Florida state universities could turn away 60,000 students by 2012, report says
02/11/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

As many as 60,000 Florida students could get shut out of state universities during the next few years because of enrollment caps and budget cuts, a state education group predicts.

ENLACE Florida, or Engaging Latino Communities for Education, painted the gloomy picture in a report released this month called "Higher Education in Florida on the Brink."

While ENLACE specializes in Hispanic education issues, the report studies the potential effects on all college-bound students.

The report warns there may not even be space for all community college graduates or Bright Futures scholarship recipients, two groups traditionally guaranteed spots in the state university system.

"Access to a higher education is at risk for all Florida students," the report states.

Florida's universities are facing $147 million in cuts this year, and as much as $171 million in 2008-09, according to state estimates.

The Board of Governors, which makes policy for the state university system, has told universities they may have to reduce enrollment if they don't get more money. State funding accounts for about 75 percent of educating a university student, with tuition paying for the remaining 25 percent.

ENLACE used data from the Board of Governors that show university enrollment trends and projected high school graduation rates. Enrollment at state
universities has increased an average of 3.2 percent a year in recent years, the report states. ENLACE came out with several scenarios of what may happen if demand continues to rise while the universities freeze or reduce enrollment.

If the university system froze enrollment at 300,000 spots, the report predicts, about 40,000 qualified students would be denied admission to state universities by 2012. The report also considers a 1.5 percent enrollment decline, a "worst-case scenario that is not beyond the realm of possibility," to estimate that 60,000 students could get shut out by 2012.

"We're already seeing anecdotal evidence that it's harder for students to get in. That's not surprising, since applications have gone up, and universities have been able to raise their admissions [standards]," said Paul Dosal, executive director of ENLACE Florida. "What would be surprising is if they then decide to reduce the number of freshmen admissions."

That's already happening at Florida State University, where the university could drop its number of freshmen and new transfer students by as much as 1,500 this fall. Most other universities are freezing enrollment, but have no immediate plans to decrease the number of students they serve.

Alexandra Lubin, 17, a senior at Boca Raton High School, said she has found it tougher than she expected to get into state universities. She said she has a B average, a 1070 on her SAT and a 24 on her ACT. She applied to FSU, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, the University of South Florida in Tampa and Florida Gulf Coast University. Lubin was admitted into Florida Gulf Coast. But she received "deferred admissions" to the other schools, meaning they aren't yet ready to accept her but may later if her test scores or grades improve in the next few months. She wonders if enrollment freezes will squeeze her out.

"I know people last year who were sitting in the same spot I am now, and they got accepted," Lubin said. "But it seems like there's a lot more competition this year."

The state university system has historically focused on providing college access to state students, offering low tuition and capping the number of out-of-state students admitted to 10 percent. But in the past year, the Board of Governors has concluded that funding has been inadequate and class sizes have soared.

"All of us want to provide access to every qualified student," said Carolyn Roberts, chairwoman of the Board of Governors. "But how can we do that if we don't have the financial means? If you're giving access to something that is less than adequate, then we're not doing our jobs."
Success at sports cannot offset academic failures

My Gators had another banner recruiting class.

We are second to nobody when it comes to football. Urban Meyer gets more than $3 million a year. The facilities are the best in the country. Booster bucks flow in.

We will make another run at the national championship this year.

Meanwhile, over on the academic side, my Gators have dropped to 49th place nationally. That's according to the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings, which aren't perfect but are at least as accurate as the BCS poll.

Among public universities, UF fell from 13th place to 17th place. We've been trying to get in the top 10 for a while, but to no avail.

One problem is ratios.

The ratio of football players to coaches is about 10-1.

The ratio of students to professors is more than double that.

In this state, athletics always has taken precedent over academics.

If the football team finished 49th in the nation, Urban Meyer would be bounced in short order. But we take it for granted on the academic side. Making this all the more depressing is that UF is by far the best university in the state. After Florida, there is a long, steep drop-off before you get to Florida State.

There is a penalty for running such a Bubba university system.

It is the low-wage, boom-bust, service economy that has plagued us since the first bungalow went up in St. Augustine. This is why we have to bribe high-tech and bio-tech companies with hundreds of millions of dollars to move here.
If long ago we had taken that kind of money and invested in our universities, these companies would be coming here on their own.

Florida is worse than cheap. It is cheap and stupid, which invariably ends up costing you more.

We sell hurricane insurance policies for 50 cents on the dollar, then raise taxes billions of dollars to pay for storm damages.

We similarly discount tuition. We now charge about $3,300 a year. We just dropped below post-KatrinaLouisiana to become the cheapest state in the nation.

And meanwhile, a flood of kids are trying to get in. The universities are turning to enrollment freezes to preserve what quality remains.

