Resilience
Bouncing Back, Looking Ahead, Moving Forward
In late May 2021, the Florida State University Board of Trustees selected Richard McCullough as the university’s 16th president, succeeding John Thrasher.

During his tenure as vice provost for research at Harvard University from 2012 to the present, Dr. McCullough oversaw the development, review and implementation of academic research strategies. He assisted in the oversight of more than 25 interdisciplinary institutes, centers and initiatives across the university.

Dr. McCullough successfully built and launched the new Harvard Data Science Initiative, a collaboration between 12 of the university’s schools and more than 120 faculty, which has led to three new master’s programs and the creation of many new undergraduate courses.

A staunch champion of diversity, President McCullough created a pipeline of academics from both his research lab and the Future Faculty Workshop: Diverse Leaders of Tomorrow, an annual workshop he founded that helps diverse postdoctoral fellows and students obtain academic jobs. Now in its 15th year, the workshop has facilitated placing more than 50 underrepresented minority professors in the United States.

“I am excited to welcome President McCullough to FSU; he is the perfect individual to lead us forward. His vision for expanded research funding and impact, while remaining committed to student success, aligns perfectly with the college’s vision and strategic plan. Great universities thrive with outstanding leadership, and President McCullough will continue with FSU’s tradition of visionary leaders.”

– Tim Chapin, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy

“This is a pivotal time in the history of Florida State University, and I’m confident that Rick McCullough is the person to lead it into the future. He is an experienced academic, tested administrator and innovator who possesses a vision that will be vital in continuing our tremendous climb in the national rankings as a preeminent university.”

– Ed Burr, Chair of the FSU Board of Trustees
Our Mission
“The Florida State University College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is dedicated to excellence in creating and communicating social science and public policy knowledge through leading edge research, interdisciplinary programs and teaching. We inspire and create opportunities for our diverse student body to become the next generation of leaders, citizens and innovators to advance scholarship, engage communities and serve society.”

The college is dedicated to achieving our mission by advancing our collective core values that inform and shape our culture and programmatic areas. We:

- foster a diverse and inclusive college culture, welcoming all into a robust and free exchange of ideas;
- recruit and retain diverse faculty, students and staff of the highest quality;
- promote and clearly communicate evidence based social science research and teaching to inform and shape public policy, empower and engage communities, and contribute to the advancement of social and economic mobility, equal opportunity and a sustainable world;
- empower students through innovative teaching, mentoring and advising and
- facilitate critical thinking through a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to solving problems that confront society.

On the Cover
The Bellamy building was a relatively quiet place throughout much of the pandemic, but FSU returned to normal, pre-pandemic operations beginning August 1. A few public health and safety protocols remain, and a small percentage of designated courses continue to be offered online. But with a return to predominately in-person instruction, the Bellamy atrium once again became a busy location for students, faculty and staff getting back to the business of the university.
I am proud, honored and humbled by the hard work of the college's faculty, staff and students over the past year. And what a year it has been! While I could describe some of the immense challenges, week-to-week uncertainty and daily frustrations as we navigated a world shut down by COVID, I'd rather not do that.

Instead, let us talk about resilience and moving forward into the future. And let me remind you of the firm foundations on which we're built.

The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is one of the finest social science and policy schools in the nation. First, the breadth and depth of our programs is unparalleled. At almost 5,000 students and more than 150 faculty, our college is the third largest in the university and one of the largest social science schools in the nation. We are home to four of the biggest undergraduate majors in the university (Political Science, Interdisciplinary Social Science, International Affairs and Public Health) and host ten applied master’s degree programs that prepare graduates for employment in government, nonprofits and private firms.

Our programs span the full breadth of the political spectrum. Diversity of people and ideas is a core college value, and this year’s launch of our Institute of Politics [see pages 8-11] showcases our commitment to civil engagement and civic literacy. Today’s world requires graduates experienced in engaging with thorny social, economic, environmental and political questions, as well as understanding that individuals often must agree to disagree but still work together to address these wicked problems.

One of my proudest talking points centers upon our ongoing research on the most pressing issues facing Florida, the nation and the world. We have world-class scholars doing work on community resilience and recovery in the face of environmental events or global pandemics, strengthening economic markets, policy initiatives to enhance older adult quality of life, coastal and marine protection, understanding changes in American and international politics and providing insights into our relationships, social structures and life outcomes.

Our success rests in part upon our deep and strong connections to alumni, industry partners and friends who share our commitment to ensure that our students Get More Than a Degree while at FSU. Our many partners and donors connect with and support students through professional presentations, student mentoring, internship and job opportunities and financial contributions to the college and its programs.

You can help us bolster the reputation of the college as a valuable and timely source of insight and leadership on the challenges facing our world today. Think back to your days at FSU and share the profound ways the college shaped your life and career. Feel free to pass this magazine on to friends, colleagues, other FSU alumni and potential students and supporters to show them our accomplishments as a center for change, policy and highly relevant scholarship.

As the world returns to a post-pandemic new normal, it is my hope you have a chance to visit FSU during the next year. The campus continues to evolve. A new Ogelsby Student Union is set to open in early 2022. When on campus, be sure to stop by the Bellamy Building to see our wonderfully renovated atrium and our new student spaces. Reconnect with your program. I would also encourage you to join us at our online Policy Pub community forums, attend one of the many lectures and public events hosted by the college or visit our Wicked Problems, Wicked Solutions blog. While this year’s magazine gives you a sense of the energy and drive of our college, there is no substitute for seeing us in action.

As ever, my very best to you in the coming year, and Go Noles!

Tim Chapin, Dean
Dear Fellow Alumni,

My journey at Florida State University is one that I will always remember. My time spent as an undergraduate student navigating the responsibilities of adulthood, mixed with a deep passion to connect public service, government and civic engagement, has prompted me to seize every opportunity and strive to become a transformational leader.

I am a Haitian immigrant, born in Port-Au-Prince in 1998. I was two when my family immigrated to South Florida. My father dedicated his life to the military but later struggled to get a job. My mother died when I was still a child. I grew up in an underserved community and was surrounded by Title I schools. These were challenging circumstances, but I was filled with the examples and wisdom of the “village” it took to raise me, urging me to commit to my studies and keep moving forward. I learned resilience, starting with the strength I built after the loss of my mother. At a young age, I developed a keen eye for leadership, self-discipline and responsibility.

At the university, my reality changed fast – during a very historic time. I was a first-generation college student and spent many sleepless nights pondering what my future would look like post-graduation. Fortunately, I received my degree from one of the most influential colleges at FSU. The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy accepted me for all that I am and supported me in achieving my goals, offering me valuable opportunities to prepare for my future. As a Social Science Scholar, I was able to study abroad and delve into intercultural communication. Now I am a graduate student in the Askew School of Public Administration.

Throughout my time at the college, I have been able to meet and connect with some of the most influential people in my life. The faculty, staff and administration have continued to support me in my endeavors to uplift strength, skill and character in every avenue. I have dedicated my time to public service and activism, taking leadership and board positions in such organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the League of Women Voters. I have the honor and privilege of serving as the current student body president and trustee on the Florida State University Board of Trustees. My experiences have led me to dedicate my life to law and governmental affairs. My story has been the foundation and anchor that continues to remind me of purpose.

I have learned so much at FSU but one of the most important lessons has been understanding the power of community. What does that mean? For me, it means to be invested in the people and work that you do. After the events that occurred within the past year, we as an institution pushed ourselves to come together and dig deeper. Through it all – a global pandemic, police brutality, social unrest and a long list of human rights issues – we developed a deeper understanding of what it means to lean on the community for our resilience and the drive it takes to move ahead despite the challenges.

Words cannot express the invaluable experience of being part of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy and at Florida State University.

Nastassia “Tazzy” Janvier
Bouncing Back: What the Science of Resilience Can Teach Us

Resilience is a word you no doubt have heard or read frequently in the past year. Psychologists define resilience as the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma and other significant sources of stress. That certainly applies during the global health crisis brought about by the COVID-19 virus.

Just as entire nations, societies and communities are looking for ways to bounce back from the immense medical, economic and social impacts of the pandemic, each of us has had to look inward for the personal resources to deal with unprecedented stressors and challenges. In the face of illness, job loss and financial hardship, educational setbacks, isolation and the loss of family and friends, our ability to be resilient is more important than ever.

Understanding the role of psychological resilience in protecting the health of older adults, who have been disproportionately at risk during this time, is paramount to understanding the potential long-term consequences of the pandemic for those in later life, according to two researchers from the college’s Department of Sociology and Pepper Institute.
Sociology Professor Miles Taylor and Associate Professor Dawn Carr published a study early this year that seeks to establish resilience as a resource with powerful and lasting effects on health outcomes, particularly in later life.

Their research suggests that psychological resilience, a relatively new measure in the literature of health and aging, is powerfully associated with health in later life. Further, according to Taylor and Carr, it is actually a stronger predictor of health and wellbeing than other well-established resource measures, such as mastery, optimism and hopelessness.

