



SPRING  
SUMMER  
2012

# Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

EDGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## Salute to veterans

## Half century man

*Professor Jim Jones*



# Letter from the dean

Photo by FSU Photo Lab



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Summer greetings to all. Just a week after spring commencement, I traveled to West Point with alumni and other members of the FSU community—including President Eric Barron and his wife, Molly—where we were treated to a fascinating history of West Point by FSU graduate Brian DeToy (see the photo below). The visit to West Point was in support of Florida State's initiative to become the most veteran friendly campus in the nation.

That initiative is the reason for the military theme of this issue of *Across the Spectrum*, with the cornerstone of that initiative being the proposed Veterans Legacy Complex, which will bring together the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, FSU's award-winning ROTC programs, and an office coordinating services for student veterans. The name of the building is well chosen, and in fact this *Spectrum* is not just about military connections on campus but about legacies of service—service to country, service to the university, and service to humanity. Taking a closer look at some legacies of service is our way of showing respect to some of the individuals who have made lasting contributions.

In terms of contributions, the World War II generation occupies a special place in our history, and you can read about Kurt Piehler, the new director of the World War II Institute, as well as look at some photos from the institute's collection. Last summer, we were putting the finishing touches on recruiting Kurt to the institute and the Department of History, and I am happy to say that he brings outstanding experience and enthusiasm to his new role.

You can get a glimpse into the lives of recent veterans through the profiles of three FSU students who successfully transitioned from military to campus life. FSU is taking an active role in helping veterans make this transition. In particular, with the drawdown in troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, FSU is preparing to enroll—and graduate—many more veterans. To help ensure their success, President Barron appointed retired Air Force colonel and FSU alum Billy Francis as director of the Veterans Center. In our story, you will see why he is the right person for this critical position.

Two stories focus on alumni who have had remarkable careers of service on their own—pediatrician Louise Cason and entrepreneur Bill Jenkins—yet have chosen to honor the legacies of their mentors. Louise Cason, whose father died during the Depression, honors the legacy of instructors from the Florida State College for Women who helped her reach her dreams, while award-winning educational software developer Bill Jenkins honors his FSU Ph.D. advisor, R. Bruce Masterton. Such gifts in honor of dedicated teachers remind me once again that there is something transformative and lasting about education.

Speaking of dedicated teachers, it is truly a privilege to include a profile of history Professor Jim Jones, a towering figure on the FSU campus for more than half a century. Jim's contributions to scholarship and the educational mission of Florida State are vast, enduring, and powerful.

Thank you for your commitment to Florida State University and in particular for taking time to catch up with your home college.

#### Seminoles on the Hudson

Army Lt. Col. Brian DeToy, who earned his Ph.D. in history from Florida State in 1997 and currently directs the Defense and Strategic Studies Program at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., leads a tour of West Point for an FSU military appreciation event in May. DeToy is standing on an area known as the "the Plain," a parade ground overlooking the Hudson River.

Photo by Tom Jennings





**On the cover**  
A phone call from Justin Sisson during his sophomore year at Florida State put his parents on high alert for the next year. Read about Sisson, who took the road less traveled, on page 6.

# Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

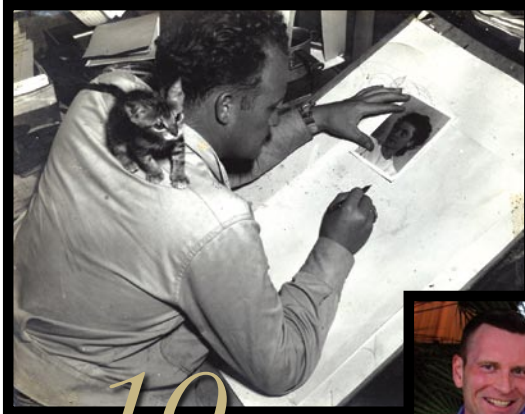
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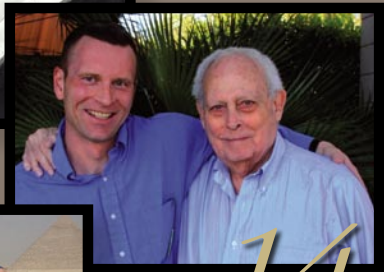
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# Ready for takeoff

With FSU alum Billy Francis in the pilot's seat, the sky's the limit for new Veterans Center

By Susan Hellstrom

After Billy Francis (right) graduated from FSU, the Air Force sent him to Del Rio, Texas for pilot training, where he met his wife Lisa (center) and where he became a pilot instructor. The Francises have three children: Rowdy (shown), Evan, and Emma. Note the Seminole "nose art" on the F-111F behind them.



Billy Francis in 1986

While Francis's military career took him to Texas, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iceland, England, and many other places, his last tour of duty as a colonel was as director of the Air Force ROTC program at FSU. Now that the 2011-2012 school year has ended and he is retired from the Air Force, he is the full-time director of the Veterans Center.

Francis hasn't missed a beat.

In May alone, he helped lead a Veteran Benefits Expo on campus and an FSU military appreciation event held at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York. Meanwhile, he has spoken to many groups on and off campus about the new center and its impact on current and future FSU student veterans.

His orders are clear: to make Florida State the most veteran-friendly public university in the nation, a goal announced publicly by FSU President Eric J. Barron in October 2011. Currently, the Veterans Center is located temporarily in the Pearl Tyner House on West Tennessee Street. But, as part of the initiative, FSU is raising money to

construct a new three-building Veterans Legacy Complex that will house the Student Veterans Center with a lounge and offices; an ROTC building with offices and general-purpose classrooms; and a new home for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, which is currently crowded into part of the fourth floor plus a storage area of the Bellamy Building. The complex is projected to cost at least \$35 million.

While those are tall orders, if anyone can do it, Francis can. A Tallahassee native, his FSU and military ties abound. A second-generation Seminole, Francis was a walk-on member of the football team for about a year and a half, graduating from FSU in 1986 with a degree in economics.

"My mom—Lynn LaGrange—graduated from Florida State in 1960 and was homecoming queen in 1957," Francis says. In later years, she worked for the FSU College of Law. "I have two sisters and a brother, who all graduated from Florida State. My little brother is in the Navy, my dad was in the Army, and I was in the Air Force."

**W**illiam "Billy" Francis, director of Florida State's new Veterans Center and a former Air Force fighter pilot whose career took him across the globe, completed his 27-year military career about four steps from where it began—on the second floor of FSU's ROTC building.

"I was commissioned and pinned on my second lieutenant bars standing right there in the very same office that I'm finishing my career in," Francis says.

Francis is also an experienced educator and administrator, having served as a flight instructor early in his career and as a professor of aerospace studies for the past three years. When he was mission support group commander at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., Francis oversaw 2,200 people and a \$50 million budget as the primary support agent for the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

“As I thought about my past and what I had done and what brought me the most joy, it became clear to me that it was helping people achieve their goals,” Francis says. “I was able to do that throughout my Air Force career, and I’ll be able to continue to do that as part of the Veterans Center initiative.”

### Why a Veterans Center?

The Veterans Center initiative began when Navy veteran Jared Lyon, then an FSU student, approached Barron requesting that the university beef up its services for student veterans. “Nationally, veterans are graduating at a lesser rate than nonveterans,” Lyon says.



Photo by Torri Miller

In May, Billy Francis (second from left) helped lead an FSU military appreciation event at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. With him are President Eric Barron and his wife, Molly (center); Kurt Piehler (far right) of the World War II Institute; Jared Lyon (far left) and Phil Lennon (third from left) of the Collegiate Veterans Association; and Brian DeToy (third from right), who received his Ph.D. from FSU and who is a professor at the academy.

Beyond injuries, veterans frequently experience a bumpy ride in transitioning from military life to student life. “They’re older and they’ve had different life experiences than students right out of high school,” Francis says. “They have a harder time finding their niche in college.”

One person who experienced that bumpy transition long before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is Lt. Col. Gregory D. Allen,

back in the civilian world that, within three months, I went back to the recruiter to go back into the Army. My mom actually pleaded with me not to go back into the Army until I had finished one year of college. So, instead, I joined ROTC shortly after that, and I started to get into the college life a little more. For the record, I’m glad my mom talked me out of it.”

Also for the record, Allen’s military career currently totals 27 years, five as an enlisted man and 22 as an officer. “Later, I ended up getting a master’s degree while I was working full time as a deputy brigade commander and was married and had three kids.”

Like Allen, veterans want to use their educational benefits. With the end of the war in Iraq and the projected troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, along with the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill offering generous educational benefits, veterans are signing up for classes in droves. According to an April 5, 2012, editorial in *The New York Times*, “nearly 600,000 people are expected to enter classes under the G.I. Bill this year.”

FSU wants to make sure that it does right by those who have served in the military.

“Being veteran-friendly means that this is a place you can come where people are genuinely concerned with your value as a person, with honor and respect for what you’ve done in service to your country—and where people are here to help you achieve goals on an individual basis, not as a number, and to walk with you through the process,” Francis says.

