

# RETIREE JOURNAL



**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY  
FEBRUARY 2018**

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**





# BARBECUE

FSU RESERVATION

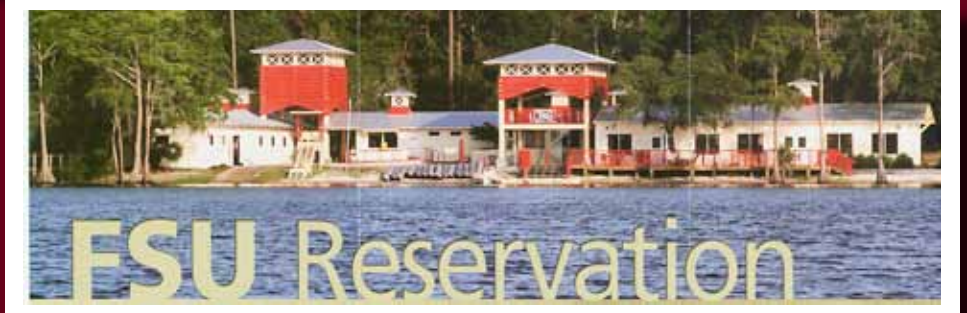
WEDNESDAY

MARCH 21, 2018

11:30 AM

COST - \$10

SONNY'S BBQ



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# SPRING LUNCHEON



THURSDAY - MAY 3, 2018  
 ALUMNI CENTER  
 BALLROOM, FSU  
 11:00 A.M. SOCIAL  
 NOON – LUNCH  
 COST - \$22

*For the September issue  
of the  
ARF Journal,  
please submit your  
publications and  
professional activities by  
Monday - August 6, 2018  
to: thart@fsu.edu*



## From the President

Time flies when you're having fun. It's hard to believe, but this is the last column I will write for the Retiree Journal as President of ARF. So let me begin by expressing my thanks for the privilege of serving as President this year. Thanks to the committee that nominated me, to the ARF members who elected me, and to all those--especially the members of the Board of Directors--who are working to make this another pleasant and productive year, both for our organization and for the retirees we serve.

ARF began its spring activities on January 9 with a lively meeting of the Board. To contribute to our continuing discussion of the scholarship programs we support, we welcomed Dr. Shawn Woodin, President and CEO of the Southern Scholarship Foundation, who reported on the history and activities of SSF. We reminded ourselves of ARF's support not only for SSF but also for the Bernie Sliger Scholarships. While the Sliger Scholarship fund has now reached the threshold for endowment, that achievement should motivate us to enhance its effectiveness by continuing and increasing our support.

Board Member at Large Nick Mazza reported on volunteer activities of possible interest to our members. Nick is performing a valuable service by reporting on opportunities available on the campus and in the community. Read more about such opportunities in this issue of the Journal.

At the January meeting, the Board also reported on events planned for the spring. Special Advisor Max Carraway has again arranged campus tours: of the College of Motion Picture Arts (February 13), and of the Dedman School of Hospitality (February 15). On March 21, outstanding undergraduate and graduate students will join us at the Seminole Reservation for our annual Spring Barbecue, catered by Sonny's Barbecue. Culminating our spring activities will be our Spring Luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, May 3, for which President Elect Jim Melton has arranged another exciting program.

More information about all these events is available elsewhere in this issue of the Journal. Make your reservations now, mark your calendars, and bring your friends!

Let me call your attention to another item in this issue. Jim Melton and I were sufficiently impressed with President Thrasher's State of the University address that Jim secured permission to include it here. I think you will be impressed, too.

In an earlier issue of the Retiree Journal I reported that President Thrasher appointed the ARF President to represent the retirees on the President's Advisory Panel on University Namings and Recognitions. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Panel. Even more, I am grateful to President Thrasher for recognizing the contributions of the retirees in general and of ARF in particular.

I invite you to follow the work of the Advisory Panel. Attend our meetings, or visit our website: [president.fsu.edu/namings/](http://president.fsu.edu/namings/).

