapter sets the bar for how student chapters of NABE can serve young economists… It has been the gold standard for how student chapters of NABE can serve young economists… It has been the gold standard for how student chapters of NABE can serve young economists…” A gift from John Holcomb (B.S. ’77) made this trip possible for seven students.

The annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence featured the interdisciplinary research of Andrea Arce-Trigatti (International Affairs) and Sungkyu Jang (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy).

The annual Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence featured the interdisciplinary research of Andrea Arce-Trigatti (International Affairs) and Sungkyu Jang (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy).
Students in the College are disproportionately represented among the Seminoles who receive major national scholarships and awards. Our students account for 30 percent of these national awards but account for only 12 percent of the student body.

The Alumni Association Young Alumni Awards program honored “30 under 30” who were selected by fellow FSU graduates for their contributions to their professions, communities, or FSU. Eleven alumni from the College were so honored: Junior Bernadin (International Affairs, ’08), Dustin Daniels (International Affairs and Economics ’08), Nelson Hernandez (Political Science and Economics ’08), Jared Lyon (Interdisciplinary Social Science ’11), Navarro Moore (International Affairs ’11), Stephanie Nisivoccia (International Affairs ’04; MS ’06), and Ryan Powers (Interdisciplinary Social Science, ’09). Six graduates received special recognition by being chosen to receive the Reubin O’D. Askew Young Alumni Award. Four of these six who received the Askew Award had undergraduate degrees from the College: Audrey Chisholm (International Affairs ’04), Matthew Gaetz (Interdisciplinary Social Science ’03), Jessica Hansen (Political Science ’04), and Garrett Johnson (Political Science ’05).

During their FSU careers, our students win a disproportionate number of national accolades garnered by the university. The Young Alumni Awards show that our graduates continue to excel after graduation.
A Story of Perseverance, Determination, and Hard Work

By Shane Lusk

Editor’s note: This article is drawn from Shane Lusk’s personal statement written to support his application for admission to a Physician Assistant Program.

In May of 2004, I stood on the Bainbridge High School football field delivering our senior speech in front of the friends and families of roughly 400 seniors. Valedictorians and Salutatorians were allowed to give personal speeches, and since I was ranked third in the class, I had to give a “motivational” senior speech. The message of my speech was “to live every day to the fullest because we are not promised tomorrow,” a message that echoes through my life every day.

To deliver the motivational speech was especially fitting for me because I was moving on to the professional ranks of racing motorcycles that summer; and with over 20 broken bones, seven surgeries, and two concussions due to racing accidents, I knew better than anyone to not take one second of life for granted. Ironically, on September 11, 2004, just months into my professional career as a racer, I crashed during a competition that projected me forward, over the handle bars of the motorcycle, and onto my head, immediately resulting in full paralysis. Within five seconds, I went from competing in one of the most physically demanding sports to lying on a hospital bed in Atlanta, Ga. with an incomplete cervical 5, 6, and 7 level spinal cord injury. I had no feeling or movement from my neck down. While the spinal cord was not severed, the amount of swelling of the spinal cord and the three surgeries to correct the curvature of my neck left doctors far from optimistic. When I was released in 2005 my prognosis was grim: I would never walk again and would need personal home care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I regained some motor control and spent the next several years learning how to walk again, negotiating life as a quadriplegic, competing in wheelchair races, hosting motorcycle safety clinics at the family property in southwest Georgia, cycling for Miles for Miracles Today to raise money for spinal cord research, and fulfilling my passion to learn how life works through the study of Biological Science at Florida State. I also spent time making a difference at Florida State University as President of the Undergraduate division of the American Medical Student Association and Vice-President of the Association for Creating Community Equality for Seminole Students.

On April 30, 2010, five and a half years after my accident I graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in Biological Science. I walked across the stage in the Leon County Civic Center using only one forearm crutch. I enrolled in the Master’s in Public Health program where I gained a solid understanding about our healthcare system and the health problems facing the public. The four semesters I spent in the Public Health program helped me discover the next step I would take in my path to helping others. I also expanded my leadership skills by serving as the Public Health Student Association’s Vice President. Under the tutelage, immense knowledge, and experience shared between Dr. William Weissert and Dr. Alan Rowan at FSU, paired with the friendship and guidance of one of healthcare’s leaders in Tallahassee, Martin Shipman, I was able to take the next step.

In June 2012 I entered the Physician Assistant Program at Nova University.
The College is providing exceptional opportunities to its very best students. "Selection as a Social Science Scholar is the highest honor our college can bestow on an undergraduate," Dean Rasmussen explained when he announced the names of the first cohort of 18 award winners on December 8, 2011. The Dean also thanked the alumni and friends of the College whose generous contributions of time, talent and money helped launch the new program.

The Social Science Scholars Program has two purposes: (1) to recognize annually a small number of truly outstanding social science majors; and (2) to provide them with special opportunities - academic, extracurricular and public service - through the remainder of their FSU careers. Each award winner also is entitled to draw upon an account of $5,000 to conduct leadership-related activities (e.g., research, international study and service projects) of his or her choosing.

In addition to adding value and enriching the experience of these exceptional students, the new award program extends the College's long history of graduating student leaders who, like former Governor Reubin Askew (Public Administration, 1951), have gone on to distinguished careers in all sectors of American society.

I was amazed by the dedication that went into the conception of the program as well as the involvement of my fellow scholars.

(Hillary Gale, Sociology)
The first cohort of Social Science Scholars was chosen through a highly competitive process. Applications were accepted in fall 2011 from juniors majoring in all six of the College’s departments and interdisciplinary programs that offer undergraduate degrees. Selection criteria included high academic achievement and leadership as well as involvement in campus and community organizations.

To apply for the program, students were required to complete an online application, submit copies of their transcripts, and provide the names of persons willing to provide recommendations on their behalf. Following the initial review of applications, 25 finalists were invited for interviews. The latter were conducted by panels composed of three faculty members and two college alumni.

Given the number of highly qualified applicants, selection of the first cohort of Social Science Scholars was a challenging task. It could not have been accomplished without the help of five dedicated College alumni - Christie Adams (B.A. ’96 & Law ’01); Lettie Bien (B.A. ’76); Eric Friall (B.A. ’90); Ed Moore (M.P.A. ’76 & Ph.D. ’07); and Joe O’Shea (B.A. ’08). These alums, along with nine faculty members – Professors Jay Baker, Bob Crew, Petra Doan, John Mayo, Stefan Norrbin, Chris Reenock, Dale Smith, Miles Taylor and Tom Taylor – completed the interviews in one week. Also participating in the selection process was Marjorie Turnbull, Florida State Representative (1994-2000) and a good friend of the College.