“Resilience has potential as a mechanism that could improve health and wellbeing and – importantly – one that is potentially modifiable through interventions,” Taylor said. “But before we can sell this as a powerful and robust mechanism, we first have to show that it has strong and lasting associations with health. By comparing it to other resources, we are arguing that it should take its place among important psychological resources known to shape health and wellbeing in later life.”

A substantial body of research already exists on resilience in childhood and early adulthood, but very few studies have examined psychological resilience specifically in later life. Older adulthood can have challenges and setbacks that are not as common in younger adulthood, among them health setbacks and loss of spouses and loved ones.

“Having the capacity to positively adapt in the face of these challenges is tremendously important during later life,” Taylor said. At the same time, prior experiences with difficult situations allow people to better navigate similar experiences in later life. Studying resilience in later life is important, Taylor and Carr maintain, because as we age, we have more experiences to draw on that can positively affect our ability to navigate them. Certain situations become more common as we age. Experiences such as grief and bereavement or health setbacks tend to be more common in later life.

“Resilience is relatively stable on average in a crisis,” the graph illustrates the resilience of Americans pre- and post-pandemic. Once built up, people are able to maintain resilience fairly well.


“Research indicates we can actually learn to be resilient,” she said. “There have been emerging studies on the connection between resilience and emotional regulation. Moreover, there are programs in certain branches of the military focused chiefly on resilience training. Not only that, but as scientists learn more about resilience, they are finding that it may be more of a purposeful process and an aspect of identity, rather than something more innate.”

So, how do we foster resilience, particularly in such universally challenging times? Taylor said, for one thing, it is important to keep leaning into social relationships.

“We need to take care of ourselves and others as best we can, not just physically but emotionally,” she said. “Beyond getting enough sleep and exercise, we can also continue to foster meaning in our own lives, whether through spiritual practices, altruism or feeling connected to something bigger than ourselves. Moreover, how we appraise and view certain situations is an important factor in resilience.

“Research tells us that resilience is fairly stable and harder to erode than we might think. This graph illustrates the resilience of Americans pre- and post-pandemic. Once built up, people are able to maintain resilience fairly well.”

Taylor extended this notion to promoting resilience through public policy, such as providing greater access to mental health resources. Research has found that mental health and resilience have a circular relationship; low levels of mental health erode resilience and low resilience does not cultivate good mental health.

Support can be implemented further at state and federal levels. For example, research is showing that in the last year, during the pandemic, financial hardships have been a large reason for the erosion of resilience over time. Policy shaped around financial hardships, specifically unemployment, would help promote further resilience.

“Resilience is a strong, lifelong protective resource,” Taylor said. “While resilience is mostly studied through childhood, it is universally important to all age groups. If one is able to maintain high levels of resilience, it will help them later in life.”

Research says that resilience is a strong, lifelong protective resource.

Dawn Carr

Resilient individuals try to look at positive aspects in challenging situations. Resilient people tend to continually appraise and re-appraise situations to get the most meaning and most feedback.”
The COVID-19 pandemic added significant hurdles to student research projects, but the college’s undergraduates rose to the challenge.

More than 40 undergraduate students presented original research and creative work last November at the 2020 President’s Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence. The annual showcase highlights research from IDEA Grant, Tech Fellow and iGEM award recipients completed under the mentorship of FSU faculty.

“As one of the nation’s Top 20 public universities, we believe that involving our students in academic engagement at the highest levels is critical to our mission,” FSU President John Thrasher said. “We value student success and transformational learning experiences, and undergraduate research is one way our students become more critical and capable thinkers.”

The showcase is typically held in person, but organizers moved to a virtual format last year. The event was divided into two sessions, and each session had several Zoom “rooms” to host research projects. The researchers behind each project took turns explaining their work to the attendees in the room.

When the COVID-19 pandemic reached the United States, students had already submitted applications for research grants and were laying the groundwork for their projects.

“They had to make huge changes to accommodate for COVID over this time,” said Latika Young, director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement. “Many of them were planning to go abroad or travel domestically to do their research, and they all had to come up with contingency plans under the mentorship of their faculty mentors. They’ve all done a great job of making changes.”

Beatrice Dain, a senior majoring in international affairs and anthropology, was awarded the David B. Ford Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Award to research the work that the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) did to help Jews escape persecution in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s.
She planned to spend a month in New York City at the archives of the Center for Jewish History, but the pandemic stopped that plan. While the organization digitized the records she needs for further research, she used available records, such as meeting minutes and testimonies of people helped by HIAS, and presented what she had uncovered so far at the showcase.

As a freshman, Dain participated in FSU’s Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), working with a doctoral student who was conducting research in Nicaragua on how to create an open online course that taught artisans to sell their goods internationally.

“That was really my first introduction to what I would call formal research, understanding how faculty and graduate students began their research and how they went forward with that,” said Dain, one of 18 students selected for the 2020 cohort of the college’s Social Science Scholars program.

She later studied in Guatemala, where she investigated the reasons people migrate from that country to the United States. It was her introduction to archival work. When she returned to Tallahassee, she looked for another opportunity to work with archives and started volunteering with the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. The institute’s director, G. Kurt Piehler, approached her about doing an honors thesis related to World War II, and she settled on the idea of researching HIAS, which combined the topics of World War II, Latin America and immigration.

“I was extremely interested,” Dain said. “I’ve been wanting to do an honors thesis for quite a long time. It seemed like a really interesting project to blend all my interests together and really use all my skills at one time and on one project.”

Two other COSSP undergraduates presented their work at the showcase. Maeghan Kerins, a senior studying political science and Russian language and literature, was awarded the Winthrop-King Undergraduate Scholarship in 2020 for study abroad. Her research, “Violence Against Women in the Soviet Prison System,” won the Scott & Ina McNichols Undergraduate Research Award at the showcase.

Literary analysis of Russian dissident authors allowed her to base her findings on firsthand accounts of women incarcerated in the Soviet Gulag. She found that women were forced to do the same labor as men, yet the frequency of sexual assault and abuse made the female experience significantly worse.

Anna Lewis, a senior majoring in international affairs and minoring in environmental science and policy, previously worked with postdoctoral researcher Trina Merrick in the Department of Geography through UROP on learning how to use GIS software and high-resolution satellite imagery to map tropical forest canopies and distinguish differences in plant species.

The research she presented at the showcase, “Spatiotemporal Relationship of Liana Growth to Gaps/Trails on the Tropical Forest of Barro Colorado Island, Panama: Implications for CO2 Sequestration,” was supervised by Associate Professor of Geography Stephanie Pau.

Using high-resolution satellite imagery, her research project studied the rapid growth of the liana vine, which has the potential to choke and shade native trees, impacting the structure and function of tropical forests.

“I don’t think I can overstate how proud we are of the students, especially this year with all the changes they’ve had to make,” Young said. “Keeping up with all their classes and all the other things they’ve had to do and then doing these really monumental research and creative projects on top of all that is really astounding.”

Maeghan Kerins presented her research on violence against women in the Soviet prison system to visitors in her Zoom room. Anna Lewis led Zoom visitors through her study on tropical forest canopies.
Institute of Politics Looks Toward a More Civil, Bipartisan Future

The pandemic may have put some aspects of university operations on hold, but the college forged ahead in 2020 with the establishment of the new Institute of Politics at Florida State University (IOP@FSU), a nonpartisan home for civic engagement and research and a showcase for the role of politics in improving the lives of Americans.

The IOP@FSU took flight after legislation was passed by the Florida Legislature, which generously provided $1 million in initial funding. Today, the institute promotes applied political research by a cadre of world-class scholars, curricular initiatives aimed at celebrating American democracy while encouraging civic engagement, and events that celebrate the power of public service.

“A Top 20 university like Florida State must constantly seek new ways to engage with our students and the world,” said FSU President John Thrasher. “We are proud to launch the Institute of Politics, which is yet another example of the university’s growth. We are so appreciative of the confidence placed in us by the governor and the Florida Legislature.”

The institute offers an undergraduate fellowship program, one that nurtures student understanding of the significance of government institutions and the power of civic engagement. IOP fellows have unique opportunities to engage with experts in government and world-renowned researchers on a variety of political topics. These efforts allow students to
become more civically engaged, utilize the talents of alumni and faculty to promote research in politics, and increase awareness of public service to the general public.

“The institute is envisioned as a place where political practitioners and academics can interact and as an entity that will promote the marketplace of ideas to strengthen our political processes and institutions,” said FSU Associate Professor of Political Science Hans Hassell, the director of the Institute of Politics. “We hope to bring people together across the political divide, finding optimism in politics and celebrating the American democracy as once envisioned by the founders.”

The IOP@FSU, affiliated with the university’s nationally renowned Department of Political Science, acts as a trusted convener of political ideas, insight and research, offering a fresh lens through which people can view political information in an objective way. Forums, symposia and workshops bring together the top minds in politics to engage with students, faculty, elected representatives, political practitioners and citizens.