Thanks again to all who had a hand in letting me serve as ARF's President this year. Now read on: see what ARF is doing, and make your plans to join in!

Walter Moore, President

## 2018 Calendar of Events

### Board of Directors

Tuesday - March 6, 2018  
2:00 p.m., Cottrell Conference Room  
FSU Alumni Center

### Barbecue

Wednesday – March 21, 2018  
FSU Seminole Reservation  
11:30 a.m.

### Spring Luncheon

Thursday - May 3, 2018  
Ballroom – Alumni Conference Center  
11:00 a.m. - Social; Noon – Lunch

### Joint Board Meeting

Tuesday – May 15, 2018  
2:00 p.m. – Meeting, Cottrell  
Conference room  
3:00 p.m. – Reception, Pearl Tyner  
House  
FSU Alumni Center

### Exchange of Materials

May 15, 2018 – June 30, 2018  
(Time for exchange of materials  
from old officers to new board  
members)

## ARF Spring Events

Florida State's retired faculty and administrators are served by the Association of Retired Faculty (ARF). Helped by a voluntary membership dues program (\$15 per household/\$10 per person), ARF supports three social functions each year (Fall Banquet, Spring Reservation Barbeque and Spring Luncheon) and supplements ticket prices with the aim of providing a good level of affordability. Tours are coordinated during the year and ARF members and the Faculty Senate are invited guests to the President's Holiday Celebration. The Board thanks the 135 members who have supported our programs and activities with their annual dues membership.

There certainly is no limitation on the talents of our Faculty, and the Spring Banquet (May 3rd in the Alumni Center) will feature Dr. Anne Barrett, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Pepper Institute of Aging and Public Policy at Florida State. Dr. Barrett and the Pepper Institute were highlighted in the November 2017 Retiree Journal. Our publication continues to be published three times per year and remains our primary focus of communication to the membership. We welcome your suggestions for future features and articles.

Our effort to report on memorials is coordinated by Tom and Esther Harrison. The Board is notified as information is made available, and the memorials are listed in the Retiree Journal. The Board is always open to new initiatives and volunteer efforts as the Guardian ad Litem program, recently highlighted in the Retiree Journal. Please review the upcoming campus tours – you will be welcomed to informative programs that highlight the University.

Special thanks to President Walter Moore for an outstanding year of leadership. In September, President Thrasher announced the creation of a panel to examine and make recommendations on current policies concerning campus names and markers, including statues and other recognitions. Walter was appointed to this committee, and we look forward to his input and the recommendations that will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Serving as President Elect gives one an opportunity to see the value of leadership, present and past. ARF has been most fortunate to have so many outstanding leaders serve the organiza-

tion. Take a moment to review the list of Past Presidents and the current Board of Directors in the last page of this publication. It is a Who's Who of our institution's leadership.

Jim Melton, President-Elect and National Liaison for AROHE

## Celebration of Life for Patsy Rapp

Friday, March 30th at 10 am - Maguire Center, Westminister Oaks

### 2017-2018

Ronald M. Pavalko January 23, 2017  
(Faculty)

Louis R. Testardi March 2, 2017 (Faculty)

Max Moody, Jr. April 20, 2017 (Staff)

Art Adams (Faculty)

Dorothy Shearn Tyson May 6, 2017 (Staff)

M. Francis Hall (Faculty)

James "Jimmy" Taylor Kimbrell June 10, 2017  
(Staff)

Mary Ethel Parker June 12, 2017 (Staff)

Mary Jane Ward Mayo June 16, 2017  
(Faculty)

Sharon Pearson June, 2017 (Admin)

Ivor Mitchell June 25, 2017 (Faculty)

Robert L. Scott July 6, 2017 (Faculty)

Harold E. Pitts July 9, 2017 (Husband of  
Beverly Pitts, Admin)

Robert L. Smith July 23, 2017 (Faculty)

Carolyn R. Blakely August 07, 2017 (Staff)

