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ICUF Report

FRAG enrollment falling off – The state's Enrollment Estimating Conference has projected that the number of students receiving the Florida Resident Access Grant this year will be about 3,000 fewer than last year. The trend of recent years began to reverse in the fall semester when the number of FRAG recipients was about the same as last year. FRAG enrollment had been increasing by about 5 percent a year. **ICUF Executive Director Ed H. Moore** said the downward trend is not unexpected and was forecasted to legislators last year as a distinct possibility as a result of funding levels that failed to keep pace with enrollment growth. "What we are seeing is the result of unpredictable and under funded values for per student grants," he said. "It shows that both students and institutions do make choices based on finances. Students are making choices that cost the state more since every one who shows up at a state university costs taxpayers at least \$10,000 more than FRAG awards," he said. State projections show the number of students receiving the FRAG dropping from 35,462 last year to a projected 32,176 this academic year, a loss of more than 3,000 students. **Moore** noted that it costs the state between \$36 million and \$50 million to subsidize 3,000 state university students, between five to seven times as much as it would to award them FRAG grants. He said **ICUF** will ask legislators to approve a \$9.4 million increase in FRAG funding next year, which would boost the annual award from the current \$2,369 to \$2,711, would be a good first step to meeting the statutory goals for the FRAG. **ICUF's** long range plan calls for increasing the FRAG to a value that meets the original statutory goals of the FRAG, allowing ICUF institutions the ability to properly serve Florida resident students at a number that helps create increased bachelor degree production for Florida.

Florida Tech inks agreement with Brevard CC – **Florida Institute of Technology** and **Brevard Community College** officials have signed an agreement providing for the seamless transfer of BBC graduates to **Florida Tech's** business program. **FIT President Anthony Catanese** and BCC President Tom Gamble agreed to extend the 2+2 agreement to engineering, science and space systems programs in coming months. "This agreement serves as a model for the cooperative pacts we are encouraging all of members to enter into with community colleges to increase our role in graduating students trained to meet Florida's critical workforce needs," said **ICUF Executive Director Ed H. Moore**. **Florida Tech's**

agreement with BCC gives the college's students a prescribed set of courses they need to take to enter the university as juniors and provides for \$5,000 scholarships for eligible students, with two top-performing students eligible for additional \$7,000 scholarships.

Volusia schools announce exchange program – **Stetson University President H. Douglas Lee** has announced that five schools located in Volusia County have agreed to allow their students to receive credit for courses taken at any of the other institutions. The five institutions are **Stetson, Bethune-Cookman College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**, the University of Central Florida branch at Daytona Beach and Daytona Beach Community College. The Academic Exchange Program will take effect in the spring term.

ICUF alums hold key legislative positions – Legislators who graduated from **ICUF** institutions have been named to many of the key legislative leadership positions. In the Senate, the list begins with President Tom Lee, R-Brandon, who is a graduate of the **University of Tampa**. Sen. Lisa Carlton, R-Osprey, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Evelyn Lynn, R-Ormond Beach, chair of the Senate Education Committee, are graduates of **Stetson University**. Senate Majority Leader Alex Villalobos, R-Miami, is a graduate of the **University of Miami**. In the House, Speaker Allan Bense, R-Panama City, is a Florida State University graduate, but his son, Jason, is a **Jacksonville University** student who earned all-conference Pioneer Football League honors as a defensive end for the **Dolphins** football team. Rep. Joe Negron, R-Stuart, the House Appropriations Committee chair, and Majority Leader Andy Gardiner, R-Orlando, are **Stetson** graduates. About 40 legislators, one in four, attended **ICUF** institutions.

Six new legislators are ICUF alumni – Six of nineteen members in the freshman class in the House of Representatives are alumni of **ICUF** institutions. Rep. Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring, received her B.A. at **Warner Southern College** and an M.B.A. at the **University of Miami**. Rep. Carlos Lopez-Cantera, R-Miami, is a **UM** graduate. Rep. Ari Abraham Porth, D-Coral Springs, received his law degree at **Nova Southeastern University**. Rep. Everett Rice, R-Treasure Island, received his law degree at **Stetson**. Rep. Priscilla Ann Taylor, D-Riviera Beach, received her B.A. at **Barry University** and a M.B.A. at **Palm Beach Atlantic University**. Rep. William Proctor, R-St. Augustine is a former **Flagler College** president who attended **Stetson**.