A snapshot of the first cohort of 18 Social Science Scholars reveals that:

- They represent all six of the College’s departments
- All have cumulative GPAs of 3.4 or higher
- 13 of the 18 are women
- Nine are either majoring or double majoring in International Affairs
- Other double majors include: Business, Mass Communication, History, Criminology and Chinese
- All but two are Florida residents
- Three were born in Latin America and moved to Florida as children from Colombia, Ecuador and Argentina, respectively
- Two transferred as juniors to FSU in 2011: one from Santa Fe College in Gainesville, the other from Florida State College at Jacksonville

The first cohort of Social Science Scholars participated in a 15-week leadership seminar in spring semester 2012. It was co-taught by Professor John Mayo, the program’s director, and Tom Taylor, associate program director and adjunct professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The leadership seminar was unlike any other class the Social Science Scholars had taken at FSU. The Scholars reviewed and led discussions on 16 leadership theories developed over the past 50 years. The reviews were supplemented by numerous case studies and leader profiles, which focused on the difficult choices and trade-offs that high level decision makers in all professions face on a day-to-day basis. The seminar was enriched further by exercises in communication, team building, consensus seeking and conflict resolution. Such activities encouraged students to define and defend their own values and to shape strategies to advance their educational and career goals.

The main requirement of the seminar was the development of an individual leadership plan. Initially, each student identified a service, research or study challenge that he or she wished to pursue both during and after the seminar. Once they had defined the purpose of their activity, they addressed critical issues and constraints - personal, programmatic, and financial – that would have to be resolved in order to arrive at a workable plan. It is a testament to the students’ ingenuity and hard work that they were able to do so, often with the help of their peers and with the organizations with which they would be working.
I have grown into an individual more secure in her career goals and more confident that I can make a change in this erratic world.

(Maria Prokopetz, International Affairs & Criminology)
resident Eric J. Barron is committed to making FSU the nation's most veteran friendly campus. He explained, "To me, this means that we have a responsibility to help student veterans successfully acclimate to campus, stay enrolled and on track through graduation, and make sure that they get good jobs after they graduate."

The Sociology Department is doing its part to make this a reality. Associate Professor Douglas Schrock led ten student veterans in the unique "learning-by-doing" sociology class in which they interviewed fellow veterans to learn about the transition from military service to campus life. The students collaborated to write interview questions, obtain human subjects approval, and conduct in-depth interviews.

Interviews from this one-of-a-kind veteran only research course revealed veterans' initial feelings of alienation from the larger student body as they transitioned into the university, the effects of military experience on their academic life, and their perceptions of how veteran status influences relations with their professors and other students. Respondents also revealed how veteran-centered orientation, advising, and counseling could increase their graduation rate.

Student veteran and current Reservist Andrew Alvarez, who will be deployed to Afghanistan as a medic after graduating in December, said, "In this class we are working on something that is really meaningful, that can really have an impact." The experience of not only abstractly learning about but engaging in the actual practice of research in the course has led Alvarez to dream of pursuing a graduate degree in sociology when he returns from the war zone.

"I learned from attending conferences of the Collegiate Veterans Association that veterans have a graduation rate that is about 50 percent lower than non-veterans," said former Marine and sociology major Phil Lennon. Lennon, who served as the president of the FSU Collegiate Veterans Association, added "It is my hope the class that will help us find actionable ways to close that gap." Lennon will be attending graduate school at the University of Maryland in the fall of 2012, specializing in Military Sociology.

The students' work did not end after finals week. During the summer, they worked to revise the course paper, titled "From Boots to Books: Understanding Student Veterans' Transitions," in order to submit it to FSU's undergraduate research journal *The Owl*.

Schrock, who won a Transformation Through Teaching Award from FSU's Spiritual Life Project after being nominated by a student veteran, hopes to teach a variation of the veterans' research course during the spring 2013 semester.
“Get More Than a Degree” was the theme of the Welcome to the College buffet dinner and extracurricular activities fair held in September 2011. Experiences outside the classroom, through activities such as internships, foreign study, and service learning, are important ingredients for success after graduation. The College is committed to enhancing our students’ opportunities for extracurricular learning that gives them exposure to activities and institutions beyond the classroom that can help prepare them for life after graduation.

Alumni who contribute to the College general development fund and those endowing international study scholarships play a critical role in helping students get “more than a degree.” We rely on alumni donations because state budget allocations cannot be used to support student travel expenditures or programs such as the Welcome to the College event.

Alumni helped 47 students have an international education experience by providing travel grants. Nineteen students received international study scholarships to engage in study abroad and internships with non-governmental organizations. You could find them in Argentina, Turkey, Croatia, Costa Rica, Russia, Nicaragua, Spain, France, Brazil, Lebanon, and Philippines.

The Social Science Scholars Program (see the story on page 6) supported 16 students who worked and studied in Chile, Ireland, El Salvador, France, China, Nepal, Taiwan, England, Ghana, Haiti, Peru, and Brazil.

Another 12 students participating in the Global Peace Exchange service projects in Uganda, Rwanda and Nepal received scholarships to help cover their travel expenses.
Words cannot express my gratitude for the immense opportunity that this travel scholarship has afforded me to study Intensive French in Paris! I had already received a scholarship which covered the rest of the program. However, travel had not been included, and my participation hinged on receiving financial aid for travel costs. I have to admit, there were tears of happiness upon receiving the e-mail; what a dream come true! When I was eight years old and the daughter of two violinists in a family struggling to make ends meet, I loudly declared that one day I would make it to Paris. (I have been a Francophile from a very young age.) Paris was a distant dream for me as a child in a low-income family and a long shot for me as a college student hoping to devote my life to low-paying aid work; the travel scholarship, however, has made the 12-year-long dream of Paris become a reality.

As an ardent lover of the French language, I greatly look forward to hearing the language in its native context, with all its nuances, modernity, and fluidity— aspects that are difficult to learn in an American classroom context. Beyond linguistic education, Paris offers rich cultural immersion. Witnessing the culture firsthand is of special interest to me as I hope to eventually take my social entrepreneurial endeavors to help the impoverished in African countries that have been greatly impacted by the French culture through colonialism. I enthusiastically grasp at any opportunity for new experiences, and I cannot imagine a better melange of new experiences than studying in Paris!