John C. Harris, Jr. August 11, 2017 (Admin)

John J. Alderson August 2017 (Faculty)

Kent Samuel Miller August 14, 2017 (Faculty)

Gerald Speisman August 15, 2017 (Faculty)

Mary Fagan Jones August 27, 2017 (Staff)

Mary Siebert Culp August 31, 2017 (Staff)



IN MEMORIAM

- Lamar Sims Sept. 1, 2017 (Staff)
- Barbara Mann Sept. 19, 2017 (Faculty)
- Patricia H. Stanley Sept. 18, 2017 (Faculty)
- Juliette McDonald Sept. 22, 2017 (Admin)
- Mary Alice “Toni” Matthews Sept. 23, 2017 (Faculty)
- Frederick S. Tyson Sept. 28, 2017 (Admin)
- Ruth M. Jones Oct. 12, 2017 (Wife of Charles O. Jones, Faculty)
- Mary Perry Kennedy Sturges Oct. 12, 2017 (Wife of Tony Sturges, Faculty)
- Miriam Peirce Nov. 12, 2017 (Wife of Robert Peirce, Admin)
- Trevor Bell Nov. 2017 (Faculty)
- Sallie Leach Nov. 13, 2017 (Widow of Bobby Leach, Admin)
- Bonnie Sue Webb Nov. 13, 2017 (Staff)
- Ethel M. McCoy Nov. 21, 2017 (Staff)
- Doris Madsen Nov. 27, 2017 (Staff)
- Sandy Kerr Dec. 6, 2017 (Faculty)
- Elizabeth Mann December 2017 (Faculty)
- Lorianne Summers Dec. 2017 (Wife of Dean F. William “Bill Summers, Faculty)
- George Bowen Dec.15, 2017 (Husband of Joy Bowen, Admin)
- Janice Smith-Dann Dec. 18, 2017 (Wife of Elias Dann, Faculty)
- Patricia Cooper Rapp Dec. 24, 2017 (Wife of Don Rapp, Faculty)
- Alice Wickliffe St. John Jan. 1, 2018 (Admin)
- Robert G. Stakenas Jan. 4, 2018 (Faculty)
- Alice Gay Pound Dixon Jan. 5, 2018 (Admin)
- Martha Jane Zachert Jan. 10, 2018 (Faculty)
- Donald “Kelly” Jackson Feb. 2, 2018 (former husband of Pam McDaniel) [Admin.]

**ARF  
Board Nominations  
2018-2019**

The 2018 ARF Nominating Committee consisted of Max Carraway, Tom McCaleb, Jim Melton, Nick Mazza and Betty Lou Joanos (Chair). We offer to you an outstanding slate of officers nominated for the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Our nominees are:**

**President Elect: Nancy Turner**

**Secretary: Jill Adams**

**Treasurer: Tom McCaleb**

**Member-at-Large: Tom Knowles**

**ARF Board places a  
Priority on Special  
Gifts**

ARF encourages our members to make voluntary contributions to the Southern Scholarship Foundation (SSF) and the Bernard Sliger Scholarship Fund. Complete the Contribution form on the inside back cover and make the check out to the FSU Foundation and note SSF or the Bernard Sliger Scholarship Fund in the subject line at the lower left of your check. Mail check to:

Tom McCaleb  
3037 Godfrey Place  
Tallahassee, FL 32309-2115

# AROHE



The roots of AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) originated from the west coast conference of retirement in colleges and universities meeting in the late 1980s. Efforts to expand culminated in a conference held by North Carolina State University in 2000. AROHE holds biennial conferences, and the next conference is October 7-8, 2018, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. The Association advocates, gathers, disseminates and promotes theory, practices and programs for all stages of faculty and staff retirement. AROHE currently has member organizations in the US and Canada with a population of over 100,000 individuals in retirement. AROHE provides us the opportunity to learn of the efforts of other retired faculty organizations and take the best practices for implementation into ARF.

