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## Stetson Trustees Donate \$18 million for Science, Health Education

Hyatt and Cici Brown, longtime Stetson University Trustees and supporters, will donate \$18 million — the largest single gift in the university's history — to construct a new science building on the DeLand campus and expand science programs. The gift moves the university close to reaching the goal of its capital campaign, "Beyond Success – Significance," with \$190 million raised toward the overall goal of \$200 million.

President Wendy B. Libby, Ph.D., said the donation comes as the Sage Science Center is operating close to capacity and could limit the university's ability to expand its science programs and meet the growing demand for graduates in these high-paying fields. "The Browns' gift will result in a new facility for science education," Libby said. "But just as importantly, it enables us to take a step back and ensure we have the right planning and programming to support science and health education for the good of our students as they seek higher-paying jobs and entry into the best graduate schools in the country, as well as for our community and the growth of West Volusia."

Noel Painter, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President, noted undergraduate enrollment has grown by almost 45 percent in the past eight years, from 2,100 in 2010 to more than 3,000 in 2017. During that time, the number of students interested in science fields has skyrocketed, with more than 100 percent growth in the majors of computer science, environmental sciences and studies, and physics. The number of students in health sciences has grown by 124 percent over the same period.



From l-r, Stetson Provost Noel Painter, President Wendy B. Libby, Trustees Cici and Hyatt Brown, and Board Chair Joe Cooper

## Ex-state Lawmaker to Run Beacon Innovation Hub

Former Florida State Representative H. Marlene O'Toole will pilot the Center for Innovation & Outreach at Beacon College in Leesburg, Fla. The Center is the school's new hub for project development and exporting its specialized expertise as America's first college or university accredited to award bachelor's degrees primarily to students with learning disabilities, ADHD, dyslexia, and other learning differences. Other innovations include the Beacon Certificate, a graduate-level online certificate course for college educators and service providers who serve this population; also, the First Career Community offers postgraduate residential mentoring, employment, and wraparound services for up to two years for graduates who require more time to transition successfully to full independence and the workforce. The program launches this fall.

Before joining Beacon and her time in the Legislature, O'Toole spent 30 years as a regional manager for IBM Corporation. Transforming attitudes among employers regarding the ability of individuals with learning differences to contribute to the global marketplace stands among the center's urgent outcomes. "Corporations need to know and to participate with employment opportunities," O'Toole said. "For too long, students with learning differences have been misunderstood when it comes to hiring."



H. Marlene  
O'Toole

## Saint Leo Expands Doctoral Offerings

Saint Leo University is introducing two new doctoral programs. Instruction will begin in the fall for the Doctor of Education (EdD) and Doctor of Criminal Justice (DCJ) degrees, pending approval from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Saint Leo is already known for its bachelor's and master's degree programs for both professions.

Both degree programs require 60 credit hours, which will be accomplished through a low-residency, blended format, with most coursework and research to be completed online. University leaders stressed that the new Saint Leo doctoral degrees have been designed for the needs of practitioners in education and criminal justice. This philosophy is common to all three terminal degree offerings from Saint Leo, including the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in management. The DBA was launched in the 2013-2014 academic year to meet the needs of executives, owners, and consultants, rather than business or economic theorists. "As a Catholic university focused on excellent teaching, Saint Leo has made a conscious decision to focus on the practical aspects of business organizations, school systems, and agencies founded to safeguard the public," said Dr. Jeffrey Sense, provost of Saint Leo University.

## Stetson's Hatterthon Raises \$31,200 for Hospital

Stetson's second annual Hatterthon raised \$31,201 for Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children. This amount not only surpassed last year's \$10,861 nearly three times over, but also exceeded the goal of \$20,000. Hatterthon is Stetson University's Miracle Network Dance Marathon, a movement across North America where colleges, universities and high schools raise funds and awareness for the Children's Miracle Network hospital serving the community nearest to their campus. Collectively, the movement has raised over \$200 million for local children's hospitals, according to Miracle Network Dance Marathon.



## Bethune-Cookman Campus Newspaper Sweeps Press Awards

The staff of 'The Voice of the Wildcats' campus newspaper brought home four awards from the recent 67th Southern Regional Press Institute. The student newspaper, published monthly by the Department of Mass Communications, won first place for overall achievement in the medium school division.

