



September 23, 2008

Dear Board of Governors and Boards of Trustees Members:

### **Chair's Listening Tour continues**

The BOG's new **Chair, Sheila McDevitt**, continues on her listening tour throughout the State University System of Florida. She has now met with the Boards of Trustees and community leaders from UCF, UF, New College, USF, FIU, FAU, and FSU. Visits to UNF, UWF, and FAMU are being scheduled and should be completed before November, 2008.

### **Chancellor Returning to University Classroom**

**Chancellor Mark B. Rosenberg** announced on September 22<sup>nd</sup> that he intends to end his service to the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida and return to Florida International University as a member of the faculty. He said would remain as Chancellor until February 2009.

Rosenberg has been with the BOG as chancellor for over three years, a year longer than he originally planned and agreed to when named to the position. Rosenberg will continue to work on projects for the BOG, including developing a State University System plan for educating troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and establishing a new international education initiative. Rosenberg said he was proud of the accomplishments of the Board of Governors: the launch of a strategic plan for the future of the university system - Forward by Design; forging important and lasting partnerships with the business and economic-development communities; and building a new relationship with the Legislature based on trust and common issues of concern.

### **New GI Bill could have major impact**

A new G.I. Bill was recently signed and will go into effect fall 2009. Veterans' educational benefits will be greatly expanded by this new program and the expectation is that colleges and universities will see substantial increases in veteran enrollment, possibly doubling or tripling the current number. This is a very important initiative and will help returning veterans in particular to receive the advanced educations that they deserve. **Richard Stevens** in the Office of the Chancellor is now working with university and Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

(FDVA) staff to develop a plan to prepare for these new veteran students and provide for their easy transition into the educational environment. We will have more to report to you in the very near future. Our goal is to accommodate every eligible veteran in a fashion that shows our appreciation for their service to our country.

### **The State Budget**

State economists are now predicting a \$3.5 billion budget hole in the 2009-2010 budget year. Earlier in the month, the predictions had Florida with a gap of \$2.2 billion. A \$1.8 billion shortage is also projected in the current fiscal year; requiring **Governor Crist** to work with lawmakers to use \$672 million in reserves to avoid additional cuts in the \$66 billion budget passed last session. Suggested reserves are: Lawton Chiles Endowment fund, with the approval of the Legislative Budget Commission; Budget Stabilization Fund; and the \$326 million cushion provided in this year's budget. **Governor Crist** will use the next revenue estimates in November to determine the next steps for handling the current year shortage and for making his budget recommendations for the 2009 session.

### **Florida's Economy and the Future**

**The Center for Labor Research and Studies at Florida International University** has just released a statewide jobs report (<http://www.fiu.edu/~clrs/>). The report makes several recommendations, including policies to improve investment in "our economic infrastructure." Such policies include getting serious about developing a world-class education system and striving to provide a base for industrial development by facilitating connections between educational institutions and industry. Analysts say the combination of adverse economic indicators makes "the near future look very worrisome for working Floridians." The downturn has revealed weaknesses in our state's economy. "The latest cycle brought people and jobs to the state, but many of the jobs have evaporated, and local and state governments have been left with gaping holes in their budgets," according to the report, released August 31, 2008.

### **Travel Ban Judgment**

On August 28, a federal judge in Miami struck down a law banning state universities from organizing academic research trips to Cuba. The judge found the Travel Act unconstitutional in its prohibition of the use of non-state funds and incidental state funds. The suit had been filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in 2006, on behalf of Florida International University faculty and others. Promulgated in 2006, the law officially targeted travel to any terrorist state. The judge upheld a portion of the law prohibiting state funding being used for the travel.

### **President signs Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)**

Two weeks after Congress passed legislation reauthorizing the Higher Education Act (HEOA), the bill was signed by President Bush on August 14, 2008. The new law contains a number of new reporting and regulatory requirements. It also creates an unprecedented number of new programs, approximately 70, which will face intense competition for scarce resources.