Jim Melton, President-Elect and National Liaison for AROHE

## Faculty News

“Turning the Circle: Considerations of ‘The Post-modern Turn’ a la Simon Susen,” Current Perspectives in Social Theory, vol, 35 (Nov 2016): 227-274. By Lawrence Hazelrigg

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## State of the University by President Thrasher

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate, President Thrasher delivered this year’s address on the State of the University. We think it is important enough that we have included it almost in its entirety. After a few introductory remarks, President Thrasher introduced the new head football coach, Willie Taggart. Coach Taggart spoke briefly, and then President Thrasher presented his view of the state of Florida State University. Here is what he said.



- Wow! What a year we’ve had! Good afternoon! Thank you, Todd, and thank you to the entire Faculty Senate for inviting me to your meeting today.
- Before I begin, I’d like to thank my wife, Jean, for her unwavering support. Jean loves Florida State as much as I do, and I think you’ll all agree she is an amazing first lady!
- I’d also like to thank FSU Trustee and Student Body President Kyle Hill and the Student Government Association leaders for being here.
- Of course, I need to thank the senior leadership team for being here today and for their guidance and stewardship all year.
- You may have heard a little something these last couple days about our search for a football coach ...
- Well, it’s unusual for a football coach to come to this event, but this is not your usual football coach. Academics mean something to Coach Willie Taggart, and he’s here today.



- Coach, welcome to the Florida State family! Would you like to say anything to the faculty and staff today?
- Thank you, Coach.
- I'm so pleased to have this opportunity to talk about where we've been and what we've accomplished this past year — and where we are going and what we know we can achieve in the future.
- This is my third State of the University Address, which means I've just begun my fourth year as your president. It recently occurred to me that the freshmen who arrived on campus with me in the fall of 2014 are getting ready to graduate in the spring.
- I thought about how when they walk across the stage to get their diplomas, they won't be the same people who first set foot on campus four years ago. Because when you meet new people and learn new things, you look at yourself and the world a little differently. You can't help but grow and evolve and change.
- I've changed, too. That's the transformative nature of a university.
- And just as the university changes us, we change the university. On many occasions throughout the past year, we've taken the opportunity to reflect on who we are. We've stood up for our values, and we've acted to uphold them.
- Across the nation, 2017 began with confusion and uncertainty about how a travel ban affecting the entry of citizens from certain foreign countries would affect some of our own students and scholars.
- In fact, one of our doctoral students who went home to Iran to attend his father's funeral was prevented from re-entering the United States. As we lobbied on his behalf, he was able to return to FSU when an appeals court blocked the travel ban.
- Many in our campus community are also concerned about the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.
- Last year, I told you that I joined more than 600 higher education leaders across the nation in support of DACA, and I want to assure you that my position on DACA has not changed.
- That's because many of the beneficiaries of DACA are college students or recent graduates. As a state and nation, we have already invested in the education of these students — it only makes sense to allow them to continue to contribute to the economy and their communities as they pursue their dreams here in America.
- Then in August, the nation witnessed a clear display of racism and intimidation by white supremacists as protests over a Confederate statue in Charlottesville turned violent.
- Like the University of Virginia, Florida State has a beautiful campus with evidence of our rich heritage all around us. But our history is not without its flaws, nor were the people who contributed to the university's growth over the past 166 years.