“Florida State University has always supported civil and civic discourse and promoted the ideals of public service to the next generation of leaders,” said Tim Chapin, dean of the FSU College of Social Sciences and Public Policy. “We are eager to share the high-quality research and public engagement activities of the college and work closely with our talented alumni, both in the Florida political arena and in Washington D.C., to showcase the role of democracy in creating an even stronger state and nation.”

The institute hit the ground running shortly after the university announced its establishment in October 2020. In the final weeks leading up to the national elections, IOP sponsored a YouGov poll of the projected Florida preferences in the presidential race. The institute also collaborated with the FSU Alumni Association on a post-election webinar featuring COSSPP Dean Tim Chapin, Leroy Collins Institute Director and Professor of Political Science Carol Weissert, College of Law Professor Nat Stern and IOP Outreach Director Brad Kile discussing the election outcome and American democracy in action.

Later in November, IOP held its own post-election webinar with expert insight from Dr. John Sides of Vanderbilt University and the Washington Post’s Monkey Cage blog and Steve Schale, former executive director of Unite the Country.

That same month, the institute awarded faculty grants to further its mission of supporting applied political research by world-class scholars. (See article on page 10.)

In January 2021, the Institute of Politics officially launched with more election-related events and a poll about the government’s handling of the COVID-19 public health crisis showing widespread support among Floridians of both parties for aspects of federal masking and social distancing guidelines.

The keynote of the launch, however, was the Celebrating Civility series focused on the importance of civic engagement, political participation and civil discourse in contemporary American politics. (See page 11.)

“We want to reacquaint all people across the nation with the optimistic side of politics,” said attorney Al Cardenas, who was a catalyst behind the formation of IOP@FSU. “We have to get back to a place where we can talk about issues respectfully and rationally and form opinion based on research and debate.”

The IOP rounded out the academic year with webinars and online panel discussions about the 2021 session of the Florida Legislature, talks on the importance of intellectual humility and young voters, and the inauguration of two new series: the “Politics in the Sunshine” podcast hosted by adjunct instructor Al Cardenas and “Why We Serve,” a series of interviews of elected officials and public servants conducted by the institute’s undergraduate fellows.

For more information about IOP@FSU, visit iopfsu.com.
Faculty awarded civic engagement research grants

The Institute of Politics awarded its initial round of five research grants to FSU scholars in November 2020. The grants, each totaling at or near $20,000, went to three faculty members and one doctoral candidate within COSSPP and four faculty from other FSU colleges. The funded projects all have a strong connection to the IOP mission.

“The Institute of Politics was given the mission by the legislature to, among other things, create and promote research and awareness regarding politics, citizen involvement and public service,” said IOP Director Hans Hassell. “We are excited to support projects that will help strengthen democratic institutions and encourage civic engagement and political participation.”

The awarded projects are:

Understanding Barriers to Full Civic Participation by the LGBTQ Community: The Case of Atlanta
A study by Ph.D. candidate Ozlem Atalay and Professor Petra Doan, both in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, focuses on the role of LGBTQ+ advisory boards in city decision-making and their role in helping to create more equal and inclusive cities.

Preference Change in Competitive Environments
Assistant Professor of Political Science Kai Ou's research examines how competition for higher social, economic and political status – a natural human desire – may affect individuals’ values and political preferences.

The President, a Pandemic, and Public Support for the Rule of Law: The First (and Second) Hundred Days of American Democracy in 2021
The IOP grant will help Associate Professor of Political Science Amanda Driscoll and colleagues from West Virginia State University and Penn State to study the challenge that the rapid spread of COVID presents to long-standing norms that support democratic order. This is a continuation of the research they have been conducting under a National Science Foundation grant awarded in April 2020.

Developing Civically Engaged Art Education: New Practices, New Voices, New Civics
Associate Professor of Art Education Sara Scott Shields, chair of art education within the FSU College of Fine Arts, and Assistant Professor of Art Education Rachel Fendler, director of the department’s BA/MS Pathway Program, look at how the art classroom might become a central locale for teaching towards civic participation.

Examining the Impact of Communicative Processes of Civic Engagement among College Students
This research by Associate Professor of Communication Patrick Merle, director of the FSU School of Communication, and Assistant Professor of Communication Jessica Wendorf Muhammad, associate director of the Center for Hispanic Communication, seeks to understand how public health messages are received and accepted based on their characteristics and channels of communication. The study is designed to provide insight into developing more effective health crisis messages that mitigate harm and increase pro-social attitudes and behaviors in the FSU student community.
Events celebrate civil discourse, bipartisanship

IOP@FSU’s Celebrating Civility speaker series is an ongoing series of events for people of all political persuasions to come together during a pivotal time in American politics. The series features political dignitaries, world-class scholars, and leaders in policy, legislation and the media.

“I am incredibly proud of the progress made and ground covered through IOP’s speaker series,” said IOP Director Hans Hassell. “Every guest has served to both educate and motivate listeners while demonstrating the critical import of civil discourse in politics.”

All of the following events have been recorded and are available for viewing, along with other IOP programs, in the Institute of Politics playlist on the college’s YouTube channel at bit.ly/3h0FApV.

Policy Making in the 117th Congress (January 26)
Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL) and Rep. Al Lawson (D-FL) talked about finding common ground in Congress.

Rising to the Challenge of Covering Politics in the Current Political Environment (January 28)
Crisis communications specialist Jill Zuckman and Kristian Denny Todd, co-founder of Maverick Strategies, discussed how changes in the media and politics have affected the relationships between politicians and the press and how these changes have affected press coverage in the current political climate.

IOP Celebrating Civility Keynote (March 1)
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Former Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) shared insights into the Senate and the importance of civic engagement, political participation and civil discourse.

Political Civility: Encouraging Problem-Solving (April 22)
Margaret White, executive director for No Labels, and former Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT) highlighted the importance of bipartisanship and political civility and focused on how we can encourage problem-solving in a polarized Congress and in our own local communities.

Discussion with Sen. Angus King (May 6)
IOP fellows hosted a chat on public service with one of two independents in the U.S. Senate, Angus King of Maine.

Willie Gaynor, who served under George W. Bush and Donald Trump, speaks during an IOP Zoom webinar on presidential transitions.

Presidential Transitions and the Biden Administration (January 14)
Willie Gaynor (2016 Trump Transition Team & 2000 Bush Transition Team), Jon Carson (2008 Obama Transition Team) and Gary Hollibaugh Jr. (Associate Prof. of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh) participated in a roundtable moderated by IOP Director Hans Hassell.
Few issues seem to be causing more anxiety among conservatives and supporters of limited government than the perceived liberal and progressive tilt of college campuses. While some of these fears are well grounded, our experience at Florida State University and the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy shows that our conservative student base is alive, healthy and growing.

Indeed, over the last several years, unlike many of our peer institutions, the university has hosted without incident controversial conservative speakers such as Rachel Campos-Duffy, Charlie Kirk and Milo Yiannopolis.

How do we accomplish this?

Quite simply, the college takes a holistic view of student activism and is committed to viewpoint diversity. Our success is rooted in what I call “four pillars” of responsible community building: administrative leadership, alumni support, faculty support and, most important, student activism.
More than 1,300 FSU students self-identify with limited government, Republican, conservative, libertarian or pro-liberty ideologies through their membership in more than a dozen registered student organizations. A dozen more organizations are “fellow travelers,” not ideologically aligned but largely supportive of this worldview. Prior to COVID-19, these organizations had attendance of nearly 250 students weekly for meetings and events.

In a state where more than half of its voting citizens chose Donald Trump over Joe Biden, and all branches of state government continue to be controlled by conservatives and Republicans, the vibrancy of this community is important for the college as well as its students.

Administrative leadership is an important and often neglected element of building a culture that supports intellectually curious viewpoints. As a matter of strategic purpose, the college regularly communicates its core value of viewpoint diversity.

Dean Tim Chapin, an urban planner by training and profession, has participated in numerous conservative student meetings to reinforce his personal commitment to ensuring their voice is heard and valued at the highest levels. Students hear this voice in small groups as well as large zoom meetings. This commitment is also built on a college tradition of supporting viewpoint diversity through such programs as Agree to Disagree, sponsored by the college Student Leadership Council.

Second, the college, with the active support of its alumni, puts its resources where its mouth is. The DeVoe L. Moore Center (DMC) is one of three market-oriented think tanks within COSSPP. The DMC, endowed by local entrepreneur DeVoe Moore in 1998, has positioned itself as a hub to help coordinate and support these organizations and their students. The DMC’s donor agreement explicitly recognizes the center’s mission to examine the role private enterprise and free markets play in the economy. This support includes DMC-affiliated faculty serving as active advisors to FSU student chapters, such as the College Republicans, College Libertarians, Turning Point USA and Young Americans for Freedom, and hosting leadership summits to encourage dialogue among these organizations.