UM receives record \$100 million donation – The **University of Miami School of Medicine** has received the largest grant in **UM's** history, a \$100 million donation from the family of the late Leonard Miller, a former **UM** trustee who built the Lennar Corp. into one of the nation's largest home builders. To express its gratitude to the Miller family, **UM** has renamed the school the **Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine**. "In this golden age of biomedical research, we will with this gift create new knowledge, recruit and educate the next generation of brilliant biomedical students, and continue to offer a healing hand to those in need whether rich or poor, young or old," said **UM President Donna Shalala**. The gift doubled the amount of **Miami's** previous largest donation and was the largest ever awarded to an existing university in Florida. The Miller's donation means that **Miami** has now raised \$800 million in its \$1 billion capital campaign.



UM celebrates \$100 million donation



Coach Tom Fitzgerald

UT soccer coach killed in tragic accident – Popular **University of Tampa Soccer Coach Tom Fitzgerald** was killed when a sport utility vehicle collided with his motorcycle in South Tampa. **Fitzgerald** had just completed his first season back with the **Tampa Spartans**, a team he coached from 1987 to 1995, winning the NCAA Division II men's national soccer championship in 1994. The 53-year-old father of two coached UCLA and the Major League Soccer Columbus Crew before deciding to return to **Tampa** last year to be closer to his family. "He was a legend," said **UT Athletics Director Larry Marfise**. "He'd reached a pinnacle in his career after winning a national championship at UCLA, and he could've gone anywhere and done anything he wanted, but he chose to come back to Tampa despite taking the financial loss just to be with his family. That tells you what kind of guy he is."

Gov. Jeb Bush speaks at UNCF luncheon – Gov. Jeb Bush praised Florida's historically black colleges in a speech at the United Negro College Fund's 60 Years of Educational Excellence luncheon in Jacksonville. The luncheon marked the end of Bush's two-year term as chairman of the Florida Campaign for the UNCF. Money raised through this important campaign will benefit Florida's three independent UNCF schools, **Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters College** and **Florida Memorial College**. "It has been a tremendous honor for me to serve," Bush said. "Florida's Historically Black Colleges and Universities play a key role in the success of Florida's higher education system."

State's largest telescope coming to Florida Tech – A \$150,000 gift by an anonymous Brevard County donor will enable **Florida Institute of Technology** to construct the state's largest telescope on top of the recently completed **F.W. Olin Physical Sciences Building**. **President Anthony Catanese** said the new telescope is an indicator of **Florida Tech's** continuing maturation as a nationally renowned research university.

Barry wins national volleyball championship – Congratulations to the **Barry University** women's volleyball team for winning the school's third national championship in the sport. The **Buccaneers** rallied from a game one loss to defeat Truman State University, 25-30, 30-21, 30-25, 30-24 to win the NCAA Division II Volleyball national championship.

Stetson University receives \$1 million gift – **Stetson University** has received a \$1 million gift in memory of the Very Rev. LeRoy Lawson, a former member of the Philosophy faculty. The money is being used to add scholarships, establish a lecture series in Philosophy and

Western Civilization and renovate teaching space in historic **Elizabeth Hall**. Former DeLand resident Martha B. Apgar made the donation to establish the Lawson Endowment Program in honor of Lawson, who taught Philosophy at **Stetson** from 1952 to 1966 and was rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in DeLand from 1947 to 1966.

Sister Linda Bevilacqua installed as Barry president – Sister Linda Bevilacqua, OP, Ph.D., who took office this past July 1, has been officially installed as **Barry University's** sixth president. "Nine months ago on February 12, I stood before the **Barry University** community and said, 'I am humbled, privileged and blessed to serve you as your president.'" In the intervening nine months, this wonderful **Barry** community has birthed an even greater excitement and desire in me to serve," **Sister Linda** said.

