Dear Friends,

As the College navigates the 2022-2023 academic year, we find ourselves in a new era, one that reflects the skills and lessons learned in the last few years. This new era sees us return to mainly in-person classes and on-campus events with a renewed commitment to an engaged campus. Our faculty, staff, and students have embraced a new model that takes advantage of the very best tele-education brings to our business practices, yielding even more successful advising, teaching, and research.

While our Zoom skills have been honed — and work-from-home wardrobe remain available if needed — there is a palpable sense of the usual energy and joy of the fall semester at FSU. As I glance out my office window, it warms my heart to see our students exploring campus and many bright minds discussing the topics of the day. I’m excited for all this year has in store for our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Despite this new era, some essential characteristics remain. The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy is one of the finest social science and policy schools in the nation. Our well over 5,200 — and growing — student body earn a wide array of degrees and go on to pursue their career path of choice with great success.

We remain central to FSU’s success with four of the biggest undergraduate majors in the University (Political Science, Interdisciplinary Social Science, International Affairs, and Public Health); numerous applied master’s degree programs that prepare graduates for employment in government, non-profits, and private firms; and doctoral programs that see graduates take on professorships at prestigious universities or positions with private firms such as Google, Amazon, and EY.

I remain proud that we are the most diverse college at FSU, both demographically and in terms of our political views. Diversity of people and ideas will always remain a core College value, and we aim to prepare our graduates to enter into a multifaceted and complex world. The social sciences specifically, and higher education more generally, have a particular responsibility to expose students to complicated and contested issues, helping them to grow their intellects and expand their horizons.

I know that we would not and could not succeed without deep and strong connections to alumni, industry and governmental partners, and friends who share our commitment to raising the torch, shining light into the darkness. We are thankful for friends of the College who support our students, faculty, and programs by providing-speaking engagements, mentorship, internships and job opportunities, and financial contributions.

As the world returns to a more social and engaged footing, I hope you take the time to visit FSU. The newly reopened Oglesby Student Union is fabulous! The building is a must see and the new FSU Bookstore is a gem and gold shopper’s dream. While not as new and shiny at the Student Union, the Bellamy Building — our beloved primary home — continues to see renovations that modernize our facilities and better showcase our work to students and visitors. Put simply, as wonderful as Engage Magazine is, it only scratches the surface of the energy and drive of the College.

I wish you a wonderful, joyous, and prosperous year. Go Noles!

Tim Chapin, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Social Sciences & Public Policy
Students Get More Than a Degree

Nearly two years after the COVID-19 pandemic began, student groups are finally regaining a sense of normalcy, hosting in-person events and traveling to conferences across the continent. The College is home to numerous organizations that help connect students to opportunities both locally and nationally. These organizations are vital to our students’ success, helping them to earn more than a degree during their time at Florida State.

Read about a few of these organizations and how they have provided students with incredible experiences despite challenges resulting from the pandemic.

College of Social Sciences Student Leadership Council
The College of Social Sciences Student Leadership Council (SLC) provides personal and professional development opportunities to students in the College and serves as a liaison between the student body and the administration, advocating for the needs of students and the strategic initiatives led by the College. This year, the SLC hosted several new events and revitalized old traditions.

Agree to Disagree, again for the first time since 2019 in 2021, was held in person for the first time this past spring. This week consisted of five events designed to present different opportunities to students, as well as to help them network. The Professor Panel and Your Voice Matters events gave students the chance to ask faculty and student government representatives for their advice on how to succeed in and out of the classroom. During Coffee Chat with Dean Chapin, students met and talked to the Dean while fueling up with Frother’s Daughter after a long week of classes. The SLC’s service event, Donate for Donuts, raised over $300 for FSU’s Food for Thought Pantry.

The SLC also hosted the College Week, which was held for the first time this past spring. This week consisted of five events designed to present different opportunities to students, as well as to help them network. The Professor Panel and Your Voice Matters events gave students the chance to ask faculty and student government representatives for their advice on how to succeed in and out of the classroom. During Coffee Chat with Dean Chapin, students met and talked to the Dean while fueling up with Frother’s Daughter after a long week of classes. The SLC’s service event, Donate for Donuts, raised over $300 for FSU’s Food for Thought Pantry.

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Unconquered by Debt: Empowering Students to Attain Financial Wellness

The Unconquered by Debt program at Florida State University helps students transform their financial habits to become wealth creators.

Established in 2019 by Joe Callhoun, Ph.D., the Unconquered by Debt program is an initiative led by faculty in the College’s Gus A. Stavros Center for Economic Education.

Participants learn to make balanced financial decisions based on their current and future goals. The program focuses on key life choices, including career options, earning, spending, saving, investing, managing credit, evaluating risk, ensuring assets, and planning for retirement.

The program offers free online access to interactive learning modules via Canvas covering 33 topics through a variety of videos, topical stories, book references, and web-based resources available to anyone, as well as in-person workshops and individual mentoring opportunities.

Workshops are led by students who have completed a rigorous program to become Certified Financial Peer Mentors. In addition to leading these workshops, Peer Mentors assist other students in personal finance matters and answer questions during individual meetings.

Recent FSU alumnus Ronny Legare (B.S. Economics ’22) served as a Peer Mentor for the 2021–2022 academic year. As an economics major, his involvement in the program gave him the opportunity to help his fellow FSU students from all disciplines start on the path to achieving their personal finance goals.

“Learning about the importance of making smart financial decisions in Professor Joe Callhoun’s Personal Finance class was life-changing,” Legare said. “It [has been] an honor to be able to talk with other students on campus about personal finance in my role as a Peer Mentor in the Unconquered by Debt program.”

Jad Kabbani, another 2021-2022 Peer Mentor, enjoyed sharing what he learned in the program with students as a peer mentor.

“Being a peer mentor has been an enriching and rewarding experience. It feels incredible to be able to help students who are in the same position I was in prior to joining the program,” Kabbani said. “Unconquered by Debt has allowed us all to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed financial decisions and take charge of our financial future.”

The Gus A. Stavros Center for Economic Education promotes free enterprise and education to make economics more interesting and understandable for the general public. The Stavros Center is affiliated with both the Council for Economic Education and the Florida Council for Economic Education, serving 12 counties in the region for the Florida Council. In addition, the Center collaborates with partners around campus to reach FSU students early in their college careers.

To learn more about the Unconquered by Debt program, visit coss.fsu.edu/stavros/unconquered-by-debt.
EMHS Conducts Research in Disaster Areas ….. Provides Experiential Learning Opportunities

The Disaster Incident Research Team (DIRT), housed within the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program (EMHS), was formed in 2012 to effectively conduct research in disaster areas and provide students with experiential learning opportunities, which is often a challenge in disaster management. “DIRT is a unique program that allows FSU to directly support emergency management in Florida during a disaster by being part of the response and recovery process,” said EMHS Director David Merrick. “This experience is crucial to our students, as it allows them to see how things work in the field before they graduate.” This ongoing process also keeps our classroom offerings fresh, continually updated with the current methods and trends in disaster management.

In recent years, much of DIRT’s efforts have revolved around remote sensing and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in disasters. The team deployed to Bay County and Mexico Beach during Hurricane Michael in 2018, as well as to the Champlain South Tower condominium collapse in Surfside in 2021. These deployments resulted in groundbreaking process improvements in damage assessments and urban search and rescue.

“I was there for the first 14 days of the Surfside response,” said Austin Bush, a doctoral student studying geography. “For those two weeks, I was flying UAS seemingly every other hour over the collapsed site making 3D maps, and we were able to provide Incident Command with extremely valuable information. This was my first disaster response where I truly felt that I was an integral component to a part of the response.” Bush has served as a UAS pilot with DIRT since the summer of 2019 and is the supervisor of the internal student-led Incident Management Team. His research interests in geography frequently overlap with DIRT projects. “The majority of my work with DIRT has involved piloting UAS, with an emphasis on the development of 3D mapping techniques that are suitable for disaster management,” Bush said. “This has allowed me to be involved in a wide range of disaster-related projects, such as mapping farms for emergency management in Puerto Rico and Jamaica, to 3D modeling collapsed structures in Surfside, Florida.” After completing his Ph.D., Bush plans to continue to pursue opportunities related to UAS and public safety. “When I first started working as a member of DIRT, I was significantly less confident in my professional abilities related to this type of work (UAS and Disaster Response). However, as I have been able to experience more events and learn about the profession, I have developed confidence in this skill set and plan to pursue a career based around it,” Bush said. “Working as a member of DIRT has not only helped me develop as a young professional in emergency management, but more importantly it has helped me grow as a person. It has provided me with opportunities to not only learn about emergency management, but to also get out of my comfort zone, work on my leadership skills, practice public speaking, and learn about project management.”

Laura Hart has been working with DIRT since 2015 when she was an M.P.A. student. Since 2017, Hart has been a full-time staff member with DIRT and course instructor while working on her Ph.D. in Public Administration. Her research focuses on UAS policies and issues surrounding complex emergency management and emotional labor.

