



INDEPENDENT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES *of* FLORIDA

ED H. MOORE, PhD ICUF PRESIDENT
(850) 681-3188 emoore@icuf.org

ICUF REPORT

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Governor Crist Recommends Full 09-10 Funding for FRAG

Gov. Charlie Crist's budget plan for the Fiscal Year 2009-10 includes full funding at \$2837 per student for the Florida Resident Access Grant. This level of funding would assist students in pursuing their education at one of Florida's 28 independent colleges and universities.

"The Governor's proposal would maintain a vital financial aid program that helps more than 34,000 Florida residents pay for college," said ICUF President Dr. Ed H. Moore. "Without this level of support many students would be forced to drop out of college, depriving both them and the state of the enhanced economic contributions they would make if they earned degrees. He is to be commended for his embrace of this vital key to access for so many Floridians."

The FRAG is a tuition assistance grant provided to Florida residents enrolled as full-time undergraduates at one of the 28 institutions that belong to the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida. This year's awards came to \$2837 per student, reduced by last year's Legislature from \$3,000 the previous two years. The budget for the program in 2008-09 is slightly over \$92 million.

"The Governor has recommended this strong support for FRAG as we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the program's creation in 1979," Moore said. "Over the past 30 years, FRAG has produced hundreds of thousands of college graduates whose contributions to Florida in every field are incalculable."

One of the reasons legislators created the FRAG was to save taxpayers' money – the grants currently cost less than one-fourth as much as the subsidy taxpayers provide to students attending state universities. Nearly half of the students who receive the FRAG are the first members of their families to attend college. Compared to the state universities the ICUF institutions enroll higher percentages of minorities, Pell Grant recipients, students whose families earn less than \$60,000, and older students returning to college – in other words, the students in whom the state has a vested interest in helping to obtain a college degree.

"Our conversations with legislators lead us to believe that they too feel strongly about this program and the value it adds for Florida," Moore said.



Governor Charlie Crist

FRAG

Southeastern President Gets Top Job at Oral Roberts

The bad news for Southeastern University is that its president, Dr. Mark Rutland, has been named president of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The good news is that the chairman of ORU's Board of Trustees has donated \$10 million to Southeastern.

At Oral Roberts, Rutland will succeed Richard L. Roberts, son of the founder, who resigned amid allegations of improperly using university resources for political activities and to support an extravagant lifestyle.

Rutland will continue to serve as SU's president until spring commencement on May 2. When he was named President of Southeastern College a decade ago the school was having financial problems and enrollment was stagnant. Since then, the school has become a university, launched 16 construction and renovation projects valued at \$50 million, and increased enrollment from about 1,000 students to 3,075.

ORU Chairman Mart Green is donating the \$10 million through his company Hobby Lobby to be paid over the next five years in \$2 million installments.



President Mark Rutland



Lynn, Palm Beach Atlantic Cap Cost Increases

Lynn University and Palm Beach Atlantic University have announced that they will freeze room and board rates for next year and hold tuition increases to a bare minimum.

Lynn is limiting its tuition increase to just three percent. PBA's tuition will increase by five percent, the lowest amount in five years.

"We're saying we recognize that some people just can't afford it anymore," said PBS President Dr. David Clark. "We are going to have to be more sensitive to need."

A Palm Beach Post article on the Lynn and PBA actions quoted ICUF President Dr. Ed H. Moore as saying, "It costs a lot to go college and when people worry about paying their mortgage, other things get postponed. Food and shelter come first."



UM Program Promotes Women in Science, Engineering



Dr. Shalala with SEEDS Program Members

The Scientists and Engineers Expanding Diversity and Success (SEEDS) program at the University of Miami is offering female students "speed mentoring" to help them advance in those fields.

The students met with mentors for five minutes at a time who critiqued their CVs or other documents they prepared to help them advance in science and engineering. Following the interviews, the students met for lunch to discuss the experience.

SEEDS was launched by UM President Dr. Donna Shalala last year to increase the number of women becoming scientists and engineers.

Bethune-Cookman Marching Band Plays at Super Bowl



Bethune-Cookman Marching Band

Question: What do the Bethune-Cookman University Marching Wildcats band and Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band have in common? Answer: Both played at the Super Bowl in Tampa.

The Marching Wildcats took to the field shortly before the game, dazzling fans with new formations, while Springsteen was the halftime entertainment.

"Having the Marching Wildcats represent the great Bethune-Cookman University at the Super Bowl is a tremendous honor," said BC-U President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed. "It is a tribute to the dedication and talent of our band director, Donovan Wells, and our amazing students."

Rollins, Stetson Earn Carnegie Engagement Classification

Rollins College and Stetson University have been honored by the Carnegie Foundation for their outstanding efforts in community engagement. They were among 119 schools that received the 2008 Community Engagement Classification from the Foundation.

"This classification represents years of outstanding work and achievement," said Rollins President Dr. Lewis Duncan. "Community engagement is central to Rollins' mission of preparing students for global citizenship and responsible leadership."

Dr. D. Gregory Sapp, Stetson's Hal S. Marchman Chair of Civic and Social Responsibility, said the award "allows someone considering Stetson to know it's a place where community engagement is part of who we are; that it's part of our character."



Dr. Lewis Duncan

NSU Medical Student Survives Hudson "Splash Landing"

Thanks to the skills of heroic US Airways pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, Nova Southeastern University medical student Alberto Panero was one of the 155 passengers and crew who survived Flight 1549's miraculous landing on the frigid water of the Hudson River.

