



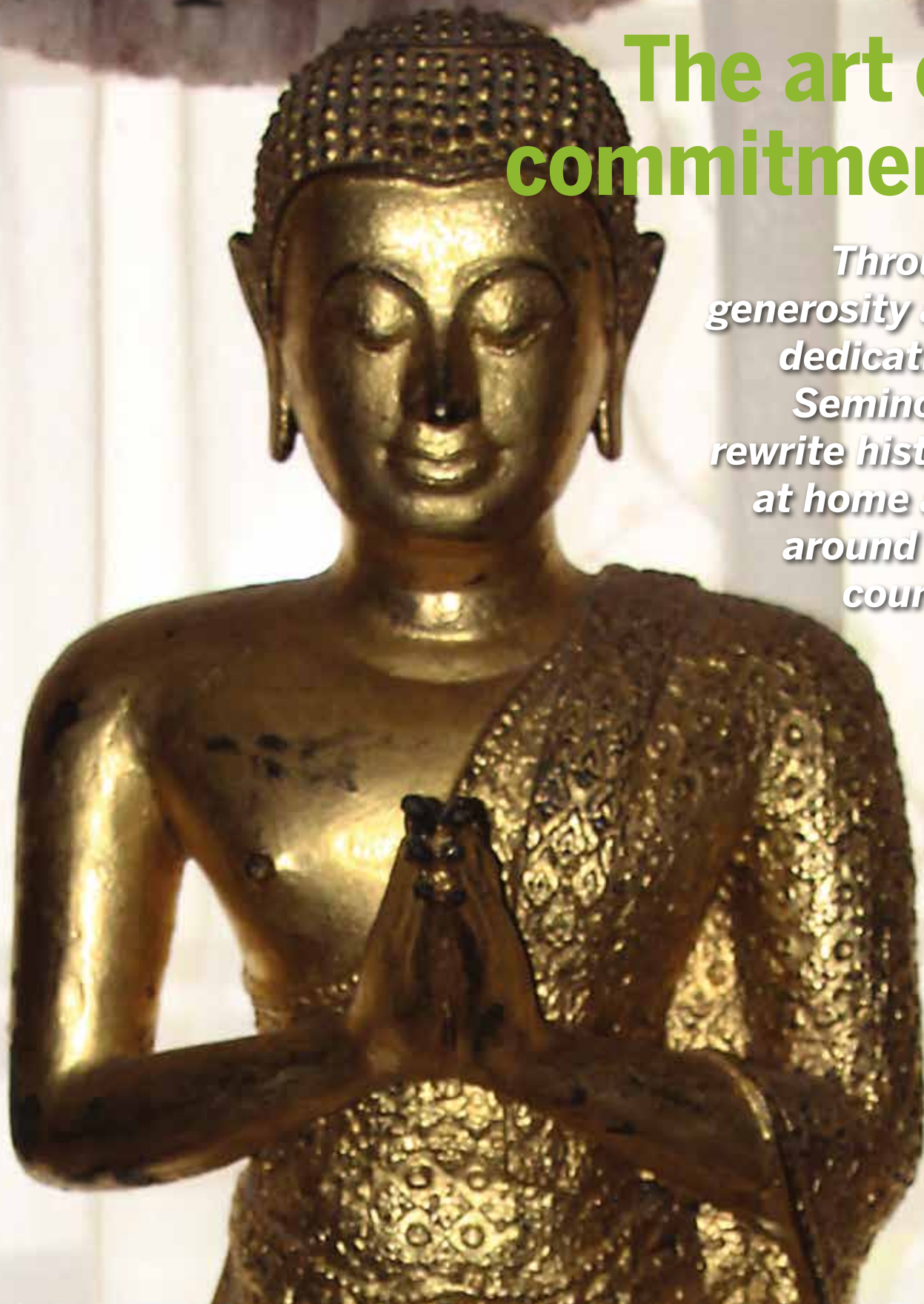
AUTUMN
2014

Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The art of commitment

*Through
generosity and
dedication,
Seminole
rewrite history
at home and
around the
country*





Letter from the dean

As the 2013-14 academic year came to a close, we completed a busy season of faculty recruiting and celebrated the achievements of a new class of graduates, while adjusting to sudden and unexpected change in university leadership. In February, President Eric J. Barron (B.S. Geology, '72) was recruited by Penn State to become its next president, bringing to an end his four-year run as president of FSU. A memorable four years it was, as Eric and Molly Barron embraced the campus, infused it with energy, and provided a personal brand of leadership that will linger for years. On behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences, I thank the Barrons and wish them the very best.

By action of the Board of Trustees, Provost Garnett Stokes was appointed Interim President beginning in May. FSU is fortunate to have available a dynamic leader like Garnett who has a broad and deep understanding of where we are and where we are heading.

In this edition of *Across the Spectrum*, we focus on our faculty, students, and alumni who are reshaping the world—sometimes by making a difference here at FSU, sometimes by making discoveries or contributions that can change the course of history.

One way FSU rewrites history is through improving the lives of individuals. Against the backdrop of general excellence in the Department of Psychology, we highlight for readers the FSU Psychology Clinic and the influential career of Thomas Joiner, Robert O. Lawton Professor of Psychology.

Al Mele, William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy, has made his name as a leading authority on free will, and now he's tackling a new topic: self-control. This issue contains a probing interview in which readers will learn about his research project, funded by a \$4.5 million grant from the Templeton Foundation, which brings philosophers, theologians, and scientists together from across the United States.

Our alumni are rewriting history as well, and one of them may be doing it *literally*. Alum Fletcher Crowe has taken an interest in Fort Caroline, the first French fortified settlement within the borders of the United States. Our story reveals his effort to change the current consensus on the historic fort's location.

Writing FSU's own story requires the kind of support we feature in this issue by highlighting alum Lee Pryor, faculty member Kurt Hofer, and alumni Raymond and Stella Cottrell for their dedication.

Pryor, whose mother graduated from FSCW, built an art collection over a lifetime of scholarship, while promoting the arts and the humanities. Now, his magnificent collection will find a permanent home at FSU. Hofer, Professor Emeritus of Biological Science and former Robert O. Lawton Professor, spent a career doing breakthrough science in radiobiology. He and his wife, Maria, have made a meaningful gift to support graduate students in biological science. Finally, dear friends Raymond and Stella Cottrell, alumni who met at FSU and returned years later to make Tallahassee their home, have made generosity to FSU a way of life.

We also celebrate those still early in their careers but with bright futures ahead, by featuring two young alumni, one earning her Ph.D. degree in chemistry and the other a former FSU golfer who earned a psychology degree. Read how both are using their training to lead successful careers.

Thank you so much for staying in touch with the College of Arts and Sciences. I do hope you enjoy this issue of *Across the Spectrum*.

A luminary returns home

Janice Huff, noted meteorologist and 1982 FSU graduate, appeared as commencement speaker for the summer 2014 graduation ceremony. Huff, who is the chief meteorologist for NBC 4 in New York, reminisced on the formative years she had at FSU, saying, "I spent four of the most amazing years here, and I know in my heart that this is home for me."

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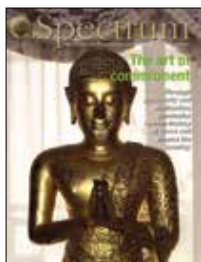
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Across the Spectrum is a news publication for alumni, friends, faculty, and staff of the Florida State University College of Arts and Sciences. Visit the college online at <http://artsandsciences.fsu.edu/>, or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FSUArtsAndSciences.





On the cover

This statue is just one item in the extensive art collection of William Lee Pryor. The pieces in Pryor's collection come from several different centuries and from many far-flung locations.

Pryor's generosity will soon land these remarkable artworks in a new home: Florida State University. To read more about Pryor and see more of the collection, see page 17.

Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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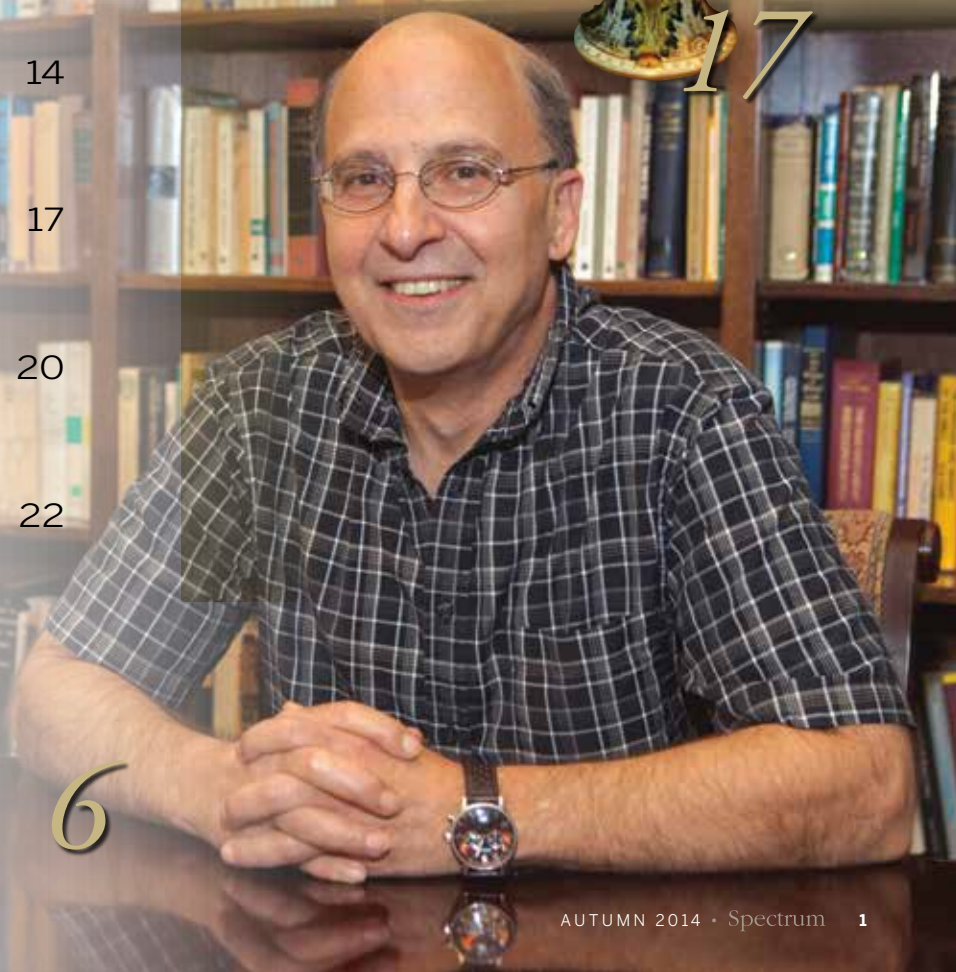
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Serious compassion



Photo courtesy of Thomas Joiner.

Thomas Joiner, the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology

FSU's new psychology building was completed in 2008, and is part of a cluster of new science facilities built on the west side of campus in the 2000s. The Psychology Clinic at Florida State University is housed inside.

FSU's Psychology Clinic excels in training and results by Paul Haney

Over the past 16 years, the Psychology Clinic at Florida State University has become a major component of one of the top-ranked psychology departments in the U.S. The clinic serves a dual purpose, both administering psychotherapy to patients and providing clinical experience, as well as research material, for FSU graduate students. In the clinic, second- and third-year graduate students, under faculty supervision, treat patients for a variety of problems such as depression, eating disorders, family issues, and

more. Leading suicide scholar, researcher, and Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Thomas Joiner directs the clinic and, besides implementing scientifically and objectively proven treatments, has helped engender a climate of supportiveness and collegiality that permeates and propels the department at large.

"We insist on rigorous, scientifically supported treatments for mental disorders," Joiner says. "But we do a really good job mixing that in with a lot of compassion for suffering that people are going through, and also support and

goodwill toward one another.”

Thanks to an exemplary staff of grad students and faculty supervisors and a culture that integrates goodwill and good science, the Psychology Clinic at FSU has become a major force in the university, greater Tallahassee, and across the nation.

The rewards of clinical science

Housed in a newly constructed, U-shaped building with state-of-the-art facilities in the Science Complex on the northwest side of campus, the Department of Psychology offers graduate students five areas of focus—clinical, cognitive, developmental or social psychology, and neuroscience. The graduate curriculum includes opportunities for directed independent study so that students can pursue even more specialized research. Even though the vast majority of graduate students in psychology intend to become research professors, and not clinicians, in their respective fields, clinical practice is a fundamental aspect of each of their graduate tenures. Nevertheless, there is no doubt among them that gaining experience in clinical psychology will strengthen their research and enhance their careers.

“While my career plans more involve research than clinical work, working at the clinic has been beneficial because I am better able to conceptualize the types of psychopathology that I want to study,” says Sarah Brislin, a second-year graduate student specializing in personality disorders and psychophysiology. “Gaining an understanding of the clinical presentation of different personality disorders helps me to better understand what symptoms commonly look like, how they affect each other, and what types of treatment people get the most out of. All of this information helps to inform my research and allows me to develop more nuanced hypotheses.”

The professors, too, stress the importance of clinical work for all psychology graduate students, and especially for the students who maintain a clinical focus. “The clinic fills a critical gap in our training program because students in the clinical (psychology) Ph.D. program are expected to complete several years of clinical training as part of the degree process,” says Brad Schmidt, Distinguished Research Professor, who supervises students and directs the Anxiety and Behavioral Health Clinic housed within the Psychology Clinic.

“Although our program is designed to produce scholars that we hope will go on to academic careers, we are required to expose our students to clinical training. But the program does much more than obligatory training. Dr. Joiner has helped to create a first-rate clinic that prepares our students to understand and administer empirically supported interventions.”

Jean Forney is a third-year graduate student in the clinical psychology program and assistant director of the Psychology Clinic. Her responsibilities, she says, include assisting Joiner in the daily administrative duties of the clinic. Forney finds the mix of clinical practice and research useful to her professionalization.

“I value both research and clinical experience equally, and I intend to remain involved in clinical work throughout my research-focused career,” Forney says. “Clinical work is important to help inform research ideas. Our research has limited use if it isn’t applicable to our clients.”

By focusing on the applicability and efficacy of their treatment plans, clinicians can bolster their research while simultaneously helping patients improve their quality of life. This charge to see measurable improvement for patients emerges from the clinical-science model of psychotherapy, a school of thought that applies to therapy sessions the same scientific methods found in laboratory settings. In addition, clinical scientists extract useful data from their sessions with patients, creating a complementary relationship between practice and research.

“This means that we are committed to training the next generation of clinical researchers who will make advances in our understanding, assessment and treatment of mental disorders,” says Professor Pamela Keel, director of clinical training.

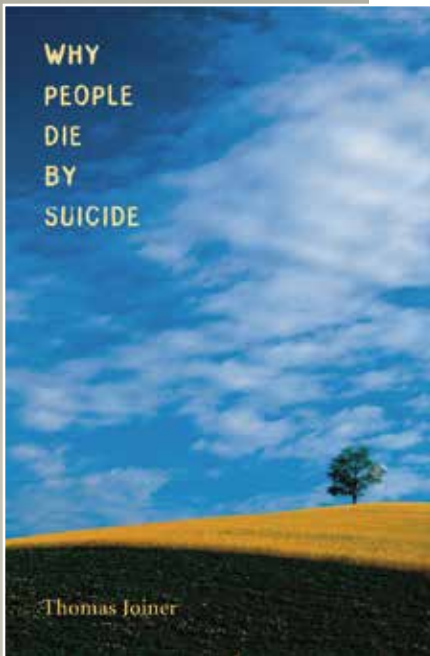
When Joiner came to FSU in 1997, one of his goals was to bring to the clinic additional rigor and an emphasis on practical psychotherapy. He set his sights on changing the brand of therapy the clinic’s staff provides and, in doing so, has moved away from traditional methods—for example, exploring childhood experiences or dreams in search of some form of nuanced wisdom or insight.

Joiner prefers to treat mental illnesses with an emphasis on how to make progress in everyday

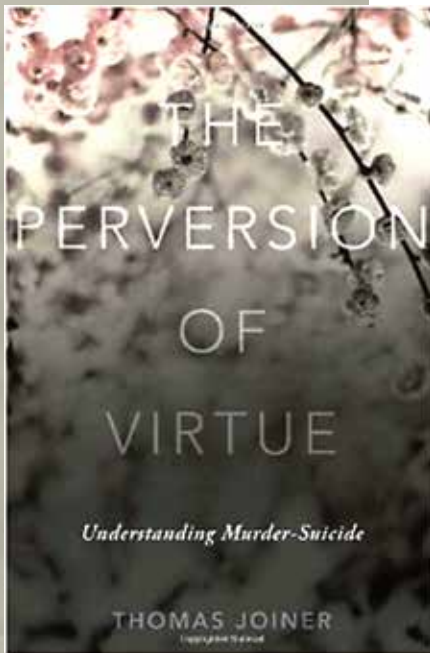


Jean Forney, a third-year graduate student in clinical psychology, is the assistant director of the clinic.

Photo courtesy of Jean Forney



Joiner's groundbreaking book, *Why People Die by Suicide*, was published in 2005 by Harvard University Press.



Joiner's most recent book, *The Perversion of Virtue: Understanding Murder-Suicide* (2014), examines the psychological motivations behind murder-suicide.

functioning. That focus leads, he believes, to more direct and measurable improvement in the lives of patients. So far, the success of the clinic bears out that belief.