Interim editor for the student run paper, Augustinas Navickas won first place for editorial and column writing. Stephanie Owens, staff member, placed second in the same division. First place for sports writing was awarded to sports editor Karen Romero. "It is an honor to be regionally recognized for the hard work we put in every single day," Navickas said. "I am extremely proud of everyone on the Voice of the Wildcats newspaper staff and B-CU's Department of Mass Communications team, for possessing a winners' mentality," he added.



**The staff of The Voice of the Wildcats**

## Florida Tech Professor Named Florida Academy of Sciences Medalist

Richard Turner, professor emeritus of biological sciences at Florida Institute of Technology, a respected scholar of Florida invertebrates and guiding force at the Florida Academy of Sciences, has been awarded the academy's highest honor, the FAS Medal. Turner is the fourth Florida Tech faculty member to receive one of Florida's highest academic honors since the academy started awarding the medal in 1963. "It has been an honor to serve science and scientists in Florida through my participation and leadership in the Academy over these 45 years," Turner said.

The academy awards one medal annually to a Florida resident who has "contributed in an outstanding manner to the promotion of scientific research, to the stimulation of interest in the sciences, or to the diffusion of scientific knowledge." Candidates may be research scientists, philanthropists and educators, journalists, science fair coordinators or members of industry, government or other organizations. "As an FAS council member since 2001, I have worked closely with Dr. Turner in a wide variety of projects and administrative tasks. I have always been impressed with his respectful and thoughtful approach to problem-solving in management," said Jeremy Montague of Barry University, past president of the academy and chair of its Honors Committee. "Whether in dealing with budgets, facilities or personnel, he always comes up with reasonable solutions without ruffling the feathers of others."



**Jeremy Montague (L) & Prof. emeritus Richard Turner**

## Beacon Students Selected to Present at International Conference

Beacon College students, Cassandra Bergman and Sarah Blanchard exhibited poster presentations at the International Society of the Social Studies Conference at University of Central Florida featuring research for the school's Qualitative Research Design course. The event features scholarly presentations and teaching workshops conducted by prominent U.S. and international experts.

Bergman's study compared stress levels of professors who teach students with learning disabilities versus professors who do not. Blanchard's study focused on the benefits of taking a positive psychology class. Dr. A.J. Marsden, an assistant professor of human services and psychology, and the students' instructor, said, "These kinds of international conferences provide great opportunities for our students to share their research with different disciplines and fields. It also helps those who plan to go on to graduate school where students are expected to conduct and present experimental research."



Sarah Blanchard and Cassandra Bergman

## Rollins Announces New Library Director

Rollins College has announced that Deborah Prosser will be the new director for its Olin Library. Prosser currently serves as dean of libraries and associate professor at the University of North Georgia. She will join the college in June. "Olin Library is our academic center—a vibrant, forward-looking space that buzzes with activity night and day," says vice president of academic affairs and provost Susan Singer. "Deborah Prosser is exactly the leader we need to support our talented Olin team in continuing to create a future-oriented library that serves the Rollins community."



Deborah Prosser

## Groundbreaking Held for Nova Southeastern's Tampa Campus

More than 300 people joined Nova Southeastern University officials and representatives of the Patel Family Foundation as they broke ground on the new Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, FL. When construction is complete, the 325,000-square foot complex will replace NSU's existing Tampa Campus and its programs, and will include a new site for the university's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine.



L - R: NSU Board of Trustee Chairman Ron Assaf, ACAI Associates, Inc. President Adolfo Cotilla, Dr. Kiran C. Patel, Dr. Pallavi Patel, President of Moss Construction Bob Moss, & NSU President Dr. George Hanbury

## **Flagler Journalism Students Win Seven Awards**

Flagler College's online student newspaper, The Gargoyle, won six awards in the Society of Professional Journalists regional 2017 Mark of Excellence Awards, including winning for Best Independent Online Student Publication. Flagler Communication student Jessie Rowan was also a finalist in Feature Photography.

The winning entries included:

- The Gargoyle - Best Independent Online Student Publication
- Katherine Lewin - Feature Photography
- Katherine Lewin - Online News Reporting

The Gargoyle has won 107 awards since 2007, and 19 of those have been opinion and commentary awards.

## **Lynn's Graduate Ed Program Ranked by U.S. News & World Report**

Lynn University's graduate education program earned its first-ever spot on U.S. News & World Report's annual list of Best Graduate Schools. Lynn's Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education offers two graduate degree tracks: educational leadership and exceptional student education (ESE). The master's in educational leadership is a one-year online program, while the Florida Department of Education-certified ESE specialization can be completed on campus, online or a combination of both—both ideal for working professionals. "We're thrilled to be recognized among some of the nation's best colleges and universities," said Kathleen Weigel, dean of the College of Education. "We adapt our program to meet the needs of education today and train our students to think innovatively about preparing younger generations for the future."