"I don't even know how to put it into words right now. I actually grabbed one of the seats, that was the first thing that came to my mind. Some people grabbed the inflatable one. Immediately there were folks coming to us and throwing life jackets to us and helping us get to safety," Panero told CNN in an interview shortly after the landing. "There were a couple of people who took charge and started yelling for everyone to calm down. Once people realized we were going to be ok, they settled down."

Other passengers said Panero was one of the last people to leave the plane, staying behind to help a woman who broke her leg in the crash landing.

ERAU, Florida Tech Develop New Aviation Centers

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has received a \$2 million pledge to help fund construction of a new aviation maintenance center. Florida Institute of Technology, meanwhile, is preparing to dedicate its new \$1.5 million aviation center.



Both facilities result largely from the generosity of the Emil Buehler Trust of Paramus, N. J., and will be named after the donor. The Emil Buehler Aviation Maintenance Science Building at ERAU will be part of the James Hagedorn Aviation complex, including a new flight maintenance hangar and a flight operations center.

The Emil Buehler Center for Aviation Training and Research at Florida Tech features a flight training center and centers in human factors and simulation research. Members of the Orlando chapter of the Tuskegee Airman, African Americans who were served with distinction as fighter pilots in World War 2, have been invited to attend the dedication.

Hodges Hires Former FGCU President as Consultant

Hodges University has contracted with Dr. Bill Merwin, the former president of nearby Florida Gulf Coast University, as a consultant to develop a planned giving program.

Merwin served as president of FGCU from 1999 until his retirement in 2007. During his tenure there, Merwin and his staff raised over \$250 million, erected 60 buildings, instituted a Division 1 inter-collegiate athletic program and initiated 40 new academic degree programs.

“Dr. Merwin will assist us in developing and executing a comprehensive, systematic, and sustained approach to planned giving that will be appropriate to our needs,” said Hodges President Dr. Terry McMahan.

Flagler Joins Peach Belt Conference

After a three-year search, Flagler College has found a new home for its athletic teams, joining the Peach Belt Conference. Members of the conference compete in the NCAA Division II.

Comprised largely of colleges based in Georgia, the Peach Belt Conference has 13 members. Flagler will be the only member based in Florida, as well as the only private college in the conference. “I am thrilled that our college has been accepted for membership in the Peach Belt Conference, a well-established athletic conference with a solid record of competitive athletic programs at its member institutions,” said Flagler President Dr. William T. Abare, Jr.



PBA Mourns Passing of Longtime Trustee

William G. Lassiter, Jr., a life trustee at Palm Beach Atlantic University, has died. Lassiter served on the university's Board of Trustees since 1974.

"He was a giant in the history of PBA," said University President Dr. David W. Clark. "It is not an understatement that without Bill, the University might not have survived its infancy. He believed in our mission and our students."

The PBA Student Center, named for Lassiter, was the first new structure built by the University in 1983. In 1993, he was honored with the University's American Free Enterprise Medal and, in 2005, he was named a Life Trustee. The University presented him with an Honorary Doctorate Degree in May 2006. The rotunda in the new Warren Library will be named for Lassiter and his wife, Aneice. Lassiter is considered among the top five donors in the history of the University.

Stetson Opens \$11 Million Science Center

Stetson University has opened its new 22,074-square-foot Sage Hall Science Center, increasing classroom and lab space for science education on campus by 50 percent.

The new building features 11 high-tech teaching and research labs for biology, chemistry and environmental science and other features.

"The new science center will facilitate the extensive, collaborative research, hands-on learning, and close interaction between students and professors that takes place at Stetson," said Biology Professor Terry Farrell.

State Board Approves PBA Nursing Degree

The Florida Board of Nursing has granted its full approval to Palm Beach Atlantic University's Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program.

"Congratulations to Dean Joanna Masella and the faculty for their hard work and commitment to students," said PBA President Dr. David W. Clark. "The community is the ultimate beneficiary as more excellent nurses enter the workforce."

All 22 members of PBA's 2008 graduating class passed the state nursing exam on the first attempt.



Nursing Program at PBA

Embry-Riddle Campaign Raises \$65 Million

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has concluded its To Soar capital campaign by raising \$65 million, making the campaign the most successful one the university has ever had.

“This is a high water mark in Embry-Riddle history,” said President Dr. John P Johnson. “Thanks to the generous supporters of our To Soar campaign, we have broadened and deepened the quality of education we offer our students.”

He said more than \$30 million was pledged for the construction of new facilities, with an additional \$28.8 million committed to new scholarship and fellowships. The funds are in addition to \$125 million being invested in ERAU’s residential campuses in Daytona Beach and Prescott, Arizona, and its worldwide campuses.



ICUF members are: Barry University · Beacon College · Bethune-Cookman University · 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 University · Florida Southern College · Hodges University · Jacksonville University · Lynn University · Nova Southeastern University · Palm Beach Atlantic University · Ringling College of Art and Design · Rollins College · Saint Leo University · St. Thomas University · Southeastern University · Stetson University · University of Miami · The University of Tampa · Warner University · Webber International University

ICUF Report is written by John C. Van Gieson, 850-681-6505. Edits, layout and visual formatting by Melissa Armstrong. Please email comments and suggested news items to john@vangiesonmedia.com.