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) the law will affect direct spending by altering the eligibility of students and institutions for the federal student loan programs, creating two new mandatory grant programs for institutions of higher education, and modifying several existing mandatory grant programs. The U. S. Department of Education is expected to hold regional meetings about the new regulations around the country early this fall.

### **University of Florida marks official 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of integration**

Fifty years ago, Virgil Hawkins entered into a consent decree that ended nine years of litigation to desegregate the student body of the University of Florida. On September 15, 1958, an Air Force veteran named George H. Starke registered for classes at the College of Law and became the university's first African American student. UF held a week of special events beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the historic progress toward the end of racial segregation in the South. The university is also honoring Hawkins, Starke and other "firsts" with a year-long series of events.

### **State College System Task Force**

The Task Force held its first meeting on September 4, and a report will be given at the upcoming BOG meeting on September 25, 2008 in Tampa.

The Legislature has charged the task force with making recommendations on an approval process for the transition of baccalaureate-degree-granting community colleges to state colleges in order to meet the employment needs of Florida, establishing criteria for the transition of institutions in the Florida College System to state colleges, and devising a funding model for the Florida College System. The task force will also monitor implementation of the state college pilot program.

### **Labor Force Data**

**The Florida Center for Nursing located at the University of Central Florida** is offering information and data online. The Nursing Shortage in Florida Quick Facts provides quick access to highlights from the center's reports, such as forecasting supply, demand and shortage information; nurse employer survey demand data; analysis of licensure data supply information; and nurse education program survey results. These and other data can be accessed at [www.FLCenterForNursing.org](http://www.FLCenterForNursing.org).

### **BOG Staff Update**

We are sorry to report to you that we are losing one of our valued senior staff members. We are delighted to report to you that he is not going far! **Dr. Nate Johnson**, our Executive Director of Planning and Analysis has been named as Associate Director of Institutional Planning and Research at the University of Florida. Johnson had served with the BOG and its predecessor Board of Education for nearly six years. Our loss is UF's gain! Join us in wishing him well.

## **Next BOG Meeting - September 25th, in Tampa**

The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held Thursday, September 25, 2008, in the new Marshall Student Center at the **University of South Florida** in Tampa. Three committees of the Board will meet in the morning.

The Facilities and Real Estate Committee will discuss the SUS Response to Governor Crist's "Accelerate Florida: Extending Florida's Economic Horizons" economic stimulus plan, as well as approve the 2009-2010 SUS Fixed Capital Outlay Legislative Budget Request. The Budget, Finance and Business Operations Committee will review the request to include utility price increases imposed for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and hear a presentation on the Florida Center for Library Automation. The Committee will also review and approve the SUS Operating Budgets. The Strategic Planning Committee will hear about the work of the Florida State College Task Force, chaired by **Education Commissioner Eric Smith**, as well as develop its work plan for a number of SUS projects, including the development of university compacts, baccalaureate degree production, workforce and economic development and medical education in Florida. During the regular Board meeting, **USF President Judy Genshaft** will present information about a number of exciting research partnerships.

## **Florida Distance Learning Task Force**

Legislation passed in 2008 (HB 7105), establishes a nine-member task force to undertake a range of duties: establishing a definition of distance learning course that will guide further policy initiatives; promotion of the online catalog of courses and programs; creation of a central content repository for instructional resources; the development of a streamlined registration system for distance learning students; and the future direction of the Florida Distance Learning Consortium.

The Florida Distance Learning Task Force had its first meeting on August 18, in Tallahassee. Task Force members include: **Kathy Cobb, Brevard Community College; Joyce Elam, Florida International University; John Hitt, University of Central Florida; Richard Madaus, College Center for Library Automation; Kathleen Moore, University of South Florida; John Opper, Florida Distance Learning Consortium; Carol Probstfeld, Richard Stevens, Board of Governors, Manatee Community College; and Steve Wallace, Florida Community College at Jacksonville.** The second meeting of the task force was held by conference call on September 22. The task force report is due to the Legislature by March 1, 2009.