Clearly, this FSU alum is on a mission.



Artist’s rendering of the proposed Veterans Legacy Complex

While experts are not sure exactly why graduation rates are lower, they do know that student veterans face a unique set of challenges, in some cases due to post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, loss of a limb, or other service-related injuries. A study in the October 2011 edition of the journal *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* says that almost 46 percent of the 628 student veterans surveyed nationally “experienced significant symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder” and that almost 46 percent were “thinking about suicide,” with 20 percent “having a plan,” and 7.7 percent “making an attempt.”

who directs Florida State’s Army ROTC unit and who is thrilled with Barron’s goal to make FSU tops for veterans. “Having a center to take care of these veterans is huge,” Allen says, praising the university’s plan to centralize academic, financial, and personal counseling for veterans.

Allen had enlisted in the Army at age 18 right out of high school, served five years, and then decided afterward to go to college to earn a bachelor’s degree, enrolling at a university near his home in the Midwest.

“But back then the veterans center was just one guy, and it was very painful,” Allen says. “I was so disheartened with being

# Marching to a new beat

## Three young veterans go from military service to campus success

*Brad VanMiddlesworth*  
By Wil Oakes



Photo by Wil Oakes

**B**rad VanMiddlesworth is used to working long days. As a postdoctoral researcher in Professor John Dorsey's chemistry lab, where he's worked for the past six years, he and his fellow scientists put in staggering hours.

Some of that focus and discipline probably came from the time VanMiddlesworth spent deployed overseas with the U.S. Marine Corps. While he looks back on his service with pride, he admits that when he signed up for the military he didn't expect he would ever see anything beyond the one-weekend-per-month training sessions required by the National Guard.

VanMiddlesworth decided to join the guard, over his mother's objections, at a time when the possibility of being called up seemed remote. The day was March 7, 2001.

After a whirlwind summer of high school graduation, boot camp, and orientation at Florida State in Fall 2001, all his expectations were turned upside down when he heard news of the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11.

He was told to stay ready to deploy at a moment's notice, and he did—for three years. Early on, VanMiddlesworth enrolled in FSU's Degree in Three program, hoping to get as many credits in as possible before his education was interrupted by war. Much to his surprise, that deployment didn't come until 2004, just a few weeks after he graduated. Soon after, he found himself working on a base in Djibouti, Africa.

Postdoctoral researcher Brad VanMiddlesworth in Professor John Dorsey's chemistry lab with a liquid chromatograph, used to analyze and identify the component parts of substances.

Because of the location of Djibouti, which lies at the junction of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden north of Somalia, the U.S. government was concerned that people might be getting smuggled out of Iraq via Saudi Arabia, so it was an important area to secure. VanMiddlesworth's unit, charged with guarding the three gates to the base, lived and worked alongside Djiboutian citizens and military personnel, even sharing bunk space.

"You'd have a guy sleeping on the bottom rack who was U.S. Marine and a guy on the top rack who was Djiboutian air force, and they have an entirely different culture," he says.

The experience had a profound impact, and while his time overseas was relatively safe compared with those who went into combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, VanMiddlesworth found the transition back to civilian life difficult when he returned to FSU for graduate school in May 2005.

"You are so mission-oriented that you're not focused on yourself at all," he says. "When you get back to college, everything slows down, but your mind doesn't slow down."

He was working in a biochemistry lab trying to readjust, a process that took him, by his estimation, as long as four months. He couldn't focus on his work, and worried for a while that he was beginning to give in to alcohol to handle his situation.

Fortunately, VanMiddlesworth was able to make the transition, and he started switching into different labs, looking for a subject that would grab his attention. He wound up working in Dorsey's lab after switching tracks from biochemistry to analytical chemistry. Now, VanMiddlesworth works for Dorsey as a postdoc on chromatography, or separation science.

While VanMiddlesworth was able to navigate the transition back to academic life on his own (he's even had to do it again, after serving briefly in Okinawa in 2006 and 2007), he knows that many other veterans have a harder time. Fortunately, he says, the university's efforts to become more veteran friendly have already begun paying off.

He knows that the uniqueness of military life is something that civilians have a hard time understanding. For veterans having

a hard time reintegrating, even a trained therapist or close friend may not be able to break through. Giving veterans a chance to meet and offer each other support, VanMiddlesworth thinks, is the answer, and establishing a permanent place to foster such support could go a long way, especially for those reclusive veterans at high risk of depression and suicide.

“If you have something—a big building that you can point to and say, ‘Look, my university cares,’ maybe they will go there,” he says.

But even the more day-to-day parts of life can be hard for military veterans, and again VanMiddlesworth sees the veteran community itself as the best antidote. He remembers meeting a veteran at the home football game designated as military appreciation day who had recently dropped a chemistry class after being unable to handle the material. As it turned out, it was a class that VanMiddlesworth, a recent recipient of an outstanding TA award, was teaching in a different section.

“Had I known, or had he known that there was a connection there, and he had said, ‘Can you teach me?’ I would have put forth the time, absolutely,” VanMiddlesworth says. “But we didn’t know. The more little situations, gatherings like that, the better supported we can be to each other. Because that’s all that it really requires in the end, is for us to support each other.”



Photo courtesy of Brad VanMiddlesworth

Former Marine Cpl. Brad VanMiddlesworth (right) with his father, Command Master Chief Michael VanMiddlesworth (center), and uncle Col. David VanMiddlesworth (left) in front of an F-14 Tomcat.



Photo by Wil Oakes

## Abby Kinch

By Wil Oakes

Abby Kinch is finishing her master’s degree in Asian studies.

**F**SU grad student Abby Kinch doesn’t suffer from any lack of ambition.

“I want to work for the State Department,” she says, then laughs and adds, “I want to be ambassador to China.”

While Kinch pokes fun at her own drive, her goal isn’t at all insincere. She finished her undergraduate career at Florida State in Fall 2011, earning her bachelor’s degree in Chinese language and culture with two minors—linguistics and Asian studies. Now, she’s preparing to spend a semester in Tianjin, China, finishing her master’s in Asian studies.

Kinch’s interest in Chinese language and culture is relatively young, however. After finishing high school in her hometown of Clearwater, Fla., she enrolled at the University of Florida, but didn’t have much of a plan and found herself uninspired by her college experience—by her own admission, she spent most of her time sitting by the pool or sleeping. After three semesters, she decided she needed an abrupt change, so she decided to join the Air Force.

Kinch enlisted and became what’s called an airborne cryptologic linguist, a job that included, among other things, learning to jump out of planes. The majority of her mission, however, was the less glamorous but even more important task of becoming bilingual. She went to the

Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., where she was assigned Chinese as her specialty and jumped into an intensive training process.

“You go from nothing, or very little, to being decently proficient in a short amount of time,” she says. “I was at language school for 73 weeks, learning Chinese eight hours a day, five days a week. We had different classes—a speaking class, a reading class—so it was very much like being in school.”

It was a brand of school, however, that appealed to Kinch in a way her previous experience hadn’t. The discipline instilled by the military and exemplified by those around her gave her focus and a new, more serious perspective.

And perspective wasn’t all she found in California. She also met and married a fellow linguist—a Russian specialist from Tallahassee named Devin. They now have two daughters, Paige, 8, and Alice, 3.

At the conclusion of her training, the young couple was set to be deployed—he to Turkey and she to Japan. Kinch had the option to leave the military—an option she took because it coincided with the birth of her first daughter—and the family came back to Florida, this time Tallahassee, where Kinch found her way into FSU and her husband started working for the School of Theatre as a lighting designer.



Abby Kinch with her husband, fellow airman and FSU alum Devin Kinch, on the campus of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif.

Her accomplishments since then include writing an undergraduate thesis on language acquisition under Associate Professor Gretchen Sunderman of the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics.

"I never worried about her completing her work and being able to handle the research process," says Sunderman. "I often had to remind myself that Abby was an undergraduate—she was already so well versed in the discipline."

Kinch thinks ending up at Florida State, with its focus on student veterans, made it easy for her to transition back to a college setting. She's taken advantage of opportunities to socialize with other veterans and has found people such as veterans affairs officer Cheryl Goodson extremely helpful in dealing with the peculiar concerns of the student veteran.

President Eric J. Barron's initiative to make FSU even more veteran friendly is one that Kinch supports enthusiastically.

"I tell everybody I meet that President Barron has made leaps and bounds as far as advocating for veteran students and wanting to provide for them," Kinch says. "I know active-duty and veteran students at other universities who don't have nearly the support, especially from the administration, that we do, and I think it's incredible."

That initiative, she believes, will help a group of students who both need and deserve an extra hand.

"I was never sent to a war zone—I was a linguist," she says. "If you give a linguist a weapon, you're kind of done for anyway. But I think it's very beneficial for becoming re-acclimated to this atmosphere for a lot of the men and women who were in that situation."



# Justin Sisson

By Susan Hellstrom



**F**SU ROTC cadet Justin Sisson had already jolted his parents once when, during the spring of his freshman year, he told them he was waiving his ROTC scholarship to enlist in the Reserves.