These university centers also provide experiential learning opportunities in free-market public policy. Each year, more than 30 undergraduate students engage in the DMC work supporting the center’s mission. Indeed, more than 172 students have interned in the center since 2012. Each year, the Stavros Center hosts a transformative weekend seminar at Capitaf, the Vermont summer home of Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton and Rose Friedman. More than a dozen students examine the Friedmans’ ideas about the free-market political economy in small group sessions built on Socratic dialogue.

These centers and faculty actively network their students with prominent think tanks and organizations engaged in evidence-based policy with similar viewpoints, such as the James Madison Institute in Tallahassee, the Mercatus Center in Washington, D.C., and the Institute for Humane Studies among others.

An unheralded strength of COSSPP, however, is its diverse faculty. While more than a dozen full-time faculty self-identify as conservative or libertarian, many more are committed to an earnest and authentic discussion of diverse viewpoints as a matter of core values. Faculty who fall along the limited government policy spectrum rely on intellectual and professional support from colleagues who value their commitment to teaching and research independent of their work with students more focused on political activism.

Although participation in student organizations waxes and wanes with the level of activism and the quality of leadership, these organizations provide a broad and diverse framework within which these students can test their own ideas among friends. They provide bountiful leadership opportunities for them to test their skills at managing people, organizing events, promoting professional networking and honing messages through public speaking.

With enough students identifying along the center-right political and policy spectrum to populate a small liberal arts college, our college’s task is to continue to nurture this emergent “ecosystem.” The college continues to commit itself to building up the support for these students, to work creatively together to strengthen the college and university these students chose as their academic pathway into the professional world.

We often come across stories of locally cherished mom-and-pop stores competing with chain stores and online retailers and eventually going out of business. Advocates of mom-and-pop stores tout these businesses as local institutions that sustain community life while adding a unique charm to the local business districts. However, when it comes to protecting mom-and-pop stores, experts and practitioners disagree on the efficacy of the available policy and regulatory strategies.

In response, more than 30 U.S. municipalities, many of which are small coastal towns with unique local character, have adopted a land-use regulation called Formula Business Restrictions (FBR). The purpose of FBR is to prevent or discourage infiltration of communities by formula businesses (defined as businesses that offer a standardized array of services and/or products and utilize standardized décors, architecture, uniform and business methods).

These ordinances either prohibit or limit the number of formula businesses that can locate in a given jurisdiction or specific parts of it. The stated objectives of the ordinances are to protect the existing mom-and-pop stores and their unique community character. Examples of communities with FBR include several towns in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and Carmel-by-the-Sea and Sausalito in California.

Our research provides new empirical evidence that FBR ordinances have effectively protected mom-and-pop stores from going out of business. We find that the mom-and-pop stores located in the communities with FBR have been employing more people since the adoption of FBR than those located in communities that are similar in character but do not have FBR in place. We find that this positive effect occurred over time with increasing magnitude.

We also find that FBR’s positive effect on mom-and-pop stores varied by the industry sector. FBR had a strong positive impact on retail and food and beverage establishments but not on the hotel and other accommodation service providers. Our findings suggest that chain store entry barriers will likely be more efficient when targeting retail and food and beverage sectors.

We believe that the findings of this study are meaningful for American cities, especially for small towns and mid-size cities, working to revitalize their downtown commercial districts. For example, Main Street America, a nationwide coalition that collectively develops economic strategies for small and mid-size cities, emphasizes the critical importance of fostering downtown districts as a shopping and social destination. They recommend creating a walkable, small-scale, mixed-use downtown populated by local, independent businesses. The FBR ordinance can become one of the core tools of the Main Street movement.

The impacts of chain store entry barriers on broader economic issues such as consumer welfare, aggregate employment effect, tax base and industry productivity are critical issues for further investigation. Nevertheless, our findings suggest that chain store entry barriers can effectively protect the beloved local mom-and-pop stores when used in the right places and regulating the right types of businesses.

Minjee Kim is an assistant professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Tingyu Zhou is an assistant professor in the College of Business. You can read their full research report at https://bit.ly/3Ci00lq.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Although undergraduates majoring in the college’s programs and departments account for about 12-14% of the FSU student population, our students typically make up a higher percentage of annual awards and honors: six undergrads (46%) of all FSU students receiving national foreign language/study abroad scholarships, 12 students (32%) recognized as Outstanding Senior Scholars, 21 students (21%) named to the FSU Torchbearer 100 of the most outstanding undergraduate leaders and achievers, 45 undergraduates (17%) inducted into the Garnet & Gold Society, eight students (15%) of all FSU Leadership Awards.

Critical language scholarship winners Meagan McLaughlin, Suzan Elzawahry, Nicholas Hearing and Simon Velasco

Askew School graduate student and 2020 Social Science Scholar Nastassia “Tazzy” Janvier became the 27th student body president since the college’s founding to have earned a degree in the college. That makes more than 50% of all student body presidents since 1973. There were numerous SGA presidents before the college founding who held degrees in disciplines that would later be part of COSSPP (such as former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew).

In June, Janvier was elected chair of the Florida Student Association. In that role she represents the student bodies of Florida’s 12 public universities – amplifying the voice of more than 400,000 students. It also gives her a seat and a vote on the Board of Governors, which oversees the State University System of Florida.

Melissa Toussaint, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, and Jonathan “JD” Dorsey, a sophomore in political science, were among eight FSU undergrads to receive Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships from the U.S. Department of State to study or intern abroad, barring any COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Melissa Toussaint, JD Dorsey

Three grad students from the college were among the nine from FSU selected to the 2020 cohort of the Florida Area Health and Education Center Scholars Program, an opportunity to work directly with the Big Bend Area Health Education Center and gain firsthand experience in underserved population settings: Mariann D’Arcangelis and Kimberly Watts of the Master of Public Health program and Brandon Rowland from the Askew School.

The studio team of second-year master’s students from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning won the Florida Planning and Zoning Association’s 2020 student project award for their 2019 capstone studio project, “Shared Mobility Design and Policy Guidance,” undertaken for the Florida Department of Transportation and Plan Hillsborough (Tampa). The six members of the team – Carolyn Back, Jarice Baree, Navael Fontus, Kaleb McClellan, Dara Osher and Amber Tyrie – have since graduated and moved on to professional planning positions throughout the U.S.

Students conducting research within the DeVoe Moore Center (DMC) presented at the annual conference of the Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE). Noah Danker earned first place in APEE’s undergraduate research competition and the A. Herberg Memorial Prize for his
research on the effects of deregulating land use on housing supply.

The college’s World Affairs Program (WAP) capped a successful year with the #4 spot in world rankings by Best Delegate, an organization dedicated to promoting and supporting student Model UN teams in competitions and conferences in a broad range of regions. This is the third consecutive year the team has placed in the top 10, achieving the #8 ranking in 2018-2019 and #10 in 2019-2020.

The Best Delegate recognition wasn’t the only accomplishment for this student team this year. For the first time in its history, WAP took home Best Large Delegation at the University of Virginia International Crisis Simulation in March. A number of WAP members won individual Best Delegate awards at the University of California Berkeley’s Model UN Conference. In the final conferences of the academic year, the team won Best Large Delegation at William and Mary and Outstanding Small Delegation at Yale.

These achievements are all the more noteworthy for having taken place in a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many Model UN (MUN) and Crisis Simulation conferences had to transition to completely virtual platforms, forcing delegates to adapt their skills and, for many, years of MUN experience to succeed on the virtual circuit. New training and recruitment methods put in place by FSU WAP leadership were highly effective in meeting the demands of the new virtual environment. These tactics allowed some of the best and brightest FSU freshmen to join the program and, in turn, significantly boost rankings.

**FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP**

Life for the people of Puerto Rico hasn’t been the same since Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September 2017. A study by Mathew Hauer (Sociology) shows it won’t be the same for decades to come. Using population modeling that accounts for fertility rates, the aging of the population and migration, among other factors, Hauer’s study found the projected population will now include 200,000 fewer people than previously anticipated by the year 2047. Maria’s impact on Puerto Rico is more evidence to support the claims of many that a failed government response has exacerbated the hurricane’s damage, Hauer said.

**Randall Holcombe** (Economics) published a book, “Coordination, Cooperation, and Control: The Evolution of Economic and Political Power” (Palgrave Macmillan), that looks at the relationships between these two types of power over the course of human history, how they come to be separated, and how they can remain separated. “When the same people have both political and economic power, the result is stagnation,” Holcombe said. “Conversely, when those who have economic power do not have political power, the result is progress.”

**Daniel Fay** (Askew School of Public Administration and Policy) and co-authors published their research on “Intersectionality and equity: Dynamic bureaucratic representation in higher education.” The study found that student graduation rates improve as more faculty employed by a college or university share sex and race/ethnic identities with students.

