

The *Women* for FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall/Winter 2012



PLANNING FOR 2013 IS UNDER WAY

On July 30, Sally McRorie assumed her new role as Florida State University's first vice president for Faculty Development and Advancement. In this new position, she will provide strategic counsel to university leaders on faculty development and advancement. "I'm anxious to engage the Women for FSU in the myriad examples of learning, research and service brought to life by our faculty and students," McRorie said.

McRorie, who earned a doctorate in art education from the University of Kansas in 1985, served as the chair of art and design at Purdue University before coming to Florida State in 1994 as chair and professor of art education. She was named dean of the former School of Visual Arts and Dance in 2002 and oversaw the establishment of the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance with the inclusion of the School of Theatre and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.

The Women for FSU highlighted the College of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance during the 2010 Backstage Pass event and during the first Encore event in 2011.

World-renowned ballerina Suzanne Farrell hosted an unforgettable workshop, *A Walk in My Ballet Shoes*, at Backstage Pass 2010 to introduce attendees to the techniques and style of the FSU dance program. "I still hear about the memorable ballet classes taught for participants by our Eppes Professor of Dance, Suzanne Farrell. The women noted how exhilarated — and tired — they were, leaving class," McRorie said.

"I love the diverse and energetic Women for FSU! In my role as dean of the College



Sally E. McRorie, Ph.D.

*Vice President for Faculty
Development and Advancement*

of Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, I enjoyed introducing our top-tier arts programs to the members of this dynamic organization."

Through the collaboration between McRorie and the Women for FSU, attendees have been able to experience a true behind-the-scenes look at some of the university's fine arts programs.

McRorie stated, "The Women for FSU have had dinner on stage at the Richard Fallon Theatre, serenaded by our wonderful music theatre students; produced their own 'Designing Women' moments with our faculty and students in interior design and at the

Master Craftsman Studio; and experienced our beautiful Ringling Museum of Art and FSU Center for Performing Arts in Sarasota. Florida State University is a hub for new ideas and strong traditions, and the Women for FSU are among our staunchest and most engaging supporters!"

We congratulate Sally on her well-deserved promotion and look forward to working with her in her new role. Currently, four of the eight university vice presidents are women, which speaks volumes about the leadership role and impact that women have on the future of Florida State University. ❁



Cherie Rowland

Great things have happened since the inception of the Women for Florida State University (W4FSU). We have hosted three Backstage Pass to the Very Best of FSU events; established an endowment; developed a website and promotional materials; created an organizational structure that allows for more streamlined management of W4FSU; and have grown from 100 to more than 700 members. All of these things are possible because of the cooperation, creativity and wisdom of our members and volunteers.

W4FSU strives to engage women in meaningful activities at Florida State, to encourage women to share their time, talents and resources and to celebrate the unique contributions women make to FSU and to the lives of other women. In an effort to live out our mission, we offer a variety of educational and social events, mentoring opportunities and philanthropic pursuits.

The Women for Florida State University has been well received, and our early success reflects the timeliness of our venture. I hope you enjoy the inaugural issue of our newsletter and thank you for your continued support! 🌿

– Cherie Rowland
Chair, Executive Committee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Florence Ashby
Molly Barron
Yvonne Brown
Jeanne Curtin
Leslie France-Patterson
Fran Gilbert
Cherie Rowland
Phyllis Underwood
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TO LEARN MORE, VISIT W4FSU.ORG



DARING TO BE GREAT



Amy M. Wetherby, Ph.D.

Amy M. Wetherby, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, is a distinguished research professor in the Department of Clinical Sciences and director of the Autism Institute in the College of Medicine and the Laurel Schendel Professor of Communication Disorders at FSU. She is a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee for Educational Interventions for Autism, and has published extensively on early detection and intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder. In addition to being a wife and mother, her commitment to families has been unwavering during her more than 30 years of clinical experience. She is the executive director of the FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) that, as part of a statewide network, serves more than 3,000 individuals and their families across the panhandle each year. Wetherby also is the director of the FIRST WORDS Project, a longitudinal study on early detection of autism and communication disorders that has offered screenings to families of more than 20,000 infants in this region with funding from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, she directs an early treatment study teaching parents of toddlers with autism how to support social communication in everyday activities funded by the National Institutes of Mental Health. Finally, Wetherby is the director of a grant to train doctoral students specializing in autism funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The common thread in all of her work is the importance of bridging the gap between research and community practice.