- As we strive to become more inclusive, the time is right to have a serious and thoughtful conversation about how to recognize our past as we work together to build our future.
- That's why I established an Advisory Panel on University Namings and Recognitions to research these issues, seek input from university constituencies and recommend criteria for naming policies and recognitions.
- No matter what the issue, it's clear that FSU is not isolated from the rest of the world just because we live and work and study in Tallahassee.
- So, when people occasionally ask me why I weigh in on issues such as DACA or immigration, I tell them the truth: These issues are not political to me — these are matters that affect real people, including members of our Florida State family.
- I will continue to speak out against anyone or anything that attempts to divide us based on our differences — whether race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- And first and foremost, my Number 1 priority will always be to protect the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff.
- One of the worst days of my presidency occurred last month when I learned one of our students — a 20-year-old-fraternity pledge — had died after attending an off-campus party.
- No university wants to be thrust into the national spotlight for a reason as heartbreaking and tragic as this. But we are taking a leadership role in changing the culture of Greek Life — and, indeed, campus life — here and around the country.
- I want to thank the Faculty Senate for passing a resolution in support of our decision to temporarily suspend Greek Life activities and ban alcohol at all Recognized Student Organization events.
- I think it's important we take this time to reflect upon the loss of a young life while our entire university community works together to shift the campus culture. I believe we are on our way.
- All of the challenges of the past year have provided us with an opportunity to reaffirm our values and take positive steps toward an even stronger, healthier and more inclusive university.
- Likewise, all of our accomplishments will provide fresh momentum as we use our new strategic plan to guide us to even higher levels of excellence in the coming years.
- And 2017 was a year of unprecedented achievement on which to build.

## RANKINGS

- The most tangible evidence of our success came in September when U.S. News and World Report ranked FSU the 33rd best public university in the country. Just two years ago, we were ranked 43rd.
- To move 10 spots in two years is an incredible leap. In fact, no other public university in U.S. News and World Report's Top 50 improved more than we did during this period.

- We did it because we chose to invest in the heart and soul of this university: our students and in you — our faculty. We believed that if our priorities were in the right place, the rankings would follow — and they have.
- We hired more faculty and gave you the market equity raises you deserve. And by elevating you, we saw improvements in key areas that affect the rankings: faculty compensation, class size and student-faculty ratio.
- We also focused on student success as outlined in our strategic plan. Our 4-year graduation rate now places us in the Top 20 nationally. And our 93% freshman retention rate ranks us 18th in the country.
- Our excellent graduation and student retention rates are the driving forces behind our jump in the rankings.
- It's no wonder FSU is becoming increasingly popular among parents and prospective students. Although the application deadline is not until February, I'm excited to tell you we have already outpaced last year's record. As of November 1, we received applications from 43,000 students all vying for about 6,500 spots in next year's freshman class.
- More importantly, we are becoming the first choice for the very best students. That's why our freshman class this year was both our biggest and brightest in the university's history — they had an average high school GPA of an incredible 4.1!
- These students arrive on campus filled with promise and excitement — and often, not a clue about who they are or what they want to do. And then they meet their professors.
- You help them discover hidden passions, challenge them intellectually, and encourage them to dream even bigger.
- One of my favorite events of the year is the Spiritual Life Project's Transformation Through Teaching Awards Dinner, where students recognize faculty who have changed their lives.
- Here's what one student said about her professor: "She was the first person who took the time to directly tell me that she saw my potential and wanted to help me grow."
- That student was Marigny Nevitt, and she's here today with her professor, Annette Schwabe, from the Department of Sociology. I'd like to ask them to stand to be recognized.
- Another student said, "Because of Dr. JJ, I know that sometimes the best way to teach others is to start with questions, not answers ... She is a true inspiration to me."
- Dr. JJ is Communication Professor Felecia Jordan Jackson, and she is here with the student who nominated her, Tori Patton. Please stand.
- Altogether, 14 professors and their students were recognized at this year's dinner. But the truth is, all of you transform lives every single day.
- You share in the university's commitment to educate students in a diverse and multicultural environment and prepare them for 21st century jobs — just as we have outlined in our strategic plan.
- I truly believe that a diverse and inclusive environment enhances the educational experience for everyone and prepares our students to thrive in an increasingly multicultural and multifaceted world.

