

August 2026

FSU

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
FACULTY & STAFF



Retiree Journal



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Letter From the Provost

August 2026

Dear Colleagues of the FSU Association of Retired Faculty and Staff,

As I contemplate the beginning of another fall semester, I am reminded that the remarkable heights Florida State University is reaching are built directly upon the foundation of academic excellence, dedication, and institutional wisdom you provided during your years of service. I am pleased to share several updates that highlight how FSU is on the rise.

Under President Richard McCullough's leadership, FSU continues to place as one of the Top 25 public universities in *U.S. News & World Report*, rising to No. 21 among publics, and to No. 51 among both public and private institutions – our highest ever overall ranking among national universities! This excellence starts at the very beginning of the student journey; we recently achieved a record-breaking 99.2% fall-to-spring retention rate for our first-year students. This institutional strength extends into our graduate education, as the newest U.S. News Best Graduate Schools rankings place 16 of our graduate programs and specialties in the Top 25 among public universities nationwide—with six programs holding the No. 1 spot in the state of Florida.

In a monumental development for our STEM-related infrastructure, the State of Florida fully funded the construction of "Building C" at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering with a final \$91.98 million appropriation signed into the 2026-27 state budget, bringing the total state investment in this transformative facility to approximately \$152 million. This marks the joint college's first major facility expansion since the late 1990s. The 164,000-square-foot building will accommodate a student body that has surged past 3,700 students, introducing cutting-edge classrooms, hands-on instructional spaces, state-of-the-art makerspaces, and active learning labs to meet Florida's growing high-tech workforce needs.

Our research enterprise is thriving under Vice President for Research Stacey Patterson's leadership, with research expenditures reaching a record-shattering \$488.2 million. Our faculty researchers are submitting more competitive grant proposals than ever in our history, a strong signal of FSU's institutional commitment to discovery and scholarship.

We continue to advance significant student success initiatives, including the formation of a new Division of Student Academic Success under the appointed leadership of Vice President Joe O'Shea. Recently, we launched the nation's first-ever Stamps Scholars Program dedicated exclusively to student veterans, providing unprecedented leadership development and financial support to those who served. Additionally, to give prospective students and their families more flexibility and clarity in their educational journeys, we announced a new Early Decision admissions plan beginning for the entering class of 2027.

On the leadership front, we are positioning our academic enterprise for a bright future. I am delighted to welcome Dr. Kirk A. Foster as the next dean of the College of Social Work. A nationally recognized scholar and academic leader, Dr. Foster brings immense expertise that will undoubtedly propel the college forward. Dr. Gregory Bell joined us in July as the new dean of The Graduate School. Dr. Bell is a prolific expert and leader in graduate education and will be a valuable part of building on the momentum we have achieved. I am also pleased to share that Jonathan Fozard was recently appointed Vice President for Information Technology Services, a new role that will enable him to continue advancing FSU's technology strategy while positioning us as a leader in higher education technology, artificial intelligence, and innovation.

Thank you for your enduring devotion to the garnet and gold. I am deeply grateful for your service and ongoing support. Go Noles!

Sincerely,

Jim Clark

**Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Florida State University**



Greetings from the President



Marshall Kapp
2026 President

Thanks to all of you who participated in the ARFS annual barbeque at the FSU Lakefront on June 10. This event was a great opportunity to catch up and enjoy each other's company, as well as the usual tasty, plentiful food from Sonny's and an enthusiastic and informative presentation by administrators and students representing FSU's excellent Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP).

After a Summer break, ARFS has a full schedule of activities planned for the 2026-2027 academic year. The next event on the agenda is a tour of the FSU Speech and Hearing Center on Friday morning, October 2. Space is limited, so please send your request to reserve a spot to Carol DeLoach at cdeLoach@admin.fsu.edu ASAP. The annual Fall luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 28 at the Capital City Country Club beginning at 11 A.M. In early November, we will be offering a tour of the new FSU College of Business; stay tuned for further details. The complete 2026-2027 ARFS schedule is published elsewhere in this Journal and on the ARFS website.

Speaking of the ARFS website, Association of Retired Faculty | [Association of Retired Faculty and Staff](#), please get in the habit of consulting it frequently for timely information about ARFS. Largely because of the hard work done by Immediate Past President Carol Weissert with the assistance of the FSU Office of University Relations, the website now is a current and useful communication vehicle. Additionally, we are working on establishing a Facebook presence for the Association as another way to make ARFS information available to you on a timely basis. Stay alert for announcements regarding Facebook progress.