Wetherby is currently working with collaborators on a new collection of interactive tools known as Autism Navigator™. The potential for Autism Navigator is groundbreaking; the tools will use innovative technology to deliver information about cutting-edge detection and intervention techniques throughout the country and the world. Autism Navigator is still in development but has already been delivered to early intervention networks in Georgia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and here in Florida. With the ability to proliferate the expertise of Wetherby and her collaborators, future children and families, who are facing possible lifelong consequences of autism, will have a better chance of identifying and treating the disorder early. Until the cause is better understood, the powerful work of Wetherby and the development of Autism Navigator stand as the brightest hope to build the capacity of communities to maximize the potential of children with autism.

Education, health care and private philanthropy resources fund most of the screening and early intervention activities at the FSU Autism Institute. However, to complete development and field the groundbreaking Autism Navigator program, private and corporate resources are required. Autism Navigator is the cutting edge in early intervention and treatment, and additional funding is necessary to strengthen the program and broaden distribution to early intervention networks. In the expanding world of autism diagnosis, Autism Navigator has the power to change thousands of lives for the better. To provide your support, please contact Charlie Adams at (850) 644-3353 or charlie.adams@med.fsu.edu. 🌿

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Melissa Chester, former senior airman of the 81st Medical Operations, is now attending Florida State University on a full ROTC scholarship. The Kentucky native is pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice and minoring in Arabic.

Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force was something Chester said just made sense for her.

"For an 18 year old who is independent and wants to learn, grow and travel before settling into higher education, it was a great place to start my adult life," Chester said. While enlisted in the Air Force, she attended Gulf Coast Community College and counted the days until she could attend a state university.

"I didn't have any ties to Florida, but for some reason, I always knew I wanted to go to Florida State University," Chester said. "Though my first year was overwhelming, I loved the camaraderie and close-knit family dynamic of campus life."

In May 2013, Chester will graduate from Florida State and she will be commissioned as an officer in combat systems. "I enjoy being in the military. Every day is a new challenge, and the people aren't just your co-workers or friends; they are your family."

The Veterans Legacy Complex project will serve as the nexus for supporting our student-veterans like Melissa. Student academic success programs, research and administration require a facility designed to connect past, present and future veterans in order to inspire, educate and motivate for successful transitions to new careers. Please contact Wayne Munson at (850) 644-4389 or wayne.munson@med.fsu.edu to help make the difference in realizing our goal of becoming the most veteran-friendly and empowering university in the nation. 🌿



Melissa Chester



Jane Morgan

My time as a student was just the beginning of my relationship with Florida State University. I have been very privileged over the years to stay connected via my service on the FSU Foundation Board of Trustees and as a member of the Women for FSU. I encourage other women to take the time to learn about the growth and development happening every day at Florida State. Whether it's reconnecting with your program of origin at the university or discovering something totally new that clicks with your interests and experience, we all should take the opportunity to become more fully engaged. Imagine the impact women could have on the future of this university, and on issues of interest to women, if we all worked together to support one another and Florida State University through an organization like the Women for FSU!

My husband George and I are committed to inspiring others to make a very real, tangible impact on the lives of current and future college students. Our recent decision to provide much-needed financial support for the Women for FSU was an easy one. The organization, though still only a few years old, has already demonstrated that it is a valuable tool for university deans and fundraisers when reaching out and engaging women passionate about Florida State University. We want to ensure FSU's continued growth and believe that our support of the Women for FSU and its mission will give this university an excellent return on our investment! We hope other alumni and friends will choose the same path with gifts of their time, talents or treasures. 🌿

– Jane Morgan

CONVERSATIONS IN PHILANTHROPY

People often assume they know the definition of philanthropy. However, would you have been able to say that philanthropy has its roots in the Greek language and means "love for mankind"? The dictionary goes on to say that philanthropy is an effort to increase the well-being of mankind by charitable aid or donations.