Joiner remembers the clinical work he did as a graduate student in the early 1990s, saying, "We were thrown in and told, 'Go do therapy.'" This was awkward and not particularly effective, he said.

From the moment he arrived at FSU, Joiner has been determined not to put his own students in those unproductive situations.

When he took over in '98, Joiner asked for a great deal of freedom to try new things at the clinic, a freedom that he was granted and has put to extensive use.

"One of the dictates was that (we would employ) only scientifically supported, evidence-based treatment—nothing else," Joiner says. "We are scientists first and foremost, even when we're in the clinic, and so we have that attitude even when we're seeing patients. Measurable outcomes matter ... measurable improvements are required."

Joiner and his colleagues have published two studies charting improvements over the past 16 years, and those studies have found "massive improvement outcomes," citing "a lot more effectiveness in fewer sessions." The accelerated rate of improvement "was really important because these illnesses are miserable, and if you extend the amount of time people are feeling them, you're contributing to the general misery."

As a clinician, Forney knows the satisfaction that comes from practicing quantifiably effective therapy.

"Any time you say goodbye to a client because they have reached their treatment goal is a rewarding moment."

A luminary in the field

When the National Research Council ranked psychology programs in the mid-90s, FSU's failed to crack the top 100. A few years ago, Joiner says, "They did it again and we were third."

Surely Joiner's prominence in both the department and in his field of clinical psychology contributed to that rise in the rankings. In 2010, Joiner was named a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor—FSU's single highest faculty honor, awarded to one professor per year—in his first year eligible. His colleagues recognize him as a preeminent scholar and professor as well as a luminary in suicide research, and they do not hesitate to say so.

"We started writing together back in grad school and published our first paper together back in 1994," says Schmidt, who roomed with Joiner for a time while they were both graduate students at UT Austin. "Even as a grad student, Thomas excelled in terms of his writing skills as well as the development of his research program ... I could see back then that he was going to be a force in our field, and that has proven to be true."

When she was a graduate student, Keel also had productive interactions with Joiner. She was invited to work on a paper with Joiner and others on the topic of bulimia. That collaboration occurred during the four years while Joiner was an assistant and, later, associate professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

"Both the review and the article were published in *American Journal of Psychiatry* in 1997," Keel says. "That represented the beginning of a long and rewarding research collaboration with Dr. Joiner that has continued to this day."

Assistant Professor in Psychology Jesse R. Cougle, also a supervisor at the Psychology Clinic, echoes the praise for Joiner's collegiality and scholarship: "He is an exceptional colleague who cares deeply about Florida State, our department, and the work we do. He is incredibly prolific as a scholar and is one of the leading suicide researchers in the world."

Indeed, on top of hundreds of published scholarly articles and chapters, Joiner has written and published four books. His most recent title, *The Perversion of Virtue*, 2014, examines the psychological motivations behind murder-suicide. But his first book, *Why People Die by Suicide*, (2005), elevated him into the upper stratosphere of suicide experts globally.

Why People Die by Suicide begins with a narrative of Joiner's own father's suicide in 1990. "I share with survivors the pain of losing a loved one to suicide," Joiner writes in the prologue. "But I share with clinicians the challenges of treating suicidal behavior, and I share with scientists the daunting task of unraveling suicide's mysteries."

From there, Joiner wades through evidence collected from case studies, canonical literature and popular culture—and most extensively from scientific research—to introduce a more compassionate and productive theory about suicide.

Cultivating serious compassion

Joiner's deep empathy and understanding comes through in his writing, his teaching, and his personality, and those traits rub off on his students, colleagues, and the entire department. But compassion is not just an incidental

character trait; in the field of psychology, it is a prerequisite for excellence.

"These people are suffering inside," Joiner says. "Their arm's not broken, so they can't show it to you like that. It's invisible mostly, so if you don't have that compassion piece to you, you're not going to have the right position and stance to them."

Still, a kind disposition in itself cannot produce results.

"If you don't have real powerful tools, you will fail in the treatment of these extremely grave disorders," Joiner says. "That's the mix we're going for. People at the cutting edge of our field have that quality. They're nice and warm, but they're serious. We attract students who are like that."

Cultivating serious compassion in the FSU Psychology Clinic and the department as a

whole is a practice that continues to facilitate measurable improvement among patients, impressive skills among graduate students, and an outstanding reputation nationwide.

"I have served on the faculty of the departments of psychology at Harvard University, the University of Iowa, and now Florida State University," Keel says. "Across these three institutions, I can attest that FSU's program is unparalleled in excellence of training experience for its students."

With newly minted Ph.D.s in psychology from FSU dispersing into other universities and communities every year—not to mention the patients who regularly find relief at the clinic from their psychological problems—Joiner and his colleagues can be certain that their lessons of compassion and scientific rigor are taking hold.





Al Mele, William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy

Big questions

A Q&A with professor Alfred Mele

Alfred Mele, the William H. and Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy, wrapped up a project titled "Big Questions in Free Will" in 2013. That project brought together philosophers, theologians, and scientists from around the United States to work together on the topic of free will, producing a book of essays titled *Surrounding Free Will* that will be published in 2015. Mele also produced three of his own books as a result, and the project was featured in a six-part series as part of the PBS program "Closer to Truth." Starting in 2014, Mele moved on to a new project called "Philosophy and Science of Self-Control." Both projects were funded

by the Templeton Foundation, which will provide nearly \$9 million in total research funding over the six-year period.

What are the primary questions for you regarding free will? How did you approach such a broad topic with the Big Questions in Free Will project?

I guess we have to start with the question "What does free will mean?" I'm an open minded guy, so I allow a couple of different meanings, and then when we're clear about those meanings for free will we can ask, "Do we have it?" It's

a combination of the meaning of free will and whether it exists or not. Those are the main issues for me.

A lot of people who are unfamiliar with philosophy would likely think it has to exist purely in the theoretical realm, but your projects really bring together several disciplines—theology, which has an obvious tie-in, but also science. Could you talk about how science plays into this topic?

In the early '80s, a neuroscientist named Benjamin Libet did some studies which he thought showed that we never freely initiate our actions, and the only place for free will was in a certain kind of veto power. He thought that once you became aware of your intention or urge, you would have about 100 milliseconds to cancel it. It's a negative power—a power to cancel as opposed to a power to initiate. This is what got the ball rolling.

In his experiments, subjects had the task of flexing a wrist whenever they felt like it. They were watching a clock, they were wired for electroencephalography (EEG)—so readings of electrical conductivity were taken from the scalp—and their wrists were also connected to an electromyograph (EMG) so that you could see when the muscles started to move. What Libet discovered was that you got an EEG ramp-up about 550 milliseconds before muscle motion began, but subjects seemed to become aware of their intention only about 200 milliseconds before muscle motion.

So what Libet said was, "Oh, look, the brain makes a decision about a third of a second before the mind becomes aware of it." The brain is deciding unconsciously, which means the decisions are not being made freely. If free will *is* involved, its only role is vetoing. Once a decision or intention shows up in consciousness, you have 100 milliseconds. You can veto it or you can let it ride.

How did your scientists approach this?

The neuroscience wing of our project was doing what you could think of as new-wave, Libet-style studies, trying to figure out whether the data were good, whether he interpreted the data properly, and so on.

One of our neuroscientists, Uri Maoz, had access to epilepsy patients who had opted for

surgery where they remove part of the skull so that they can put electrode grids right on the brain. If the patients like, they can take part in neuroscience experiments.

So Uri did some Libet-style experiments with them—but with readings directly from the brain. The subjects chose between pushing two buttons. What he discovered is that maximum predictive power about which button they would push was achieved about 200 milliseconds before muscle motion. If you're thinking about when the decision was made, one bet is it's made when the predictive power is at its highest, and that would be about 200 milliseconds before muscle motion. If that's right, then the decision is being made at pretty much the time people say they're aware of making the decision, which would go against Libet.

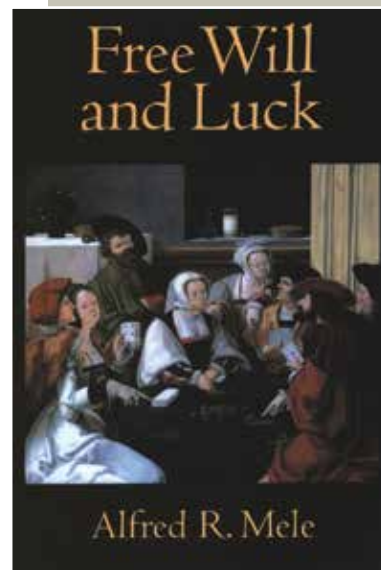
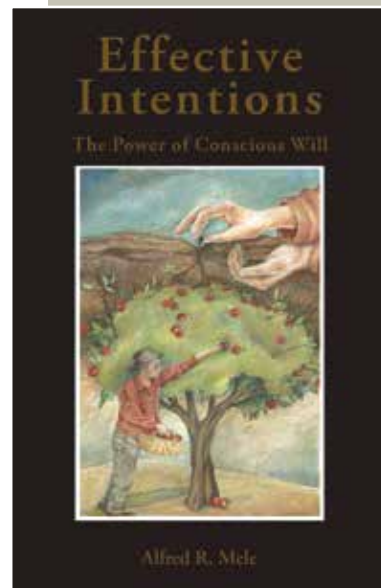
That's one kind of study we did. We had a team from Dartmouth, headed up by neuroscientist Peter Tse, who also motivated skepticism about Libet. But it's not as though I had an agenda. I had a team of reviewers to review these proposals. We had Patrick Haggard on the other side, the no-free-will side, and we funded his proposal too.