At the time, however, Kevin and Phyllis Sisson took comfort in the fact that their son's status as a full-time student would keep him from being deployed—that is, until he jolted them again by waiving his right to stay behind.

When the 19-year-old called around 9:30 p.m. one night in late March 2009 from outside the barracks in Starke, Fla., to break the news to his parents, both of them picked up separate land lines in their Toronto home. "It wasn't an easy conversation," Sisson says, recalling the "moans of disappointment and despair" on the other end of the line.

"I told them, 'I'm at Camp Blanding doing the pre-mobilization training with my unit,'" Sisson says. "And they asked, 'What do you mean?' And then I said, 'I'm going to Iraq in two months.'"

"After that, I think my mom hung up the phone," Sisson says. "My dad said, 'We don't agree with this, but we'll talk about it later.' I think they were too emotional to stay on the phone much longer, so it was a couple more days until I talked with them again."

Fortunately for Sisson, his parents rallied around him. "My dad is very pragmatic," Sisson says. "So I think he was the driving force behind their deciding, 'We have to support this because our son is either going to be on the streets in Iraq with our support or not. Either way, he's going to be there.'"

After that, Phyllis Sisson got on board in a practical way too, joining the family readiness group for her son's company and sending care packages. "They sent enough food and baby wipes for everybody," Justin Sisson says. "I was passing out snacks, popcorn, and those Betty Crocker microwave chocolate cakes in a bowl."

Originally, Sisson, a history major who was doing well in his classes, was not planning to deploy with his unit. But then, one day as he was driving by the armory off campus while doing errands, he had a sudden change of heart. "It's probably one of the very few impulsive things I've ever done," Sisson says. "Something just moved me, and I decided, 'This is going to happen.'"

So he stopped in and told his platoon sergeant, "Sign me up." Less than two days later, Sisson was in Camp Blanding. From there, he went to Fort McCoy, Wis.; then Kuwait; and finally Mosul, Iraq, where he was stationed from June 2009 to late May 2010.

While stationed in northern Iraq, Sisson performed various roles—gunner, driver, mechanic, electronic warfare specialist, and intelligence specialist—as part of his work in convoy security. As an intelligence specialist, he helped plan logistics for convoys, and on one mission he served as convoy commander of four gun trucks, each containing three people.

Fortunately, no one in the unit was hurt or injured during the yearlong deployment. "But whenever we went outside the gate, it was a roll of the dice," Sisson says.

Abby Kinch (left) and her twin sister, Marion.



By the time the unit returned to the States, Sisson had been awarded a Bronze Star for exceptional service, the only junior enlisted person in his company to receive the distinction. “Justin displayed maturity beyond his years and executed tasks well above his pay grade,” says Sgt. Ronald O’Brien, who recommended Sisson for the award. “Justin was intelligent, reliable, honest, worthy of trust and respect. He was the consummate professional and proved to be vital in the success of the unit’s mission. I can’t say enough about this young man.”

Returning to campus after being deployed required some adjustment. “It was almost like you pressed the pause button on your life while everyone else had moved forward,” Sisson says.

Despite feeling out of sync at first, Sisson made a successful transition back to classes and the ROTC unit, with his wartime and leadership experiences serving him and the battalion well over the next two years. In Army ROTC competitions at Fort Lewis, Wash., between his junior and senior years, Sisson was ranked in the top 5 percent of all cadets nationwide.

“Top 5 percent in the nation is pretty tough to do,” says Army Lt. Col. Gregory D. Allen, director of the Seminole Battalion. “Justin is just real sharp all the way around: physically fit, mentally tough. Add on the combat experience—he brings a lot to the table.”

In Fall 2011, Sisson led the Seminole Battalion’s Ranger Challenge team to a first-place finish in the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s 6th Brigade, which includes five Southeastern states and Puerto Rico. In Spring 2012, he was named student commander of the 180-person Seminole Battalion and won its George C. Marshall Award, given to the top cadet in each Army ROTC unit across the nation.

“He has the leadership ability,” Allen says, “and he gets along with people. You can tell the other cadets like him a lot. Even though he speaks directly if they don’t do something right, they still like him. He has that knack that he can be in charge and not tick off too many people, which is pretty hard to do sometimes.”

Now Sisson is about to make another big transition. At the end of the Spring 2012 semester, he graduated from FSU and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. After

additional training at Fort Benning, Ga., he will join the Army’s 101st Airborne in Fort Campbell, Ky.

“I just know this is a serious job,” he says. “Being a private, you see how much officers affect your life. I’m going to be leading soldiers like me, and now I hope I know what they need.”



Photos courtesy of Justin Sisson

Justin Sisson was stationed in Mosul, Iraq from June 2009 to late May 2010. In Fall 2011, he led the Seminole Battalion’s Ranger Challenge team to a first-place finish in the U.S. Army Cadet Command’s 6th Brigade, which includes five Southeastern states and Puerto Rico.



Justin Sisson (center), who graduated in Spring 2012, won the Seminole Battalion’s George C. Marshall Award, given to the top cadet in each Army ROTC unit across the nation. He is shown with his parents, Phyllis and Kevin Sisson. Kevin Sisson graduated from FSU in 1984.



# Treasures in the attic

## New director of World War II Institute works to preserve personal histories of war—and share them with the world

By Wil Oakes

Associate Professor Kurt Piehler, the new director of FSU's World War II Institute, makes his way through the institute's more than 3,000 collections.

In the attic of FSU's Bellamy Building behind an unassuming door at the top of a flight of stairs lies one of the university's most unique treasures. There, in wooden chests, tall metal cabinets, and shelf after shelf of meticulously marked boxes, the history of World War II is chronicled through a massive collection of letters, photographs, diaries, and artifacts.

These materials highlight the personal rather than the strategic or political dynamics of the war—visitors will find letters from little-known infantrymen rather than the writings of Churchill or Roosevelt. Where most collections would feature documents detailing troop movements in battle, FSU's Institute on World War II and the Human Experience might show historians how those who fought in the trenches and on the beaches coped with what they'd seen.

Or how they cleaned their socks when they got back to base.

During its first 15 years, the World War II Institute flourished under founder and director William Oldson, its holdings growing to more than 7,000 collections.

"Founding and directing the WWII Institute was the highlight of my career at FSU," says Oldson. "The chance to meet, and often interview, these remarkable men and women gave me insights into the era which are not available through any other means. Their generosity in donating their memorabilia, memories, and time was extraordinary."

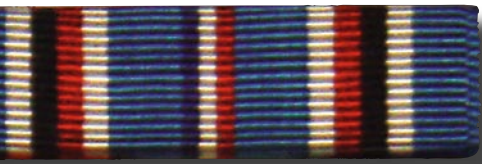
Following Oldson's retirement in 2011, the institute selected a new leader to shepherd one of the university's most valuable assets into the next phase of its development. That leader is noted World War II historian Kurt Piehler, who joined the FSU faculty in August 2011 and became the institute's second director.

The institute's unique approach and fresh perspective on World War II history was a big part of what drew Piehler to FSU.

"It's an incredible collection," he says. "I had only some inkling when I was hired how good the collection was. I detected from my colleagues and from the dean, really everyone I talked to when I was applying for the job, that they wanted greater visibility. And it's in some ways an easy job because it's a great thing to make visible."

When Piehler arrived, he was pleased not only with the contents of the collection but also with how well it had been managed prior to his arrival. Somewhere between 80 percent and 90 percent of the institute's holdings are already properly archived.

"I was pleased when I got upstairs that there weren't hundreds of boxes lying around," he says.



### A historian's path

Piehler cut his teeth as a military historian while a doctoral student at Rutgers. His dissertation project was about memory of war, and while it covered World War II, its focus was broader, taking in the full sweep of American military history.

After earning his Ph.D. in 1990, he stayed on at Rutgers for a postdoctoral appointment. It was during this time, which he used to turn his dissertation into his first book, *Remembering War the American Way*, that the course of Piehler's scholarship was diverted in an unexpected direction. He was chosen in 1994 as the founding director of the Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II.

"So I increasingly became a specialist on World War II," Piehler says, "much to my surprise. I'd sort of been given this great opportunity—an opportunity that I didn't quite grasp until I did about 30 interviews and I realized this was a gold mine. This was nothing I'd planned to do, but I was going to follow it through."



Piehler's early work in the mid-1990s brought him to the realization that World War II veterans, many of whom were either freshly retired or on the brink at that time, had a surprisingly large number of untold stories just waiting to be discovered.

"I did one interview and this man had such a fascinating story to tell," Piehler recalls. "At one point I said to him, 'Who have you told this to?' He was literally scratching his head and he said, 'Except for a few of these stories that I've told to my wife over the years, you're the first person I've really talked to about the war.'"

Continued on page 17



Among the institute's holdings is a camera used by donor and Army World War II photographer Paul Dougherty. Many of Dougherty's photos are now part of the institute's collection.