Popular columnist Ellen Goodman once proposed that we spend more time researching a much-coveted espresso machine than we do many of the charities asking for money. She offers several suggestions to finding a worthy organization to support: Do your homework; give more money to fewer groups; trust your gut and follow your passion; and be involved in the charity. She concludes with this statement:

"The one voluntary economic decision we make in everyday life offers us a chance to put our voice and values, our money and our morals in the same place."

The Women for Florida State provides us a unique opportunity to share our passion for Florida State with our time and our talents. Current research tells us that women spend more time on due diligence before making a gift; they expect a deeper level of communication with



Joyce Miles

organizations they support; they want to be actively involved with the organization and its mission by volunteering; and they are tremendous influencers in giving to non-profits.

The Women for Florida State is designed to provide women with the tools they need to become more deeply involved in various aspects of university life and more confident advocates for the university. We will celebrate each success as we delight in recruiting even more women to support Florida State. 🌿

– Joyce Miles



ENGAGE SHARE CELEBRATE

The Backstage Pass to the Very Best of FSU is the signature event hosted by the Women for Florida State University. Since 2010, we have held three of these magical weekends, which provide the opportunity for our members to rekindle old relationships, make new friends and experience some of the exceptional programs offered at Florida State University.

Backstage Pass 2012 kicked off with a reception at the home of Florida State University President Eric and Mrs. Molly Barron. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the mosaic that participants created during their visit to the Master Craftsman Studio in March 2011. The mosaic, Putting the Pieces Together, represents the beauty and diversity of each W4FSU member. The evening featured another surprise, a creative writing lesson from Erin Belieu, director of Florida State's creative writing program.

We did not stop there, though. Saturday was action-packed, with visits to the Department of Interior Design; Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences; and the L.L. Schendel Speech and Hearing Clinic.



Backstage Pass 2011

In 2012, DesignIntelligence ranked the FSU Interior Design graduate program as one of the top 10 programs in the nation — just one of many accolades.

Finally, the weekend would not have been complete without recognizing our annual Gift of Wisdom recipient at the celebration dinner. This year, the award was presented to Stella Cottrell, and deservedly so!

Our 2013 event promises to be even bigger and better, and we hope you will make plans to attend! 🌸

SHARE YOUR GIFTS

- 1 Volunteer on one of our committees—marketing, membership, mentoring, philanthropy or program planning.
- 2 Host an event in your home; recruit new members for W4FSU; attend an ENCORE event; help with our newsletter; or share your story.
- 3 Make a financial contribution to the FSU program that has enriched your life or to the W4FSU endowment.

Be a part of this adventure, and make a difference in your life and the lives of other women!

EVENTS TO REMEMBER



November 3, 2012 ENCORE 2012

Join us at the FSU Panama City campus for a behind-the-scenes look at some exceptional programs, including a tour of the Underwater Crime Scene Investigation program. For more information, contact Liz Kehlenbeck at (850) 645-1951 or ekehlenbeck@foundation.fsu.edu.



October 26-28, 2012 FSU HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Homecoming is an excellent opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new ones and learn about exciting things happening at FSU. Be sure to visit the Women for FSU table at the Alumni Association's Open House on Friday, Oct. 26 from 5-7 p.m. For more information about Alumni Open House events, visit www.alumni.fsu.edu.



March 1-2, 2013 BACKSTAGE PASS

Enjoy an action-packed weekend of unique activities and experiences at the Fourth Annual Backstage Pass to the Very Best of FSU. You won't want to miss our signature event!

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT W4FSU.ORG

The *Women for* FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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