Your officers and Board hope that enhancing our various means of communication with the ARFS membership will encourage and facilitate your active participation in the Association's many activities. If you have any other ideas for keeping members in the know, please feel free to share them with us. Thanks.



Mike Smith
2026 President Elect

Greetings from the President-Elect 2026 Mike Smith

When I retired from Florida State University in July 2023, I thought I had closed one of the most rewarding chapters of my professional life. After more than two decades at Florida State, following a 26-year career in the United States Air Force, retirement seemed like the natural time to slow down, spend more time with my wife, Elizabeth, and enjoy life as a tree farmer in Monticello. As it turns out, Florida State had other plans.

While recovering from surgery last September, I received a phone call from Dr. Kirby Kemper. Kirby invited me to consider serving on the Board of Directors of the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff. Like many retirees, I had heard of ARFS, but I knew very little about the organization or the remarkable people who make it such an important part of the Florida State family. A lunch with Kirby and Pat Martin changed that.

As they shared the history of ARFS, its mission, and the friendships that have developed over the years, I quickly realized this was much more than an organization for retirees. It is a community of people who remain deeply committed to Florida State University and to one another. By the time lunch was over, I knew I wanted to become part of that community.

My connection with Florida State spans nearly five decades. Elizabeth graduated from FSU in 1976, and her parents, Dr. G. Ulmer Miller and Marianne Miller, both graduated shortly after World War II. Ulmer later served for more than twenty years as a respected accounting professor in the College of Business.

After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy with a degree in Engineering Management, I served 26 years in the Air Force, retiring as a Colonel. Along the way, I had the privilege of serving two tours in the Pentagon and later as the Air Force Chief of Staff Chair at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at the National Defense University.

In 1995, Florida State became the next chapter of my professional life. During the next twenty-eight years, I had the privilege of serving in several roles across the university, beginning as Professor and Chair of the Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC). Those assignments included:

- Professor and Chair, Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC), 1995–1997
- Director of Research Programs, 1997–1999
- Founder and Executive Director, Florida Center for Tobacco Education and the Florida Center for Prevention Research (ISPA), 1999–2007
- Program Director, College of Medicine, 2007–2023

Those assignments allowed me to work with students, faculty, researchers, clinicians, and university leadership across multiple colleges, giving me a broad appreciation for the people and mission of Florida State University.

Throughout those years, I had the privilege of working alongside outstanding colleagues, including Dean Don Foss, Dr. Susan Allen, Dr. Bob Bradley, Dean John Fogarty, and many others whose dedication helped shape Florida State into the institution we know today.

Those years reinforced a lesson I first learned in the military: great organizations are built by people who are committed to something larger than themselves. That same spirit is evident throughout ARFS.

What has impressed me most during my first months on the Board is the extraordinary experience represented by our members. Together, we represent decades of teaching, research, administration, public service, and leadership. Although our careers have taken us in many different directions, we share a common bond through Florida State and a shared desire to remain engaged with the university and with each other.

As I begin serving as your president-elect for 2026–27, I do so with both gratitude and humility. I have much to learn from those who have faithfully led this organization before me, and I am grateful for the confidence they have placed in me. I look forward to working alongside our dedicated Board of Directors, volunteers, and members as we continue strengthening an organization that serves its members while supporting the university we all care so deeply about.

One of the greatest discoveries of retirement has been realizing that service does not end when a career does. It simply takes on new forms. For many of us, ARFS provides that opportunity—to remain connected, to continue serving, and to preserve the friendships that have enriched our lives for so many years.

I am honored to be part of that mission and grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president-elect. I look forward to meeting many of you at future ARFS events, hearing your Florida State stories, and working together to ensure that the Association of Retired Faculty and Staff remains a vibrant community where lifelong friendships flourish, our university is supported, and future generations benefit from the wisdom and experience of those who helped build this remarkable institution.