**Katrinell Davis** (Sociology) published a book, “Tainted Tap: Flint’s Journey from Crisis to Recovery,” based on her several years of research on the Flint, Mich., water crisis. She also launched the new “Tainted Tap” podcast to explore the roots, effects and aftermath of the crisis. Earlier in the year, Davis published research finding that many children in the U.S. have never been tested for lead, even when required by state and federal healthcare policy, and not all children gain access to follow-up or confirmatory testing when elevated blood lead levels are detected.
A paper by Deana Rohlinger (Sociology), “We Cannot Just Moderate Extremism Away,” was the first published entry in the Social Science Research Council’s new series on online extremism. Rohlinger argues that direct interventions like political bias training are necessary to both protect against extremism and encourage democratic participation. She is one of 13 scholars throughout the world chosen by SSRC to participate in the ongoing project to expand the scholarship on extremism, radicalization and related topics and has been working with a team of FSU graduate and undergraduate students to gauge the characteristics of political expression online and whether moderation might affect how individuals express their political identities and views.

A paper by James Wright (Askew School), “Place plus Race Effects in Bureaucratic Discretionary Power: An Analysis of Residential Segregation and Police Stop Decisions,” considered the effect of officers’ decisions when performing vehicle stops and conducting vehicle or person searches.

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A study by Sandy Wong (Geography) and co-authors, “Disability, wages, and commuting in New York,” found significant disparities in wages and commute times between disabled and non-disabled workers across the New York metro region.

Assistant Professor Sandy Wong

Paromita Sanyal (Sociology) published two papers in the Journal of Business Anthropology. “From Brides to Business Owners: Microfinance and Women’s Entrepreneurship” looks at the contexts that facilitate rural Indian women’s transition from “gender-compliant housewives” to breadwinners. “Struggles and Strategies of Black Women Business Owners in the U.S.,” co-authored with a colleague, is a study of the unique challenges faced by Black women entrepreneurs.

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Research by Dotan Haim (Political Science) and colleagues found that trust in government can be restored even in places where it’s lagged for decades and in the process can help limit the impact of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Foundation. The research found that the program, which provides no-cost technical assistance to municipalities, counties and regional organizations, carries significant benefits for participating communities and has measurable positive impacts on the solar market. The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office.

**RESEARCH FUNDING**

The Mark & Marianne Barnebey Planning and Development Lab (aka “The Barn”) within the Department of Urban and Regional Planning received a $348,898 award through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s Rebuild Florida General Planning Support Program, which provides funding to develop or enhance state, regional and local plans to enable Florida to withstand future natural disasters. The Barn is the lead organization in the program, but the application process and the resulting work are a team effort involving faculty from the Department of Geography and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. The Florida Counties Foundation is also a team member on the project.

Assistant Professor of Economics Mackenzie Alston was selected for a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Bureau of Economic Research to support diversity in economics. The one-year fellowship is open to early-career economists from historically under-represented demographics within the economics profession and to researchers studying diversity issues.

**Karin Brewster** (Sociology, Demography) received funding through a contract with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to conduct their 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment.

**Stephanie Pau** (Geography) was awarded a National Science Foundation research grant for a project investigating the relationship between leaf phenology – the timing and amount of leaf production – and primary productivity in contrasting wet and dry tropical forest habitats, using geospatial data.

**Chris Uejio** (Geography) received $400,000 from NASA for a four-year collaborative project to investigate whether city investments in green space help lower temperatures and thus reduce heat-related health problems. Uejio and fellow researchers were selected to join a unique NASA project, the Health and Air Quality Applied Science Team, which brings together national experts to work on rapid response projects (e.g., COVID and air quality improvements, wildland fires).

**Florida State University’s Committee on Faculty Research Support program awarded research funding for summer 2021 to Dawn Carr** (Sociology, Pepper Institute) for her project on financial and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic among older Americans and to **Koji Ueno** (Sociology) for his project comparing the perceptions of workplace climate among LGBTQ+ employees in Japan and the U.S.

**Two assistant professors were awarded McKnight Junior Faculty Development Fellowships** for the 2020-2021 academic year. **April Jackson** (Urban and Regional Planning) and **James Wright** (Askev School of Public Administration and Policy) were accepted into the fellowship program, which is designed to encourage excellence in teaching and research by freeing junior faculty from their regular duties so they can pursue research in their special areas of interest. Jackson’s fellowship supported her research on mixed-income communities and ways to promote greater racial equity in the built environment. Wright focused on completing two projects on improving community police relations and the role of automation in decision making for social services.

**Paromita Sanyal** (Sociology) and several colleagues received a $50,000 interdisciplinary research grant through the Social Science Research Council for their project, “Pandemics and Migrant Precarity: North-South Dialogues.”

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

The second annual internal college faculty awards were announced by Dean Tim Chapin in April, recognizing our exceptional faculty for their vital work and important contributions. COSSPP Teaching Awards: **Joe Calhoun** (Economics), **Portia Campos** (Public Administration), **Kerry Fang** (Urban and Regional Planning), **Radha Modi** (Interdisciplinary Social Science), **Na’ama Nagar** (Political Science and International Affairs); COSSPP Early Career Research Awards: **Matt Hauer** (Sociology and Demography), **Tian Tang** (Public Administration); COSSPP Mid Career Research Awards: **Dmitry Ryvkin** (Economics), **Miles Taylor** (Sociology and Pepper Institute).

Members of the college faculty won university-wide awards for the 2020-2021 academic year. **Douglas Ahler** (Political Science) received the Honors in the Major Thesis Mentor Award from the FSU.
Honors Program for his exceptional work in directing and advising undergraduate research. Radha Modi (Interdisciplinary Social Science) won an Undergraduate Inclusive Teaching and Mentoring Award. Lisa Munson (Sociology) won an Undergraduate Innovation in Teaching Award. In all, 18 members of the college faculty were nominated for University Teaching Awards this year, and five advising staff members were nominated for advising awards.

Michelle Whyman (Political Science) and co-authors were awarded the 2020 Fenno Prize for best book in the area of legislative studies for “The Great Broadening: How the Vast Expansion of the Policymaking Agenda Transformed American Politics.” The award was presented at the American Political Science Association’s virtual meeting in September 2020.

Kerry Li Fang (Urban and Regional Planning) won the Rising Scholar Award from the International Association for China Planning. This award recognizes a junior faculty member who has demonstrated an outstanding research record in the broader area of urban planning and development in China.

APPOINTMENTS AND ADVANCEMENT

After a distinguished 11-year career at Florida State University, Claude Pepper Center Director Larry Polivka won the Elaine M. Brody Thought Leader Award from the Gerontological Society of America in acknowledgement of his outstanding career contributions in social research, policy and practice. The announcement came just prior to his planned retirement from the university on May 31. Polivka, who holds a Ph.D. in sociology from FSU, has been a highly vocal and active advocate for aging issues for many years. More recently, he has written and spoken on how the COVID pandemic exposed the inadequacies and vulnerabilities of nursing homes, whose residents have been disproportionately impacted by the public health crisis — in some states accounting for nearly half of all COVID deaths in the early months of the pandemic. In his time as director of the Pepper Center, Polivka has guided the creation of a clear vision and mission focused on some of the major policy areas important to the late Senator Claude Pepper (1900-1989), including retirement security, health care and long-term care.

Lisa Turner de Vera replaced retired Associate Dean and Professor of Political Science Robert Crew as director of the Interdisciplinary Social Science program beginning in January 2021. She has been associate director and teaching faculty for the program since 2014. Crew retired from the university in December 2020.

Mark Horner (Geography) began a three-year appointment as chair of that department in July. Since 2018, he has served as COSPP Associate Dean for Research. Outgoing Geography Chair James Elsner remains on the faculty of the department.

Amy Burdette (Sociology) was named chair of the interdisciplinary Public Health program, taking over from William Weissert (Political Science), who retired this summer. Burdette had been director of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program since 2018.
After serving as interim chair for more than a year, Joe Calhoun was named chair of the Department of Economics beginning May 2021.

Gloria Lessan retired in December 2020 after 19 years with the Department of Sociology. In honor of her many years of teaching and her dedicated mentorship of graduate student TAs and instructors, the department renamed its annual award for best graduate student instructor to be known as the Gloria T. Lessan Best Graduate Instructor Award.

Katrinell Davis (Sociology) was appointed associate director of the African American Studies program.

The Pepper Institute’s Anne Barrett and Miles Taylor

After six years as director of the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy, Anne Barrett has stepped down from the position. Professor of Sociology Miles Taylor has been appointed to a three-year term as director. “Dr. Taylor is committed to supporting the Pepper Institute’s tradition of scholarly excellence, engaged faculty and strategic efforts to advance research and policy on issues important to older adults,” said Dean Tim Chapin. “I also want to take this time to publicly thank outgoing Director Anne Barrett for her strong, visionary and collaborative leadership of the institute for the last six years.