“Over the years, I have worked primarily as a UAS pilot within DIRT,” Hart said. “However, I have specific interests in community fieldwork and research and have had the opportunity to travel throughout the Caribbean and the United States while gathering valuable experience. I have been either deployed or activated for countless hurricanes, tropical storms, missing persons investigations, FSU football games, and a volcano.”

When recounting her most memorable experience with DIRT, Hart commented on the Kilauea volcanic eruption in 2018. “We flew unmanned aircraft systems over the rifts and tracked the rate of volcanic flow. I had never seen an actively erupting volcano before; it was one of the most surreal experiences of my life, especially at 3 a.m.”

Hart hopes to become a teaching professor after completing her Ph.D. “I greatly enjoy teaching and discussing different perspectives in the classroom. My field experience has been pivotal in developing compelling and accurate course content, as combined with theory,” Hart shared. “I’m grateful for the opportunities DIRT has provided to me both as a student and as a staff member. I have had the opportunity to learn a great deal about both emergency management and remote sensing within the public sector.” Achievements in remote sensing in the field have led to the creation of a new lab at FSU, the Disaster Intelligence Analysis Laboratory. This lab is designed to advance the work begun by DIRT focused on intelligence gathered during a disaster, including open source (social media) and geospatial (remote sensing) information. These methods and processes will support decision-making and situational awareness for emergency management and public safety in Tallahassee and around the state.

DIRT deploys students at all levels in their academic careers, from undergraduate to doctoral, providing students with a unique opportunity to conduct a wide variety of research during and after disasters.

To learn more about DIRT and the EMHS program, visit em.fsu.edu.
COSSPP Researchers Find Lead Exposure is Linked to IQ Loss

By: Mark Blackwell Thomas, University Communications; COSSPP Communications

COSSPP researchers published a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in February 2022 that estimates exposure to lead has robbed Americans on average 2.6 IQ points per person.

Associate Professor of Sociology Michael McFarland, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor of Sociology Matt Hauer, Ph.D., the study’s lead authors, found the average lead-linked loss in cognitive ability was 2.6 IQ points.

Hauer, Ph.D., the study's lead authors, Assistant Professor of Sociology Matt McFarland, Ph.D., and Associate Professor of Sociology Matt Hauer. “Generation X was exposed to very high amounts of lead, and baby boomers had a moderate amount of lead exposure,” said Dr. Hauer. “Generation Y was exposed to very high amounts of lead, and now millennials and the generation following them have been exposed to very low amounts of lead. That follows the trajectory of leaded gasoline use.”

IQ is a standard measure of intelligence derived from a series of standardized tests. The scores have been used for educational placement and assessment of intellectual disabilities. They have also been studied as a predictor of future job performance and income.

Researchers found that estimated lead-linked deficits were greatest for people born between 1966 and 1970, a population of about 20.8 million people, which experienced an average deficit of 5.9 IQ points per person.

The vast amount of that lead exposure was through automotive exhaust, thanks to the use of leaded gasoline, which began in 1923 and ceased in 1996. The intervening seven decades was required to ban it. By documenting the widespread consequences of lead exposure, our study underscores the folly in such thinking and harm inflicted on the population.

To keep up with research news from the College, visit coss.fsu.edu/category/research.

A standard deviation for IQ points is about 15 points, Hauer said, before noting that makes 2.6 points per person, “pretty significant.”

Aaron Reuben, a doctoral student in clinical psychology at Duke University and co-author of the study said the body can defend itself against lead but only to an extent.

“Lead is able to reach the bloodstream once it’s inhaled as dust, or ingested, or consumed in water,” he said. “In the bloodstream, it’s able to pass into the brain through the blood-brain barrier, which is quite good at keeping a lot of toxicants and pathogens out of the brain, but not all of them.”

Lead is a known neurotoxin. Its use in gasoline peaked between the late 1960s and the early 1980s. In addition to cognitive deficits, lead has been linked to changes in personality, premature brain aging, anemia, kidney damage, cardiovascular disease, and harm to pregnant women and developing children.

Lead’s use was not confined to gasoline, and it has not ceased in some countries.

“In developed countries, lead’s historic use in paints, pipes and gasoline has left waterways, soil, airways and homes enriched with this neurotoxicant,” Dr. Hauer said. “That legacy continues to threaten the health and development of today’s children. Less obvious but also important is the threat that lead holds for yesterday’s children, many of whom are victims of what we term legacy lead exposures.”

According to Dr. Hauer, the effects of lead will be felt for generations. “Exposures appear to have lifespan consequences,” he said. “The burden of this and that legacy of exposures is going to be with us for decades to come.”

In thinking about the broader implications of the study Dr. McFarland notes, “Society frequently operates under the presumption that environmental exposures are safe until proven otherwise. Leaded gasoline wasn’t needed as an antiknock agent (there were alternatives available), it was profitable. An abundance of incontrovertible evidence occurring across decades was required to ban it. By documenting the widespread consequences of lead exposure, our study underscores the folly in such thinking and harm inflicted on the population.”

850+ News Stories...
The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) connects students with real-world experiences and alumni through The Mark and Marianne Barnett Planning and Development Lab (BPDL). The lab is nationally-recognized and draws upon Florida State University's academic and professional resources to connect with public and private partners and provide capacity and innovative planning for the sustainable growth and long-term viability of communities.

Located on the third floor of the Bellamy building, BPDL—fondly referred to as “The Barn” by students, faculty, and staff in honor of its founders—provides this technical assistance and capacity to regional communities and institutions through studio and research projects conducted by DURP’s faculty and students.

The BPDL, in cooperation with agency partners, offers a limited number of paid internship opportunities to current graduate students. These internships offer students a chance to work in professional planning settings on real projects in both the public and private sectors.

Internship placements include many departments within the State of Florida system, including the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), as well as other organizations such as the City of Tallahassee/Leon County’s StarMetro transit system; Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency; USDA Forest Service; Florida Trail Association; and the City of Colquitt, Georgia.

Jeffrey Brown, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives for FSU’s College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Professor, and Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, praises the program for expanding students’ horizons and attracting the best graduate students.

Blueprint Director Autumn Calder, AICP, a two-time CONSSPP alum (BS ‘01 Geography; M.S.P. ‘08 Urban and Regional Planning) reflected on the long-standing partnership.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of my internship experience here has been being instrumental in exposing me to a healthy mix of both interesting projects and professional networks,” Calder said. “Sixteen years ago, I was the DURP intern at Blueprint; as such, I take extra care to ensure that these students have the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the agency and advance their own professional growth. It is gratifying seeing students come into the workforce for the first time and empowering them to becoming the next generation of leaders.”

Three-time FSU alum, Megan Doherty, AICP, CPM (B.S. ’06 History, Political Science; M.S. ’09 International Affairs; M.S.P. ’09 Urban and Regional Planning) talked about the path from her internship position to her current role as Blueprint’s Planning Manager.

“My internship experience here has been instrumental in exposing me to a healthy mix of both interesting projects and professional networks,” Doherty said. “Having the opportunity to mentor students from Florida State University, where I was able to grow as a young professional, myself, has been rewarding.”

John Flores, a second-year DURP master’s student, currently serves as Blueprint’s intern.

“Over the past six years, while working for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, I have had the opportunity to work alongside many students on exciting yet ambitious projects,” Doherty said. “Sixteen years ago, I was the Blueprint intern; as such, I take extra care to ensure that these students have the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the agency and advance their own professional growth. It is gratifying seeing students come into the workforce for the first time and empowering them to becoming the next generation of leaders.”

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Internships are funded by contracts and grants independently pursued by the department leadership to provide attractive financial aid opportunities for students, leading to full-time jobs after graduation in some cases.

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

One long-standing DURP internship program is the U.S. Forest Service for the Florida National Scenic Trail program in 2009, with the first internship starting in 2011.

Shawn Thomas, the Florida National Scenic Trail Administrator for the U.S. Forest Service’s Southern Region, recognizes the value of cooperative internships to students and organizations alike.

“Blueprint values the long-standing partnership with Florida State University’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning. From securing millions of dollars in grants to performing complex GIS analysis, the contributions Blueprint has received through the internship program have been paramount to the successes of our projects,” Calder said.

Autumn Calder, AICP

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Dear Fellow Alumni,

What was the most significant component of your education at FSU’s College of Social Sciences and Public Policy?

That’s an important question that each alum should ask themselves before guiding young people down the many pathways toward a successful career.

While learning at the College, I benefited from the in-person classroom instruction, and I especially enjoyed the many guest speakers who talked with us about their work in the Capitol, the court system, and state agencies. Listening to the various experiences of each guest speaker opened my eyes to opportunities I was previously unaware of. For me though, the internship opportunities the College offered – where I gained real-world experience – were the differentiator and what I counsel students about when asked about the College.