I would like to offer my sincerest thanks for this gift. I am overwhelmed by what a privilege it is. As a line from one of the great Audrey Hepburn movies says, “It’s not every girl that’s lucky enough to go to Paris.” You have my warmest considerations and appreciation, and I truly hope that one day I will be able to pass this sort of opportunity on to another girl with a long-shot, distant dream.

Sincerely,
Katherine Prosser


Shepard and Ruth K. Broad International Lecture Series


Steven Lawry accepted a Peace Corps assignment to Botswana after receiving his B.S. (Political Science ’73) and master’s degree (Urban and Regional Planning ’75). He could not know how that decision would ultimately transform him into a citizen of the world.

Steve earned a Ph.D. (’88) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. Steve is a specialist in land tenure and property rights issues. He is particularly concerned with how property rights arrangements affect income distribution, economic growth, and patterns of investment in agriculture and good land stewardship. During his career Steve alternated between academic and research appointments and leadership positions in government, nonprofit and private sector development organizations. He has lived and worked overseas for 16 years on long-term postings and performed many short-term consulting assignments in developing countries.

In 1988 he became associate director for Africa programs at the University of Wisconsin’s Land Tenure Center. From 1992 until 2005 he held three senior positions at the Ford Foundation, including head of Ford’s office in Namibia, from where he directed grant support for South Africa’s post-apartheid land reform initiatives. He subsequently headed the Foundation’s Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo, and directed Ford’s Office of Management Services at its New York headquarters.

Steve served as President of Antioch College (2006-07) and joined the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University as Senior Research Fellow in 2008. In 2010 he headed the USAID-funded Sudan Property Rights Program. Based in Juba, this project helped the new nation of South Sudan develop a national land policy. He currently manages the Land Tenure and Property Rights program at Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), a consulting group based in Bethesda, MD, and continues to maintain a part-time appointment at the Kennedy School, where he helps manage a research program on civil society in the Middle East.

The College’s mission statement says that, “We prepare our students for meaningful careers, advanced professional training, and an active role in public life.” Steve’s career clearly reflects these values. We welcome him to the College’s honor roll of distinguished alumni.
Five faculty members were promoted last year. Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure were Dmitry Ryvkin and Anastasia Semykina (Economics) and David Siegel (Political Science). Petra Doan (Urban and Regional Planning) and Kaifeng Yang (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy) were promoted to Full Professor.

Xiaojun Yang was elected to the Board of the Cartography and Geographic Information Society for a term spanning 2012-2016.


Undergraduate Teaching Awards recognize faculty for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Honorees for 2011-12 from the College were Jason Barabas (Political Science), Joab Corey (Economics) and Lisa Weinberg (Sociology).

Professor Philip Steinberg (Geography) has been awarded the prestigious Marie Curie Fellowship to work on issues concerning Arctic governance at the University of London. He will be continuing work he began with a U.S National Science Foundation grant and will be working with a research team in London until December 2013. The Marie Curie Fellowship program brings non-European scholars to European universities for up to two years to work full time on research projects.

The student organization Burning Spear presented its 2012 Guardian of the Flame Award to Economics professor and department chair Mark Isaac, holder of the John and Hallie Quinn Eminent Scholar Chair. Burning Spear presents this award to one faculty member in each college who has shown outstanding commitment to advancing FSU as a leading institution of higher education.

The prestigious National Science Foundation last year awarded research grants to nine faculty members: David Cooper (Rod and Hope Brim Eminent Scholar Chair in Economics), John Hamman and Patrick Mason (Economics), Richard Feiock (Augustus B. Turnbull Professor of Public Administration) and Kaifeng Yang (Askew School), Mark Horner (Geography), Jill Quadagno (Claude and Mildred Pepper Eminent Scholar in Sociology), Koji Ueno (Sociology), and Will Moore (Political Science).

Kathryn Tillman (Sociology) has been elected president of the Southern Demographic Association.

Urban and Regional Planning faculty receiving major grants last year were Will Butler (U.S. Fire Service), Sam Staley, Jeff Brown and Greg Thompson (Rockefeller Foundation), Tim Chapin and Lindsay Stevens (Florida Division of Emergency Management), Jeff Brown (Mineta Transportation Institute), and Jens Grosser (Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies).

Major grants were also awarded to Sociology professors Terrence Hill (National Institute of Health), Miles Taylor (National Institute on Aging) and John Reynolds (State of Florida).
It was a bittersweet year for the economics department as we bid “Happy Retirement” to two pillars of the department, Jim Cobbe and Tom McCaleb. In addition to their years of mentoring students, Jim served as department chair for six years and Tom served many years as director of Undergraduate Studies. An unexpected treat was the gift by alumnus Tim and Kate Gunning to establish a graduate student fellowship in Tom’s honor. The Thomas McCaleb Fellowship will honor a graduate student who excels in teaching upperclass undergraduate courses. We also offer our best wishes to Assistant Professor Danila Serra who is leaving FSU for Southern Methodist University.

On the other hand, it is a pleasure to report that there was much good news for the department on the faculty front during 2011-2012. First, we want to congratulate our newly tenured and promoted associate professors, Dmitry Ryvkin and Anastasia Semykina. Anastasia will also be stepping into Tom McCaleb’s role as director of Undergraduate Studies.

We will welcome three new faculty to the department this fall. Javier Cano-Urbina, who will be receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario, joins the department with teaching and research interests in labor economics. Sebastian Goerg, who has already received his Ph.D. from the University of Bonn and is completing a postdoctoral position at the Max Planck Institute, will be a member of both the department and of the experimental social sciences cluster (XS/FS). Finally, Luke Boosey, completing his doctorate at Cal-Tech, will join us for a two-year postdoctoral appointment. Luke will also be a part of XS/FS.

During 2011-2012, four of our faculty (David Cooper, John Hamman, Hyejin Ku, and Patrick Mason) had the distinction of being supported grants from the National Science Foundation.