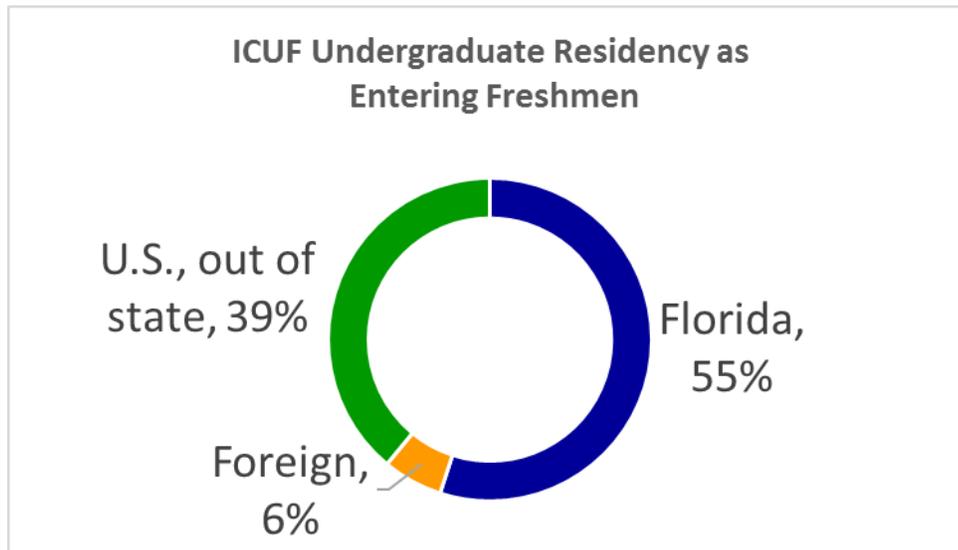
## **Florida Southern Breaks Ground on Center for Early Childhood**

Florida Southern College has announced the establishment of the Carol Jenkins Barnett Center for Early Childhood Learning and Health at a recent groundbreaking. The building will house a unique interdisciplinary program that will be the first of its kind in the United States linking early childhood learning and childhood health. "Carol Barnett is one of our nation's leading advocates for children," said Florida Southern College President Dr. Ann Kerr. "Her passion for and dedication to early learning education and health is both widespread and contagious. It is with great admiration for Carol Barnett and her commitment to young learners throughout America that we name the Carol Jenkins Barnett Center for Early Childhood Learning and Health in her honor."

The daughter of Publix Super Markets founder George W. Jenkins, Carol is a 1979 graduate of Florida Southern; her husband Barney Barnett is a 1965 graduate of the College and serves on the college's Board of Trustees.

As part of the launch of the Center, Florida Southern College will establish new programs of study in both early childhood education and pediatric nursing that focus on the impact of childhood health on learning. Health instruction will be incorporated into the undergraduate and graduate education programs in order to combine the best practices in both fields.

According to Dr. Tracey Tedder, Dean of the FSC School of Education and Head of School for the Roberts Academy, "Positive early school experiences are of paramount importance to young children—establishing a foundation for the acquisition of knowledge and gaining the skills that they will need later in life."

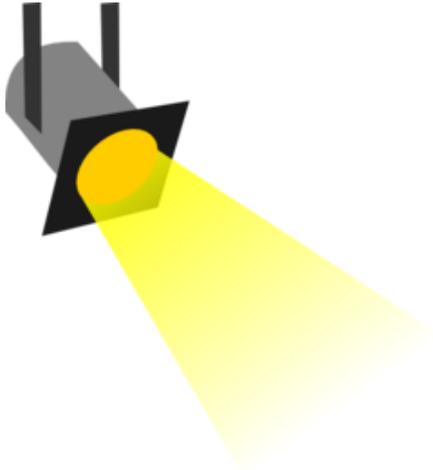


**ICUF** schools attract Florida residents as well as **out-of-state** and **international** students.

**Those 45% of students coming into the state**

- receive **no** state financial aid,
- are like year-round **tourists**, adding to Florida's economy,
- and in many cases remain in the state after graduation and add to **Florida's educated workforce!**

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