My internship in the Florida Legislature was critical in enhancing my education while also gaining college credits. Classroom instruction is how universities prepare students, but it has limitations. Some of the most important skills a student can learn to prepare for the “real world” is from the “real world.”

Even simple skills like how to dress appropriately or how to interact with others in a business meeting, over dinner, or at a cocktail reception can only be learned by doing and observing. Access to these experiences as an intern created a level of comfort that prepared me to handle these situations more effectively after graduation.

My college internship experiences sparked a love of politics that led me to serve as FSU’s Student Body President and kept me at FSU for law school. Soon after law school, I co-founded one of the largest governmental affairs firms in the state, Capital City Consulting, LLC, with offices in Tallahassee, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami.

Today, I give back to FSU financially and by serving on various boards. The best way I give back, however, is by always making myself available to FSU students looking for guidance. If the student has not yet chosen a major, I encourage them to explore the College’s great internship opportunities and diverse degree offerings.

As a member of our alumni, please consider which component of your time at the College was most crucial to your career path. Give back by mentoring students about those experiences. Help students see just how big the world is and how many different ways they can fit into it. Help support the College and its programs that provide students the real-world experience needed to have successful careers, because nothing is truly real until it is experienced.

In Seminole Spirit,

Nick Larossi, J.D.
Owner & Co-Founder
Capital City Consulting, LLC

The reality is that FSU is uniquely situated in the capital of the third most populated state in the country. This not only provides students with internship opportunities within state and local government but also with law firms, consulting firms, public relations firms, and not-for-profits. The list is endless because all these entities must interact with state government. I often say Tallahassee is the only city in the state where you can make statewide connections because influential people throughout Florida come to Tallahassee to interact.

We are pleased to shine the spotlight on our alumni from across the College of Social Science and Public Policy. Alumni from our college become leaders who positively impact the communities they work in.

Here some of the highlights from our alumni this year. To connect with us about your honors, awards, and achievements throughout the year, email cosspp_alumni@fsu.edu, or fill out our survey for a spotlight: bit.ly/COSSPPspotlight.

COSSPP Alumni Recognized as Seminole 100 Business Leaders

This year’s Seminole 100, chosen by the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship in partnership with the FSU Alumni Association, featured 22 owned by COSSPP alumni. Of those, three businesses placed in the top 10.

COSSPP Seminole 100 Honorees listed in rank order:

• #4 – Chisolm Law Firm, PLLC, Ocoee, FL – Audrey Chisholm (B.A. ’94 International Affairs)*
• #6 – Pizza Box Express, LLC, Thomasville, NC – Jason Baker (B.A. ’97, M.A. ’99 International Affairs)*
• #7 – EnLight-Energy, Austin, TX – Julio Daniel Hernandez (B.S. ’04 International Affairs)*
• #25 – Lincoln Lending Group, Ocala, FL – Frank Cote III (B.S. ’01 Sociology)*
• #27 – Boomerang Transportation, LLC, Tampa, FL – Jon Novak (B.A. ’98 Political Science, International Affairs)*
• #28 – Kinloch Partners, Kennesaw, GA – Bruce W. Mcchiengal (B.S. ’88 Economics)*
• #37 – Kupanda Capital, Washington, D.C. – Bobby Pittman (B.S. ’97 Economics)*
• #45 – Imperial Fence Supply, East Point, GA – Todd Jefferies (B.S. ’02 Economics)*
• #46 – Capitol Integration, Bradenton, FL – Eugene Moran, Jr. (B.S. ’94 Political Science)*
• #53 – Autumn Beck Blackledge, PLLC, Pensacola, FL – Autumn Blackledge (B.S. ’98 Religion, Political Science; J.D. ’01)*
• #54 – Synergy Settlement Services, Orlando, FL – Anthony Prieto, Jr. (B.S. ’96 Political Science)*
• #56 – Pittman Law Group, Tallahassee, FL – Sean Pittman (B.S. ’90 Social Sciences; J.D. ’94) & Evan Steinberg (B.S. ’20 Interdisciplinary Social Sciences)
• #64 – OmniCon, Tallahassee, FL – Rachel Rippee (B.S. ’09 Applied Economics)*
• #69 – Owenby Law, P.A., Orange Park, FL – Joy Owenby (B.S. ’93 Political Science)*
• #80 – Taylor, Day, Grimm & Boul, Jacksonville, FL – David Gagnon (B.S. ’95 Political Science; J.D. ’00) & Chris Mueller (B.A. ’01 International Affairs)*
• #82 – Professional Building Services, Plantation, FL – Craig Saxner (B.A. ’86 Economics)*
• #87 – Jeff Kottkamp, PA., Tallahassee, FL – Jeff Kottkamp (B.S. ’84 Political Science)*
• #88 – McKee Insurance Agency, Tallahassee, FL – Patrick McKee (B.S. ’80 Applied Economics)*
• #93 – Staff Builders HR, LLC, Lakeland, FL – S. Andrew Norman (B.S. ’97 Political Science)*
• #95 – Earl Bacon Agency, Tallahassee, FL – John Nylen, Jr. (B.A. ’87 Economics)*
• #96 – McKinnon Legal, Miramar, FL – Christina McKinnon (B.A. ’97 Political Science)*
• #100 – Global Sales, Gibsonton, FL – Jeff Collins (B.S. ’86 Political Science)*

*Indicates companies previously named to the Seminole 100.

Nick Larossi
Alumni honored with Circle of Gold Award

Kenneth M. Austin (B.S. ’75 Political Science; M.P.A. ’79 Askew School) received the Alumni Association’s Circle of Gold Award in recognition of how he personifies the University’s tradition of excellence through his service and achievements. A lifetime member of the Alumni Association and the first Black alumnus to serve on the FSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors, Austin is an integral member of the Planning Committee and the Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

Dr. Harry Barbee (Ph.D. ’20 Sociology) was awarded the 2022 Vanderbilt University Postdoctoral Fellow of the Year Award. Selected among 700 postdocs across Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Barbee was recognized for their outstanding work in the LGBT Policy Lab.

Ebo Entsuah (B.S. ’16 International Affairs, Sociology; J.M. ’18 Law & Legal Risk Management) was honored in INFLUENCE Magazine as part of the 2022 cohort of Rising Stars in Florida Politics. Entsuah started his career with an internship under then U.S. Representative Ron DeSantis, later becoming a legislative aide. He is Principal of Advanced Energy Economy and was recently elected as the youngest member of the Clermont City Council in January 2022. He currently serves on the FSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

Raymond Ealy (B.A. ’81 Political Science) was named an Unsung Hero by the California Legislative Black Caucus during Black History Month. Ealy founded STEAM: CODERS in 2014, a program that inspires underrepresented and underserved students and their families through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. He was recognized for his leadership and positive impact in the community.

Geoff Cottrill (B.S. ’85 Economics) was honored by Forbes Magazine in its inaugural list of the 50 Most Entrepreneurial CMOs in Marketing Today. Cottrill is the Chief Marketing Officer at Toppgold Entertainment Group, a technology-enabled global sports and entertainment company. He was selected, “Because he’s thinking differently about how to build a brand and business, and how to transform the game of golf,” setting Toppgold apart from its competitors.

RaiQuan Gray (B.S. ’21 Social Sciences) was selected No. 59 overall by the Brooklyn Nets in the 2021 NBA Draft. He is the 19th Seminole in 19 years under head coach Leonard Hamilton to be taken in the NBA Draft. As a junior, Gray earned third team all Atlantic Coastal Conference Honors and helped lead the Seminoles to the ACC Championship in 2020 after a 16-4 season record.

Michele Rayner-Goolsby (B.S. ’03 International Affairs, Political Science; M.S. ’06 Political Affairs) is a member of the Florida House of Representatives and received the 2021 Humanitarian Award from the National Bar Association Young Lawyer’s Division. The award is given to a young lawyer who has dedicated their career to improving the community, whether in education, community service, social services, health services, or political activism. She was also named one of five trailblazing LGBTQI candidates by The Washington Blade.

Dr. Bryan (Byung Hun) Min (Ph.D. ’22 Public Administration) received the ARNOVA Emerging Scholars Award given to ten applicants annually to recognize the potential of the next generation of nonprofit scholars and practitioners. Min is an Assistant Professor at Valdosta State University in Georgia.

Maria Naranjo (B.S. ’14 International Affairs, Policial Science) began a two-year post in August 2021 as U.S. Deputy Public Diplomacy Officer in Laos. “It is hard to believe that someone like me, who used to spend her high school summers doing housekeeping work with her mother is now a diplomat,” she said. “An immigrant and naturalized citizen is now representing the U.S. abroad. This is the epitome of the American dream.” Naranjo credits her success, in part, to the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship, a Department of State program created to attract diverse talent to the Foreign Service.

Alumnus Honored with Grad Made Good Award

Sean Pittman (B.S. ’90 Social Sciences; J.D. ’94 FSU College of Law) received the Alumni Association’s Grad Made Good award during the 50th Anniversary Celebration of FSU Integration.