We had some outstanding accomplishments from among our undergraduate students this year. Ariel Giumarelli was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to South Korea, and John Mazzoni was awarded a $6,000 national scholarship from the Phi Eta Sigma honor society. Our four department fellowship winners were Kyle Darres and Colin Harris (The Bill Peterson Endowed Scholarship) and Antoine Brandon and Nick Russell (The Reva Daniels Metzinger Endowed Scholarship). At the graduate level, Austin Boyle was awarded the Dewey F. Bartlett Fellowship in Economic Education, Jesse Rouse was awarded the Irvin and Peggy Sobel Award for Outstanding Graduate Student, William Doerner received the Charles Rockwood Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant, and Daniel Bennett and Rob White shared the James Gapinski Award for Outstanding First Year Student. Research fellowships endowed by DeVoe Moore and the late John and Hallie Quinn also help graduate students pursue their dissertation research. In the fall of 2012, five students in the entering Ph.D. class will be supported by Charles G. Koch Fellowships and one student by the newly awarded Evelyn and John Baugh Fellowship.

In addition, Ph.D. student John Gibson was named the first recipient of the new Michael J. Piette Dissertation Fellowship, endowed by friends and associates of Mike, an FSU alumnus who died in a tragic accident in 2009.

One of the most exciting events for the Economics Department during 2011-2012 was that the M.S. program in Applied Economics received renewed support from the Ralph Kaul Foundation. The Foundation has already donated a substantial endowment to the program, and this year announced its intention of donating an additional annual gift each year. The donation makes the Applied M.S. program the only Master’s program in the College to be self-sufficient for the next several years. In addition to supporting students with scholarships, the funds have been used to renovate the department’s computer lab.

As the previous paragraphs indicate, the Economics Department is deeply appreciative of our alumni, faculty, and friends whose commitment and generosity make it possible for us to continue our work in educating a new generation of students in these most difficult of economic and budgetary times.
The Geography Department is proud of its multidisciplinary heritage; most of its research in social science practice and environmental awareness overlaps with interests within the College and indeed across the university. Examples abound. James Elsner is publishing a book on hurricane climatology, Mark Horner continues his work with urban planning and transportation, Xiaojun Yang monitors coastal processes using remote sensing, Jay Baker investigates storm mitigation policies, Phil Steinberg explores political sovereignty in the Arctic region, Tingting Zhao links the use of energy and consumerism, Tetsuo Kobayashi works with sports institutes on tracking player movements, and Victor Mesev searches for new ways to survey urban functions by remote sensing.

Building on this strength the Department recently hired two faculty who will further extend its multidisciplinary link with biology and public health. Stephanie Pau comes to us from the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. Christopher Uejio has worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Both will also contribute heavily to the department's growing reputation in geospatial analytical research and its focus on urban-environmental interactions.

Six students successfully completed their Ph.D. last year. The Department also continues to see a steady growth in two majors, geography and environmental studies, and maintains a vibrant graduate body of master's and doctoral students in GIS. Placement remains a top priority, and completed Ph.D.s are being hired by places like Louisiana State University (Jill Trepanier), Columbus State University (Brad Huff), and University of Connecticut at Avery Point (Adam Keul). GIS students are being hired by state agencies and employers such as E Sciences and the Florida Retail Group in the private sector. For all, they take away the department’s emphasis on exploring global changes and using modern computer-based methods to represent and visualize these changes.

This has been a very productive year in Sociology. Although challenged by recent faculty losses, the department continues to thrive and contribute to the university’s mission in teaching, research, and service.

Our undergraduate program was recognized among the top 20 out of 104 programs in the university by the FSU administration this year. Based on a request of the Legislature, President Barron reported that FSU considered “strength and innovativeness of the curriculum, job placement, student satisfaction, undergraduate experiences and student selectivity” in coming up with a list. We emphasize high quality teaching; fully one-third of the faculty and some graduate student instructors have received university teaching awards. Special mention should be made of the rebirth of our honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta. Acting on student requests for an organization to provide opportunities for professional socialization and recognition of student accomplishments, Annette Schwabe spearheaded the successful effort to get the chapter reinstated on campus.

Our graduate program continues high quality mentoring and career preparation. This year we admitted a very large group of 16 new students, putting our enrollment at approximately 60, which is the high-water mark for recent years. The fifteen doctoral graduates in 2011-12 are embarking on a range of career paths, including postdoctoral fellowships, tenure-track positions, teaching positions, and research/administrative positions in business and government.

Our commitment to training students at the forefront of research is well known. Our goal is for all doctoral students to publish research by the time they receive their degree. Many of these publications will be coauthored with faculty, since the best way for students to learn how to conduct research is through mentoring and collaboration. This strategy is highly successful and resulted in at least 15 articles published or accepted this year, plus a large
number of convention presentations and other manuscripts. A more complete list is available on the department website (http://www.sociology.fsu.edu/grad/GradKudos2012.pdf).

The faculty continued high involvement in professional service at the university, professional associations, and editorial boards, and through reviewing articles and grant proposals. Noteworthy from a very long list is that Kathi Tillman was elected president of the Southern Demographic Association effective January 2013 and is serving as program chair for the 2012 meeting. Faculty and students received professional recognitions this year. Three faculty members received competitive one-semester sabbaticals: Gloria Lessan, Deana Rohlinger, and Kathi Tillman. As is our longstanding practice, faculty and students were recognized for their accomplishments in our annual spring “Honors Day” celebration. Doug Schrock received the J. Michael Armer Best Teacher Award, Abraham E. Pena-Talamantes received the Best Graduate Student Paper Award, and Jason Sumerau received the Graduate Student Teaching Award. The department’s graduate student association presented its own awards at the celebration, where JoEllen Pederson received both the Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award and the Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor Award. Faculty members were also recognized by the graduate student association, who presented Karin Brewster the Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award and Irene Padavic the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award.

Hernan Ramirez joined us as assistant professor this year. He adds depth to our social inequality program area with his research on entrepreneurship among Mexican immigrants. Unfortunately, newly promoted Associate Professor Janice McCabe resigned to take a faculty position at Dartmouth. We wish her the best in her professional endeavors.

Other transitions include Anne Barrett and Annette Schwabe rotating into program administration as directors of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, respectively, replacing John Taylor and Graham Kinloch in these positions. Special mention should be made of Graham’s long service leading our undergraduate program. He continues his work as associate dean of Academic Affairs in the College, and we will continue to benefit from his contributions in that position. Last, but certainly not least, Christy Crotty is joining us as office manager. In this position she leads our highly effective staff of Lettie Keen, Kim McClellan, and Jamie Yeargan. Their untiring dedication to our students and faculty is widely recognized and very appreciated throughout the department.