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- That's why we were so pleased when Insight into Diversity magazine named us a Diversity Champion, and we received a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award for the fourth year in a row.
- Last month, I traveled to Washington to accept the 2017 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization. We were one of only four institutions in the country to receive this honor.
- The award recognizes FSU's excellence in integrating international education throughout the university. The active engagement of our faculty members in international research is key to our success in this area.
- We made a big leap forward in our strategic goal to deepen our commitment to continuous innovation when the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship enrolled its first group of 80 juniors this fall.
- The Jim Moran School and the Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship are now getting ready to move into their spectacular new headquarters on North Monroe Street.
- We're also making headway on our goal to amplify our excellent research programs, particularly in the areas of health and biomedical research.
- Our researchers in nursing, medicine and other health-related areas brought in record funding of 35.8 million dollars from the National Institutes of Health in Fiscal Year 2017, which is more than double the amount the university received five years ago.
- Even more remarkable, you — our faculty researchers — have brought in more than ONE BILLION DOLLARS over the past five years in federal, state and private contracts and grants.
- And last month six more faculty members were named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in recognition of their efforts to advance science. That's impressive!
- Another one of our strategic goals involves investing strategically in our institution and reputation. You help us with that every day. Besides your groundbreaking research, you enhance the university's reputation through your original scholarship and creative activities.
- That's why Second Lady Karen Pence came to FSU to announce her new art therapy initiative. Mrs. Pence — and the national media coverage of her visit — put a well-deserved spotlight on one of our graduate programs that, truthfully, had been one of FSU's hidden gems.
- And the face of campus is changing as well. In the past year, we opened two new residence halls — Azalea and Magnolia — and a fantastic dining complex, part of an innovative new food service agreement we launched this year.
- On the other side of Jefferson Street, we're getting ready to open the doors to our new Black Student Union in January. This much-needed facility will also house our African American Studies program and offers great opportunities for collaboration.
- And this spring, we'll begin a major renovation of Oglesby Union that will greatly expand its size and its offerings to meet the needs of today's students.



- Overall, it's been a productive and transformative year. From rankings to research; diversity to internationalization; student success to faculty achievement — Florida State has emerged as a national leader in higher education.
- Now, we need to build on all of this momentum and keep moving forward.

**LEGISLATURE**

- Support from the Florida Legislature will help us with our aspirations to be recognized among the nation's Top 25 public universities.
- As you may know, the 2018 Session begins in January. We're making a big, bold and confident request of \$90 million to support our efforts to hire world-class faculty and scholars, advance our professional and graduate degree excellence, support our preeminence and maintain our facilities.
- We are in the process of hiring 125 new faculty members in addition to replacing those current faculty who retire or leave. This is the single largest hiring initiative in our history and is one of the most important things we can do to increase our success in every aspect of the university.
- More faculty means more research and creative activity, more support for graduate students and postdocs, more external grants and private support, and more collaboration to solve issues that impact our lives and the world.
- More faculty means an improved faculty to student ratio, meaning smaller classes and greater student success.
- More faculty means more opportunity for service to professional academic organizations worldwide, our university and our community.
- And, we're asking the Legislature for about \$75 million for new facilities on campus, including funds to complete the EOAS Building, as well as continued funding for:
  - the College of Business' Legacy Hall
  - the Interdisciplinary Research Commercialization Building
  - a STEM Teaching Lab
  - and new funding for the FAMU-FSU Joint Use Engineering Building.
- I feel cautiously optimistic about the upcoming session because our lawmakers know that Florida State is one of the most efficient universities in the country, and they understand that supporting Florida State students and faculty is a wise investment in the future.

**FUNDRAISING**

- Fundraising will continue to be a big part of our efforts to move forward. When it comes to the Raise the Torch campaign, you may have noticed that we've been a little quiet lately — which may seem a little strange when you're trying to raise a billion dollars — but let me assure you the campaign is going strong, and an announcement will be coming in September 2018 that will amaze you.
- I'll give you a hint: We expect to surpass our goal and we'll have a lot to celebrate. More than 600 new scholarship funds have been given or pledged and 85 professorships have been created or enhanced during the campaign.