Patrice Williams (M.P.H. ’14 Public Health; Ph.D. ’20 Urban and Regional Planning) received the 2021 Marsha Rindtford Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning for the Best Student Work on Diversity, Social Justice, and the Role of Women in Planning. She is a research scientist in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jonathan Guarine (B.S. ’19 Economics; M.S. ’20 Applied Economics) was selected as one of thirty-five Rising Stars of Florida Politics in the Winter 2022 issue of INFLUENCE Magazine.

Austin Wilson (B.S. ’18 Economics) was spotlighted by the FSU Young Alumni as one of the most successful young sports agents in the business. He started representing athletes at 17 and was recognized by Forbes as the youngest agent in the industry.

Gigi Rollini (B.A. ’97, M.P.A., J.D. ’03) was Elected Treasurer of the National Association of Women Lawyers Board of Directors during NAWL’s Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, on July 21, 2022, and will lead NAWL’s Finance Committee during the 2022-2023 year. NAWL provides leadership, a collective voice, and essential resources to advance women in the legal profession and advocates for the equality of women under the law. Rollini was also recognized in the 2022 edition of Florida Super Lawyers, which serves as a rating service acknowledging outstanding lawyers in a particular state.
2022 Distinguished Alumni

Each year, the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy presents its Distinguished Alumni Awards to accomplished individuals in recognition of their professional achievements, contributions to society, and support of the College and University. We are pleased to present our newest COSSPP Distinguished Alumni who will be honored at the College’s Distinguished Alumni Gala in Fall 2022.

Cecelia Bonifay, chair of Akerman’s Land Use and Development Practice, helps developers navigate the governmental approval process for their real estate projects. With a strong background in urban planning and development approvals for large-scale projects, she has represented many clients in the development of commercial, residential, and industrial projects. Clients benefit from her keen analysis of a wide range of land use, zoning, sustainable development, and environmental matters in Florida and across the United States.

Bonifay has devoted more than 25 years to the community. She has held several leadership positions at the Urban Land Institute, including co-chair of the Climate Change, Land Use, and Energy Committee, immediate past chair of its Florida Chapter, and a current member of its 2017 Executive Planning Committee, and chair of its Central Florida District Council. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Kelley A. Bergstrom Real Estate Center at the University of Florida and serves as a member of the Emeritus of the Credeal School of Art and as a board member of United Arts of Central Florida.

As a three-time FSU alum, Bonifay is passionate about supporting FSU students and alumni.

“This award as a COSSPP Distinguished Alum is very meaningful to me as I have always had a special passion and desire to assist FSU’s future success,” Bonifay said. “As a pioneer in the field of land use real estate law, I have become a trailblazer for all the women aspiring to serve as allies to local governments across both Florida and the U.S. in shaping the landscapes of our communities. I hope my hard work and determination serves as an inspiration to current students and young alumni at Florida State University.”

Cecelia Bonifay, M.S.P, J.D.
B.A. ’71 Political Science
M.S.P. ’73 Urban & Regional Planning
J.D. ’84 FSU College of Law

At FAU, Dr. Gropper leads one of the top-15 largest ACGSB-accredited business schools in the United States, with over 8,200 students in Fall 2022. He has raised millions to support students and faculty and led FAU’s College of Business to new heights. FAU’s online MBA and non-MBA graduate programs (in accounting, health administration, and finance) were ranked in the top 50 by U.S. News & World Report, and the online BBA and the International Business undergraduate program were both ranked in the top 50 by Princeton Review first ranked the FAU entrepreneurship programs among the top 50 in 2019, where they remain.

His research has attracted funding from the federal government and private sector and has been published in leading academic journals, including the Review of Economics and Statistics, the Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, and the Journal of Banking and Finance and cited in Forbes, The Economist, and U.S. News & World Report.

Dr. Gropper was elected to the Southern Business Deans Board of Directors in 2020, and he is part of the Sun Sentinel’s South Florida 100. He and his wife – Sareen Gropper, Ph.D., RD, distinguished two-time FSU alumna and Professor of Nutrition at FAU – attended FSU together after graduating from the University of Maryland.

“In higher education, particularly in our state Universities, we help open the doors to many students and help them pursue their own individual journey and the American dream,” Gropper said. “My parents were the first in my family to graduate from college, and I could see what a difference that made. At FSU, I had the opportunity to teach my own class early in my graduate program, to learn from and work with some great fellow graduate students who became lifelong friends, and study under some wonderfully supportive faculty. I am particularly grateful for Drs. Jim Gownerty, Fred Bell, Jean and Charles Howard, Dave Rasmussen, Ray Holcomb, and others. I am familiar with the activities of the current faculty at the DeVoe College of Business, and I take great pride in the work that the Stavros Center; this work is first-rate, and the College and Department faculty continue to help FSU students get a great education.”

Daniel M. Gropper, Ph.D.
M.S. ’85 Economics
Ph.D. ’89 Economics

Jimmy Patronis, B.A. ’96 Political Science

Jimmy Patronis serves as the State of Florida’s Chief Financial Officer, State Fire Marshal, and a member of the Florida Cabinet.

As Florida’s CFO, Patronis oversees the state’s accounting and auditing functions and unclaimed property, monitors the investment of state funds, and manages state’s deferred compensation and risk management programs.

His public service career began as an intern in the Florida Senate and the United Kingdom’s House of Commons.

After graduating from FSU with a bachelor’s degree in political science, he was appointed by Governor Lawton Chiles to the Florida Elections Commission, and he was later reappointed by Governor Jeb Bush.

Patronis served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2014, representing District 6. He later was appointed to serve on Florida’s Public Service Commission and the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets once every two years to propose changes to the state constitution.

He is a partner in a family-owned seafood restaurant, Captain Anderson’s, which celebrates 60 years since opening in 2021. He and his wife Katie are proud parents to twins, Jimmy Theo III and John Michael.

“I’m incredibly honored to receive this distinguished award and cannot thank the team at the FSU College of Social Sciences and Public Policy enough for their support,” Patronis said. “Some of the best memories of my life come from walking the halls of the Bellamy Building with friends and students for my next public policy class. The encouragement and support I received from my professors and classmates pushed me to embrace public service and led me to a 17-year career, serving first in the Florida Legislature and now as Florida’s Chief Financial Officer. I’m a true Seminole at heart and I would be where I am today without the mentors and experiences I was afforded at FSU.”

Nigel Parkinson, Sr. M.S.P.A.
M.S.P.A. ’75, Public Administration and Management

Nigel Parkinson, Sr. is President and CEO of Parkinson Construction Company, the oldest and largest African American owned, self-performing construction company in the Washington metropolitan area.

He founded the company in the early ‘80s shortly after moving to Washington, D.C. Specializing in general construction and management, and masonry, Parkinson’s Construction Company has worked on the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, National Baseball Hall of Fame, the Pentagon and BWI Airport to name a few.

Parkinson’s journey began in Freetown, Sierra Leone. At the age of 17, with little money in his pocket but a burning desire to expand his world, he immigrated to the United States. He began by selling magazines door-to-door in New York City and quickly enrolled at Florida A & M University where his great grand uncle had been that school’s first president. From there, he pursued a master’s degree in public administration and management. Later, he was certified through Harvard Business School’s Owner/President Management Program.

He has been engaged with the D.C. Contractors Association and is past president of the National Association of Minority Contractors. In addition, he supports high school STEM programs and established a program for returning citizens to learn about trades as they re-enter society following incarceration.

“I am proud and humbled to be selected as a recipient of a COSSPP Distinguished Alumni Award,” Parkinson said. “As I walked the FSU campus several decades ago, I never would have imagined that the information, stimulation, and encouragement I received would lead me to the level of success and sense of accomplishment I have felt. While I knew I was fortunate to have the professors, aids, mentors, and other staff who instilled within me the confidence to confront any challenge and work through any difficult situation. COSSPP’s rich learning environment, and the maturation process associated with the graduation experience, allowed me to be credited with producing many who have enjoyed successful careers.”

FSU College of Social Sciences and Public Policy
The Alumni-College Connection

Financial support is not the only way our alumni can give back to the College. Our students, faculty, and staff benefit from the wealth of knowledge our Alumni have in their chosen fields. Sharing expertise and experience with our community is a highly valuable way to give back. Here’s a look back at the past year.

Economics
- Jason Accardi (B.S. ’94 Political Science) talked about building his business and the opportunities and challenges experienced by entrepreneurs.
- Frank Coto (B.S. ’01 Sociology) shared career advice with students and discussed his experience as an entrepreneur.
- Travis Hadwin (B.S. ’91 Economics) explained basic investing principles, discussed current stock market trends, and offered career advice.
- Mark Mathiason (B.S. ’88 Economics) shared personal budgeting best practices and informed students about how to prepare for a mortgage.
- David Picard (B.S. ’85 Economics) shared his expertise on how to build a credit score, efficiently use credit, and stay out of credit card debt.
- Mario Ponczeck (B.A. ’79 International Affairs) spoke about the history of the stock market and how students can break into the financial advising industry.
- Ed Sutton (B.S. ’82 Economics) discussed investing, the current stock market trends, and investing principles, discussed examples of successes and challenges experienced in his career as a real estate developer.