# The barracks and

The photos on these two pages offer a glimpse of what can be found in the archives of the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. All of the photos shown (right page) of the European theater come from the collection of Paul K. Dougherty, a photographer for the Ninth Air Force and Gen. George Patton's Third Army from 1943-1945. Dougherty's photographs, which helped lead to the creation of the World War II Institute at FSU, were saved from the trash in the late 1990s by his son Kevin, an FSU alumnus. Most of the photos shown on this page of the Pacific theater—with the exception of the nurses—come from the collection of Gordon McCraw, a photographer stationed in Australia and New Guinea with the 38th Bomb Group during the entire war. The photo of the nurses comes from the Edna Upham Collection. For more about World War II, see pages 8 and 24.



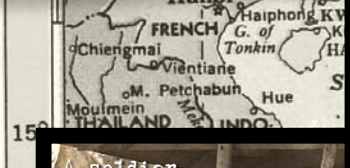
Two men enjoy a carried ration feast in a Jeep



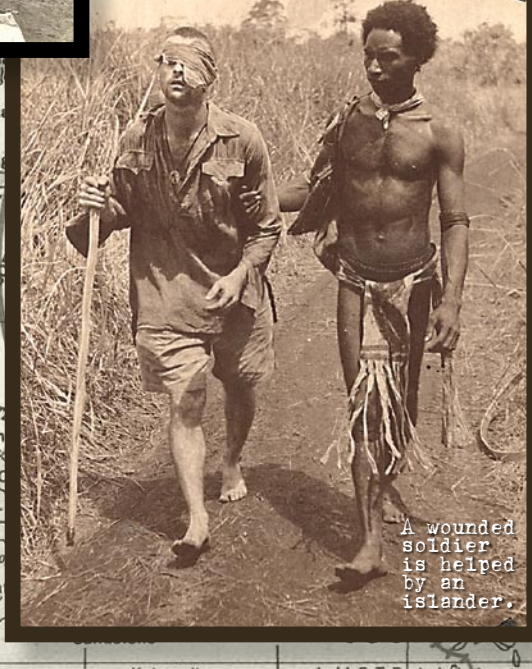
Wounded soldiers rest in a makeshift infirmary.



Two mechanics perform truck maintenance.



A soldier catches up on reading while making use of the "rumor roost."



A wounded soldier is helped by an islander.

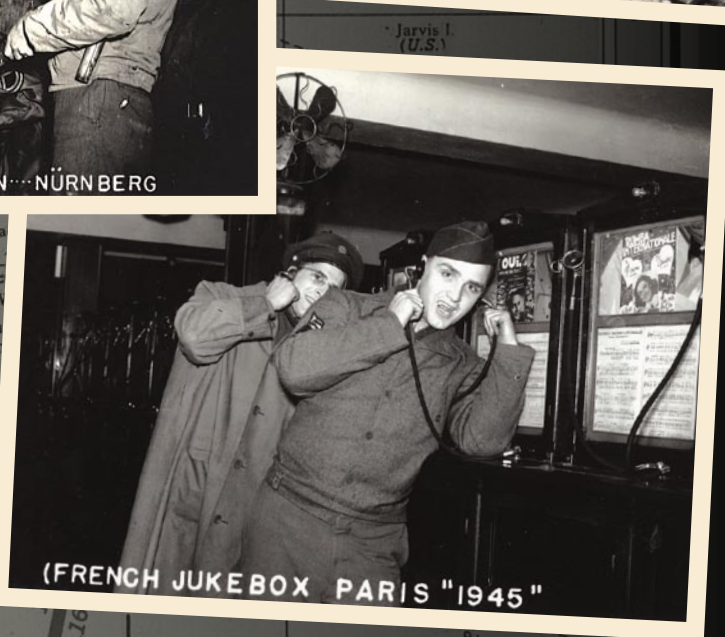
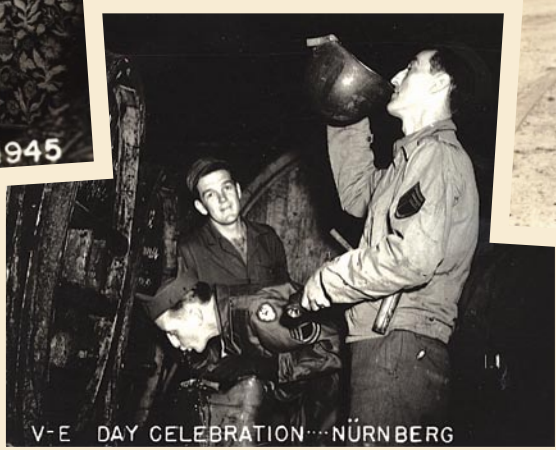
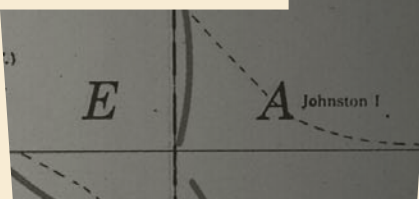
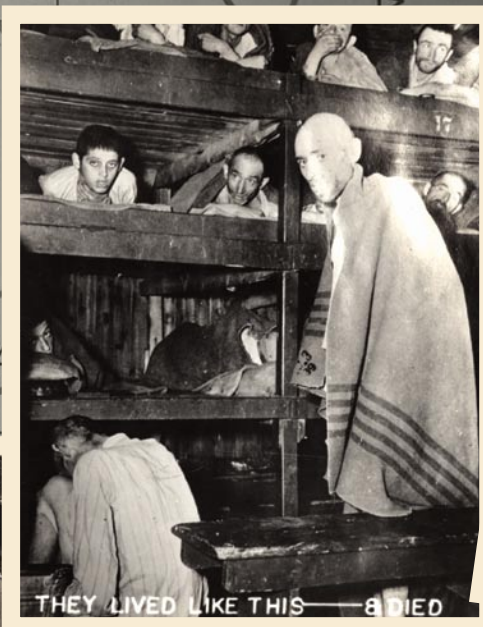


Nurses of the 161st Station Hospital prepare at Fort Dix, N.J. to travel to the Pacific in 1942.

Photos courtesy of FSU's Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

The authentic World War II map (background) belongs to Martin Young.

# the battlefield



# From financially strapped student to successful M.D.

## 1945 alumna Louise Cason remembers her alma mater with \$500K gift

By Susan Hellstrom



Photo by Nancy Smilowitz

FSCW chemistry alumnae Louise Cason (left) and Ruthie Taylor get a tour of the new chemistry facilities from Tim Logan, professor and department chair.

**A**s an undergraduate chemistry major at Florida State College for Women (FSCW) in the early 1940s, Louise Cason worked in the dining hall and as a laboratory assistant in the Department of Physics to pay her tuition. Now, several decades later, following a highly successful career in pediatric medicine and wise financial investments, Cason has made a gift to her alma mater for half a million dollars.

The gift, the M. Louise Cason M.D. Endowment, will equally fund two named endowments, one in the College of Arts and Sciences and the other in the College of Medicine. In Arts and Sciences, Cason's gift will be used for faculty research in organic chemistry and/or biochemistry.

"The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is immensely grateful to Dr. Cason, who has long served as a wonderful role model for women majoring in chemistry," says Tim Logan, department chair. "And for the department to have discretionary funding for faculty research—especially in these days of tough budgets—is both timely and most generous."

Cason appreciates what the university, particularly the chemistry and physics departments, did for her decades ago. "I have great loyalty to FSU," the 89-year-old retired pediatrician says, recalling a couple of the many people from FSCW who touched her life, one of whom was her professor in organic chemistry and biochemistry.

Before she even arrived on campus, Cason was no stranger to hard work. After all, her father had died in 1926 when she was just 3 years old, leaving her with vivid memories of her mother's struggle to raise four young children on her own in Lakeland, Fla. during the Depression. Her childhood also left her with what seemed like an impossible dream in that era for a young girl: She wanted to become a medical doctor.

Fortunately, Cason found encouragement in a young high school physics teacher, 1937 FSCW alumna Marion Brantley Florin, and graduated with honors from Lakeland High School. After that, Cason enrolled at FSCW.

And so the young chemistry major's hard work—not only in the dining hall and in the laboratory, but also in the classroom—caught the attention of someone who would become another key mentor in her life. That person was chemistry Professor Jennie Tilt, who had earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and who had held leadership roles in several scientific organizations, among them the Florida Academy of Sciences.

"Dr. Tilt was one of the finest teachers I ever had," Cason says. "She was hard on me, but she was hard on everybody. She used to watch me in the lab—she expected a lot out of me."

Tilt, who had joined the FSCW faculty in 1923, encouraged Cason to pursue her dream of a medical career. "Dr. Tilt told me that if I did certain things—basically, that if I was the best student in chemistry she ever saw—she would write a really strong letter of recommendation for me to the University of Chicago Medical School," Cason says.

For financial reasons, however, Cason had to take a hiatus from full-time studies at the end of her third year at FSCW. So Tilt helped Cason find a job as a chemical analyst at the Goodyear Synthetic Rubber Company in Houston. "With the war on, there was a mad dash to create something synthetic that you could make tires out of," Cason says.