For current information on the Department of Sociology, including updated faculty vitae and other news, please see our web page at http://www.sociology.fsu.edu.
Department of Political Science

Dale L. Smith, Chair

Over the past three semesters (summer 2011 through spring 2012), 354 students have graduated with an undergraduate major in political science, maintaining our position as one of the five largest departments in the university. Students are obviously still finding political science to be a relevant and engaging field of study.

Three years ago the department began the Research Intensive Bachelor’s Certificate which provides our very best students, beginning in their junior year, a three semester, small-class curriculum to develop their research and presentation skills in preparation for graduate or professional schools. This is a rigorous program, but our best undergraduates understand how important it is to develop these skills in preparation for the next stage of their education. Examples of the success we are having with this program include: five RIBC students presented their original research at professional conferences in spring 2012; Amanda Fidalgo won a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship which will provide her with $120,000 to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science; and Norberto Morales received a graduate assistantship, valued at over $40,000 per year, from the Department of Political Science at Texas A&M University.

In terms of other undergraduate news, Brent Harrell received the Thomas R. Dye Scholarship, which goes to a political science major exhibiting the highest levels of academic success, and this year’s Charles Billings Award for Public Service went to Caitlin Strawder. Despite a difficult job market in recent years, evidence of our program’s strengths can be found in the placements of our recent Ph.D.s. Daniel Hill and Daniel Milton will be taking up tenure-track assistant professor positions at the University of Georgia and Arkansas State University, respectively. Jessica Ice has a faculty position at the Institute for Labor Studies and Research, West Virginia University, and Sunhee Park is beginning a position at the Central European University (Budapest). Finally, Andreas Beger and Scott Clifford will be taking up postdoctoral fellowships at Duke University in August.

The Department of Political Science will welcome two new faculty in comparative politics this fall. After the budget cuts and faculty losses of the last four years, they are very welcome additions. Amanda Driscoll (Ph.D., Washington University) is teaching and doing research on legislative behavior and electoral institutions in Latin America while Quintin Beazer (Ph.D., Ohio State University) is focused on political institutions, the bureaucracy and the regulation of economic activity in the Russian Federation.

In terms of faculty achievements, Professor Will Moore spent last year on sabbatical as a visiting research scholar at the Kroc Institute for International Peace, University of Notre Dame. His research focused on the impact of democratic institutions upon the use of torture by countries’ police, military and prison staffs. Professor Jason Barabas is the most recent department recipient of a university award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. All of you who had a class with Professor Barabas will undoubtedly appreciate how well-deserved it is.

Finally, Professor HeeMin Kim retired after 23 years of service at Florida State, but will continue his academic career at Seoul National University in his native South Korea.
In the past year, the Askew School conducted an intense self-study in order to qualify for re-accreditation of its Master of Public Administration degree program. Established in 1946, the school’s MPA degree is one of the older ones in the nation. The self-study process revealed that the school has been correct in emphasizing general skills in management and policy analysis. The school’s MPA graduates in recent years are now working for an impressive variety of employers -- federal (7 percent), state (26 percent), local (15 percent), nonprofits (19 percent), and private (20 percent, mostly in consulting related jobs). Only 2 of the 61 graduates contacted, (3 percent) were unemployed at the time of the survey. Recent doctoral graduates have taken faculty positions in such universities as Rutgers, Arizona State and Virginia Commonwealth.

The school is also one of the highest ranking in the nation. For more than a quarter century, all published reports have identified the Askew School as having one of the ten most productive faculties nationally in terms of the numbers of refereed articles published. In 2012, the US News organization published the results of its survey of administrators from 266 master of public affairs and administration programs. Overall, the Askew School was 16th, tied with the Sanford School of Duke University, the Rockefeller School of the State University of New York, and Arizona State University. In Local Government Management and Policy, the school is ranked 15th nationally.

Richard Feiock and Kaifeng Yang received a multi-year award of $317,000 from the National Science Foundation. They are studying local governments’ uses of federal grants in order to yield knowledge that can help to better inform policies to move our nation and economy toward more sustainable utilization of energy.

Several of Florida’s local government oriented professional organizations are contributing more than $100,000 annually to support the training and consulting activities of the school’s Center for Florida Local Government Excellence. The school’s Florida Center for Public Management continues to offer the nation’s largest Certified Public Manager program with more than 300 new graduates in the current year. Thanks especially to the efforts of its director Ralph Brower, the School’s Center for Civic and Nonprofit Leadership has broadened its activities to include international nonprofit organizations as well as domestic NGOs. A focus on international NGOs in disaster mitigation and recovery has been an important part of the international activities of the College’s Center for Disaster Risk Management, which teaches the emergency management portion of the Askew School’s curriculum.

The year 2011 ended on a sad note for the Askew School and its students. Neil Crispo, a beloved instructor of interns and community-oriented students for more than a decade, passed away suddenly in December 2011. We are pleased to announce that his family pledged to honor Neil’s legacy by establishing the Neil Crispo Endowment Fund. Friends and former colleagues are contributing to the fund and we encourage Dr. Crispo’s former students to do likewise.
The 2011-2012 calendar year was another successful one for the Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP), and the unit continues to produce the very best professional planners. Faculty and students were again recognized for their excellence and quality, and the unit successfully passed its re-accreditation review, welcomed new members, and said goodbye to longtime transportation faculty member Greg Thompson and our admissions coordinator Cynthia Brown.

During the past year a number of master’s students won competitive awards or were recognized for their excellence:

- MSP student Bessie Reina received a Fulbright scholarship to work in Sofia, Bulgaria, on transportation planning issues.
- Current MSP students Danika Bellamy, Janna Rosenthal, and Sean Santalla were awarded prestigious Dwight David Eisenhower Graduate Transportation Fellowships from the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Doctoral student Ismailla Abubakar won an award from the Population Reference Bureau, a subsidiary of USAID, for his policy brief, "More People, Poor Services: Life in the Suburban Districts of Abuja, Nigeria."
- Recent MSP graduate Alexander Garcia won awards from the ENO Transportation Foundation and the American Public Transportation Foundation.
- Doctoral student Fatima Wajahat won an award from the Population Reference Bureau, a subsidiary of USAID, for his policy brief, "More People, Poor Services: Life in the Suburban Districts of Abuja, Nigeria."
- Doctoral student Ismaila Abubakar won a paper competition for graduate students studying urban issues. The competition was co-sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars’ Comparative Urban Studies Project, USAID’s Urban Programs Team, the International Housing Coalition, the World Bank, and Cities Alliance.