Sociology
- Dr. Harry Barbee (Ph.D. ’20 Sociology) spoke on the burgeoning field of subjective health and aging among sexual and gender minorities.
- Dr. TehQuin Forbes (M.S. ’18, Ph.D. ’21 Sociology) and Lawrence Stacey (M.S. ’18 Sociology) presented a lecture on how gay, bisexual, and queer men of color feel race online and offline.
- Dr. Bob Hummer (M.S. ’90, Ph.D. ’93 Sociology) presented about the past, present, and future of adolescent to adult health.
- Dr. Amanda Nix (M.S. ’14, Ph.D. ’17 Sociology) spoke to faculty and graduate students about developmental education reform in Florida as part of Sociology’s Young Alumni Series.
- Angela Santone (B.S. ’93 Sociology) talked with COSSPP Directors for the Jed Foundation, of AT&T circle mentoring group AT&T’s global human resources.

Public Administration
- Marianne Barneby shared the skills and traits of a good leader as well as her experience in leadership as the Ward Two Councilwoman in Bradenton, Florida.
- Cameron Pennant (B.S. ’15 Management; M.P.A. ’17 Public Administration) shared his insight into current geopolitical issues with students in the Introduction to Terrorism Class.

Urban and Regional Planning
- Mark Barneby (B.S. ’78 Finance; M.S.P. ’83 Urban and Regional Planning; J.D. ’85 FSU College of Law) discussed real-world planning issues and provided students with practical career advice.
- Bruce McNelagel (B.S. ’88 Economics) discussed several past real estate projects, giving examples of successes and challenges experienced in his career as a real estate developer.
- Tiffany Taylor (M.S.P. ’05 Urban and Regional Planning) discussed her career with the Federal Government and shared advice for students interested in the same path.

Alumni Chats Organized by FSU’s Career Center

Alumni Speak at Spring Commencement
By: Amy Farnum Patronis, Mark Blackwell Thomas, Anna Prentiss, & Kelsey Klopfenstein with University Communications; COSSPP Communications

Two alumni from our College – Angela Santone, Senior Executive Vice President for Human Resources at AT&T and FSU Trustee Vivian de las Cuevas-Díaz – shared life lessons with the Class of 2022 at Florida State University’s Spring Commencement Ceremonies.

Saturday, April 30
Angela Santone (B.S. ’93, Sociology) – Senior Executive Vice President for Human Resources at AT&T – delivered the Saturday morning commencement address to graduates of the Dedman College of Hospitality, Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship, and the Colleges of Applied Studies, Medicine, Motion Picture Arts and Social Sciences & Public Policy.

In her remarks, Santone drew upon her humble upbringing in rural Florida and reminded graduates that the past doesn’t predict the future, it prepares you for it.

“Never underestimate what you can do,” she said. “I grew up in a small farming community in the panhandle of Florida and attended a Title I school. I was blessed to grow up with parents who brought her to Tallahassee so she could earn something that could never be taken from her – a world-class education.

“My parents and grandparents always reminded me that everything is possible and to never be afraid to try,” de las Cuevas-Díaz said. “However, this university showed me that everything was truly possible. If you are willing to work hard, you will be given opportunities that you must take, as those are the doors that shape who you are and what you do for this country and your community.”

De las Cuevas-Díaz challenged graduates to be critical thinkers and leaders, to be passionate and deliberate and to be grateful. She also reminded graduates that they sometimes will fail, and she called on them to remember the FSU motto of “Vires, Artes, More” – which translates to strength, skill and character — when they do.

When the day or days come when you fail or things are simply not going your way, please remember you have the strength to get up, the skill to assess what you should do and the character to succeed.

Sunday, May 1
Vivian de las Cuevas-Díaz (B.S. ’97 Political Science, International Affairs) – FSU Trustee, Attorney and Partner for Holland & Knight LLP – delivered the Sunday morning commencement address to graduates of the Colleges of Fine Arts, Communication & Information, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Social Work, and Music.

After graduating from FSU, de las Cuevas-Díaz went on to earn a law degree from Tulane University. Now an attorney in Miami, de las Cuevas-Díaz in 2021 became the first Hispanic woman appointed to the FSU Board of Trustees.

In her remarks, de las Cuevas-Díaz recounted her experience as the child of Cuban refugees. She said her parents brought her to Tallahassee so she could earn something that could never be taken from her – a world-class education.

“You will make mistakes — the key is learning from them,” she said. “You will have days that you feel like you can’t go on, but I am here to tell you, you can, and you must. You will have days that you feel like you are killing it because you are. Your journey will be made of many experiences, and you must remember that ups and downs. You will be okay.”
The College concluded another successful year with direct support from our alumni, friends, and foundations.

From July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, the College received new gifts and commitments totaling $3,497,058. Of that total, our generous alumni and friends gave $1,231,143 in cash or securities, $461,040 in new pledges, and $1,804,875 in bequests and other planned gifts.

Planned Gifts
The College received a transformational gift of $1,754,056 from the Estate of Dr. Richard Butler Gray, a Professor Emeritus of Political Science, who laid the groundwork and created the International Affairs Master's program. This gift established 2 Fellowship funds to support highly qualified graduate students studying for a Master's Degree in International Affairs. The new endowments are: The Richard Butler Gray Graduate Fellowship in International Affairs and the Laura L. Gray and Harold G. Gray Graduate Fellowship in International Affairs, created in honor of his parents.

Ruth and Walter Cates made a $50,818 gift that will support the OLLI at FSU Fund.

Major Gift Pledges
Steve and Amy Klein renewed their $30,000 gift to sponsor a Social Science Scholar for the next 5 years and added a $10,000 gift for the Dean's General Development Fund.

Jorge and Pamela Gonzalez are donating $50,000 to establish the Jorge L. and Pamela M. Gonzalez Scholarship Fund Endowment in Social Sciences to support first-generation undergraduate students in the College.

Tom Henderson created the Henderson Endowed Professorship in Political Science with a gift of $250,000. This professorship will support the recruitment and retention of exceptional faculty in the Political Science Department.

David Lane and Jay Johnson jointly established a $100,000 endowment to promote free speech and introduce free market concepts to students. The Jay Johnson and David Lane Family Fund will support liberty-oriented student groups by providing funding for guest speakers, club support, and helping students attend programming that supports free-market concepts.

Additional Gifts to Existing Endowments
Marshall Cohn - $30,000 to the Social Sciences Scholars Endowment; Marie Cowart - $43,000 to the Marie E. Cowart Social Sciences Scholars Endowment and $1,000 to the World Affairs Program Endowment; Tom Dye - $6,000 to the Thomas R. Dye Scholarship Endowment; Tim Gunning - $15,000 to the Thomas S. McCaleb Scholarship Endowment; The Kaul Foundation - $100,000 to the Ralph Kaul Endowment in Applied Economics; Charles B. Nam - $40,000 for the Nam Scholarship Award in Demography and Population Health; Dianne Piette - $8,000 to the Dr. Michael J. Piette Graduate Scholarship Endowment; Murray M. Stokely, III - $15,000 to the Monica Stokely Memorial Endowment; Marjorie Turnbull - $19,000 to the Marjorie R. Turnbull Social Sciences Scholars Endowment.

New Non-endowed Cash Gifts
Mark and Marianne Barneby - $10,000 for the Dean's Translational Research project; David and Rebecca Bibb - $5,000 for the Geography Department; Eric & Miranda Gaier - $6,000 for the Dean's General Fund; Tim Gunning - $5,000 for the Dean's General Fund; Charles Haworth & the Haworth Foundation - $28,000 to support Student Veterans at the College; Jake and Jackie Jacoby - $10,000 for the Alumni Graduate Scholarship in Public Administration & Policy; The Kaul Foundation - $50,000 for the Ralph Kaul Endowment in Applied Economics; Lynda Keever - $20,000 for the Masters in Applied American Politics and Policy program; Charles Koch Foundation - $331,800 to support the L. Charles Hilton Jr. Center for the Study of Economic Prosperity; Steve MacNamara - $10,000 for the Dean's General Fund; Rosemary Magee - $5,000 for the Dean's General Fund and programming support for the College's Women's Graduate Student Network; Charles B. Nam - $5,000 to the Nam Scholarship Award in Demography and Population Health; Moore Charitable Foundation - $19,200 for the Marine Conservation Research project; The Appar Foundation - $57,500, Charles Koch Foundation - $40,000, Mercatus Center at George Mason University - $13,000, and Reason Foundation - $13,500.

FSU Great Give
The College's featured project during the Great Give this year raised money for the Social Sciences Scholars Endowment.