She has been an outstanding leader and an excellent advocate for faculty and staff.” Barrett returns to her faculty position as professor of sociology and will remain as affiliated faculty of the Pepper Institute.

SERVICE AND COLLABORATIONS

Evidence-based decision-making has long been one of the guiding values of the college. This year, the Leroy Collins Institute, housed within the college, issued a report that aims to introduce strategies and techniques to help policymakers target limited resources toward programs that are proven to work and eliminate those that deliver poor results. “Better Choices: Evidence-Based Policymaking Can Improve Florida’s Outcomes,” authored by Gary VanLandingham, professor, master’s program director and the Reubin O’D. Askew Senior Practitioner in Residence at the Askew School, is being distributed to state policymakers and major Florida publications to encourage leaders to adopt these techniques and give priority to funding evidence-based programs.

Thanks to Professor of Sociology Miles Taylor’s expertise on population aging, the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy and the college are core partners in an international consortium launched in late September 2020 by McGill University in Montreal. Taylor, a faculty associate of the Pepper Institute, received a Fulbright Scholar grant in 2018 to teach and perform research at McGill, comparing health and aging in the U.S. and Canada. She is now a core collaborator on the project and a member of the executive committee, overseeing the substantive training of more than 100 exceptional students from around the world on topics related to aging societies. “The idea is to take graduate students in social sciences and train them in cutting-edge data science and translational skills that we know are needed by employers and policymakers right now,” Taylor said.

Gary VanLandingham

Professor of Urban and Regional Planning Christopher Coutts was invited by the U.S. State Department to be a mentor to outgoing Fulbright Scholars, i.e., those who are preparing to head out on their projects. Coutts helped them answer questions about Africa, Malawi (where he did his Fulbright work in 2018) and the Fulbright experience in general during the pre-departure orientation and while they were in-country.

Professor Audrey Heffron Casserleigh and Teaching Professor Janet Dilling (Center for Disaster Risk Policy) were presenting panelists on the U.S. State Department webinar “Building Online Programs in Higher Education: Strategies, Partnerships, and Models.”

Audrey Heffron Casserleigh and Janet Dilling

Faculty members James E. Wright (Askew School), April Jackson (Urban and Regional Planning) and Tyler McCready (Geography) have been commissioned by the Leroy Collins Institute to lead
two new public policy studies to examine the role of civilian oversight committees and the effectiveness of the use-of-force policies in policing in Florida. The studies’ findings will be used to address existing policies and recommend potential solutions and changes.

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy (CDRP) conducted advanced training on the use of unmanned aircraft in emergencies and disasters at the Baker County (Florida) Sheriff’s Department. CDRP faculty David Merrick and Jarrett Broder taught a session on UAS Response Technician for a dozen students from the sheriff’s office, Baker County Fire Rescue, the Macclenny Fire Department, the Florida Highway Patrol and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Through classroom and hands-on instruction, students learned techniques and tactics to apply unmanned aircraft safely and effectively in a variety of emergencies. Agency personnel flew in a variety of conditions, including nighttime. The scenarios included extensive assessment, inspection and search exercises that culminated in a full-scale search-and-rescue practical assessment.

Associate Dean and Professor of Sociology Deana Rohlinger was elected to chair the Collective Behavior and Social Movements section of the American Sociological Association (ASA). She served as chair of the ASA’s section on Communication, Information Technologies & Media Sociology from 2018 to 2019.

RANKINGS
In U.S. News & World Report’s 2022 edition of “Best Graduate Schools,” the Askew School ranked #28 nationally and #16 among public institutions in the overall field of public affairs. In the state of Florida, it is #1. Specialties within the Askew School ranked even higher among all schools nationally: #10 in local government management, #13 in public management and leadership, #20 in public finance and budgeting and #22 in urban policy.

LECTURES AND WEBINARS
The pandemic made it impossible for the college to continue bringing informative, stimulating lectures and discussions to campus, but technology allowed us to go virtual in a big way. In addition to regularly scheduled presentations in specific disciplines, such as geography, demography, emergency management and economics, response was overwhelmingly positive to the interactive online versions of our long-running Policy Pubs, a new series of talks and panels presented by the Institute of Politics, and our “Wicked Webinar” discussions of important issues the general public could attend online.

Videos of most of our virtual programs are always available for viewing on the college YouTube channel at bit.ly/2U5t5jN

Wicked Webinars presented this year included:

“Neighborhoods First: Community Action for Equitable City Planning,” a panel led by Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning Tisha Holmes and featuring leaders of Tallahassee’s Providence Neighborhood Association, discussing pathways that communities, particularly communities of color, can take to engage with the city planning process.

In “The COVID-19 Effect: Tackling Racial, Economic, and Gender Inequity,” scholars shared their research on the varied and disproportionate impacts of...
the pandemic on the retail sector, communities of color and women. Panelists included Daniel Fay (Public Administration), Kerry Fang (Urban and Regional Planning), Patricia Homan (Sociology) and James Wright (Public Administration), moderated by William Butler (Urban and Regional Planning).

This year’s Policy Pubs featured a wide range of topics and a chance for the public to interact with our faculty experts.

“Bouncing Back: What the Science of Resilience Can Teach Us” (Professor of Sociology Miles Taylor) (See the feature story on p. 4.)

“Florida Charter Schools: Not as Good, or as Bad as Advertised” (Professor of Political Science Carol Weissert, director of the Leroy Collins Institute)

“The Future of Higher Education in a Post-Pandemic World” (Dean Tim Chapin, professor of urban and regional planning)

“Campaigns in a New Environment: A Retrospective into Political Campaigns in 2020” (Associate Professor of Political Science Hans Hassell, Institute of Politics director)

“Intended Consequences: The Role of Fringe Movements in Civil Unrest” (Audrey Heffron Casserleigh, professor in Emergency Management and Homeland Security and senior fellow at the FSU Center for Disaster Risk Policy)

“Going Viral: What We Can Learn from Pandemics Past, Present, and...” (Alan Rowan, teaching faculty in public health)

The Askew School’s Social Justice and Innovation Lab, established this year, teamed with the Tallahassee Chan Center to present a series of educational programs focusing on multiple perspectives on racial issues. “Engaging with Racism: Conversations for Change” featured speakers on such topics as racial trauma, the history of slavery, criminal justice discrimination, gender inequalities, health and education systems, black literature and arts, among many others. Each lecture was followed the next week by an online interactive discussion.

The college’s endowed lecture series were also virtual this year, presenting distinguished speakers often in collaboration with other FSU units.

“The Crisis of Civilization and Conservation of the Amazon” – Marina Silva, Brazil’s former Minister of the Environment and three-time presidential candidate (Broad International Lecture in partnership with the Center for Global Engagement, Department of Geography, International Affairs program, et al.)

“Media Platforms for Pride and Prejudice: Triumphs, Trials and Tribulations for Journalism and Public Affairs in South Asia and Beyond” – Deb Aikat, faculty member in the Hussman School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (keynote sponsored by the Anderson Ashby Lectureship on Public Policy Journalism for the South Asian Media Studies Conference)

“Transforming Healthcare through Community Mobilization in Uganda” – Richard Chandler, Chairman and CEO of Bulamu Healthcare International (Broad International Lecture in partnership with the Center for Global Engagement’s Intercultural Dialogue Series)
Look just about anywhere in the Florida political scene and you will find an alum from the college. The winter 2021 issue of Influence magazine spotlighted some of the leading figures and rising stars in the state’s political arena, including a number of alums with degrees in political science, public health, international affairs, public administration and applied American politics and policy. The spotlighted alums include freshmen legislators Dan Daley and Michele Rayner; lobbyists Gus Corbella and Nick Matthews; and “Stars on the Rise” working in various state capacities Alexandra Abboud, Nick Alvarez, Cyrus Calhoun III, Lauren Schenone Cassidy, Katie Doughty, Macy Harper, Jena Kingery, Makenzi Mahler, Derek Silver, India Steinbaugh, Jared Williams and Ivey Rooney Yarger.

FSU’s Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship unveiled its 2021 Seminole 100 list of the fastest-growing businesses owned or led by FSU alumni in a virtual ceremony in February. The list includes 16 businesses owned/operated by 17 COSSPP alumni: Kinloch Partners – Bruce McNeilage (B.S. ’88 Economics); 30A Beach Services – Glenn Foote (B.S. ’11 Social Sciences) and Robert Miralles (B.S. ’11 Economics, International Affairs); Goodwipes – Peter Siciak (B.S. ’09 International Affairs); Chisholm Law Firm – Audrey Chisholm (B.A. ’04 International Affairs); EnLight. Energy – Julio Hernandez (B.S. ’04 International Affairs); Kupanda Capital – Bobby Pittman (B.S. ’06 Economics, International Affairs); Synergy Settlement Services – Anthony Prieto Jr. (B.S. ’96 Political Science); Atlanta Family & Immigration Law Firm – Judith Delus Montgomery (B.S. ’03 Political Science); Ancient City Brewing Company – Gregory Tuttle (B.S. ’02 Economics); Staff Builders HR – Stuart Norman (B.S. ’97 Political Science); Autumn Beck Blackledge, PLLC – Autumn Beck Blackledge (B.S. ’98 Political Science); Jeff Kottkamp, PA. – Jeff Kottkamp (B.S. ’84 Political Science); Imperial Fence Supply – Todd Jefferies (B.S. ’02 Economics); Owenby Law – Joy Owenby (B.S. ’93 Political Science); McKee Insurance Agency – Patrick McKee (B.S. ’00 Economics).