So, now that you've been through the process, has your position on free will changed at all?

I think I'm even more confident in my position. But my position isn't actually as bold as you might think—it depends really on what we mean by free will. If you set a modest bar for free will, then I'm very confident we have it. But as the bar rises, it's harder. If you build in the requirement of indeterminism or just probabilistic laws governing brain behavior, it's not so clear whether we have free will or not. My approach there has always been to look at the scientific evidence that we don't and see how strong it is. And it turns out not to be very strong at all. So I don't think that skepticism about free will is warranted or justified, but I could see somebody just being on the fence, too. I think that would be a legitimate position also—that is, a position that needs to be taken seriously.

Your new project is on the related topic of self-control. How are you transitioning from one to the other?

Mele's work on the topic of free will has produced many books. Among them are *Free Will and Luck*, *Effective Intentions: The Power of Consciousness*, and *Free: Why Science Hasn't Disproved Free Will*.





Dan Miller

Mele delivers a talk at FSU's Conference on Free Will and Moral Responsibility.

It looks, at least on the surface, as though free will would require self-control. If you had no self-control at all, you wouldn't be a free agent. You wouldn't be a free human being. That seems true. Self-control is maybe a more modest thing than free will. Some people set the bar for free will really high, but self-control is basically a matter of being able to resist temptation and do what you judge best.

In a way, when you move from free will to self-control, you're moving to something people see as more down-to-earth and more practical. One thing we want to do with this new project is to understand how self-control works so that we can figure out ways to improve people's capacity for self-control.

Now, we're certainly not going to be telling people what they ought to do or what is right and wrong, but we will be able to tell them by the end, I hope, how to improve their own self-control for their own purposes and make their own lives better given their own standards of goodness.

Sounds really pragmatic. Could you give us an example of the kinds of things you might suggest, in terms of ways people can improve their self-control?

Here's a strategy that really works well. It's been out there for a while, and I hope we can come up with even better ones. It's a simple technique called the "implementation intention" technique. Suppose you think to yourself, "Oh, I should start exercising next week," and you intend to do that. It turns out that kind of intention isn't nearly as successful as an intention that includes a place and a time. So if you get beyond the general intention to "I will start Monday morning at 7:00," you're much more likely to do it.

It seems that the common thread is about consciousness—being conscious of your actions, having the ability to control them, etc.—so the obvious question seems to be what is consciousness, in your opinion?

I think of conscious mental states as brain states, they're just states of the brain. But, yeah, that's another big issue. Some people think conscious states require souls or nonphysical minds. That's the bar-setting issue again. If you set the bar for consciousness there, at nonphysical minds or souls, what do you do? We know firsthand, it seems, that we *have* conscious states. I'm looking at the books on my shelves now and I have a conscious image of

them. So, if that did *require* souls, I could just infer from my experience of my books that I have a soul. That would be amazing. But I don't believe that consciousness depends on anything nonphysical.

Now, all this might sound like the bar is getting too low; things are getting easy. If you want them to be a little harder, they can certainly be harder, because some people—quite a few people, I believe—think that free will requires what's called indeterminism. That would mean that if you freely made a decision, it's possible you could have made another one at the same time and place, under exactly the same conditions. If we could roll back time a second or so and play it forward again, maybe the next time you would make a different decision.

If that's how things are, it looks like the laws that govern brain processes really do leave open different options. You just can't tell now—and we won't for a long time be able to tell—whether the brain works that way or not. There things get interesting again, but it doesn't have anything to do with souls or immaterial minds. It has to do with the nature of brain processes.

Rewriting history

FSU alum Fletcher Crowe and the new search for the elusive Fort Caroline

FSU alum Fletcher Crowe has made a stir among his peers recently. That's what tends to happen among historians when someone starts trying to rewrite history.

Fort Caroline, the first French fortified settlement in what is now the United States, was destroyed by the Spanish in a massacre in 1565. While evidence of the site has never been found, historians have long held that it was located east of present-day Jacksonville on the south bank of the St. Johns River. After exhaustive research using French maps and documents from the period, however, Crowe and colleague Anita Spring of the University of Florida have proposed a theory that the fort was actually located some 70 miles north of that site, in what is now southern Georgia, on the Altamaha River.

While 70 miles might seem an insignificant detail to laypeople, the theory would prove hugely consequential to historians if verified.

"Anita and I believe that it would require a fundamental rewriting of colonial history," says Crowe. "Think about it. This fort was built before Saint Augustine. It was built a long time before the lost colony of Virginia in 1587. A long time before the fort at Jamestown in 1607. And it was certainly built a long time before Plymouth Rock in 1620. So this would turn the development of Spanish hegemony upside down. Of course, all this assumes we find it. But, yeah, it would require a major rewrite of every fourth-grade history textbook."

Crowe, who earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in history from FSU in the late 1960s and early 1970s, came upon his interest in French Florida while on what he thought was a leisurely day trip with Spring, who is a longtime friend as well as colleague.

"We went to downtown St. Augustine, where there's a museum called the Lightner Museum. It has the nation's first indoor swimming pool. It's a major tourist attraction."

That swimming pool is surrounded with little shops, and Crowe started browsing around.

"I stuck my nose into the antique bookstore—a bookstore just piled up to the rafters with stacks of old books. I came across a 1923 English-language book of the Jean Ribault expedition to the New World from France in 1562. The book was published in England in 1563, when Ribault was in prison. I was hooked. I was fascinated. I couldn't put it down."

A global historian

Crowe earned his bachelor's degree from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, in 1965.

After his freshman year, Crowe had a job with the United Nations, and before he came home he was "hitchhiking around the Middle East."

His hitchhiking brought him to what is today Jordan and to the Jordan River at the Allenby Bridge, a key military target in the history of 20th-century warfare.

"So I got to the Allenby Bridge, and it's not very big—the Jordan isn't very wide," Crowe says. "The bridge was kind of rusty and old. And I put my fingers on it, and I just had a kind of soulful moment. Here I was, touching history. This structure was the fulcrum of World War I in the east. And here I was—I had it in my hands. It's pretty amazing."

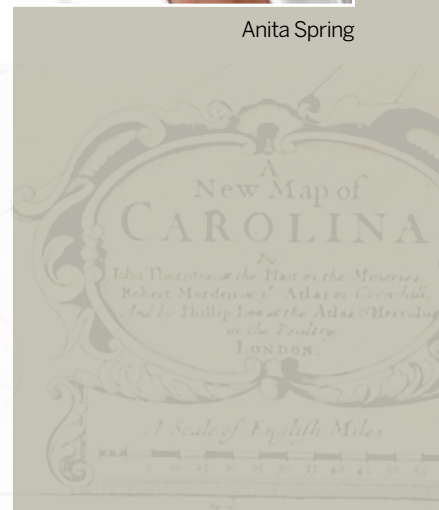
Crowe went on to study European history for his undergraduate degree. That study included a year in France during which he became fluent in French, a skill that served him well some 50 years later when he began investigating Fort Caroline.



Fletcher Crowe



Anita Spring



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Crowe believes Fort Caroline to be located near the triangle alongside the River May, located in the L-6 section of this map of French Florida from 1606.

Map images courtesy of Fletcher Crowe and the Fort Caroline Archaeology Project.

More importantly, however, a lifelong fascination with history was born.

“History is the one great legacy that we have,” Crowe says, “the one great information source about what human beings have encountered.”

He went to get his master’s degree from FSU in 1966, then stayed to earn his Ph.D., which he did in 1973, working on European history under professor C.J. Smith. Smith was Crowe’s mentor during his years at FSU, but not the only faculty member to make a big impact on him as a person and historian. He recalls Donald Howard and Earl Beck as important influences as well.

Crossing the globe to learn about home

After his trip to St. Augustine, Crowe took an interest in the different sources that have provided our understanding of colonial history in North America. What he found was a profound imbalance.

“Colonial history in Florida has been almost entirely from the vantage point of the Spanish—using Spanish sources,” Crowe says. “So I asked, ‘Well, who has told the story from the French standpoint?’ And I read and read and read. And I realized that the French story appeared to never have been told properly.