During this 24-hour drive, 98 people gave $20,440! The gifts ranged from $5 to $5,000.

Thank You
Thank you to each of our generous donors whose gifts will impact the lives of our students, faculty, and staff, and the communities they reach.

Godwin, Raymond Kerr, Christi & Jeff Lawson, Richard Rose, Catie Santamaria, Jason Sato, Kent & Lynn Shoemaker, Marjorie Turnbull.

Additional support for the Social Science Scholars was also provided by the following funds: Marie E. Cowart Social Sciences Scholars Endowment, Fred C. and Helen D. Flippe Endowment, Michael Heather Memorial Social Sciences Scholars Endowment, David W. Rasmussen Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Unsecured by Debt
This year 34 donors provided $77,440 to support this special program at the Stavros Center for Economic Education. Included in these numbers are 18 gifts totaling $26,100 from members of the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

DeVoLe V. Moore Center for the Study of Critical Issues in Economic Policy and Government received additional funding of $104,000 for student experiential learning from: The Appar Foundation - $37,500, Charles Koch Foundation - $40,000, Mercatus Center at George Mason University - $13,000, and Reason Foundation - $13,500.

Thank you for participating in FSU’s Great Give!
During FSU’s Great Give on March 9, 2022, our alumni and friends raised $20,440 in just 24 hours, more than 200% of our goal for the Social Science Scholars Program. We are blown away by your generosity!

The College's Social Science Scholars Program empowers outstanding students in the College to develop leadership skills and create relationships with their peers, faculty, alumni, and community leaders.

Scholars participate in a leadership seminar in the spring that prepares them for internships, research, and service projects the following summer semester, and upon return in the fall, complete a reflection course. Scholars receive funding up to $5,000 for approved travel and other expenses to help make their projects and internships a reality.

Not only do our Scholars gain invaluable experience through instruction and projects, but they also gain experience with public speaking and community engagement by presenting their fellowship, internship, or project findings to the FSU Community during the Social Science Scholars Program’s Fall Symposium. For more information about the program, visit coss.fsu.edu/sxs.

Mark your calendar for FSU’s next Great Give on March 8, 2023!
For those of you who participated with us in 2022, thank you and we hope that you will renew that philanthropy with us in 2023 during FSU’s next Great Give on March 8. If you have not participated in FSU’s Great Give, we look forward to sharing our projects with you in the new year and hope you will join us.

Your philanthropy makes it possible for us to provide opportunities for students that cannot be covered by State of Florida funds. The College uses private contributions to deliver programming under the College’s Get More Than a Degree initiative that supports student intellectual growth and professional development.

We are grateful to each of our donors for their interest and investments in our students and work. Thanks to you, we are not just turning out graduates; we are producing leaders ready to take on the challenges of an ever-changing world.
The College of Social Sciences and Public Policy gratefully acknowledges our Bellamy Society members who lead in supporting our students’ academic and co-curricular experiences with their annual giving. Bellamy Society Members generously made annual unrestricted and current support gifts and pledges of $1,000 or more from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, to provide support College-wide or to one of our departments, programs, or centers. Please note that restricted gifts made by donors to endowment funds are not included in the Bellamy Society; they are listed on our website at coss.fsu.edu/alumni/donor-recognition.

**GOLD LEVEL**
($5,000 and higher)
- Appgr Foundation, Inc.
- Florence H. Ashby
- Mark P. & Marianne E. Barnebey
- David L. & Rebecca T. Bibb
- Stephen T. & Young T. Brown
- The Brumetti Foundation
- Kimberly B. & Mark C. Campbell
- Ruth B. & Walter E. Caras
- Steven M. & Amy K. Cline
- Marshall S. Cohn
- The Sol Cohn Foundation
- C. Raymond Corrett
- FSU Line Dance
- Eric M. & Miranda J. Gaier
- Joyce A. & Earl R. Godwin
- Timothy S. Gunning
- Travis A. Hadwin
- Charles T. & Sylvia E. Haworth
- LeRoy F. & Jacquelyn P. Jacoby
- The Kaiz Foundation
- Lynda Kerwer & William Eshenbaugh
- Charles Koch Foundation
- Daniel & Stacey M. Lansman
- Rosemary M. Magee
- Mercatus Center at George Mason University
- Christian J. & Betty A. Miller
- Moore Charitable Foundation
- Charles B. Nam
- Reason Foundation
- Angela M. & Michael J. Santone
- Jason D. & Lauren M. Sato
- R. Kent & Lynn M. Shoemaker
- Julia B. Smith
- Gui A. Stavros
- Joseph B. & Heather M. Storey
- W. Edward & Teresa M. Sutton
- Taylor-Blackburn Family Fund
- Stephen R. MacNamara & Liberty E. Taylor
- Marjorie R. Turnbull

**GARNET LEVEL**
($2,500 – $4,999)
- David L. & Kara Fentress
- Serena B. & David A. Finn
- Ruth W. Godfrey-Sigler
- Haworth Foundation, Inc.
- Ethan Johnston
- Christi A. & Jeff Lawson
- Parkinson Construction Co., Inc.
- Nigel O. Parkinson
- George S. & Clyda S. Rent
- Michael G. Stephens

**BELLEMY LEVEL**
($1,000 to $2,499)
- Les & Ruth Akers
- James H. & Ruth A. Alexander
- Ripple J. & John P. Alkire
- Terry E. & Teresa K. Anthony
- J. Keith & Maureen D. Arnold
- Adam E. & Bethany Babington
- James S. Bartholomew
- B. Dan & Aimee E. Berger
- William D. & Frances S. Berry
- Wiatr F. Bowers
- James R. Brooks
- Gregory S. & Stephanie W. Burge
- Joseph P. Callahou
- Christopher J. & Renee’ N. Canizaro
- Christine Lung Cashow & William Cashow
- Julian S. Clayton
- William E. & Barbara S. Coen
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- Paul D. Cook
- Nicole D. & Frank Coto
- Thomas M. & M. Eileen Culligan
- Anthony E. DeNapoli
- Scott B. & Pamela J. Feldman
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- Jo Ann M. Gooding
- Frank A. & Chris C. Hall
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- Andrew J. Helfan
- Thomas M. Henderson
- Rodney E. & Kathryn S. Hero
- Mark & Nan Casper Hills
- Darrin K. & Sabrina M. Hollohan
- Robert A. & Dawn G. Hummer
- Christopher E. Jansis & Michael A. Fornaro
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- Nancy & Richard D. McKay
- Eugene E. & Julia M. Merz
- Deborah A. & Allen Moler
- Bennett E. Napier
- Jonathan Novak
- Michael J. & Nancy O’Farrell
- James D. Orcutt & Annette M. Schwake
- Irene Padavic
- Danryl & Marilyn S. Paulson
- David A. Picard
- Mary Anne Price
- Jill S. and David M. Quadagno
- Jane S. Love
- Kyle & Becky Riva
- Catherine S. Santamaria
- Caroline L. & Douglas L. Smith
- William G. & Paula P. Smith
- Gary A. & Barbara A. Stilwell
- Jeffrey A. & Agnes F. Stoops
- James P. Sweeney
- John R. Taylor and Cynthia Tie
- Miles Taylor
- Tiffany M. Taylor
- Marvin Thurston
- George L. & Harriet L. Waas
- William G. & Carol S. Weisert
- Michael L. Williams

If you would like to support the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy’s mission, visit give.fsu.edu/cosspp to make a gift to the College’s general development fund, visit coss.fsu.edu/alumni/giving for more information, or email cosspp-alumni@fsu.edu for assistance.
Student Achievements

Students, faculty, and staff from across the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy have been hard at work and making advancements in their fields. Representing approximately 11% of the FSU student population, COSSPP students make up a higher percentage of annual student awards and honors at FSU and are making great strides in their fields beyond FSU.

Rawan Abhari was named a 2022-23 John Robert Lewis Scholar, by the Washington D.C.-based Faith and Politics Institute. Abhari is one of 10 scholars selected from a field of more than 105 applicants from across the country. The Faith and Politics Institute established the John Robert Lewis Scholars & Fellows Program in honor of John Lewis, the late congressman and civil rights icon.

Elaina Gonsoroski, a Ph.D. candidate studying geography with a focus on health geography, was awarded the Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST) grant. This NASA research fellowship will provide Gonsoroski with three years of funding to help her complete her dissertation by her expected graduation in spring of 2025.

Four COSSPP students received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad this past summer: Gustavo Ayala (International Affairs – Italy), Amaya Dickson (International Affairs/ Middle Eastern Studies – Jordan), Hannah Fulk (Public Relations/ Interdisciplinary Social Sciences – Spain), and Gabriela Gavranic dos Reis (International Affairs – Brazil).

Nimna Gabadage, FSU’s Student Body President and member of the FSU Board of Trustees, will represent the students of Florida’s 12 public universities in his role as Chair of the Florida Student Association. This is the second year FSU’s Student Body President has been elected to the position, which gives him a seat and a vote on the State University System of Florida’s Board of Governors.