The FSU Alumni Association honored two COSSPP alums – Jean Accius (M.S. ’03 Aging Studies) and B. Dan Berger (B.S. ’89 Economics) – with its annual Circle of Gold Award, presented to individuals who, through their service and achievements, personify the university’s tradition of excellence. Accius is a senior executive and nationally recognized thought leader on aging, longevity, health and long-term care policy at AARP. In 2018, he was recognized as a Gerontological Society of America Fellow and in 2019, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences gave him the Sharecare Award for his groundbreaking work on male family caregivers. Berger, president and CEO of the National Association of Federally Insured Credit Unions, was recently named a top association lobbyist for 2020 by The Hill, a daily newspaper covering Congress and Washington, D.C. This is the 18th consecutive year that Berger has been named to the list.

Four alumni of the college were among seven FSU grads to speak as successful entrepreneurs featured in this year’s 7 UNDER 30 speaker series. Dominic Ard’is (M.S. ’12 Urban Planning, International Affairs), Michael Benarde (B.S. ’19 Political Science), Hannah King (B.A. ’19 International Affairs and Economics) and Tarek Waked (B.S. ’13 International Affairs, Economics) talked about their experiences in starting and growing a business and participated in a Q&A session.

Shannon Estenoz (B.S. ’94 International Affairs, Engineering) was named principal deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior in the Biden administration. She leads the department’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
National Park Service. A fifth-generation Key West native known as a fierce and pragmatic Everglades restoration advocate, Estenoz oversaw Everglades restoration at the department under President Barack Obama’s administration.

Shannon Estenoz

Three alums and one FSU grad closely associated with the college were presented with the Reubin O’D. Askew Young Alumni Award, the highest honor bestowed upon young alumni by the FSU Alumni Association. Named in honor of COSSPP alum and former Florida Gov. Askew (B.S. ’51), the award recognizes these young alumni for continuing Askew’s legacy of outstanding accomplishments built on the foundation of their education: Ryan Kitchens (M.A. ’17 Public Administration), Christherson Jeanty (B.A. ’08 Economics and International Affairs, M.S. ’09 Economics) and Robyn Metcalf (M.P.A. ’15 Public Administration). Qaree Dreher completed his degrees in the College of Communication and Information, but as an undergraduate he was a member of the 2013 cohort of Social Science Scholars.

Fabrice Guerrier (B.A. ’13 International Affairs) was featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 List, Class of 2021 for Art & Style. Guerrier, a Haitian American, founded the sci-fi and fantasy production house Syllble because he never saw minority characters like himself in these types of literary works. So far, Syllble has partnered with hundreds of authors from four continents.

Wartyna L. Davis (Ph.D. ’02 Political Science) was appointed dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at William Paterson University of New Jersey. She joined the William Paterson faculty in 1998 as assistant professor of political science and rose to earn the rank of full professor. She served for seven years as chair of the political science department. In 2013, Davis was elected to serve as councilwoman at-large for the Township of Bloomfield, N.J.

Dawn Jourdan (Ph.D. ’04 Urban and Regional Planning) was named dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at the University of Maryland, effective August 1, 2021. She will lead the school in its mission to advance education while promoting social justice, cultural diversity, resource conservation and economic opportunity through excellence in architectural design, urban planning, historic preservation and real estate development.

Jaqueline “Jack” Porter (M.S.P. M.P.A. ’20 Urban and Regional Planning, Public Administration) won a seat on the Tallahassee City Commission in August 2020, defeating appointed incumbent Elaine Bryant by 51% to 40%. According to the Tallahassee Democrat, Porter tapped support from political action committees on the left and right as she pledged to shake up City Hall management and approach community issues with a progressive eye.

The FSU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society chooses three Grads Made Good honorees to be recognized at the Homecoming Breakfast every year. The ceremony is put together by the National Collegiate Leadership Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa and the FSU Alumni Association. Two of this year’s honorees were alumni of the college: Neil Rambana (B.A. ’92 English Lit, Political Science; M.A. ’96 International Affairs), senior partner at the immigration law firm Rambana & Ricci, and Bruce McNeilage (B.S. ’88 Economics), CEO/co-founder of the real estate company Kinloch Partners.
Neil Ramhaha is congratulated by FSU President John Thrasher.

Doby Flowers (M.S. ’73 Urban and Regional Planning) and Fred Flowers (M.S. ’73 Urban and Regional Planning) were awarded Torch Awards from the FSU Faculty Senate in May for their contributions to furthering academic excellence at FSU.

Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz (B.S. ’97 Political Science, International Affairs) was appointed to the FSU Board of Trustees in June. An attorney from Miami, de las Cuevas-Diaz is a partner at the Holland & Knight law firm and serves as the deputy leader of the Real Estate Section, assisting in managing the firm’s nationwide real estate practice. She received her law degree from Tulane University.

Financial support is not the only way our alums help the college and our students. Sharing expertise and experience with students is a highly valuable way to give back, as the following alums proved in the past year.

**Economics**
- Steve Clein on using his economics education to help him start his insurance business
- Frank Coto on his experience as an entrepreneur
- Serena Finn on career advice and how her economics background helped her build a successful career at New York Life
- Travis Hadwin on basic investing principles, current stock market trends and career advice
- Mark Mathiason on personal budgeting best practices and how to prepare to apply for a mortgage
- David Picard on how to build a credit score, efficiently use credit and stay out of credit card debt
- Mario Ponczek on the history of the stock market and how students can break into financial advising
- Frank Sancho on blockchain technology and cryptocurrency
- Ed Sutton on investing, the current market environment and how to use compound interest to build wealth

**Political Science**
- Tom Henderson on his role in the Education Finance Act and career advice
- Greg Jones on the history of Medicare and career advice
- Major General Patrick Sargent sent a commencement video to students.

**Sociology**
- Kent Shoemaker on how the food industry impacts our lives and his role as CEO of a national agricultural company.

**Urban and Regional Planning**
- Owen Beitsch on his path to achieving success in the private sector and academia
- Greg Beliveau on how urban and regional planning actually takes place in the marketplace
- Alex Munoz on his career journey and the variety of careers in the public sector
- Tiffany Taylor on careers in the federal government

Comcast Senior Director of Government Affairs Tony Bauwidsmaann (B.S. ’90 Political Science) gave a Zoom talk to students in the Fundamentals of Political Management course for the Master of Applied American Politics and Policy program.

Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz

The Alumni-College Connection
Distinguished Alumni

For the 2021 Distinguished Alumni honors, the college has named four accomplished individuals who excel in their respective fields and credit their time at the college with much of the success they have since achieved.

Established in 1992, the annual awards honor alumni of the college’s departments and interdisciplinary programs for their professional achievements, contributions to society and support of the college and university.

B. Dan Berger
B.S. ‘89 Economics

Dan Berger has distinguished himself as an effective strategist and advocate for public policy and as a staunch supporter of FSU and the college.

As president and CEO of the National Association of Federally Insured Credit Unions, he is responsible for the association’s overall advocacy, management, operations and strategic direction and acts as its chief advocate before Congress, the White House and federal regulatory agencies. For 18 consecutive years, Berger has been recognized as one of the most influential lobbyists in Washington, D.C.

He is an author and a sought-after public speaker and commentator on national news outlets and publications, discussing issues ranging from leadership and management to politics and policy.

While at FSU he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and numerous on-campus clubs and organizations. He is a lifetime member of the FSU Alumni Association and chair of its board and a member of the Seminole Boosters. He is also active with the Career Center’s ProfessioNole mentoring program, which connects FSU students with alumni and supporters for career advice and guidance. Berger and his wife, Aimee, established the Berger Family Endowed Scholarship in Economics, a CARES scholarship.

“I’m at a point in my career where I can give back using the theory of the three Ts – Time, Talent and Treasure. I would recommend to all alumni that they grab one of these three Ts: Become a mentor, volunteer, make a contribution. No matter your stage in life or career, there is always a way to give back. The fact is, we all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. We have an obligation to make our college better, our university better, and to have a positive impact on our communities and society.”

Rosemary Magee
B.A. ’73 Sociology

Rosemary Magee has spent her entire professional career in higher education, most of it at Emory University in Atlanta, where she and her husband have lived for 44 years.