- The success of the Raise the Torch campaign speaks volumes about the special place so many people have in their hearts for Florida State University.
- You may be interested to know that our undergraduate alumni giving rate of 19 percent ranks FSU 9th in the nation among public universities. And, about 32 percent of our faculty and staff — including many of you — have made gifts and pledges totaling about \$79 million to our Raise the Torch campaign!
- It really says something when faculty and staff who spend every day transforming the university through the work they do, still want to do even more. It shows you're willing to give back to the university because you believe in our mission and in our future.
- I'd like to close by thanking all of you for how much you care about Florida State and how much you do to lift our preeminent university even higher.
- I knew Florida State was a special place when I arrived on campus as a freshman many years ago, and I've been reminded of it again and again while I've had the honor to serve as your president.
- At Florida State, we know what it means to be part of a family. We may disagree from time to time, but we have each other's backs. We support each other when times are difficult and we celebrate together when we have success.
- This past year, we've done both. The university has changed us, and we've changed the university — for the better. I believe that with all my heart, and I hope you do, too.
- I have no doubt that 2018 will again bring some challenges — there always are — I haven't even mentioned Hurricane Irma! — but we also will have more opportunities for even greater accomplishment.
- Our vision is clear, and we won't lose sight of our goals. Becoming a Top 25 public university is now well within our reach, and I know we will get there.
- It's been said that if everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. So, together, let's keep moving forward. I'm excited about the future because the future is Florida State.



# Holiday Reception 2017



***Entrance to President's House for  
Holiday Reception 2017***



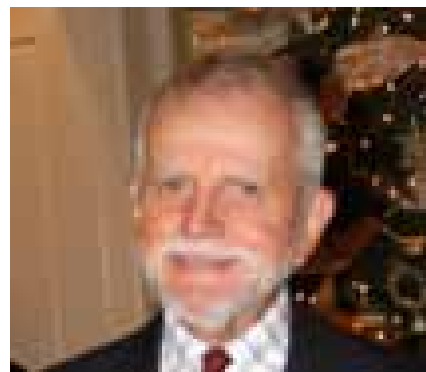




President and Mrs. Thrasher



Betty Lou Joanos and Myles Hollander



Walter Moore



Jimmy Joanos and Jim Melton



Tom and Sherry Hart



Charles Nam



Sally McCrorie and Bob Spivey



Anne Rowe



Marian Moore, Kathy McWilliams & Florence Ashby



Ken and MaryBeth Brewer



Bryan and Nancy Goff and Larry Gerber



Galor Edgeworth





**Cal Zongker and Susan Fiorito**



**Jim and Martha Pitts**



**Barbara and John Elam**



**Tonya Harris, Dot & Jim Skofronick**



**Ivy Mitchell and Irene Yerger**



**De Witt and Neddy Sumners**



**Pete and Barbara Cottrell**



**Ruth Pryor**





**Ralph Turner, Marty Larson and Ron Braswell**



**Marie Cowart**



**Fanchon Funk and Liz Jakubowski**



**Ben Fusard, John Bryant and Harvey Goldman**



**George and Joel Dawson**



**Betty Serow and Mary Stutzman**

## ***Some Thoughts on Volunteering and a Consideration of Big Bend Hospice***

***Submitted by Nick Mazza***



First of all, for the newly retired, it is important to give yourself about a year from the date of your retirement before making any commitments. Often people assume retirement means having all the time in the world, but soon start asking themselves, “how did I do all of this and work full time?” This may be a result of taking up new hobbies, traveling to places on your bucket list, or helping families and friends with their to-do lists, errands, and even babysitting (grandchildren.) It usually takes a year of going through all the seasons and holidays before you get into a routine. Then you can determine how much time you do have to volunteer.

Next, ask yourself how you want to offer that time? Can you commit to doing something a few hours each week or once a month? Would you rather keep your options open and be “on call”, helping when needed? Maybe you like structure and want a specific assignment at a specific day and time each week, or you’re results-driven and would prefer to work on a project that has a specific deadline

Finally, know your passion. Offering one’s time can be more important than making a financial contribution. Make sure you understand and believe in the organization’s mission. The best way to determine if volunteering for a specific nonprofit is right for you is to ask

yourself whether you advocate for them in your community. You want to dedicate your time to something you not only feel, but knows makes a difference.