Saint Leo president's salary at national median – Dr. Arthur F. Kirk Jr., president of **Saint Leo University**, has been profiled by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* because of a unique distinction -- his salary is right at the national median for independent college presidents. **Kirk's** annual compensation is \$269,755. "Shucks," he wrote in a recent e-mail message, "I never considered myself average." While he has been president of **Saint Leo**, retention and graduation rates have risen by nearly 10 percentage points, the university's net assets have doubled, and enrollment has grown by about 80 percent.

Lynn president announces retirement – **Lynn University President Donald Ross** has announced that he will retire in June after nearly 34 years at the helm of the university. **Ross** has the longest tenure of any president of an **ICUF** institution. He has guided the growth of **Lynn** from a junior college for women in Boca Raton to a thriving, multidimensional university enrolling 2,500 students from 44 states and more than 90 countries and offering bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees. Among other things, **Lynn** is known for its **Conservatory of Music** and **School of International Communication**.

St. Thomas president appointed to Haiti advisory group – **St. Thomas University President Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale** has been appointed by Gov. Jeb Bush as an inaugural member of the Governor's new Haiti Advisory Group. In addition to being chosen for his ability to assess and improve educational opportunities in Haiti, **Casale** was recognized as a proponent for strengthening relationships between Florida and Haiti. "Haiti is not only our neighbor, but our friend as well. We must preserve the bond that currently exists between us," **Casale** said. The Governor's Haiti Advisory Group was established to identify the Caribbean nation's critical short-term and long range needs.

State grant to aid restoration of Bethune home – **Bethune-Cookman College** and the **Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation** have been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources to preserve the home of the college's founder, **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune**. The home, located on campus, currently serves as a museum and is visited by over 14,000 elementary, middle and high school students, scholars and tourists each year. "The **Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation** represents the history of **Bethune-Cookman College**, and is a testimony to **Dr. Bethune's** tireless efforts in the struggle for education, and civil rights for the entire nation," **BCC President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed** said.

NSU, Jacksonville University sign medical school agreement – Nova Southeastern University and Jacksonville University have agreed to establish a dual admission 4+4 program for students who pursue their undergraduate degree at JU and enter NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Our college offers one of five fully-accredited programs in the state, and we continue to place ourselves on the cusp of medical innovation, preparing students for a rapidly evolving medical landscape brimming with challenge and opportunity," said Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. The Nova Southeastern college will reserve up to five slots annually for JU graduates who have completed undergraduate degrees and pre-med prerequisites.

Webber hosts post season football classic – Who needs the BCS? Webber International University hosted its own bowl; the Polk County Thanksgiving Football Classic on Turkey Day. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics granted the Warriors special permission to host the classic after hurricanes wiped out two regular season games on WIU's schedule. Webber defeated Bethel College, 28-21, to even its record at 5-5.

In other news:

- Former Miami-Dade Mayor **Alex Penelas** has accepted the position of Senior Fellow and Professor of Public Policy at **St. Thomas University**. **Penelas** unsuccessfully sought the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination earlier this year.
- **St. Thomas** has broken ground on the Carnival Cruise Lines Science & Technology Building scheduled to open in 2006.
- **Saint Leo** has opened its new downtown Dade City facility and is planning to buy a 5,400-square-foot former private school building in San Antonio.
- **Lynn University** has been recognized by NAFSA: Association of International Educators for a high level of internationalization on its campus.

ICUF members are: Barry University • Beacon College • Bethune-Cookman College • Clearwater Christian College • Eckerd College • Edward Waters College • Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University • Flagler College • Florida College • Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences • Florida Institute of Technology • Florida Memorial College • Florida Southern College • International College • Jacksonville University • Lynn University • Nova Southeastern University • Palm Beach Atlantic University • Ringling School of Art and Design • Rollins College • Saint Leo University • Saint Thomas University • Southeastern College • Stetson University • University of Miami • University of Tampa • Warner Southern College • Webber International University

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