"I worked the 4 p.m.-to-midnight shift and was the only woman in the plant, although I was never hassled by any of the men," Cason says. "As part of my job, I used to climb on top of the railroad cars to collect samples out of the tanks."

In addition to working full-time in the plant—and with Tilt as her advocate—Cason continued her college coursework at the University of Houston, where she took physical chemistry and petroleum chemistry, which she describes as two of the hardest courses she ever took. Yet, despite the difficulty of the courses and the pressures of working full time, Cason had already decided that, if she never made it into medical school, she would pursue a career in the burgeoning petroleum industry.

Fortunately, Cason did get accepted into the University of Chicago Medical School and received a full scholarship, thanks in part to a strong letter of recommendation from Tilt. Also thanks in part to Tilt, Cason received her B.S. degree from FSCW in 1945 even though she had taken part of her coursework in Houston.

After graduating from medical school, Cason completed residencies at Duke University and Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn (later called the Interfaith Medical Center) and then set up her own practice in 1953 in Coconut Grove in South Florida. She was affiliated since the early 1950s with Variety Children's Hospital in Miami (which later became Miami Children's Hospital), serving as chief of pediatrics from 1958-1971 and director of outpatient clinics and emergency services from 1981-1987. As director, she led a \$50 million renovation of the clinic and ambulatory service. Cason retired in 1988.

Louise Cason, who graduated from FSCW in 1945 with a B.S. in chemistry, received her medical degree from the University of Chicago and went on to have a successful career in pediatrics and hospital administration in the Miami area.

Now, as she looks back over her life, Cason still has many fond memories of her FSCW mentors and coursework, but perhaps none fonder than her memory of Professor Jennie Tilt and the chemistry department.

"Chemistry teaches you to think and to work hard," Cason says. "I don't think I would have gotten into medical school if I hadn't majored in chemistry."

In turn, the department sees her gift as a way to foster the Jennie Tilts and Louise Casons of future generations.

"We are honored that previous chemistry faculty were so inspirational to Dr. Cason," Logan says, "and hope that the research supported by these funds will also propel current students toward their future careers."

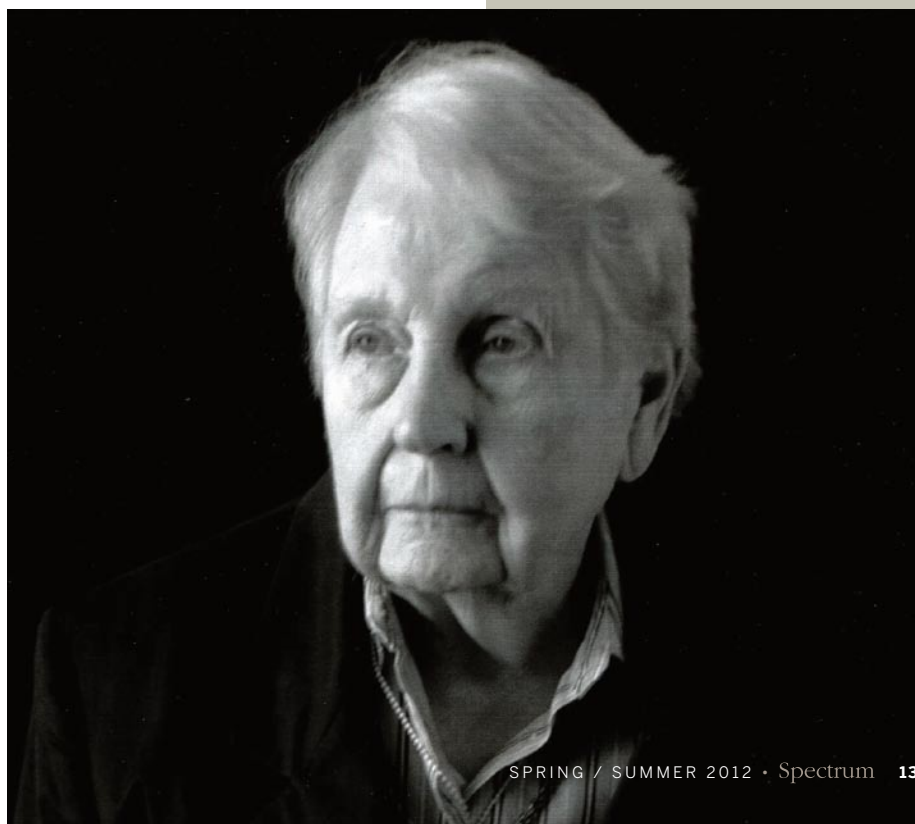
*"I have great loyalty to FSU," Louise Cason says.*

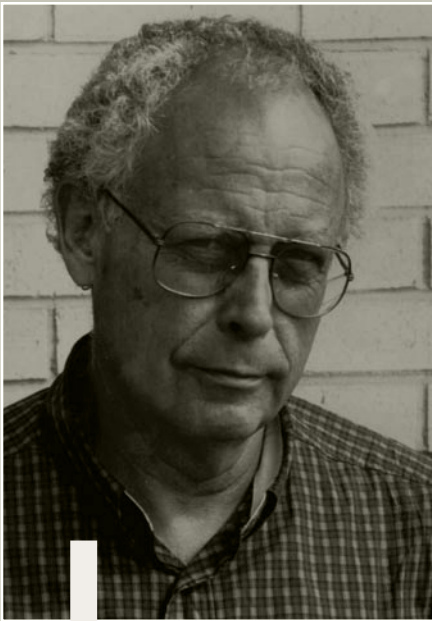


Louise Cason in her yearbook photo while a junior at Florida State College for Women (FSCW).



FSCW chemistry Professor Jennie Tilt (above) was a mentor to Louise Cason.





## James P. Jones Fellowship for Teaching Excellence

Friends and former students of Professor Jim Jones have contributed to the James P. Jones Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. The purpose of the fund is to reward as many as two graduate students per semester for their outstanding teaching of history at Florida State University. If you are interested in contributing to this fund or establishing your own named endowment in honor of a former professor or a family member, contact Assistant Dean Nancy Smilowitz at [nsmilowi@fsu.edu](mailto:nsmilowi@fsu.edu) or (850) 294-1034.

# One for the history books

## Jim Jones closes in on 54 years as an FSU tenured professor

By Wil Oakes

History Professor Jim Jones can still remember the day, in 1957, when the course the rest of his life would take was set in place. He was living in Gainesville, Fla., working on finishing up his Ph.D. while trying to find a job in a market that was, by his estimation, “terrible.”

Despite help from his mentors at the University of Florida, the search had not been going well, and was made all the more stressful by the fact that his daughter had just been born six months earlier. When good news finally came, it came suddenly.

“I was washing diapers in the side yard,” recalls Jones, “and up came my major professor driving faster than I’d ever seen him drive. He said, ‘Get up to Tallahassee tomorrow—they’ve got a job opening.’”

That an opportunity came up so nearby when Jones had been searching the whole country for one was a curious coincidence, but there was no time to ask questions.

“I got up here the next day,” he says. “I’d never published a word. I interviewed with the chairman, and he said, ‘Fine.’ He hired me on the spot. It’s the only job I’ve ever applied for. Two years later I automatically got tenure having still published nothing and just barely finished my Ph.D. It was a really different world.”

Jones went on to become a well-published and well-respected Civil War scholar and beloved teacher to generations of FSU students. He will soon complete his 54th year at Florida State as a tenured professor, and that kind of longevity means that he’s been able to both watch and play an active role in the development of the university over more than one-third of its entire history.

### Growing up and taking sides

Jones was raised in Jacksonville, Fla., where his interest in Civil War history took root almost inevitably.

“If you grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, in the 1930s and ’40s, you’d think the Civil War had been over for two weeks,” he says. “It was still something talked about a lot and argued about a lot.”

Jones’s great-great-grandfathers on his mother’s side both fought in the war, and his own great-grandmother was in Charleston and actually heard the opening shots. She lived to age 96, and Jones remembers talking to her about it frequently.

But, with the exception of his immediate family, Jones’s relatives were “unreconstructed Southerners,” as he puts it, whose love of the Confederacy he couldn’t share.

“I immediately allied with my parents,” he says. “And so I came along in Jacksonville as kind of an oddity. Lincoln was my hero, not Robert E. Lee.”

While Jones’s parents weren’t academics themselves—his father was a railroad engineer on the Florida East Coast Railway and his mother was entirely self-educated—they both encouraged him to learn. He remembers his childhood home as being covered in bookcases, many of which were filled with classical music, a passion of his still. That well-rounded upbringing still shows today.

“Jim is probably the most well-rounded person I have ever met,” says fellow history Professor Maxine Jones. “He talks easily about the opera, Broadway shows, The New York Times best-seller list, and sports.”



When the time came to choose a career path, Jones initially planned to become a public school teacher, so he went to Emory's Oxford College, a two-year junior college in Oxford, Ga., before moving on to Gainesville, planning to get his education degree at UF. But the material didn't suit him, and the people he knew in the history department talked him into switching over and then going on to graduate school. He credits the faculty there—particularly William Graves “Wild Bill” Carleton and his major professor, William Baringer—for teaching him not only about history but about teaching it well.