Sunshine Jacobs, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in sociology with a special focus in demography, was one of six teaching assistants at Florida State University to receive a 2021-2022 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for her incredible work.

Amin Ghrabi, M.D., presented his research at the AFRAVIH2022 conference in Marseille, France, this past spring. Dr. Ghrabi was a...
Ph.D. Graduates Celebrated at First College Hooding Ceremony

On Friday, April 29, the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy celebrated students graduating with doctoral degrees. Graduates, faculty advisors, family, and friends heard a welcome message from Dean Tim Chapin recognizing the significance of this accomplishment, followed by remarks from Dr. Irene Padavic, COSSPP faculty and distinguished speaker, titled, “Looking Back, Moving Forward: You and the Future of Our World.” Following the ceremony, family and friends gathered for a celebration in the Bellamy atrium.

Congratulations to each of our Ph.D. graduates!

**Economics**

Ezra Goldstein
Annalise Maillot
Timothy J. Rooney, Jr.
Phil Solimine

**Geography**

Yoonjung Ahn
Jennifer McHenry
Elizabeth “Bess” Ruff
Zoe Schroder

**Political Science**

Kelley Doll

**Urban and Regional Planning**

Kristin Gladwin

Fullbright Scholar in the Master of Public Health program and is expected to graduated this past summer. Dr. Ghirabi’s research focuses on Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infections among people who inject drugs in Tunisia.

**Faculty Scholarship**

Faculty at COSSPP publish meaningful research in leading journals and with FSU students, colleagues at FSU, and beyond!

**Austin Wise**, a Center for Demography and Population Health (CDPH) master’s student, was honored with the William J. Serow Prize. The award is named in honor and memory of Professor William J. Serow. Dr. Serow was a professor of economics at Florida State University from 1981 until his untimely death in 2003, and he served as the CDPH’s director from 1990 to 2003. He dedicated an important part of his professional life to preparing students for careers in applied demography.

**Nastassia “Tazzi” Janvier**, FSU’s 2021-2022 Student Body President, was selected to join a prestigious program committed to providing civil rights legal advocacy in the South. Janvier will join an elite 10-person cohort of the Marshall-Motley Scholars Program, a pipeline program of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund that develops ambassadors and advocates for transformational change in Black communities in the southern U.S.

Torchebearer 100 Honorees

This year, 14 COSSPP students were inducted into Florida State University’s Torchebearer 100, which recognizes 100 outstanding undergraduate leaders across campus who have made significant contributions to student life at FSU. The inductees included:

- Johanna Carpio
- Guisellia Cruz
- Psychologist Julia Shay
- Shekinah Erinaq
- Laura Escher
- Shanna Francis
- Abril Hunter
- Ronny Legare
- Imani Lewis
- George Lopez
- Matty Mendez
- Thalia Mendoza
- Gabriel Pfeuffer-Ferguson
- Ariel Trueba

Two COSSPP students were named among the members of the inaugural class of John Robert Lewis Scholars and Fellows by the Faith and Politics Institute for 2021-2022. **Travis Waters**, political science major, was selected as one of nine scholars, and **Shaina Ruth**, FSU Law and MAAPP student, was selected as one of 12 fellows. The program honors former congressman and civil and voting rights icon John Lewis.

**Faculty Scholarship**

Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., and Amy Burdette, Ph.D. (Sociology) co-authored “Restorative Prioritization Must Be Informed by Marginalized People” in the journal Nature.

**Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., and Amy Burdette, Ph.D.** (Sociology) co-authored “Religious Transitions, Sexual Minority Status and Depressive Symptoms from Adolescence to Early Adulthood” in the journal Society and Mental Health with doctoral student Russell Kyle Saunders.


**Mark Souva, Ph.D.** (Political Science) co-authored “Democracy, External Threat and Military Spending” in the journal Research & Politics with graduate student Matthew Smith and former student Matthew Hauenstein, Ph.D.

**Mark Souva, Ph.D.** (Political Science) co-authored “Predictions of COVID-19 Stress: The role of Anxiety and Resilience” with undergraduate honors student Goeffre Francois and graduate student Melissa A. Meynadier in the Journal of Aging and Mental Health.

**Kathryn Harker Tillman, Ph.D. and Karin Brewster, Ph.D.** (Sociology) co-authored an article with former student, Giuseppepinia Holway, Ph.D. “Motivations for Maintaining Virginity Among US Adolescents” in the Journal of Adolescent Health.


**Miles Taylor, Ph.D., and Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., (Sociology) co-authored “Life Satisfaction and Intergenerational Mobility Among Older Hispanics in the United States” in the Journal of Aging and Health with doctoral student Ladanya Ramirez-Surmeier.

**Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., and John Reynolds, Ph.D.** (Sociology) co-authored “Race-Discordant School Attendance and Cognitive Function in Later Life” in the journal Research on Aging. They also co-authored “Long-term correlates of racially diverse schooling; education, wealth, and social health in later life” in the journal Social Currents.

**C.J. Brush, Ph.D., Greg Hajas, Ph.D., Natalie Sachs-Ericsson, Ph.D. (Psychology); Julia Sheffler, Ph.D. (Center for Translational Behavioral Science); and Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., (Sociology) and graduate students Melissa A. Meynadier and Russell Mach co-authored “Emotion Regulation, Depression, and Late Life.”**

**Faculty Scholarship**


**Kathryn Harker Tillman, Ph.D. and Karin Brewster, Ph.D.** (Sociology) co-authored an article with former student, Giuseppepinia Holway, Ph.D. “Motivations for Maintaining Virginity Among US Adolescents” in the Journal of Adolescent Health.


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**Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., and Miles Taylor, Ph.D.** (Sociology) co-authored “Productive Aging LifeStyles: A latent Class Analysis of Work and Volunteer Patterns Over the Retirement Transition” in the journal Research on Aging.

**Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., (Sociology); Natalie Sachs-Ericsson, Ph.D., Julia C. J. Brush, Ph.D., Greg Hajaic, Ph.D. (Psychology); Julia Sheffler, Ph.D. (Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine); and graduate students Melissa A. Meynaday and Russell Mach co-authored “Emotion Regulation, Depression, and Late Positive Potential in Older Adults” in the International Journal of Psychophysiology.

**Tim Chapin, Ph.D., (Urban and Regional Planning) and Lindsay Stevens, J.D., AICP. (The Nature Conservancy) co-authored “Growth Management’s Fourth Wave: Revisited” in the Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy.**

**Dawn C. Carr, Ph.D., (Sociology); Zhe He, Ph.D., (School of Information); Mia Liza A Lustria, Ph.D. (School of Information); Shayan Chakraberry, Ph.D., (Computer Science); Neil Charness, Ph.D., (Psychology); Antonio Terracciano, Ph.D., (Geriatrics); Walter R.Boot, Ph.D., (Psychology); and graduate students Shubo Tian (Statistics); Michael Diecut (Psychology); Maedeh Agharazidermani (School of Information); Nicholas Gray, Andrew Dilanchian, and Shengbo Zhang (Psychology) co-authored “Motivation to Engage in Aging Research: Are There Typologies and Predictors?” in the journal The Gerontologist.**

Audrey Heffron-Casserleigh, Ph.D. (Emergency Management and Homeland Security) and students J. Ryan Teston, Megan E. Konyndyk, and Robert C. Ferguson co-authored the chapter “Economic Risks Facing Afghanistan: Failed States and Bureaucratic Resistance” in Disaster Management and Human Health Risk VII.

In a new study, Associate Professor of Sociology Dawn Carr, Ph.D., explored the challenges of recruiting and retaining older adults to participate in research. The study also marks the first step of a broad, interdisciplinary FSU effort to increasingly use artificial intelligence in research. In the study, published in The Gerontologist, Carr identified core “motivation clusters” among older adults for research participation. Along with her 12 FSU-based co-authors, Carr suggests that identifying those clusters — “fun seekers” and “research helpers,” for example — can guide recruitment and retention strategies.

Chris Reenock, Ph.D. (Political Science) co-authored the book “Can Helpers,” for example – can guide clusters – “fun seekers” and “research helpers,” for example — can guide recruitment and retention strategies.

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Brad T. Gomez, Ph.D. (Political Science) co-authored the book “Change and Continuity in the 2020 Elections.”

Audrey Heffron-Casserleigh, Ph.D. (Emergency Management and Homeland Security) and students Connor Hale, Merissa Chu, and Victoria Lee co-authored the chapter “Economic Risks Facing Afghanistan: Failed States and Bureaucratic Resistance” in Disaster Management and Human Health Risk VII.

Tian Tang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, studied the effectiveness of voluntary environmental programs (VEPs) that encourage local governments to promote solar-friendly practices. Tang’s report, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, was cited twice in “Report of the Study Finds Local Voluntary Programs Are Effective in Promoting Green Energy.”