Eventually, I flew to Paris to do research in the French national archives and I made some pretty significant discoveries.”

Those discoveries centered on the location of Fort Caroline, which has long been a sought-after piece of information for historians. What Crowe brought back from France, however, went far beyond pinpointing a location within the general area commonly agreed upon by experts.

“I came back convinced that the story that’s told in Jacksonville—that Fort Caroline was located on what is called St. John’s Bluff on the south side of the mouth of the St. Johns River, east of today’s downtown Jacksonville—is not correct,” Crowe says. “Now, that doesn’t mean that I’m right, but that was my hypothesis.”

It’s a hypothesis that has shaken up the historical community, however, and gained Crowe and Spring plenty of press as well as more than a few skeptical colleagues. The duo presented their initial findings on Feb. 21st, 2014, at an international conference held at FSU and sponsored by FSU’s Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, where it was received with excitement.

“This really is an important work of scholarship, and what a great honor it is for



Crowe's excitement about the summer expedition is measured, however. Even if he and Spring are correct in their hypothesis, the chances of actually finding evidence of the fort this summer are extremely low. Major searches of this sort often take years or even decades to locate their targets.

"It's easier said than done," Crowe says. "Until you can prove to any two dozen of your closest archaeological friends that you've got a 16th-century Spanish or French artifact right there under your nose, everybody is a pretty skeptical."

Forging ahead

The inherent difficulties notwithstanding, Crowe looks at the task ahead with enthusiasm. The three weeks of on-site work this summer will be led by Spring, serving as principal investigator, and Crowe, serving as project historian. They'll be joined by archaeologists, undergraduates, grad students, and volunteers.

Crowe relishes his role, and hopes to turn his work into a book at some point. That kind of passion—that same passion that he discovered 50 years earlier at the Allenby Bridge—is necessary to sustain anyone through the kind of work involved. Though he officially retired four years ago, Crowe estimates he works around 18 hours most days, and guesses that Spring, who is also retired, puts in similarly strenuous hours.

"I have appreciated Fletcher Crowe's great dedication to this project—he has worked on the Fort Caroline question almost daily for a year and a half now," says Spring. "A highly unorthodox thesis like our Fort Caroline work demands that kind of dedication, and he has inspired me and other colleagues to do the same."

Crowe is quick to dismiss anyone's amazement at that level of dedication, however.

"Why not? What are you going to do in retirement? Are you going to just watch reruns of *I Love Lucy*? You have the freedom—the autonomy—to set your compass in whatever direction you want to go and follow that star. We feel that we're on to something that's potentially quite significant, and we're very happy to put our energies into it."



This 1780 map refers to the "River May, otherwise known as the Altamaha." Crowe refers to this as the "smoking gun" map.



This 1685 map shows the River May following the same route as the modern-day Altamaha River, where Crowe and Spring believe Fort Caroline to be located.

Never getting bored

FSU chemistry alum Sydana Rogers Hollins turns a career in science into a career in anything



Hollins with Dorsey and fellow Ph.D. recipient Stephanie Piraino-Haynes. Hollins and Piraino-Haynes have been close friends since graduate school and were Dorsey's 46th and 47th graduates, respectively.



Hollins with her husband, Tom, and daughter, Kennedy.



Hollins celebrates earning her Ph.D. from FSU with her mentor, Professor John Dorsey.

FSU alum Sydana Rogers Hollins is one of those people who likes to keep moving—a trait she thinks might have come from having a father in the Air Force, which meant growing up all over the east coast of the United States as well as in England and Germany.

"I'm a military kid," she explains, "so changing jobs every two years fits my nature. Change provides opportunities for personal and professional growth. Rarely do I ever get the chance to get bored. I'm fortunate to work for a company that values its employees and provides these kinds of opportunities."

Hollins currently works for Altria, one of the world's largest tobacco corporations. She has worked there since finishing her Ph.D. in 2003—an achievement made even more special as she became the first African-American student to earn a doctoral degree in chemistry from FSU. Now, 11 years later, she's already held a multitude of different positions within her company and displayed a set of talents that go far beyond the chemistry lab.

A chemist is born

Despite the shuffling over the years, Hollins *did* get her start at Altria as a chemist—a discipline she first discovered while an undergraduate at Norfolk State University in Virginia. She began that undergraduate career as a pre-med major, but took a summer internship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that changed her path.

Work she did that summer won a research paper contest held by the National Organization for Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers and led to two more summer internships, this time with the chemical company Rohm and Haas.

It was there that she refined her interests and decided she wanted to work in chromatography—the science of separating

substances into their components. It was also during these internships that she learned about FSU professor John Dorsey by encountering some of his former students in the workplace.

Hollins describes Dorsey as a pioneer in fundamental and applied chromatography research, so she naturally became interested in coming to FSU for the chance to work with him. And that's exactly what happened.

Dorsey and the rest of the FSU faculty prepared her to work as a chemist in an industrial setting not only by teaching her the science, but by challenging her to become an adaptive learner.

"I felt fairly positive that I could learn material and apply it fairly quickly," Hollins says. "For the cumulative exams at FSU, they used to give us a topic on Monday and we had our test on Friday. So when I got to Altria I was already trained to learn, process, and apply information to generate answers to complex questions."

This strength was further developed by the early opportunities provided to her at Altria. Hollins impressed her employer and rose to a leadership position quickly. When the opportunity came to move into a new role, she didn't hesitate.

"I started as an individual contributor doing chromatography. After successfully leading several projects, Altria provided me with various opportunities to expand my capabilities in leadership capacities for the company," Hollins says. "Eventually I transitioned into a developmental role called Strategic Product Planning where we were specifically paired with company executives whose functional areas were different from our own. It's a broadening opportunity that allowed me to learn about Altria from a different perspective."

Building on a broad foundation

Since 2011, Hollins has continued to broaden her work experience. She's now working in regulatory affairs and is responsible for Altria's

product regulatory reporting internationally and domestically, aside from the Food and Drug Administration.

While Hollins has moved out of a traditional chemistry role as her primary work function (for now), she's still relying on skills she learned during her years at FSU.

"Dr. Dorsey emphasized the importance of oral presentation skills," she says. "He encouraged us to deliver the story of our scientific research to a range of audiences. That has served me well at this company."

That skill has been a vital part of Hollins' success at Altria.

"I've often been complimented on my presentation style and how I convey a story," she explains. "People appreciate concise yet meaningful communications. I enjoy taking complex science and presenting it in such a way that colleagues with a business or non-technical background can understand."

As for her leadership skills, Hollins also gives credit to the Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (FGLSAMP), a National Science Foundation project that provides counseling, mentoring, tutoring, and shadowing services for minority students pursuing disciplines in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. With the guidance of then-director Patricia Stith, she was able to hone her abilities while helping younger students.

"I think I was always interested in leadership and management," Hollins says. "And I'm grateful for the mentors I've had that have guided me at various stages of my career. As a result, I like to mentor and provide advice that enables people to reach their professional goals. Several of the students that I mentored in the FGLSAMP program pursued their Ph.D.s in science. Mentoring is mutually beneficial for both the mentor and protégé. A mentor can serve in a variety of capacities for someone to aid in their career development. There's also a lot of satisfaction in watching someone achieve their goals"

While at FSU, Sydana also met her husband, Thomas Hollins. Thomas, who also earned his doctorate in education at FSU, is now the vice president for student affairs at J. Sargeant

Reynolds Community College in Richmond, Virginia. They have a 6 year-old daughter named Kennedy.

The pair instantly found they made a great match, as their ambitious and studious natures complemented each other even at the very beginning.

"Our first date ended at 3 o'clock in the morning," she recalls, "because we went out to dinner and then went to the library to study. We both value education and are career-minded individuals. From the beginning, we've supported each other in every endeavor."

An open-minded outlook

As for the future, Hollins likes to remain open, as always, to new experiences, including moving back into a more traditional science role eventually.

"As soon as I start to feel comfortable in a position at Altria, a new challenge or opportunity arises," she said. "I'm still very much engaged with the science and my colleagues whom I started with at Altria. No matter what my job function is at Altria, my focus is on making a positive difference for the company and to always learn something new."

Whether it's science or something else entirely, the next chapter for Hollins is sure to bring yet another broadening of her horizons. She wouldn't have it any other way.



Hollins with her husband, Tom, and daughter, Kennedy.



Hollins and other students of Dorsey in 2002.

All photos courtesy of Sydana Rogers Hollins



Barry Ray



An eye to the future

Professor emeritus Kurt Hofer gives back to the university that gave so much to him

by Barry Ray

During his more than three decades of service on the Florida State University faculty, Kurt G. Hofer considered himself fortunate to be able to pursue, in equal measure, his twin passions: conducting scientific research and teaching students. Now, as an emeritus professor, he's saying thanks to the institution that supported him those many years with a generous gift that will help up-and-coming researchers in his field.