“All those guys were just encouraging and helpful, so my education at the University of Florida couldn't have been any better,” Jones says.

### Teaching history ... and living it

Jones still remembers his very first day of teaching—a Western Civilization class on Sept. 19, 1957. While a few things have remained the same, most of them, in his opinion, have changed—mostly for the better. He has seen improvement in the quality of students as well as in the facilities, and is quick to bring up one of his favorite advances.

“It's air conditioning,” he says. “When I first came here, classes didn't begin quite as early as now, but they began in September. And Tallahassee in September is hot as hell.”

But many of the changes, while much more important than air conditioning, came with more difficulty. Jones was actively involved in the fight throughout the late '50s and '60s to integrate the campus—as well as the entire city of Tallahassee, a fight led by students at Florida A&M University.

“FAMU students at that time almost exclusively were trying to integrate eating places,” he says. “I was involved in this group that raised bail money for them, because they *were* going to get arrested.”

That group included most of the history faculty, something Jones clearly takes a lot of pride in. His personal role in the struggle is still remembered as crucial by many who were there, including law professor and former FSU President Sandy D'Alemberte.

“This was a period of considerable unrest on campuses around the country due to the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement,” D'Alemberte says. “I was anti-war and pro-civil rights. As I got to know FSU students active in these movements, I also got to know the faculty who supported them, and Jim was one of that group. We became friends then and have remained friends since.”

Jones always brought what was going on outside the walls of FSU into his classroom, and his fearlessness in doing so has had a profound impact on students from the 1960s up to the present day.

“That was what Dr. Jones brought to each and every class,” says Jack Lamb, a former student who first met Jones in 1967. “If something outside of the classroom was more important, then that was what we discussed. I have not met personally any student who did not come away with a positive change about how they see the world and our country after meeting Jim Jones.”

The diversification of campus demographics, Jones thinks, makes for a better educational experience all around, but especially for a class on the Civil War.

“When I began, anybody I had in a Civil War class probably had a family member that had something to do with the Civil War,” he says. “At that time, you would get far more unreconstructed Southerners. Far fewer now, and in part it's because, of course, the world's changed. But in part I think it's because of the Gonzalezes and Ramirezes and people like that that I have in class—they don't have any family stake in the Civil War. Their families were not here.”

### A professor without borders

Jones has watched FSU change right along with the world at large. When he first came to campus, pretty much the entire thing was located east of Landis Green. The history department was located in what is now called the Williams Building (named for the first chair of the history department, Arthur Williams, in 1963).



Professor Jim Jones views an image of Josef Stalin in Irkutsk, Siberia in 1999 when Jones traveled from Moscow to Beijing on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Photos courtesy of Jim Jones

Jones made the move to Bellamy along with his colleagues in 1968, just after the building was completed.

And after so much time on campus (Jones has taught his Civil War class now an amazing 91 times), his role at Florida State has morphed and expanded. During his tenure, he has served on both the university's Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Athletic Board (an especially amazing transformation for a former Gator fan). He was part of the hiring committee that brought football coach Bobby Bowden to FSU in 1976.

Bowden wasn't Jones's only brush with fame. He also taught actor Burt Reynolds, former U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez, astronaut Norman Thagard, and pro football star Ron "Jingle Joints" Sellers, a college football All-American in 1967 and 1968.

Venturing beyond his duties as a professor of history has brought Jones to see FSU as more than just an employer. His investment in the university is much wider than his own career or even his own department.

"You get to know faculty members all over campus," says Jones. "I served on the Promotion and Tenure Committee for about 15 years, so I have really good friends in the law school, the music school, in chemistry—all over the university."

The difficulty of having such a long tenure, he admits, is that many friends have either retired or died. But on the other hand, new people are always on the way in, and Jones continues to enjoy his colleagues and the new students who show up in his classes each semester. He recently helped his friends, poets David Kirby and Barbara Hamby of the English department, plan their trip to Russia (Jones traveled from Moscow to Beijing once on the Trans-Siberian Railroad).

His colleagues and peers, some of whom started out as his students, sing his praises as a teacher, scholar, and friend as well.

"Jim Jones is one year older than my father," says Professor Ed Gray of the FSU history department. "But I relate to him not as son to father. I relate to him as bloke-to-bloke, bud-to-bud, Cardinals fan-to-Cardinals fan (even though I'm a White Sox fan ...). He's just that kind of person—a real mensch. And that's why the students love him."

Emeritus Professor Joe Richardson had Jones as a mentor before joining him on the history faculty.

"I took a graduate class with him more than 50 years ago," says Richardson. "I thought he was the best teacher I ever had. Remarkably, 50 years later students still feel the same way. He teaches students about history, but also about life and proper treatment of fellow citizens."

Stewart Edwards was a student of Jones's in the late '80s and throughout the '90s as he got his master's and doctoral degrees. He is now a professor of history at Lee College in Texas.

"I was fortunate to have many great professors both as an undergraduate and a graduate student, but I can say without exaggeration that Jim Jones was the best of them all," says Edwards. "He is hands-down the best lecturer I've ever seen, and I've modeled my own teaching style on his as closely as possible."

#### **An irreplaceable human resource**

Still, after so much time, Jones knows that retirement is an inevitable, if unwelcome, part of his near future. He hasn't decided exactly when, but the time isn't far off, and while retirement for some might be a welcome thing, Jones will miss his days at FSU more than he cares to imagine.

"The thing I'll miss most will be the people," he says. "And the classes, the teaching. I can't imagine never again lecturing on Stalingrad or Gettysburg or Lincoln's election in 1860. These are important, really important things that have made our world, and I just love to do that. With the number of people who've retired or died, I think it may now be the classes themselves and relating to students—relating to really, really good students. And I've got people in Civil War right now who are as good as anybody I've ever had."

After having a surprisingly easy time getting the only job he ever applied for, it seems the hardest thing about it for Jones will likely be letting it go.

"I don't even want to think about it," he says. "I think it will be very tough, because I still love to do it."

The loss of Jones will likewise be very tough for Florida State, which has benefited from his life and work now for more than half a century.

"I consider him my 'spiritual brother,'" says Maxine Jones. "When he leaves, he will be irreplaceable."

Professor Jim Jones walks the route of Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg in the summer of 2011.

*"When I began  
[teaching at FSU],*

*anybody I had in*

*a Civil War class*

*probably had a family*

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*something to do with*

*the Civil War,"*

*Jim Jones says.*



Photo courtesy of Jim Jones

## Continued from page 9

Once he'd begun down that path, there was no stopping. Piehler directed the archive at Rutgers for four years before moving to the University of Tennessee in 1998, where he became director of UT's Center for the Study of War and Society. By the time he arrived at FSU last fall, he'd amassed nearly two decades of experience uncovering the nearly lost stories of World War II.

### A great resource, becoming even greater

The World War II Institute has counted numerous successes in recent years, perhaps most notably its selection by television news giant Tom Brokaw as the permanent home for the thousands of items he collected while writing *The Greatest Generation*. Brokaw also agreed to serve as honorary chairman of the advisory board, which brings welcome publicity to the institute.

Piehler sees a future that involves greater access, not only for scholars but for the general public, to FSU's vast holdings. A new Veterans Legacy Complex slated for construction on campus will soon house an exhibition space where the public can see firsthand the letters of soldiers, seized German documents, or a pair of Japanese binoculars about the size of an average suitcase. The plans also include a research room for scholars and students, as well as an expanded archival area to replace the Bellamy storage space.

In addition to that new physical presence, Piehler wants to increase the presence of the institute in the public consciousness. Already, a research and seminar program has brought two nationally known scholars to Tallahassee. More conferences,



Photos by Wil Oakes

These Japanese binoculars are so large that they had to be mounted on a stand to be used. A dollar bill is included in the photo for scale.

including one on religion in World War II coordinated with Professor John Corrigan of the religion department to be held in December 2012, are already being scheduled. In the long term, Piehler would like to see funds for postdoctoral researchers to work with the collections.

"The research collection alone is really remarkable," he says. "I was pleased to see that it's already being widely used among FSU students, but I want to make sure it's being used by scholars both nationally and internationally."

### The race for preservation

As World War II veterans age, of course, the time that remains to ensure that their stories aren't lost grows shorter and shorter. For those already gone, the institute's only chance at preservation is to make sure children and grandchildren of veterans understand the value of the things they may find in an attic or an old trunk.

"We have this one potential donor of a collection," Piehler says. "She has this sort of a time capsule trunk of her mother's. It was put, I think, in a

garage or barn somewhere. It was closed up after she was discharged from WWII service and hadn't been opened until a few years ago. It has her letters—they haven't been sifted through. It even has her military-issued underwear."

While these artifacts are pieces of history to scholars, they are deeply personal to the families who donate them, something that Piehler always keeps in mind when considering taking on a new collection. More than anything, however, Piehler knows that the historical value in what might otherwise appear to be trash is worth working for. The best way to save it is to spread the word.