The DURP faculty continue to be leaders in their respective fields and are producing research that is of great value to policymakers and planners in communities throughout Florida and elsewhere. Rebecca Miles’ work on healthy communities and school siting led to a request for her to speak with the League of United Latin American Citizens, a leading Latino civil rights organization. The work of Greg Thompson and Jeff Brown evaluating U.S. public transportation systems has garnered national attention, including a feature in The Atlantic Cities magazine. Tim Chapin edited a special issue of the Journal of the American Planning Association on sprawl and smart growth, including an article by Rebecca Lewis, and organized three sessions on the future of growth management at the National APA Conference in Los Angeles. Will Butler received two grants from the U.S. Fire Service to support his work on collaborative planning in response to natural hazards.

While the year was successful, we are sad to bid goodbye to two of our longest-serving and most beloved DURP family members. Greg Thompson retired in May after 24 years as a faculty member at FSU. He plans to stay in Tallahassee and continue research for a book he is currently writing on the history of light rail in Edmonton, Portland, San Diego, and Sacramento. Cynthia Brown (our beloved “Ms. Cynthia”) retired in June after 24 years on the DURP office staff, most of them as our admissions coordinator. Her retirement plans include sitting on the deck at sunrise, antiquing, and camping at state and national parks. We will miss Greg and Cynthia more than words can express!
International Affairs

Lee Kendall Metcalf, Director

T has been another busy year. Shamuna Malik retired after many years of service to Florida State, and she has been replaced as undergraduate advisor by Joanna Hunt. We have also hired Whitney Bendek as the director of Undergraduate Studies. She is teaching the required undergraduate course in International Affairs. This past year under Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm’s leadership we instituted a professional development series to help students prepare for the job market or for further study. We are also redesigning the colloquium for the graduate students to focus on professional development and moving it to the fall so that students can receive the most benefit from it. We hope our alumni will consider extending a helping hand to the current students.

The students continue to amaze me. Khadijah Gray and Mercedes Krimme have just finished DAAD programs in Germany. Khadijah was studying at Oldenburg, and Mercedes was interning at the Bundestag. Brandon Beardsley finished a Boren Fellowship to study Arabic in the Middle East, Jonathan Dupree won a Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Rabat, Morocco this summer, and Andrew Stephens joined our growing list of Pickering Fellows. Three students also received Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships: Sandy Noel will teach English to students in India, Cameron Cankaya will teach English in South Korea, and Armando Mendez will teach English in Spain. I invite you to look at the profiles of these and other students at the university’s Office of National Fellowships Hall of Fame (http://onf.fsu.edu/fame.html).

I enjoy following the activities of our alumni as well. We are proud to announce that the master’s program in International Affairs will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014, and this will be an opportunity to share with our current students all of the wonderful things our alumni are doing (and vice versa). We are currently looking at dates in late February of that year and will be posting more information on our web page and Facebook group as we solidify our plans. If you have any suggestions about how you would like to mark this event, please contact me. Also, in recognition of this milestone, we are creating a 50th Anniversary Scholarship for master’s students. To help get it going, I will match the first $5,000 in donations. So donate, and make me dig deep in my pockets. Contact me or Jesse Colvin (jcolvin@foundation.fsu.edu) for more information.

Transit Symposium

DeVoe L. Moore Center

Keith Ihlanfeldt, Director

During the 2011-2012 academic year the DeVoe Moore Center (DMC) made great strides in advancing its teaching and research missions. These missions are to educate Florida State University students about the effects, both positive and negative, that government regulations have on individuals and the economy, and to increase our knowledge of the latter effects by conducting research and disseminating our findings in journal articles and books. Another mission of the DMC can be labeled “outreach” and involves interacting with local and state policymakers to inform them of our interest in improving state and local regulations and offering our expertise. This past year, thanks to the efforts of Sam Staley, new managing director of the DMC, I can confidently state that we have also advanced our outreach mission.

The DMC is truly comprehensive in what it does. We offer our own courses on land use regulation, sponsor multiple symposiums every year on critical issues of interest to policymakers, provide research support to students and faculty throughout the College, maintain our own server providing unique data bases to the FSU community, and conduct research on state and local government regulations that routinely gets published in topflight academic journals.

This past year was especially distinguished in three respects. First, we held three symposiums on timely topics with relevance to future public policy. The first, held in February, was on urban sustainability, which is one of the most critical issues our county and the world face. The papers presented at the conference are going to be published inCitiescapes, which is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s policy journal. The second conference dealt with commercial real estate. While the crisis in housing markets has received much attention, the crisis in commercial markets has also been severe and had been understudied until our conference. The last symposium focused on market incentives that might be put in place to salvage the floundering public transit industry in the U.S. This conference was funded by the prestigious Rockefeller Foundation and enabled organizer Sam Staley to meet with major policymakers in Washington, D.C.

A second distinction for the DMC during the last academic year is that we are fast becoming a major player in policy debates. A major responsibility of our new managing director, Sam Staley, is to communicate firsthand with state and local policymakers regarding the knowledge that the DMC has generated on state and local regulations since the inception of the center back in 1999.

A final noteworthy development of the DMC during the past academic year is that we formed a formal bond with the Urban Economics Association. This is an association of urban economists located throughout the world who have research interests falling within the DMC mission statement. The DMC was one of a select few institutions, such as Harvard University’s Kennedy School and the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, asked to provide sponsorship to the UEA.
NIH, NIMH, and NSF), the state level ($1 million from the Florida Department of Transportation), and private foundations. For example, Professors Neil Charness and John Reynolds have been researching the safety of older drivers in Florida through separate grants from the Florida Department of Transportation. Their work identified human factors that affect the safety of older pedestrians and bicyclists in Florida, surveyed older drivers on their driving habits and intentions to “retire” from driving, and produced a “Florida’s Guide for Aging Drivers” to be distributed through the Florida Safe Mobility for Life Resource Center now housed at the Pepper Center Building.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at FSU, sponsored by the Pepper Institute and directed by Debra Herman, continues to grow and offer outstanding educational and social opportunities to those 50 and older in the Tallahassee area. This year membership grew to more than 700 and OLLI was awarded a $1 million endowment by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Faculty associates’ research is supported with funding from external grants at the federal level ($7.3 million in active grants from