ARFS Calendar of Events

2026-2027 Academic Year

FSU Speech and Hearing Center
October 2, 2026
10:00 am

Holiday Party
December 16, 2026 4:00pm
Dodd Hall Heritage Room

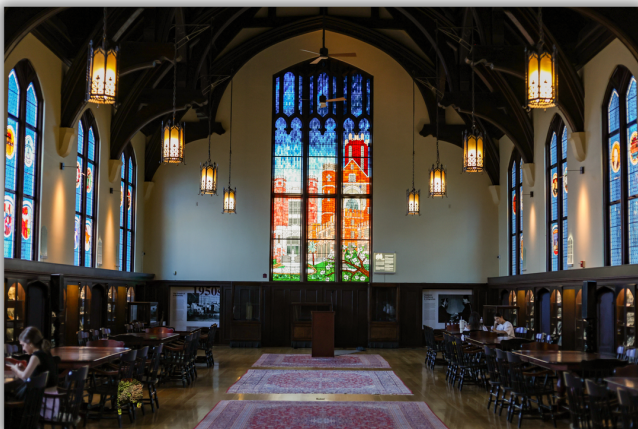
Fall Luncheon
October 28, 2026 11:00am
Capital City Country Club

Out of Town Adventure
TBA

FSU College of Business
November 4, 2026 10:00am

Spring Luncheon
March 24, 2027 11:30am
Capital City Country Club

BBQ
June 9, 2027 11:00am
FSU Lake Front



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS to the next issue of ARFS *News & Notes*

Have you published an article? Written a book? Taken an interesting trip? Volunteered for a good cause? Done something else of interest? How do you spend your free time?

Whatever fascinates you will be of interest to other ARFS members.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Send a brief write-up (~1500 words) to Michael Launer, chair of the Publications Committee, at milauner@fsu.edu.

DEADLINE for inclusion in the November 2026 issue of *News & Notes* is OCTOBER 19.

In Memoriam

(September 2025- July 2026)

Charles Allen 6/25/26 (Staff)

Wen Winston Lo 4/23/26 (Faculty)

Paul Anderson 3/26/26 (Faculty Spouse)

Thomas Kwader 11/5/2025 (Faculty)

Donald Ray Bardill 11/23/2025 (Faculty/Admin)

Betty Miller 1/2/2026 (Faculty)

R. Bruce Bickley 2/6/2026 (Faculty and Admin)

Nell H. Morse 2/21/2026 (Faculty Spouse)

George Blakely 11/24/2025 (Faculty)

Dianna Norwood 11/14/25 (Staff)

Patti Wilson Byars 9/29/2025 (Admin)

James (Jim) Orcutt 2/25/2026 (Faculty)

James Ciotti 11/18/2025 (Faculty)

Patrick O'Sullivan 4/18/2026 (Faculty)

Robert Clark 10/17/25 (Faculty)

Duncan Postma 5/11/2026 (Faculty)

Wright Cannon Finney 1/2/2026 (Faculty)

Sherry Powell 7/17/26 (Staff)

Ann Godley Hingst 11/17/2025 (Staff and Faculty)

Mounir Ragheb 4/7/2026 (Faculty)

Patrick Wayne Hogan 2/18/2026 (Admin)

Carol Ann Roshotte 11/17/25 (Faculty)

Jack Hokanson 3/12/26 (Faculty)

Terri Saltiel 4/5/26 (Faculty Spouse)

Judy Joyner 11/15/2025 (Staff)

James Calvin Smith Jr. 1/25/2026 (Faculty)

John Rawlins Lewis 4/22/26 (Faculty)

Robert Starr Smith 4/10/26 (Faculty)

David Stewart 2/27/26 (Staff)

Retiree Honors

Debi Barrett-Hayes



Did you know there is an official “National Teachers Hall of Fame” (NTHF)? Do you know someone who should be nominated for this prestigious award? Nominations are open until November 1.

I have had a busy summer attending the 2026 National Teachers Hall of Fame inductions in Emporia, Kansas, becoming a new Board Member, and attending our first ever Educational Summit at Disney World in Orlando. I am so proud to be part of this amazing group of educators, and Emporia is one of the friendliest cities you will ever visit!

The mission of the National Teachers Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor exceptional career teachers, encourage excellence in teaching, and preserve the rich heritage of the teaching profession in the United States. NTHF was founded in 1989 as a tribute to our nation's most important profession: Teaching.

The NTHF is committed to drawing the public's attention to exceptional career teachers through a recognition program that annually honors five of the nation's most outstanding PreK-12 educators with at least 15 years of teaching experience by inducting them into the National Teacher Hall of Fame.