Hofer, 75, and his wife, Maria, have made a gift of real estate that will provide much-needed support for graduate students within the Department of Biological Science. This endowed fund will be invested in perpetuity at the FSU Foundation. As a result of the real estate gift, the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory will receive an annual gift as well.

"We had always had the idea that something would be given to FSU," Hofer said. "I have been treated well by the university and by my many congenial colleagues, and I have always considered myself fortunate to have found this place."

The Hofers' donation of a house and surrounding property located in the Florida Panhandle town of Wewahitchka has enabled the establishment of The Kurt and Maria Hofer Endowed Fund for the Department of Biological Science. Currently valued at \$160,000, the gift will fund an annual graduate fellowship to be awarded based on academic merit. First preference will be given to doctoral students in biology who have successfully defended their dissertation, with secondary preference given to students who are pursuing a master's degree in biology. Recipients of the award will be known as Hofer Fellows.

A member of FSU's biology faculty from 1971 to 2003, Hofer made his mark both as a popular educator and a renowned scientist. He estimates that he taught more than 15,000 students over

the years in everything from large, introductory-level biology courses to small, graduate-level classes in radiation and cancer research. The excellence of his teaching and his dedication to his students was recognized by the university when it awarded Hofer the President's Teaching Award in 1980, the University Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990, and asked him to serve as chair of the President's Council on Excellence in College Teaching.

Simultaneously, as a prolific researcher and scholar, Hofer was regarded by peers as "one of the founders of modern radiobiology." A pioneer in the study of radiation therapies for the treatment of cancers, he conducted basic and applied research that showed how raising the temperature of cancer cells and infusing them with oxidizing agents made the cells much more sensitive to the effects of radiation. Hofer's research led to FSU being granted numerous patents, both in the United States and abroad, and had important medical applications that have saved untold lives.

For his many accomplishments at Florida State, Hofer was named a Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor—the highest honor that the FSU faculty can bestow on a colleague—in 1994. His citation stated that "the university salutes you for the magnitude of your accomplishment . . . thanks you for the distinction you bring to all of us, and points to you as a model of dedicated scholarship."

Maria Hofer, meanwhile, played no small role in her husband's success. For much of his academic career, the two worked side-by-side in his laboratory.

"My wife ran my lab," Kurt Hofer said. "For all those decades, she was a lab mother. She was superb at tissue culture and working with animals. She ran the lab, ordered all the lab supplies, did many experiments directly with me, and trained all of my incoming graduate students."

Professor Emeritus Kurt Hofer was named a Robert O. Lawton Professor, FSU's highest faculty honor, in 1994.

The Hofers also partnered in raising a family—two girls. Their older daughter, Andrea, is now 34, working as a social media specialist in Seattle. Younger daughter Marlise is 29. Both daughters obtained their undergraduate degrees at Florida State, and Marlise is now pursuing a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of British Columbia, with the goal of following in her father's footsteps and becoming an academic research scientist.

Despite being recognized worldwide for his contributions to science, Kurt Hofer says his most lasting impact was made in the classroom.

"I cannot complain about my success in research," he said. "I was very fortunate, making at least three major discoveries in my career, which is more luck than many. But regardless of how successful I was as a scientist, if you add it all up, teaching was probably more important. If you think about it, collectively the many thousands of students I taught will accomplish so much more than I could hope to accomplish as an individual. So I have always considered teaching to be perhaps the greatest contribution that I made in life."

A native of Austria and self-described "farm boy," Hofer credits his adopted country with giving him opportunities to succeed that he may not have had elsewhere.

"I know of few countries where a foreign-born individual could do as well as here in the U.S.," he said. "I not only went through the ranks to become a professor—for a farm boy, a very unusual thing—but I also received practically every award that this university had to give. My wife and I had a very satisfying career at FSU, and we are happy to be able to give something back to FSU after all that has been given to us."



A Brush with Stardom

Born in Feldkirchen, Carinthia, Austria, in 1939, Kurt Hofer had a claim to fame prior to establishing a long and successful career in academia. He appeared as an extra in one of the most successful movie musicals of all time.

"I come from the Austrian Alps, where they made 'The Sound of Music,'" Hofer said. "At the time the movie was made (1964), I was a university student. The producers needed young men to play German *Wehrmacht* soldiers to occupy Austria. I needed money, so for five days I enrolled in the *Wehrmacht* and occupied Austria.

"I obviously had no idea that 'The Sound of Music' would become such a classic. With all the research I did during my decades as a scientist, many of the students in my classes continue to regard my five days of 'movie stardom' as the highlight of my life."

The art of generosity

FSU alum Lee Pryor leaves a trove of valuable artwork to his alma mater



William Lee Pryor

The artworks shown here represent just a few of the pieces included in a bequest from Pryor to FSU, worth around \$1.1 million in total.

To call FSU alum William Lee Pryor a Renaissance man might be a bit of an understatement. His interests run from literature to art to publishing and even to television.

As a professor, he served an astonishing 42 years on the faculty at the University of Houston (UH). During that time, he also managed to bring the arts to a wide audience by producing and hosting *The Arts in Houston* on KUHT, the first educational television station in the world. He served as the editor of the journal *Forum* for 15 years. The journal, which covered humanities and the fine arts

A matching pair of porcelain urns created in Italy in the 19th century.



An 1887 portrait of a young boy by German artist Karl Wilhelm Friedrich Bauerle.



An oil painting of a bearded man by Sir George Reid. Reid lived from 1841 to 1913.



A copy of a 'Madonna and Child' painting by Van Dyke. The original painting is in Munich.

and had subscribers in more than 40 countries, counted such luminaries as Donald Barthelme, Robert Penn Warren, and Tennessee Williams as members of its board, along with a group of outstanding scholars. Amongst them were six Pulitzer Prizes.

Pryor has also sought out inspiration across the globe, travelling to 43 different countries over his lifetime. His purposes for seeking that inspiration go far beyond himself, however.

An oil painting of an angel, painted in Italy in the 17th or 18th century.



All photos courtesy of Lee Pryor.

"In everything I do, I am always trying to enrich my life—and hopefully enrich my teaching," says Pryor.

For all his life's many accomplishments, however, the legacy Pryor leaves the world after he's gone may have the biggest impact of all. Pryor announced, in early 2014, that he is leaving a bequest of his art collection—valued at around \$1.1 million—to FSU. Additionally, his gift includes some furniture and a substantial endowment.

The bequest is not Pryor's first. In addition to gifts left to his undergraduate college, Florida Southern University, and UH, where he spent the bulk of his career, Pryor has previously provided for the creation of named professorships and the establishment of two scholarship funds for students in FSU's College of Music and in the Department of English—where he himself earned his master's and doctoral degrees.

When Pryor made those commitments in 2006, he did so out of a desire to keep contributing to the causes he loved, saying, "It seemed to be the logical thing to do, since all my life I have been involved in and a supporter of education. I feel that I should continue to do that beyond this life with whatever I have left."

Now, with the addition of his art collection, he is expanding that contribution with a tangible source of education for everyone who visits FSU's main campus.



A 1662 still-life painted by Flemish artist Jan Baptist Moerkercke, who lived until 1689.

The collection will be housed for display in what will be called The Dahl, Lottie, and William Lee Pryor Drawing Room, to honor Pryor as well as his parents. His mother, Lottie Pryor, attended the Florida State College for Women, which became FSU in 1947. The exact location of the room on campus is still being determined, but will, by Pryor's request, be somewhere where the public will be able to freely enjoy the collection.

And enjoyable is exactly what this new resource will be. The collection includes tapestries, etchings, drawings, lithographs, sculptures, furniture, figurines, and other beautiful pieces representing many different countries and at least three different centuries in the history of art.

When Pryor received the Master Teaching Award, the highest honor in UH's College of Humanities and Fine Arts, he had this to say about teaching:

My commitment is to the humanities. I believe the most important thing that a teacher can do is to help a student to stand on his/her own intellectual hind legs; to help him/her to learn how to acquire facts; and to help him/

her to learn how to organize and utilize these facts in intelligent, responsible ways. But beyond this, I think that a teacher should in every way possible try to demonstrate to his/her students that intelligence, knowledge, and taste should lead to the enrichment of the individual life and, further, to the improvement of the world in which we all live.

Pryor has acted on that philosophy his entire life. Now, through his generosity to FSU and the other institutions that shaped him, he can continue in his mission of improving the world long after he leaves it behind.



A bust of Roman emperor Caracalla.

Going pro

FSU psychology alum achieves excellence in Southern California

by Paul Haney



Photos courtesy of Alison Curdt

Curd is both a teacher and a competitor, currently preparing for her second appearance in the LPGA Championship.