"Particularly now, one of the patterns we find is grandchildren cleaning out attics and finding this material," he says. "We want to make sure it either is treasured by the family or it goes to another collection or it comes to us. What we don't want is for it to go in the garbage. That's what we're really fighting."



This photo and the two pins to the right are part of a small display collection kept in Kurt Piehler's office.

# Psychology alum Bill Jenkins honors his Ph.D. advisor

By Wil Oakes

**W**hen Bill Jenkins came to FSU as an undergraduate in 1970, he had some financial support from his parents but knew that he would have to fund a lot of his education himself. Part-time jobs and summer work made a difference, but to find all the funding he needed, he had to turn to the university itself for help.

“The staff providing student services that helped with identifying work-study positions or off-campus positions was fantastic,” he recalls. “I had the sense that these folks really cared for the students and their success. Whenever I needed their help, I got it.”

He found the same kind of support in his academic life in the Department of Psychology.

“The faculty made science interesting and fun,” Jenkins says. “They challenged our intellectual development. I feel that Florida State University really prepared me for life as a scientist but also with a strong sense of the desire to help others with that science.”

Helping others is exactly what he’s done—for years in his work with the educational software company Scientific Learning, and more recently by helping the university that helped him. Most recently, Jenkins has directed \$600,000 through an estate gift to supplement his original \$300,000 outright contribution, which established the R. Bruce Masterton Endowed Professorship.

It was in large part his relationship with Masterton, who taught psychology at FSU from 1966 until his death in 1996, that inspired Jenkins’s generosity.

“He had a rapport with students that challenged their interest in knowledge about how the brain works,” Jenkins says.



William Jenkins (second from left) attends the Spring 2012 ceremony to award the first R. Bruce Masterton Eminent Scholar Chair in Neuroscience to Rick Hyson (far right). With them are Masterton’s son Alex (left) and widow, Pauline.

Photo by Nancy Smlowitz

“Bruce was a great mentor—he was always friendly but also challenged you to learn more. Also, I would say that both Bruce and his wife, Pauline, made you feel like you were part of their family.”

Jenkins remembers Masterton, a renowned psychobiologist, as an equally dedicated scholar and teacher who pushed his students to excel not just in the scientific part of their work.

“Bruce had a real love of scholarship and writing,” Jenkins says. “I think most of his graduate students would recall the interactions over our various papers and the number of rewrites required until the content was ‘just right.’”

Jenkins valued Masterton as a mentor so much that he stayed at FSU after finishing his bachelor’s degree, earning his master’s degree in 1976 and his Ph.D. in 1980.

After Jenkins earned his Ph.D., he did postdoctoral research at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) with Professor Michael M. Merzenich, a leading

researcher in auditory neuroscience. This time, Jenkins had no need to worry with part-time jobs or work-study programs, as his work was supported by a prestigious National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health. Jenkins eventually became a research associate at UCSF and later a faculty member.

Jenkins continued to work with Merzenich at UCSF, their research focusing on brain plasticity and the effects of behavior in shaping physiological changes in the brain that also result in changes in behavior.

The pair decided to apply their research to practical problems. They wanted to train the brain to better process language while improving foundational cognitive skills. From that initiative, Scientific Learning, an educational software company founded by Jenkins and Merzenich along with fellow scientists Paula A. Tallal and Steven L. Miller, was born. Jenkins now serves as Scientific Learning’s chief scientific officer, and the company’s products have been used by more than 3 million students in 44 countries.

After all his success since leaving FSU, Jenkins still gives a lot of credit to his alma mater and to the professors, especially Masterton, who gave him a solid foundation in his discipline. Jenkins's gift is already having an impact on maintaining that tradition of solid instruction. The new professorship named for Masterton was awarded to psychology Professor Rick Hyson in Spring 2012.

"I am extremely honored that my colleagues selected me to be named the inaugural Masterton Professor, and I cannot thank Bill Jenkins enough for creating this endowment in Bruce's honor," says Hyson. "Bruce was a big reason why I applied for a job here and a big reason why I came."

For Jenkins, the decision to support the psychology department was easy.

"I felt that Florida State University and Dr. Bruce Masterton had done so much to help me develop intellectually and professionally," he says. "I wanted to give something back to help keep that tradition of scholarship and an interest in the sciences of brain and behavior part of the fabric of FSU."



Photo courtesy of Pauline Masterton

Bill Jenkins (left) is shown with his Ph.D. advisor, Professor R. Bruce Masterton, a faculty member of the Department of Psychology from 1967 until his sudden death in 1996. Jenkins came to FSU as a freshman in the fall of 1970 and stayed until he earned his Ph.D. in the spring of 1980.

## Danfoss Turbocor gift helps marine lab

**R**icardo Schneider (right), president and CEO of Danfoss Turbocor, presents a check for \$45,000 to Felicia Coleman, director of the Florida State University Coastal & Marine Laboratory, so that the lab can buy an underwater camera. The camera will be part of a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) for the boat being built for the lab.

On the left is Jeff Ereckson, director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Danfoss Turbocor, headquartered in Tallahassee, Fla., designs and manufactures compressors for the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning industry.



Photo by Melissa Roberts of Danfoss Turbocor



# Institute for Successful Longevity

**W**ith people living longer than ever before, the need for new discoveries to promote health and quality of life in old age has never been greater. FSU's new Institute for Successful Longevity, an interdisciplinary partnership including the College of Arts and Sciences, addresses the 21st-century challenge of unlocking the secrets of aging well.

The institute, which is led in part by psychology professors Neil Charness and Walter Boot from the College of Arts and Sciences, addresses issues of aging across a wide spectrum.

Charness and Boot are already involved in the Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE), a 13-year-old project funded by the National Institute on Aging that aims to help older Americans participate in the evolving world of technology. Through CREATE, the professors have developed software to help older people keep their social lives engaged. Other projects with the Florida Department of Transportation have improved driving safety for older drivers and those who share the road with them. Charness and Boot have even made discoveries about the possibility of reversing cognitive declines in older people through the use of video games.

Charness, Boot, and their colleagues in the new institute hope to make headway in understanding the mechanisms of age-associated disorders and functional and cognitive declines.

"To improve cognitive functioning as we age, we need to understand cognitive development across the lifespan from the perspective of disciplines such as cognitive science, biology, exercise science, nutrition science, and others," according to Charness and Boot. "It takes multidisciplinary teams to create the knowledge and the technology to support effective interventions."

Already, the psychology department—with the help of the College of Medicine—has organized a successful speaker series on successful longevity. That series, which ran in Spring 2012, is slated to continue in the coming year and, with the support of donors, become permanent.

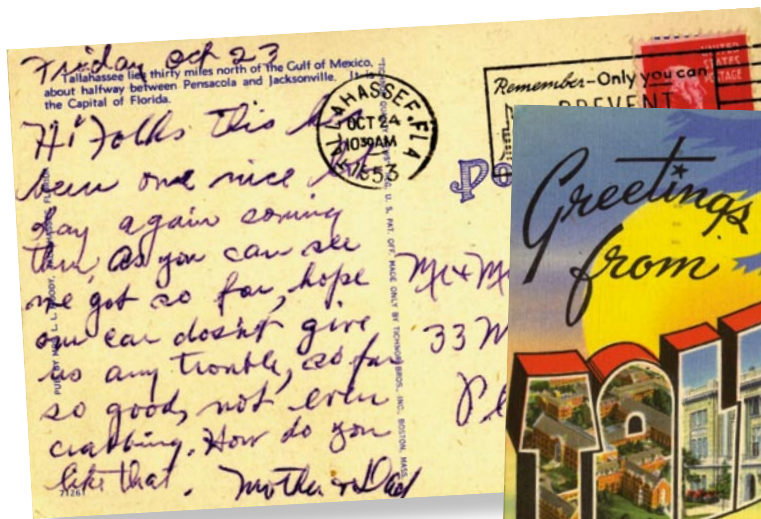
To reach its goals, the institute needs additional staff and facilities, in particular a neuropsychologist who specializes in cognitive aging and facilities such as an MRI center, a virtual reality center, and an updated driving simulator.

The institute will build on strengths FSU has had for a long time. Combining the expertise from the Department of Psychology with FSU's excellent programs in medicine, nursing, social work, nutrition, human performance, and cognition will create a formidable, interdisciplinary response to one of the world's fastest-growing challenges.



**A** As part of the comprehensive fundraising campaign in the College of Arts and Sciences, various new initiatives have arisen, many in response to President Eric Barron's call for "Big Ideas." These initiatives are changing the face of Florida State University and paving the way for an innovative and interdisciplinary future—all through the support of alumni and friends.

Innovation through philanthropy



## Center for Everyday Writing

**W**orried about troop morale in World War II, the U.S. government encouraged letter writing on the homefront—even devising a way to deliver it more cheaply by using microfilm. Years before that, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, postcards delivered twice a day provided one of the most common ways for ordinary people to compose.

These were just two of the many interesting facts that audience members learned during the April 11 daylong seminar “Archives With a View: Everyday Writing and What It Can Teach Us,” the kickoff event for FSU’s new Center for Everyday Writing (CEW).