Patricia Homan, Ph.D. (Sociology) published “Sick and Tired Of Being Excluded: Structural Racism in Disenfranchisement as a Threat to Population Health Equity” in the journal Health Affairs.

Deana Rohlinger, Ph.D. (Sociology) published “Framing Dynamics and Claimmaking After the Parkland Shooting” in the journal Information, Communication and Society.

John Felkner, Ph.D. (Urban and Regional Planning) published “The Interrelated Impacts of Credit Access, Market Access and Forest Proximity on Childhood Struggles in Cambodia” in the journal World Development.

Amanda Driscoll, Ph.D. (Political Science) and Ph.D. student Taylor Kinley Chewing co-authored “Conditional Cash Transfers and Child Labor” in World Development.

A new study authored by Assistant Professor of Geography Xiao Feng, Ph.D., and researchers from FSU and the University of Arizona is offering the first quantitative assessment of how lax deforestation policies, drought and forest fires have impacted biodiversity in the Amazon River basin. Dr. Feng worked on the study published today in Nature while at the University of Arizona. Feng said the amount of data used in the study is unparalleled.

Patricia Homan, Ph.D. (Sociology) and doctoral student Britanny King co-authored a research paper “Structural Intersectionality as a New Direction for Health Disparities Research,” published in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Christopher Uejio, Ph.D. (Geography) co-authored a study “Using Social Security Number to Identify Sub-populations Vulnerable to the Health Impacts from Extreme Heat in Florida, U.S.”

FSU Researchers Use AI to Prompt Older Adults’ Participation in Research

The Florida Roundup’s Associate Producer Katherine G. Hobbi hosted William Butler, Ph.D., (Urban and Regional Planning) to discuss how sea level rise contributes to gentrification based on a recent report for FSU’s LeRoy Collins Institute on March 25, 2022. Dr. Butler authored the report with Tisha Holmes, Ph.D., (Urban and Regional Planning) and former FSU faculty/current University of Illinois Chicago Professor April Jackson, Ph.D., for FSU’s LeRoy Collins Institute looking specifically at Pinellas, Miami-Dade, and Duval counties.

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How Past Criminal Convictions Bar Floridians from Occupational Licensing Opportunities.

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy received a National Science Foundation grant to study the use of remote sensing and robotic technology in disaster response.

Honors

Patricia Homan, Ph.D., and Amy M. Burdette, Ph.D., (Sociology) had their article “When Religion Hurts: Structural Sexism and Health in Religious Congregations” selected as the 2022 Distinguished Article Award Honorable Mention in the Sociology of Religion Section by the American Sociological Association.

Carol Schmertmann, Ph.D., (Sociology) received the Innovative Research Award, given for career achievement in political science and public administration, from the American Political Science Association.

Patricia Homan, Ph.D., (Sociology) earned a prestigious Emerging Scholars Award at the American Political Science Association Legislative Studies Project, a multi-million-dollar NSF-funded project, for her research and training projects related to securing tenure and promotion.

Distinguished Economics Professor Emeritus James D. Gwartney, Ph.D., retired from FSU this spring after devoting 54 years to research, teaching, and mentorship. Prior to his retirement, Dr. Gwartney held the position of Gus A. Stavros Eminent Scholar Chair at Florida State University, and from 2003-2010 he directed the Gus A. Stavros Center for Economic Education, helping high school and college instructors become better teachers through workshops and curriculum development.

Patricia Homan, Ph.D., (Sociology) received the Distinguished Article Award from the American Sociological Association’s Sex and Gender section for “Structural Sexism and Health in Religious Congregations” selected as the 2022 Distinguished Article Award Honorable Mention in the Sociology of Religion Section by the American Sociological Association.

Presentations & Service

Kathryn Hacker Tillman, Ph.D., (Sociology) and doctoral student Rachel Sparkman co-presented the paper “Do Immigrants in Rural America Lag Behind? A look at Inter and Intra-Economic Inequalities by Metropolitan Status in the United States” at the Population Association of America annual meeting in Atlanta.
FSU Hosts APSA’s 2022 State Politics and Policy Conference

The Department of Political Science hosted the American Political Science Association (APSA) 2022 State Politics and Policy Conference at FSU from April 21-23, 2022. The conference focused on Strengthening Democracy in the States. Charles Barrilleaux, Ph.D., (Political Science) received the State Politics and Policy Section of the APSA Career Achievement Award at the conference. This award is given annually to a political scientist who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the study of politics and public policies in the American states. Support for the meeting was provided by the College, the Department of Political Science, the LeRoy Collins Institute, the Institute of Politics at Florida State University, the State Politics and Policy Section of the APSA, and the Cambridge University Press.

Kathryn Harker Tillman, Ph.D., and Karin Brewer, Ph.D. (Sociology) co-presented the paper “Motivations for Maintaining Virginity among US Adolescents” at the Population Association of America annual meeting in Atlanta.


Patricia Homan, Ph.D., (Sociology) presented on a panel “Understanding Structural Injustice: The Effects of Structural Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism and their Intersections” during the Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision-Making and Centre on Population Dynamics at McGill University.

Brad Johnson, Ph.D., (Geography) was invited by the president of the National Academy of Sciences to participate in its 32nd Annual Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium, which brings together outstanding young scientists to discuss exciting advances and opportunities in a broad range of disciplines. According to the symposium directory, he is the fourth academic from FSU to attend.

Amanda Driscoll, Ph.D., (Political Science) and Ph.D. students Taylor Kinseley Chewning and Martin Gandur published the paper “Too Much, Too Little or Just About Right? Public Evaluations of Executive Influence in Four Constitutional Courts,” which was presented at the 2022 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. They also received the Rapoport Summer Research Collaboratives Program Award from the Rapoport Family Foundation for a research status report regarding their research project “Who are the ‘Carbers’? Public Support for Judicial Independence.”

Drone Team Assists in Hurricane Ida Rescue and Recovery Effort

The Center for Disaster Risk Policy’s drone team was taken by a Blackhawk helicopter into Grande Isle, Louisiana, to lend expertise in the wake of Hurricane Ida. It’s the first time a drone team has been airlifted into a disaster impact area as part of an urban search and recovery effort, said Director David Merrick. It also underscores the increasingly vital role the center is playing in rescue and recovery efforts by providing accurate, near-real-time data in lieu of maps that are typically weeks to months old.

Lonna Atkeson, Ph.D., (Political Science) served as Program Co-chair for the Election Sciences, Reform and Administration Fifth Annual Conference at MIT.

For frequent news updates, visit coss.fsu.edu/news and follow us on social media (@FSUCOSS).

Tonja Guilford, Chief of Staff to the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, was awarded the James G. Parker Shield Award by the World Affairs Program (WAP) at Florida State University in 2022. This award, given only five times since its inception, recognizes above and beyond commitment to the World Affairs Program, its students, and its success. Past recipients include Eric Reading, Dean Emerita Marie Cowart, and Dean Emeritus David Rasmussen.

“Tonja was an obvious choice for this award, and we are proud to recognize her for all that she has done for us over the years,” said Ryan Villacorta, 2022-2023 WAP Director. “Particularly during the tumultuous return to in-person programming and competition, Tonja is a steadfast ally for the Program, arranging travel and implementing our yearly strategy for growth and competitive success. She has also been a constant champion and advocate for our members and the values of the Program, and we are forever indebted to her. Tonja’s patience, guidance, unfettered kindness, and support of the World Affairs Program have directly contributed to our success. We are incredibly grateful to her for everything she has done and continues to do for us!”

Guilford has served as an advisor to WAP, the College’s Student Leadership Council, as well as being the College’s Veteran’s Liaison for the last 10 years.

“Tonja is an incredible advisor to our College’s Student Leadership Council,” said Elizabeth Chabot, 2022-2023 SLC Chair. “She generously gives of her time to ensure the SLC has everything we need to provide the very best personal and professional development opportunities to students in the College. She gives constant guidance and support to ensure we can advocate for the needs of students and the College’s strategic initiatives. We truly couldn’t succeed without her!”

“I’m so pleased to see Chief of Staff Guilford recognized for her dedicated service to our students success,” said Dean Tim Chapin. “Tonja is a beloved member of our College family and a problem solver extraordinary!”
Message from the Dean

Thank you for supporting the College!

The College relies on the support of our alumni and friends to continue its longstanding tradition of excellence. These gifts play an essential role in our ability to educate and train the next generation of leaders and provide students with exceptional social science and public policy education.

To our current donors, I want to thank you for your generous support of our many programs. You can take great pride in the fact that you are making a significant difference in the lives of our students.

If you have not yet made the choice to become a donor, I encourage you to explore our website and see for yourself the many great things going on in the College. Once you do, I am convinced you will want to be part of the growing number of alumni and friends investing in our outstanding students at this fine university.

All contributions, regardless of size, are important and highly valued. Note also that gifts can be earmarked for a program or use of your choosing. Thank you for your support!

Visit give.fsu.edu/cosspp or scan the QR code to make a donation.