FSU alum Alison Curdt is proof that the right education in the right pair of hands can produce remarkable results. She came to FSU in 2000 on a golf scholarship, played for four years on the traveling squad, and graduated in 2004 with bachelor's degrees in both psychology and professional golf management. Now she has built an impressive resume of professional achievements and personal accolades that have led to her own teaching practice, Alison Curdt Golf, which effectively dovetails the mental and physical disciplines she studied in Tallahassee more than a decade ago.

As an out-of-state student who grew up in St. Louis, securing a full scholarship for college was important to Curdt.

"I wanted to make sure that any school I went to wouldn't be a financial burden on my parents," Curdt says. "I felt that getting a full scholarship was the ultimate thank you since they had put so much time and money into lessons, travel, and tournaments."

Curd found that opportunity at FSU.

"A.C. was a sweet kid," says former head coach Debbie Dillman. "Very driven in everything she did. A hyper-perfectionist ... I was proud to have her on my team."

In high school, Curdt was a power player, relying on strength and accuracy to navigate the course.

"I felt that if I could hit the ball as straight as possible, I would never have to practice my short game. Because for me that was pretty boring," Curdt says. "I like to hit it hard."

Dillman, however, stressed to her players that golf was more than a long-drive contest.

"Allison was a long hitter," Dillman says. "But my emphasis back then was always the small details, the short game. That's how you score. That's how you play."

FSU's women's golf team saw impressive success during Curdt's four years. They made Regionals three times, Nationals twice, and Curdt recalls "coming home with some hardware on a couple occasions."

But Curdt made it clear from the start that her goals at FSU went beyond athletic achievement.

"Alison was very committed to her studies and was a great student," says current head coach Amy Bond, an assistant during Curdt's playing career. "She was able to balance the total student-athlete lifestyle."

Curd first intended to go into nursing school,



but that changed as a result of something she heard in one of her honors classes.

"There was a lecture given on how students should follow their passion and things won't seem as hard or difficult—or like work," Curdt says. "And I changed my degree to psychology."

Within two years, Curdt had finished the coursework for her psychology degree and enrolled in professional golf management. During that program, Curdt landed an internship at the Westin Mission Hills Resort in California in order to become an LPGA Class A Professional. That internship turned into a full-time position, and she set out the day after she graduated in December 2004.

"I jumped into the car, went out to California and started working in the golf industry," Curdt says.

Sixteen months and a couple of promotions later, Curdt was racking up experience on the South California golf scene—working at different clubs, teaching lessons—when disaster struck. "On April 18, 2006, the condo that I was living in caught fire and burned down," Curdt says. "I lost everything that I owned. I pretty much had myself and my car and the clothes I was wearing. Lost golf clubs, lost everything related to Florida State—the gear you graduate with, the class ring, you name it. Everything was just gone."

After the fire, Curdt moved back in with her parents in St. Louis. She found work, but says, "Mentally I wasn't there. I was still grieving this huge trauma, suffering some depression and just feeling sort of lost." After five months in Missouri, Curdt realized that returning to California would be the best thing for her. "I wanted to get back out and continue to be independent," she says. "So I landed a job working at a company called GolfTEC."

GolfTEC is an indoor training facility that utilizes technology to help improve students' games.

"It was a great opportunity to get me back and jumpstart me into teaching," Curdt says, "and that's where I started to feel a passion and a love for working with people in golf."

In 2007, Curdt started working at the famed Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, California, where she would become First



Alison Curdt

Curdt uses all sorts of techniques to teach her students the fundamentals of a great golf swing, but also focuses on the more psychological aspects of the game.

Assistant to the Head Teaching Professional. After graduating, perhaps because of "post-college burnout," Curdt had all but given up playing competitive golf. Things were different at Sherwood, however.

"I realized I really missed it," she says. "And I liked it. And I was still pretty good."

Curdt started playing in tournaments available to her as a PGA and LPGA teaching professional, saw some success, and even tried to make the LPGA Tour in 2008. Though she fell short of qualifying, she found she was playing well.

"I was playing better golf than when I was at my prime in college," Curdt says, "and it's just that my relationship with the game has changed."

In May 2012, Curdt broke through with a big win at the LPGA T&CP Western Section Championship.

"It had been a long time since I won a tournament of that caliber, so it revitalized me," Curdt says. "Made me feel like I still had some skill to compete and that my golfing life after college wasn't over."

That victory earned her a spot in the next month's LPGA Championship, a major tournament on the LPGA Tour, an experience Curdt describes as "surreal."

"My dad caddied for me, which was a dream come true ... Although my scores were high, I can still say I played in an LPGA major."

But Curdt didn't just work on her and her students' golf games while at Sherwood. In 2011, she also became a PGA Master Professional

in Instruction, one of only 10 women in the country to own that distinction. She compiled 175 pages of materials that she presented to a committee at the PGA headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida. Though the question-and-answer portion was nerve-racking, Curdt says, she felt calm and comfortable during the lesson she was required to teach as part of the evaluation.

"The minute the lesson started, I was completely at ease," she says, "and that says a lot to me about where I'm most comfortable."

Soon after becoming a Master Professional, Curdt was named LPGA Western Section Teacher of the Year for 2012 by her peers.

"That means the world to me to think that my teaching and what I'm doing in this industry is respected and noticed," Curdt says. "It's very satisfying to know that my work has had an influence on others."

That drive to help others has also led Curdt back to psychology. Curdt earned her master's degree in clinical psychology from Pepperdine University in 2013.

"When I'm not teaching golf, I work at a counseling clinic with people with all sorts of issues," she says.

She is applying her hours at the clinic toward her professional licensure to become a psychotherapist, and has a plan to integrate all her credentials into one business model: Alison Curdt Golf.

"Not only can I help players with their physical side," Curdt says, "but I will be able to professionally help players with their mental and emotional side."

Curdt has also played her way back to the LPGA Championship, and will be competing again this August.

"Her success is no surprise to me at all," former FSU teammate Alison Zimmer says. "She has always been a go-getter and creates the success that she wants in every aspect of her life."

If the past is any indication, Alison Curdt will continue to strive for excellence personally, professionally and competitively, all while assisting others to become their own best selves.

Big hearts

Raymond and Stella Cottrell make giving back to FSU a habit

By Barry Ray

The year was 1967 when young Florida State University students Raymond Cottrell and Stella Schmahl first met in FSU's Suwannee Dining Hall. It took two years before they went out on a first date, but they were pronounced both FSU graduates and husband and wife within the next few years.

Fast-forward to 2013. The Cottrells, still a happy couple but now with two grown children and successful careers, continue to look back at their time at FSU as one of the best and most rewarding of their lives.

That's a major reason why, both in time and money, the Tallahassee couple has given generously to their alma mater over the years. It's simply a matter of repaying a debt for all that Florida State has given to *them*, they explain.

"We have been so blessed in our lives, and so much of that is due to the support we received at FSU," says Dr. Raymond Cottrell, a Tallahassee gastroenterologist. (He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Florida State in 1969, then conducted graduate-level research in analytical chemistry within the department before going on to earn his medical degree in Texas.)

"We've always wanted to give back to the university," adds Stella, who graduated in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in French. "We've always felt that the spirit of community is greater here than it is at most other places. It was true when we were students, and even though FSU has gotten a lot bigger, it's still true today."

The couple's first major "repayment" to the university came in 1995 when the Raymond Cottrell Family Professorship in Chemistry was established. The \$100,000 endowment, which recognizes faculty with outstanding teaching records and a strong track record in motivating

students to pursue careers in chemistry, was inspired by Raymond's positive experiences as a young chemistry major at Florida State.

"I had wonderful professors who really supported undergraduate chemistry education," he remembers. "Ed Mellon, Kitty Hoffman, Ron Clark and Tom Vickers in particular were instrumental in helping motivate me to achieve success, and their encouragement eventually led me to pursue a career in medicine."

Once selected, faculty members hold the title of Raymond Cottrell Family Professor in Chemistry for three years, receiving \$5,000 per year in cash as well as \$2,500 per year in additional endowment proceeds. The funds allow them to pursue their research, travel to conferences and assist undergraduate and graduate students in attending conferences as well.

Oliver Steinbock is a physical chemist who currently holds the Cottrell professorship. He says the title is about far more than money.

"The generous support by the Cottrell family has been much more than a financial injection into my research operation and the inseparable training of my students," Steinbock said. "For me personally, it has been a very motivating recognition of my work as an educator and a scientist."

For the past four years, a faculty member in an entirely different discipline has also benefited from the Cottrells' generosity. Thomas Joiner, the university's Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology, added the title of Stella and Raymond Cottrell Professor of Psychology in 2009, thanks to a \$125,000 endowed gift from the couple. Supporting Joiner's research was especially fulfilling to Stella, she says, because of his status as one of the nation's experts in the causes of suicide, as well as the reasons that some people attempt suicide while others do not.