The sorts of everyday writing on display or under discussion during the seminar included postcards, letters, clay tablets, scrapbooks, handwriting practice books, diaries, and artists books.

“The writing of everyday people has been a neglected area of study,” says Professor Kathleen Yancey, director of the new center. “But as we see in the many examples of writing and the various disciplinary backgrounds of the people participating in today’s event—including undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty—this is a topic that’s quite compelling, in part because we too are everyday writers.

“What the center will do, in part, is help us locate materials of everyday writing and archive them physically and digitally so that we can develop a first-of-its-kind systematic program of study,” she says. “And we look forward to connecting to the community in these efforts as well.”

Held in the Williams Building, the seminar featured talks by Professors Robert Olen Butler, Michael Neal, Elaine Treharne, and Yancey, all of the Department of English; Assistant Professor Denise Bookwalter of the Department of Art; and history Professor Kurt Piehler, the new director of FSU’s Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. Also participating in the presentations were Ben Yadon and Kim York of FSU’s University Libraries, as well as graduate students Katie Bridgman, Leigh Graziano, and Stephen McElroy of the English department.

The center, sponsored primarily by the College of Arts and Sciences, will feature a series of events in the fall; over the summer, the CEW will launch its website, which will host a video of Butler’s talk. Connected to the website will be a blog hosting monthly interactions.

Everyday writing—which includes postcards, letters, diaries, scrapbooks, and other materials created by ordinary people—has been a neglected area of study, says Professor Kathleen Yancey. The FSU postcards shown here belong to Assistant Dean Nancy Smilowitz, and the World War II image is courtesy of Yancey.





African Music and Dance Week brought a variety of performers to the Florida State and Florida A&M campuses. This photo: Dancer and choreographer Diadié Bathily leads a dance workshop. Below: Kora player Morikéba Kouyaté performs with the FSU African Drum and Dance Ensemble. Bottom: Percussionist Eric Goré drums while Bathily (masked) performs a Zaouli mask dance from Côte d'Ivoire.

Photo by Joseph Hellweg

## Institute for Research on Performance in Context

The sounds of drums and the harp-like plucking of the West African instrument called the kora could be heard wafting out of venues scattered over the FSU campus. Those sounds were the result of African Music and Dance Week, a five-day event in March 2012 featuring performers at both the FSU and Florida A&M University campuses. Events included dance workshops, a film screening, lectures, and the FSU African Drum and Dance Ensemble, which—with the help of some special guests—brought the Ruby Diamond Concert Hall audience to its feet.

These events were the first of what organizers hope will become the many cultural contributions of the nascent Institute for Research on Performance in Context, spearheaded in Spring 2012 by Associate Professor Laurel Fulkerson of the Department of Classics. The institute brings together the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Music, and the College of Visual Arts, Theatre, and Dance.

“At the core of the center’s mission is the study of performance in its diverse cultural contexts, from dance, ritual, and theater to genres from around the world and the performed aspects of everyday life,” says religion Assistant Professor Joseph Hellweg, who represents Arts and Sciences on the institute’s steering committee.

After the success of African Music and Dance Week, the institute’s steering committee—music Professor Douglass Seaton, theater Professor Mary Karen Dahl, and Hellweg—intend to expand the institute’s offerings.

“The institute aspires to host residencies for world-renowned visiting artists, talks and international conferences involving scholars from across the disciplines, research by FSU faculty about and through performance, and projects using performance to build bridges with the Tallahassee community,” says Hellweg.

Organizers hope to plan events around a theme each semester. An exploration of Balinese music and dance might feature gamelan (an Indonesian music ensemble made up mainly of percussion instruments) and dance performances accompanied by a symposium on Indonesian performance styles. An exploration of theater’s social impact might include a performance on life in Tallahassee jointly devised by a visiting director and Tallahassee residents.

The institute will foster collaborations among faculty and students in dance, music, and theater; link them more closely to colleagues in the humanities, sciences, and beyond; and host national and international figures to share their knowledge of performance styles from across the globe.



Photo by David R. Schuhart, DRS Photos



Photo by David R. Schuhart, DRS Photos



# Veterans Legacy Complex

In 2011, Florida State University committed to becoming the most empowering university in the nation for veterans. At the heart of the university's efforts is the construction of the Florida State University Veterans Legacy Complex.

The complex will bring together three of FSU's military-oriented institutions to provide them with a central location and new facilities.

The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, which houses the nation's largest private collection of WWII memorabilia, will move to the complex and into much-needed new archival facilities, as well as a public gallery and reading room.



The Veterans Center will occupy a second building. The center helps students transition from military to campus life. It also serves as an advocate for veterans' issues throughout the university.

"The focus of the program is to help people achieve their goals while they are at FSU," says Billy Francis, the center's new director, "and to deal with any physical or mental challenges while they're here."

Finally, the Army and Air Force ROTC programs, which enroll about 150 and 100 students each semester respectively, will

move into a third, three-story building with conference rooms, multipurpose classroom space, labs, and a military history exhibit area.

The complex is planned for construction near Doak Campbell Stadium. With the support of alumni and friends, FSU will become an example of veteran-friendly education for colleges and universities across the nation.

For more on the plans for the Veterans Legacy Complex, see page 2. For more on the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, see page 8.

# Inter-American Seas Research Consortium

FSU's new Inter-American Seas Research Consortium (ISRC) brings together researchers from disciplines in the sciences as well as the humanities, law, and business to address real-world issues in the large marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Southeastern U.S. Continental Shelf.

Citing the interconnectedness of these areas through physical as well as social factors, the ISRC attempts to take a multifaceted approach to complex problems.

"Let's say some place in the Caribbean had a fishery problem and they wanted to put the best minds on how to solve that problem," says Felicia Coleman, co-director of the ISRC's executive committee. "Then



Photo by N. P. Smith

we bring in people from all over the world who are the best at what they do to tackle those sorts of problems."

And those people wouldn't just be fisheries experts. Coleman sees problems that cross political and social boundaries requiring skill sets beyond any one discipline.

"If we're going to do that, we really need to understand those cultures and be sensitive to those similarities and differences in points of view," she says. "That means we need people who study cultures and can do that for us.

That includes anthropologists and economists and scientists and policy people."

The ISRC also has goals related to education and scholarship; these have already begun to be addressed through the initiation of a series of symposia, the second of which was held on March 14.

The ISRC, a part of FSU's Coastal and Marine Laboratory, has three areas of focus: coastal and marine science; societies, culture, and connections; and law, risk, and governance.

# final takes

Photos courtesy of the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience and FSU's Heritage Protocol Collection



FSU's Institute on World War II and the Human Experience has a wealth of photos documenting the lives of soldiers embroiled in the war in both the Pacific and European theaters, as well as a fascinating collection depicting life on the homefront in and around Tallahassee.

Top: Men show off a gator, probably in the Lake Bradford area, in July 1943. Center: Florida State College for Women (FSCW) students tend to FSCW's Victory Garden. Bottom: Men and women congregate outside the Tallahassee USO center. Right: A soldier trains for war at Lake Bradford.



**Nancy Smilowitz**

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. As the daughter of a professor at a large public research university, Nancy grew up in a family that valued higher education, and she sees her work at FSU as a continuation of those values nurtured by her parents.

May 2011 marked 13 years that Nancy has been in the Office of Development at Florida State University's College of Arts and Sciences. Having begun her time at FSU as an associate director, she became senior director in 2002 and assistant dean in 2008. In her 14 years as a liaison between the College of Arts and Sciences and the FSU Foundation, Nancy has raised over \$25 million through outright and deferred gifts.

Before arriving at Florida State, Nancy earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Penn State University, where she also worked part-time in the phone center, first as a student fund raiser and later as a supervisor. 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. Currently, Nancy and her husband, Matt, live in Tallahassee.

**Nancy Smilowitz**

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**Jeff Ereckson**

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 several donors and development officers 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 was also an active alumnus with the university by serving on the FSU Alumni Board as well as the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Council for eight years. He and his wife, Renee, currently live in Tallahassee with their two teenage sons.

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**Leslie Deslis**

Originally from Leesburg, Fla., Leslie Deslis graduated from FSU in 2010 with dual bachelor's degrees: one in marketing and the other in merchandising and product development. While in school, Leslie served as a program ambassador for the College of Business sales program and worked as the marketing director for the News Service of Florida. These positions enabled her to develop communication skills vital to her role as development officer for the College of Arts and Sciences. In her new role, Leslie works closely with alumni and friends of the college to ensure that they can support the college in a way that fulfills their own passions and enhances the lives of current and future Florida State students.

**Leslie Deslis**

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**Torri Miller**

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.

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**Do you recognize this man?**

If this face looks familiar, then maybe you are one of the more than 21,000 former students who have taken a class on the Civil War, World War II, or another history subject from Professor Jim Jones. He is shown here in 1999 in the Gobi Desert, which straddles parts of China and Mongolia. To read about his own history, see page 14.