**So, you've decided that you're ready to volunteer.**

**Now what?**

Big Bend Hospice (BBH) is a great place to start. No matter how you answered the above questions, there is a volunteer opportunity for everyone. There are numerous, simple, yet powerful ways to serve as a BBH Volunteer and every experience is as unique as the person donating their time.

When most people think about the role of a hospice volunteer, they think of sitting at the bedside of someone during the last hours of life. This role is not for everyone and most are not comfortable doing this type of service. But these "Vigil Volunteers" make up only 15% of the entire BBH volunteer corps. A majority of BBH volunteers provide companionship to active and alert patients. Direct Patient Volunteers serve wherever the patient calls home. They provide emotional, spiritual, and physical support to patients and families; reading, watching a favorite television show, and taking walks. Volunteers help patients write a life review; play games; help with shopping; meal preparation; or give assistance with light housekeeping. Direct Patient Care Volunteers can also provide transportation, and run errands.

Another vital service BBH volunteers provide is respite for caregivers, allowing them to get out of the home. Studies have shown that one out of four primary caregivers develops an illness or dies while taking care of a loved one. BBH volunteer will sit with patients while the caregiver runs errands, visits friends, or goes to their own doctor's appointment.

Direct Patient Volunteers also go in to Assisted Living Facilities and area Nursing Homes. It's easy to select a facility near you and visit hospice patients once a week. Having a second set of eyes is always appreciated by the family and BBH staff.

For those with a clerical background, Administrative Volunteers are needed to help in every department. This doesn't just include filing, copying, and data entry. But volunteers are needed to help in the Admissions Office and Medical Records Department. Comfort Call Volunteers make calls to patients and families to ensure they are getting the services they need. Special Event Volunteers help with local fundraisers and serve as advocates in their communities.

Valor Volunteers acknowledge and honor BBH patients who served in the military through Valor Ceremonies. You do not have to be a Veteran to be a Valor

Volunteer. However, Veteran volunteers are used to help with Vet to Vet visits because sometimes a veteran will only open up to a fellow veteran. These visits provide an outlet for discussing military events or situations that happened and can help provide closure to patients.

Bereavement Volunteers are generally Direct Patient Care Volunteers who want to continue a relationship with a family after their patient has passed away. Bereavement Volunteers make home visits or phone calls to those grieving the loss of a loved one; assist the Bereavement Coordinator with Grief and Loss Support Groups as well as help with clerical duties and record keeping. The Caring Tree is a Bereavement Program specifically designed for children and teens. Volunteers are needed each year to help at the annual grief and loss retreats - Camp Woe Be Gone and Teen Woe Be Gone.

There are also ways for those with specific talents to volunteer at BBH. Handcrafters make lap quilts or red, white, and blue afghans that are given to the patients. Tea Time volunteers bake delicious goods and serve them to families and guests at the Margaret Z. Dozier Hospice House. Photographers, writers, and those who like to scrapbook help patients create legacy documents to share with their loved ones. There are many ways to help those facing a terminal illness. Looking to making a difference through volunteering in your community? Become a BBH Volunteer!

Sharon D. Davidson, CVA  
 Manager of the Volunteer Department  
 Big Bend Hospice  
 850.878.5310

{Sharon Davidson joined Big Bend Hospice in 2012 as the Public Information/Marketing Specialist and was promoted as the Manager of the Volunteer Department in 2014. She received her Certificate in Volunteer Administration (CVA) in 2015 from the International Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration.}



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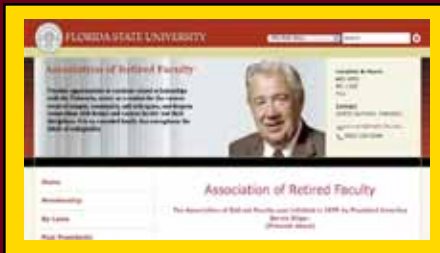
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