I was fortunate to have been selected and inducted into the NTHF in 2000. I am a career art educator who spent the majority of my last forty years working at FSU. I am currently a visiting art educator & interim department chair at the Maclay School. I returned this summer to Kansas for the 2026 induction ceremony and to accept a position on the NTHF Executive Board.

I felt the love of Emporia all over again. It was both inspiring and heartfelt. I got to visit the NTHF museum, whose collection is focused on the history of education, the Members, and the Hall of Fame. Its purpose is to preserve and promote education – and to inspire others to enter the teaching profession. The NTHF has been endorsed by education organizations across the nation. I was excited to assist as the organization expands its influence and outreach with the first ever “Education Summit.”

It was my honor to present our first Mentoring Cohort, which will continue to meet the needs of early career and pre-service educators over the next few years. We hope to grow the program as a way to recruit new teachers and to retain those already in the field. As we seek to broaden NTHF's impact, we envision a future where the extensive expertise of our inductees reverberates nationwide, inspiring educators and policy makers everywhere. This work gives me much hope for the future of education!

Debi Barrett-Hayes,

Professor *Emerita*, FSUS dbarrett@fsu.edu



Student Support

Fellows Society

The Fellows Society was established by Dean Nancy Marcus in 2007 to create opportunities for interdisciplinary networking and learning among outstanding graduate students. Marcus, an oceanographer who died in 2018, served as Dean of the Graduate School for 12 years. Prior to that, she had been the Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory. The mission of the society is to develop leadership skills, promote interdisciplinary research, and encourage community service among fellowship recipients. The Fellows Society does not provide direct funding to students, but generous grants from the Graduate School support research opportunities that would not otherwise be available to them. Contributions to the Fellows Society Fund may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at [Give.fsu.edu](https://give.fsu.edu). The Fund number is F07506.

Southern Scholarship Fund

The Southern Scholarship Fund helps needy students – particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds and those who have experienced homelessness or food insecurity – attend Florida State. ARFS members have supported this worthy cause for many years. Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at [Give.fsu.edu](https://give.fsu.edu). The Fund number is F06147.

Sliger Award

The Bernard F. & Greta Sliger Presidential Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund that was established in 1989 in order to “provide financial support for outstanding and gifted students attending Florida State University.” Many individuals, including ARFS members and former president John Thrasher, have contributed to the endowment. Proceeds from the account support Presidential Scholars, enabling recipients to participate in activities beyond the classroom throughout their undergraduate years. Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at [Give.fsu.edu](https://give.fsu.edu). The Fund number is F06722. An undergraduate speaker at a recent ARFS barbecue expressed thanks to the Sliger Fund for allowing him to attend a national meteorological conference where he met the head of NOAA and several hurricane experts.

Supporting the University Libraries and Local Volunteer Opportunities

At a recent ARFS Board meeting, Anne Rowe – a member of the FSU Libraries Advancement Board – reported a conversation that she had had with the incoming Dean of Libraries, Dr. Carrie Zebrowsky Cooper. Dr. Cooper, an FSU *alumna*, previously served in a similar position at William & Mary College and had been on the Advancement Board here until her selection as the new Dean.

As elsewhere around the country, the FSU libraries continually face funding challenges, particularly because the cost of scholarly journals has increased dramatically over the past several years. ARFS members have always supported the libraries, and year's end is a good time to consider making an additional donation. The FSU Foundation maintains several accounts, including the following:

Library Development Fund F06478

Libraries Collections Excellence Fund F06986

Libraries Special Collections Fund F07711

FSU Libraries Textbook Fund F08272

Contributions may be made through the FSU Foundation Giving Page at [Give.fsu.edu](https://give.fsu.edu)

Other local organizations that always welcome volunteers include the following:

- Alzheimer's Project, Inc.
- Big Bend Habitat for Humanity
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend
- FSU Pride Student Union
- FSU Sustainable Campus
- LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts
- Special Olympics in Leon County



Dues Payment Information

Dues/Luncheons Payment Form

ARFS DUES PURCHASE

ARFS Dues: \$25 per person/\$35 per household

Name(s) _____
Street Address _____
E-mail Address(es) _____
Telephone(s) _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to “ARF” [not “ARFS”]. Send this form and your payment to:

Jeff Owens / 1161 Walden Road / Tallahassee, FL 32317

Alternately:

Payment can also be made using Zelle to jfolso@comcast.net