Anne Barrett

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 2011-12 academic year. Their recent publications appeared in outlets such as American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Journal of Gerontology, Journal of Health and Aging, Social Forces, Social Problems, and Sociology of Education. For example, Associate Professor Anne Barrett and graduate student Erica Toothman’s research on people’s views of middle age, “Mapping Midlife: An Examination of Social Factors Shaping Conceptions of the Timing of Middle Age,” was published in Advances in Life Course Research and has garnered national media attention.
Public Health

William Weisert, Director

SU’s Masters in Public Health program (MPH) nears its 10th anniversary with a full complement of faculty, about as many students as it can handle, and on the road to certification by the Center for Education in Public Health (CEPH). We are moving along on our self-study with the help of an excellent group of alumni including Carrie Godfrey, Samantha Shivers, Lucy Frederick, Shawn Hamm, Abazie Ekperechi, and faculty members Drs. Alan Rowan, Terrance Hill, Amy Burdette and Homer Rice as well as others. Current MPH student Deanna Barath is coordinator.

The biggest change in the MPH curriculum this year is a new capstone course that will help prepare our students to take the new exam for Certified Public Health professionals.

The curriculum will change in an important way by adding a second capstone requirement. Capstone courses (one is required of all public health programs by CEPH) challenge students to work on a project that draws broadly upon all their MPH training. Our capstone has always focused on health policy analysis, requiring a 50-page paper on a topic of the student’s choosing. But the public health field has recently set a goal of certifying its workforce in much the same way that other professionals are certified or registered. Certification will require an exhaustive exam covering the core areas of public health:

- Biostatistics
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Epidemiology
- Health Policy and Management
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

So the MPH program has added an additional capstone course taken at the end of the first year of MPH training. It will review course material covered in the core public health courses, involve students in projects that require them to apply what they’ve learned in these courses, and test them over material intended to prepare them to take the CPH exam.

Total course credits required for the MPH degree will remain at 42 credits.

We have one new faculty member, Dr. Christopher Ujeo. Dr. Ujeo joined our MPH faculty, jointly appointed with the Geography Department. He will teach medical geography and a course that he will design next Fall called Global Public Health.

Dr. Ujeo received his doctorate in Environmental Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He investigates human health and extreme heat events, mosquito transmitted diseases like dengue, and recreational and drinking water quality. Much of Dr. Ujeo’s work probes the underappreciated environmental drivers of health problems. For example, his recent work suggests that inadequately treated drinking water continues to cause childhood illness in many US communities. Similarly, his earlier work tied South African West Nile virus outbreaks to year-to-year changes in summer rainfall.

And the MPH Public Health Student Association (PHSA) is thriving under the leadership of President Deanna Barath. They sponsored several Public Health Forums for the campus community and one large event during the Fall semester. Students are participating in community service events ranging from health fairs and blood drives to raising awareness on and off campus about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. PHSA is very active in the movement towards a tobacco-free campus. Kudos to Ms. Barath for a successful application and presentation: The Congress of Graduate Students awarded $1,641 to PHSA to host the forums and event. The money will also be used to purchase t-shirts for the students so that they can be easily distinguished during community service events.

LeRoy Collins Institute

Carol S. Weisert, 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. In 2012, research is underway on municipal pensions and other post-employment benefits, special districts and school districts. An interactive map is now available on the Institute’s web site that provides detailed expenditure and revenue information for Florida’s cities and counties.

A report released in November 2011, authored by Professor David Matkin from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, gave letter grades to all defined benefit pension plans in Florida’s largest 100 cities. The report garnered considerable press attention across the state. It found that only 14 percent of the plans earned a grade of “A” (meaning the plans were more than 90 percent funded) and nearly a third (32 percent) earned Ds or Fs (meaning the plans were less than 70 percent funded).

Follow-up reports will highlight best practices in plans across the states, provide important trend data on pension viability, examine other post-employment benefits, and report municipal activities across the state to deal with the inadequate funding of pensions. Matkin and LeRoy Collins Director Carol Weisert, Professor of Political science, have presented the findings of the pension research to groups including the Florida Philanthropic Network, the Broward Workshop, Tiger Bay Sarasota, and the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers.

Professor Robert Eger from the Askew School is principal investigator on research analyzing special districts in Florida. Of particular interest is their accountability and transparency. Eger is also author of a study on intergovernmental aid in Florida.
Center for Demography and Population Health

Karin Brewster, Director

In fall 2011, the faculty approved a proposal to open the Applied Demographics Studio, a demographic consulting and outreach program. Operating under the direction of Robert Pennock, who holds a Ph.D. in geography (FSU, 2004) and an M.S. in planning (FSU, 1982), the studio provides demographically-informed statistical analyses tailored to the specific needs of local and state government agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations. One benefit of the studio for CDPH is its capacity to provide graduate students with “real life” training. Three members of the 2011-2012 M.S. demography cohort—Lauren Bowers, Aylee Reubel, and Katie Russo—gained invaluable experience as studio interns this year, providing demographic analyses to a report for the Leon County Commission’s Committee on the Status of Women and Girls.

Despite the dismal economy, the eight students who graduated from the M.S. program in August 2011 are continuing the CDPH tradition of stellar post-graduation job placement. Three are putting their demographic skills to work for the federal government and two more are professional demographers for state governments. Others are using their skills in the private sector, including a marketing firm in Philadelphia and a financial services firm specializing in commercial real estate. We expect the eight members of the August 2012 graduating class to follow in their footsteps. They’re well on their way: All of them landed summer internships this year, at places ranging from the U.S. Census Bureau to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

In October, CDPH faculty and graduate students served as local hosts to 162 members of the Southern Demographic Association, which held its annual meeting in Tallahassee for the first time in over two decades. Professor Woody Carlson (Sociology) served as local arrangements chair for the three-day event hosted by Professor Kathryn Harker Tillman, the incoming SDA President.

In July 2012, we welcomed Professor Carl Schmertmann (economics) home to CDPH, after his year-long sabbatical at the renowned Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany. While at Max Planck Schmertmann led a study to develop new statistical forecasting methods for cohort fertility and took over editorship of Demographic Research, an online journal sponsored by the Max Planck Institute.

The Serow Prize provides tuition support to a student in the M.S. demography program who demonstrates outstanding potential in applied demography. This year’s winner was Lauren Bowers, who received the award from Elizabeth (Betty) Serow. Lauren worked on small area health insurance estimates in her summer internship in the Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division at the Census Bureau.