After earning her bachelor’s degree and then a master’s in religion at FSU in 1975, she served as an instructor and academic advisor at Valencia Community College. She later received her Ph.D. (1982) from Emory University and for the next 40+ years served in various roles there, including faculty member, dean, director and vice-president. She also chaired the Creativity and Arts Initiative of the university’s strategic plan while leading the fundraising and design for the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts.

Magee founded a series of interviews at Emory, now named the Rosemary Magee Creativity Conversations, to highlight creativity and imagination in dialogues between community members and distinguished writers and thinkers.

In 2012, she became director of the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library at Emory, where she was closely involved with the acquisition of the Flannery O’Connor collection and letters of former U.S. President Barack Obama, along with expanding African American and Irish literary collections. She stepped down from that role in 2018 to serve a sabbatical year as a senior faculty fellow at the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry before she retired in 2019.

“I truly believe in the transformative power of education. I believe in it because I experienced it first at FSU in the sociology department. My confidence in myself grew, and I felt I had the right combination of guidance and freedom. To think that I might be honored by this esteemed institution of higher learning and by the school where I focused my studies – that is profoundly astonishing and meaningful for me.”
Karen Rasler
M.S. '77, Ph.D. '81 Political Science

In her decades of research and teaching at major universities throughout the U.S., Karen Rasler has inspired, mentored and supported a generation of scholars; many are women, and all owe her a great debt.

The groundwork for her interest and expertise in global politics was laid during her time as a graduate student in the college’s political science department, which she says she chose because the faculty here was young, inventive and well published, with a strong international relations and comparative focus.

Professor Emerita of Political Science at Indiana University, she has published many journal articles, co-authored five books and won awards and grants from the National Science Foundation, the World Society Foundation and the Middle East Studies Association of North America, among others. She previously served as Vice President of the International Studies Association, as a three-time co-editor of the International Studies Quarterly, as a senior editor of the Oxford Research Encyclopedia for Politics and as a senior mentor at Journeys in World Politics.

Since retiring from IU, Rasler has divided her time between homes in Arizona and on Camano Island, Washington, with her husband Bill Thompson, an academic she met at FSU and with whom she has frequently co-authored scholarly works.

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“Today, he continues his role as chairman for the Southeast and Latin America for JPMorgan Chase. He and his wife, Kathryn (Kitty), proud of their three children and five grandchildren, live in Winter Park, Fla.

He credits the influence of faculty members like Richard Gray and Ross Oglesby with instilling in him the desire to play a role in international affairs and to think bigger than he ever had.

“I know that the education and mentoring I received at FSU is largely responsible for my professional success. With the many divisions in our country today, I believe public service to be a noble calling and one that needs the constant infusion of talent, vision and dedication for our country to flourish. My time at FSU allowed me to prepare myself for service to the nation that gave me refuge and allowed me to live my American Dream.”

“Mel Martinez’s years of accomplished public service are best summed up in the title of his 2008 book, “A Sense of Belonging: From Castro’s Cuba to the U.S. Senate, One Man’s Pursuit of the American Dream.”

Martinez came from Cuba in 1962 at the age of 15 as part of Operation Peter Pan, a humanitarian program sponsored by the Catholic Church and the U.S. government. While working to graduate from high school, he lived in resettlement camps and two foster homes before being reunited with his parents in 1966. After completing his bachelor’s degree in the college, he worked in the Florida Secretary of State’s office and earned his law degree at FSU in 1973.

His impressive record of service in elected and appointed offices includes Mayor of Orange County (1998-2000); Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President George W. Bush (2001-2003), the first Cuban-American to hold that office; U.S. Senator (2005-2009), also the first Cuban-American elected to that office; and chair of the Republican National Committee (2006-2007).

Martinez’s reputation as a centrist on certain issues (such as immigration reform) and his proven ability to work with senators on both sides of the aisle made him the perfect choice as one of two politicians to speak about bipartisan cooperation and political civility at the kick-off keynote for the FSU Institute of Politics in January 2021. (See story on page 11.)

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The college concluded another successful year in direct support from our alumni, friends and foundations. From July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the college received new gifts and commitments totaling $1,810,672. Of that total, $1,057,164 was in cash or securities, $176,399 in new pledges and $577,109 in bequests and other planned gifts.

Planned Gifts

Anonymous 132 made an additional $400,000 pledge to a $600,000 gift recorded in 1999. The $1,000,000 gift will create an endowed chair dedicated to population studies in the Center for Demography and Population Health.

April Davidson increased her deferred gift by $76,400 bringing the total gift to more than $200,000.

Lynda Keever and Bill Eshenbaugh established an endowed scholarship fund by transferring a $50,500 paid-up insurance policy to the college.

Catherine Stillwell Santamaria made a bequest of $50,000 to support the Social Science Scholars program.

Suzanne Ward made a bequest of $50,000 for the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy.

Major Gift Pledges

Lynda Keever: $50,000 to support our Social Science Scholars program, the political science department and students in the Master of Applied American Politics and Policy program over the next five years.

Gene and Julie Moran: $60,000 to create a new endowment to support graduate students in the Master of Applied American Politics and Policy program.

Additional gifts to existing endowments

Jason and Kelly Altmire - $5,000 to the Altmire Endowment; Marshall Cohn - $5,000 to the Social Science Scholars program endowment; Marie Cowart - $5,000 to the Cowart Social Science Scholars fund, $1,000 for the World Affairs Program and $5,000 to the Social Science Scholars program endowment; Tom and Eileen Culligan - $25,000 for their Social Science Scholars endowment; Tim and Kate Gunning - $10,000 for the McCaleb Scholarship Endowment; The Kaul Foundation - $150,000 to the Kaul Endowment in Applied Economics; Michael Kline/ The Hurlburt Foundation - $40,000 for the Kline Endowment supporting international affairs; Reva Daniels Metzinger Foundation - $10,000 for the Metzinger Economics Scholarships; Charles B. Nam - $10,000 for the Nam Scholarship Award; David Rasmussen - $5,000 to the Social Science Scholars program endowment; Gus Stravros - $5,000 for the Stavros Center fund.

New non-endowed cash gifts

Mark and Marianne Barnebey - $10,000 for the Dean’s Translational Research project; Eric and Miranda Gaier - $6,000 for the Dean’s General Fund; Tim and Kate Gunning - $7,000 matching funds for the 2021 Great Give project; Jim and Amy Gwartney - $40,000 gift to the Stavros Center Fund for Economic Education; Charles Haworth/ Haworth Foundation - an additional gift of $28,400 to support student veterans at the college; Lynda Keever - $5,150 for the 2021 Great Give project; Charles Koch Foundation - $428,400 to support the DeVoe Moore Center and the Hilton Center; Steve MacNamara - $10,000 for the Monsignor Kerr Initiative and the Dean’s General Fund; Charles B. Nam - $5,000 to the Nam Scholarship Fund; Bobby Pittman - $4,000 for the Dean’s General Fund; The Rapoport Family Foundation - $24,000 for graduate student special research projects in the political science department.

Social Science Scholars

The following donors gave a total of $73,000 to help sponsor our Scholars: Florence Ashby, Rob and Melody Auslander, Nick and Angela Bergan, Steve and Amy Clein, Marshall Cohn and the Sol Cohn Foundation, Tom and Eileen Culligan, Scott and Pamela Feldman, Eric and Miranda Gaier, Joyce and Earl Godwin, Christi and Jeff Lawson, Bobby Pittman, Jason Sato, Kent and Lynn Shoemaker, Marjorie Turnbull.

Institute of Politics

The following donors gave a total of $48,500 for programming support: Miguel Fernandez, The Heyday Foundation, Insurance Care Direct, John McKay, Thomas McLarty III.

Unconquered by Debt

The following donors provided a total of $11,715 for start-up costs: Frank and Nicole Coto, Mark Mathiason, David Piccard, W. Ed Sutton.
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy gratefully acknowledges the following leadership donors as Bellamy Society members. Their generous annual unrestricted and current support gifts and pledges of $1,000 or more during the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 provide support either college-wide or to one of our departments, programs and centers.* Thanks to their generosity, the college continues to enhance and improve the quality of our students’ academic experience. For more information on how you can make a gift to the college, please contact Assistant Dean for Development Cindy Michelson, (850) 294-3343 or cmichelson@foundation.fsu.edu.

GOLD LEVEL
($5,000 and higher)
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The Sol Cohn Foundation
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($2,500 to $4,999)
Robert B. Auslander and Melody Mendoza-Auslander

*Restricted gifts made by donors to endowment funds are not included in the Bellamy Society and are listed under the appropriate gift range in the 2020-2021 donor list on our website at https://coss.fsu.edu/alumni/donor-recognition/.
SIGNS OF PROGRESS

FSU and the college began to return to some sense of normalcy by the end of the academic year. Masked students socially distancing in Strozier Library had been a typical daily sight through much of the year. But by spring commencement, following an extensive vaccination campaign by the university, Dean Chapin was able to congratulate students as they marked this important milestone in person.