"I had lost a loved one to suicide shortly before that, so the topic was certainly weighing on my mind," she says. "Someone gave me Professor Joiner's book, 'Why People Die by Suicide,' and I read it from cover to cover. Out of the blue, I decided to call him up and just see if he minded if I stopped by to chat for 15 minutes. Although he didn't know me, Professor Joiner invited me in and very graciously discussed his work with me for the better part of an afternoon. To me, it was just another example of how FSU, despite being such a large school, still feels like a small community where people are treated with respect."

From that first meeting, a friendship developed between Joiner and the Cottrells. They respected the importance and quality of his work; Joiner found their commitment to Florida State just as admirable.

"Stella and Raymond Cottrell are an inspiration to the FSU community in general, and have been characteristically generous in their support of me through the Cottrell professorship," he said. "Their support has furthered my already considerable loyalty to FSU, and has been a welcome vote of confidence as my group and I strive to understand and thus prevent suicidal behavior and related conditions."

Other acts of generosity have come through the years. Their son, Keith, was the starting punter on the Seminoles football team from 1997 to 2000. Although he attended FSU on an athletic scholarship, the Cottrells realized that punters are rarely recruited and often don't receive such support — so they endowed a scholarship specifically for Florida State punters that continues to this day.

(Keith Cottrell isn't the only one of the Cottrell children to have followed in their parents' FSU footsteps. Their daughter, Catherine, graduated in 2005 with a double major in international business and management. Keith's wife, Ginger, also is an alumna, having earned her bachelor's degree in 2012.)

In 2002, the Cottrells made another gift, this one to the then-new FSU Alumni Center. The Cottrell Conference Room is a highlight of the facility to this day. After that, Stella donated a piano to the Pearl Tyner House, which currently houses the university's Veterans Center and Collegiate Veterans Association. Whenever she's in the building, Stella can still be counted to pull up her old piano bench and

play a stirring, flawless version of “Hymn to the Garnet and Gold.”

More generosity was still to come. Since 2010, the Cottrells have funded a scholarship within the FSU Alumni Association’s Legacy Scholarship program, which encourages the children, stepchildren, grandchildren and siblings of Florida State alumni to perpetuate the legacy of Florida State within their family. Each year, a Cottrell Legacy freshman receives a stipend ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000, depending on his or her state of residency.

Why do they keep on giving?

“One of the reasons for living is being able to give to others,” Raymond says. “We’ve been fortunate in medicine and in life, and it’s good to be able to give back to the institution that made so much of our success possible.”

While they’re certainly generous with their money, the Cottrells are just as generous with their time and energy. Both have served in numerous volunteer roles at the university over the past two decades.

Just off the top of his head, Raymond lists a slew of activities: “I served on the Alumni Association’s board starting in 1992 and was president in 2000. In 2001, I became national chairman of Seminole Boosters. I’ve also served on the Circle of Gold selection committee and the College of Medicine’s advisory council. And I’m a member of Nole M.D.s, which works to recruit more physicians to the Boosters.”

Stella’s list is no shorter: She is currently active with the College of Arts and Sciences’ Leadership Council and formerly served as chair. She also serves as the alumni representative for the Oglesby Union board, has been a member of the FSU Foundation’s board, and was a co-founder of The Women for Florida State University, an outreach program for which she provided a multi-year gift to assist with start-up and ongoing costs. For her many volunteer activities, Stella received a Torch Award — established as a way for faculty to honor friends of Florida State who have contributed significantly to the university’s ability to fulfill its academic mission — in 2012. That same year, she was also presented with the Gift of Wisdom Mentor Award from The Women for Florida State University.

The Cottrells’ love of all things Florida State even motivated their decision to relocate to Tallahassee. After more than 24 years living in Orlando, where Raymond was managing partner of a successful medical practice and Stella worked as a professional musician at Walt Disney World, the two decided it was time to return to Tallahassee. In 2006, they built a new home on a golf course in the city’s SouthWood area, where ancient live oaks provide shade to the yard.

“Ever since we left FSU in 1971, we always knew we wanted to come back to Tallahassee and live here one day,” Raymond says. “We finally reached a point in our lives and our careers when the timing was right.”

“We’ve just enjoyed being back,” Stella adds. “Tallahassee and Florida State University have always felt like home.”

For other FSU alumni who are interested in giving back to their university but perhaps aren’t able to do so at the Cottrells’ level, Raymond offers these words of wisdom: “It’s not the size of the gifts, it’s the size of your heart.”



The Cottrells pose at the entrance to the Cottrell Conference Room at the FSU Alumni Center, named to honor their contribution to the new center in 2002.



final takes



Sports have been a mainstay on the campus of what is now Florida State University since the days of the Florida State College for Women—and golf was among the most popular. That tradition of excellence in golf continues to this day. To read about one of FSU's greatest talents of the last decade and her career as a golf professional, see page 20.

Nancy Smilowitz



Assistant Dean

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Assistant Dean of Development Nancy Smilowitz says she loves working with people who have a thirst for knowledge and a desire to enhance higher education. May 2013 will mark 15 years that Nancy has been in the Office of Development at Florida State University's College of Arts and Sciences. She began at FSU as an associate director, became senior director in 2002 and assistant dean in 2008. In her 15 years as a liaison between the college and the FSU Foundation, Nancy has raised over \$30 million through outright and deferred gifts.

Nancy earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Penn State University, where she also worked part-time fund raising in the phone center. Between her time at Penn State and her arrival at FSU, Nancy served as the assistant director of annual giving at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Jeff Ereckson



Director of Development

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Following a 17-year career in the financial services industry in Atlanta, Jeff Ereckson joined the FSU Foundation in March 2005 as director of planned giving. As a liaison to as many as seven colleges within the university, Jeff worked with to raise more than \$8 million in just over four years. He also helped raise funds and gifts-in-kind to build the new FSU President's House. In November 2009, Jeff joined the College of Arts and Sciences as the director of development.

In addition to being a graduate of Florida State University (B.S., Finance, 1985), Jeff was on the Renegade Team while in school and was Chief Osceola in 1983 and 1984. Jeff also served on the FSU Alumni Board and the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Council for eight years. He and his wife, Renee, live in Tallahassee with their two sons.

John Trombetta



Senior Development Officer

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John Trombetta joined the foundation in July of 2012. John came to FSU from Valdosta State University where he served as the Director of Alumni Relations. Prior to his work in Higher Education, John worked for 10 years in financial services. A native of Tallahassee, he is happy to be back in his hometown and to have the opportunity to work at FSU. It energizes John to see the talent and passion that faculty have for their subject and the university.

John is a graduate of Valdosta State University (B.A. Political Science). While there he was Comptroller of the Student Government Association, a member of the Georgia Board of Regents Student Advisory Council where he served as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and received the Student Advisory Council Tom McDonald Award for Career Achievement. Currently, John is pursuing his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership also at Valdosta State.

Brett Lee



Development Officer

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Brett is a native of Crestview, Fla. In 2011, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from Florida State. After graduation, he immediately accepted a position in Data Management with the FSU Foundation and worked most recently in the Department of Gift Processing before moving over to the College of Arts and Sciences.

For fun, Brett plays on the FSU Foundation flag football team and enjoys hiking and kayaking. In his new role as a development officer, he will be advancing the many initiatives of the college and working with faculty, staff and students throughout the university to raise interest and awareness among current and prospective donors.

Torri Miller



Development Coordinator

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Torri Miller, born and raised in Miami, graduated from FSU in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in residential science. The first time she visited Tallahassee and toured the campus, she realized that FSU was the place for her. Torri met her husband, Blake Miller, while a student, and they were married shortly after her graduation. From 2002-2008, she worked at the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center, where she learned all about catering events and the restaurant industry, and from 2007-2010, she worked at the Tallahassee Builders Association as their marketing coordinator. In April 2010, Torri joined the College of Arts and Sciences, where she is happy to be working at the university where she experienced some of the best moments of her life.

Barry Ray



Media & Communications Officer

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Born and raised in Jacksonville, Fla., Barry Ray graduated from FSU in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in English literature. He credits his college studies with helping him to hone the skills needed to become a successful writer, editor, and communications professional. He has held communications positions in state government and with a statewide association, and has worked extensively as a freelance writer and editor. In 2005, Barry returned to FSU, working with University Communications to focus national and international media attention on the groundbreaking research and accomplishments of Florida State faculty.

Barry moved to the College of Arts and Sciences in 2013 and is excited about this new opportunity to promote the college. He and his wife, Susan (a 1987 FSU grad), whom he met while he was working his first job at a daily newspaper in Tallahassee, have two children.

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Robert O. Lawton Professor of Biological Science Kurt Hofer served FSU's biology department for more than 30 years and won nearly every award offered by the university. Now, the Austrian-born Hofer is honoring his adopted home at FSU with a gift that will support graduate students in biology. To learn more about Hofer's life, career, and generosity, see page 14.



Professor Emeritus Kurt Hofer was named a Robert O. Lawton Professor, FSU's highest faculty honor, in 1994.