## **Florida Student Association**

The BOG is proud to be involved with the Florida Student Association (FSA) and to have as one of its members **Arthur "AJ" Meyer**. Mr. Meyer is FIU student body president and president of the FSA. FSA held its annual leadership conference recently and student government leadership teams from the eleven state universities met in Destin to discuss common topics and concerns and to plan for the coming year. Chancellor Rosenberg provided a legislative update, reviewed the priorities of the Board of Governors and led an extended

discussion on state budget cuts and their impact on student tuition, financial aid, and the total cost of education in the SUS.

To stay informed and continue building collaboration with the BOG and the SUS, student members are coordinating their meetings to coincide with BOG meeting dates and locations. FSA will meet on Friday, September 26, at USF.

### **University of Central Florida Ranks in Top 10 in "Patent Scorecard"**

In a key measure of innovation, UCF joins the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University in the top 10 of this year's "Patent Scorecard," which ranks technology innovations gained from patents. The ranking determines the strength of a university's patents as measured by how frequently they are cited in subsequent patents; and highlights the creativity of faculty and the university's strategy to focus on key areas of research, partnerships and graduate education. The Patent Board, which compiled the rankings, says the scores help predict future economic impact in a community.

Congratulations also to UCF for now having more than 50,000 students for the first time in its history! The fall 2008 freshman class includes a UCF-record 63 National Merit Scholars and the university expects to again rank in the top 50 nationally among universities that enroll National Merit Scholars.

### **University of South Florida's Center of Entrepreneurship 5th Best in U.S.**

The graduate program at **USF's Center of Entrepreneurship** was ranked the fifth best program of its kind in the nation. The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine collaborated on the ranking. USF is the only public university in the state to be included, and the graduate program in entrepreneurship is ranked second among all public universities in the nation. Evaluations were based on academic requirements, students and faculty and out-of-class activities.

### **FAMU/FSU Engineering Dean receives national engineering award in fluid dynamics**

**Ching-Jen "Marty" Chen**, a professor of mechanical engineering and dean of the **Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering**, received a major award in August from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The annual award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions over a period of years to the engineering profession, and in particular to the field of fluids engineering through research, practice or teaching. Chen has served as the dean of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering since 1992. He also holds a position as professor of mechanical engineering and is an affiliated professor in biomedical engineering.

### **Gift**

**New College of Florida** has announced a \$2.1 million gift through a charitable remainder trust created by Sarasota philanthropists **Lee and Bob Peterson**. The gift is among the largest in the

College's nearly 50 year history. Funds from the trust will provide academic enhancements directed toward both student and faculty support at New College, which is the state honors college for the liberal arts. Mr. Peterson is a NCF trustee emeritus.

### **America's Best Colleges**

According to U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" several of Florida's public institutions are in the top universities in the country.

- **New College** ranked #5 in Public Liberal Arts Colleges and #94 among All Public and Private Liberal Arts Colleges in the country. This is the fourth straight year that New College has been rated among the nation's Top Five Public Liberal Arts Colleges.
- **Florida State University** tied with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst for 50th place among the top 50 public "national" universities. FSU's overall ranking jumped 10 places to #102 among all universities -- public and private -- up from last year's ranking of 112.
- **The University of South Florida** placed among the nation's top 20 "Up-and-Coming universities" coming in at #14.
- **The University of Central Florida** ranks #7 in the new "Up-and-Coming" category for national universities that are "tops for innovation." And ranks 9<sup>th</sup> among national universities in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category for students who graduate with the least amount of debt.

The editors of Forbes.com rated **New College** #3 in the nation among all Public Colleges and Universities and #29 overall among all Public and Private Colleges and Universities. They also ranked **New College** #1 among all Public and Private Colleges and Universities within the State of Florida.