Also this spring, CDPH founding member and Emeritus Professor Charles B. Nam was named an “Honored Member” of the Population Association of America when former students and colleagues donated over $5,000 to the PAA Development Fund in his honor. The campaign to honor Charlie was coordinated by Bob Hummer and Lynn and Ron Cosman, all three of whom are his former students.
The Stavros Center
James D. Gwartney, Director

On February 2-3, the Stavros Center held its 8th annual workshop, “Creative Ideas for the Teaching of Basic Economics,” on the FSU campus. This event was co-sponsored with the Jacksonville Federal Reserve Bank and the Stavros Center of the University of South Florida. The workshop featured Linda Ghent, professor of economics at Eastern Illinois University; Antony Davies, professor of economics at Duquesne University; and Michael Chriszt, assistant vice president for research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The 75 participants were introduced to the latest information on the economy and numerous activities, videos, and other materials to enliven their classes.

As part of its Economic Literacy Initiative, the center faculty has developed a Common Sense Economics for Life course designed for students who are likely to take only one course in economics. The course package includes videos, classic readings, Podcasts, assignments, activities and testing materials. Suitable for either small or large classes, this innovative course covers the fundamental concepts of economics, institutions important for a prosperous economy, the role and limitations of government, and the key elements of successful personal finance. It focuses on what students who have never been exposed to economics really need to know, while making the learning of economics fun. It is designed for use in either face-to-face or online classes. The Center is now expanding the availability of the course package and providing training on its use to instructors at other colleges, universities, and even high schools.

In May, Center Director James Gwartney and adjunct faculty member Tawni Ferrarini presented the Economics for Life course at the Annual Teaching Conference of the American Economic Association held in Boston. Several participants expressed interest in the package. The Center will be conducting a series of training sessions to introduce the materials of the course to instructors and provide the tools for its effective use at other schools.

John Stossel from Fox Business News taped his weekly television show at FSU on April 20, 2012. Jim Gwartney and Joe Calhoun were interviewed before an audience of 300 students.
1,046 donors contributed $2,429,728 to the College during FY2011-2012, of which $993,558 was designated for operating and current support while $1,436,170 was designated for endowment; the total amount raised represented a 95.3% increase over the $1,244,062 raised during FY2010-2011.

The Bernard Osher Foundation based in San Francisco, CA made a $1 million endowment gift to OLLI at FSU; the annual investment income generated from the Osher Foundation Endowment Fund will help support OLLI at FSU programs and activities. In addition, the Osher Foundation awarded OLLI at FSU a $50,000 bridge grant to use for program support during FY2012-2013 while the investment earnings from the endowment fund are still growing.

The Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation based in Arlington, VA pledged $552,949 for 4-year fellowship awards for Econ Dept. PhD. students.

Per instructions from Col.(R) Lettie J. Bien of Charlottesville, VA, the Miami Foundation donated $75,000 to establish and fund the Michael Heatter Memorial Fund Social Science Scholars Endowment Fund within the College.

In her estate plan Dr. Elizabeth Serow of Tallahassee, FL made the FSU Foundation Inc. the beneficiary of her IRA account and designated the proceeds from it to help support the William J. Serow Scholarship Endowment Fund within the Center for Demography & Population Health.

Barbara W. Crispo of Tallahassee, FL and her daughter Alane C. Wiklund & husband Dr. Karl-Martin Wiklund of Plymouth, MA pledged $30,000 to establish and fund the Neil S. Crispo Endowment Fund within the Askew School of Public Administration & Policy in honor and memory of Neil S. Crispo, an instructor in the Askew School for many years.

The Apgar Foundation of Indianapolis, IN contributed $25,000 in unrestricted support for the Gus Stavros Center for Economic Education within the College.

Edna R. Ranck of Washington, DC donated $20,000 to establish and fund the Edna Ranck International Study Award to help support International Affairs students within the College.

New gifts and pledges received during 2011-2012 to help support the College’s Social Science Scholars Program totaled $104,875. Leadership supporters at the sponsorship level ($6,000/year per student) included: Gregory Ereckson, Tallahassee, FL; R. Kent Shoemaker, Jr./Naples, FL; James Etscorn, Orlando, FL; Christi Adams, Orlando, FL; former Gov. Reubin Askew, Tallahassee, FL; Laird Anderson, Rockville, MD; Nicholas Bergan, West Palm Beach, FL; Marjorie Turnbull, Tallahassee, FL; and Drs. Joan & Charles Haworth, Tallahassee, FL.

The number of Bellamy Society members during 2011-2012 rose to 64 compared to the 47 Bellamy Society members the previous year (a 36% increase).
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy gratefully acknowledges and recognizes the following supporters as 2011-2012 members of The Bellamy Society for their annual unrestricted and current support gifts/pledges of $1,000 or more to help provide support either College-wide or for one of the College’s departments or programs.* As a result of their individual and collective generosity, the College continues to improve the quality of its students’ academic experience. On their behalf, the College expresses its special thanks and appreciation to:

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Please know that your gift or pledge commitment is very important to us. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If any name has been misspelled, omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Jesse Colvin at 850-644-1920/e-mail: jcolvin@foundation.fsu.edu so that our records can be corrected. Thank you very much.

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Social Science Scholar Brian Denny in China. The red door is in the Forbidden City in Beijing. The door has a total of 81 brass studs arranged in a 9x9 grid. The number 9 represents the supremacy of the monarch.
Friday October 26

Join us for a reception honoring the College’s 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Steven Lawry.
3:30 – 5:00 PM DeVoe Moore Conference Room, 150 Bellamy
Steve Lawry is a graduate of Political Science (BS ’73) and Urban and Regional Planning (MS ’75)
Steve’s extended bio appears on page 13 of this report.

Game Day

All College Alumni Tailgate
Saturday October 27
Start Time: 4 hours prior to Kickoff
Location: President Eric and Molly Barron will be the hosts for this event. The tents will be located in the backyard of the President’s home. There will be food, entertainment, and non-alcoholic beverages available along with Beer and Wine.
Ample parking is available at the alumni center lots and buses will be available to take guests to the stadium. Buses will also pick-up from the stadium at the end of the third quarter and again at the end of the game to return to the Presidents home.

There is no cost to attend the tailgate
Go to www.alumni.fsu.edu to make your reservation to attend.