We have the Bright Futures scholarship program, which has such low standards that a loaf of bread could qualify. It has become a white-collar entitlement program that no politicians dare take back. And so the only way to keep funding it has been to suppress tuition.

On top of that is the prepaid tuition program, another discount program that serves to suppress tuition.

As academics suffer, universities desperately push for supplemental fees as a way to get around cheap tuition and Bright Futures.

The Board of Governors, which is supposed to oversee colleges, just approved an 8 percent tuition hike, but could be blocked by lawmakers, giving rise to a lawsuit over just who sets tuition.

This is lunacy. The Tallahassee politicians are pandering interlopers who don't know their limits.

They want to set insurance rates, tuition rates, local tax rates. Heck, why not given them our power bills, too.

Making matters worse is that too many universities have delusions of becoming the next Harvard, when what we need is a tiered system likeCalifornia, in which every university has its place.

Florida is going nowhere as a state until we worry as much about what goes on in college classrooms as we do about college football fields.
Florida university system looks at capping Bright Futures scholarship spending
02/10/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Florida's public university system is working on a proposal to cap spending on the popular but increasingly expensive Bright Futures scholarship program, a move that could lead to higher costs for some students and their families.

Key provisions of the proposal include redistributing money to help students from poor families, which could help schools with large minority populations, and those pursuing math and science degrees.

University officials hope that by capping the annual cost of Bright Futures, legislators will be more willing to raise tuition in a state that has the lowest rate in the nation: about $3,400 compared with the national average of $6,200.

The universities need higher tuition to afford more instructors and pay for other resources so Florida schools can compete with those in other states, said Carolyn Roberts, chairwoman of the system's appointed Board of Governors.

Any changes to the lottery-funded program would have to be approved by the state Legislature, which has been reluctant to tinker with a program that lawmakers think has prevented good students from leaving Florida for schools in other states.

"This is going to be a very uncomfortable conversation because legislators and university presidents and others in the State University System are going to have different opinions," Roberts said.

Senate President Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, says Bright Futures will be self-sustaining as long as the lottery pays for it.

"Bright Futures is not only great for our students, but it keeps the promise that was made to the voters when the lottery was presented to them in a constitutional amendment," he said.

Bar too low?
The program pays tuition and fees for students who make good grades in high school.
Students with a 3.5 grade-point average qualify for full tuition and fees, and those with a 3.0 average qualify for awards covering 75 percent of the cost at a university.

The program, however, has been criticized for setting the academic bar too low and promoting rapid growth.

Bright Futures began in 1997 with about 42,000 students sharing about $70 million.

This year, more than 150,000 students are splitting about $400 million.

"I know we're in tough financial times, but we need to look very carefully at any changes," said Rep. Marti Coley, R-Marianna, chairwoman of the House Committee on Postsecondary Education.

Though she had no immediate comment on the proposal, Coley said students and parents often tell her how much the program has helped them with college expenses.

"It's the families in the middle-income range — the ones who make too much to get needs-based aid but not enough to pay for college outright — that really want things to stay the same," she said.

The State University System's proposal would cap Bright Futures spending at its current level of $400 million.

But instead of spending it all on merit-based academic scholarships, $100 million would go to help students from poor families.

Another $100 million would go to students entering so-called STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and math programs.

That would leave $200 million for merit scholarships. The proposal leaves unclear whether that would mean fewer grants, smaller grants or stricter standards to qualify for grants.

The proposal does make clear that Bright Futures would no longer automatically cover tuition increases as it does today.

Higher education officials think that's a key reason state legislators resist tuition increases: When tuition goes up, the state ends up footing the bill for everyone who receives a Bright Futures scholarship.
And that, education officials say, has kept tuition costs artificially low and contributed to the growing financial trouble at Florida's 11 universities, which are controlling costs by capping freshman enrollment and, in some cases, contemplating faculty layoffs.

**Fair distribution?**
University officials say the proposal is also intended to jump-start a discussion about whether the state is being fair in the way it distributes student aid.

Florida gives 60 percent of its student-aid money to Bright Futures and 23 percent to needs-based programs, according to state university officials.

If the university system's proposal is adopted, schools with more low-income and minority students and universities that enroll more community-college transfer students could see dramatic increases in needs-based scholarship money.

For example, students at Florida A&M University, a historically black institution in Tallahassee, get about 1.2 percent of the state’s Bright Futures money. Under the proposal, its students would get nearly 10 percent of the $100 million in needs-based scholarships.

The board is scheduled to take up the proposal Feb. 21. It's not certain whether the board will vote that day to take the proposal to the Legislature, officials said.

Jill Chamberlain, spokeswoman for House Speaker Marco Rubio, R-West Miami, said he is aware of concerns about the effect of tuition increases on Bright Futures. Rubio plans to meet with university presidents in Tallahassee next week, she said.

**College tuition hikes painful but necessary to keep Florida competitive**
02/10/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

College tuition increases are unpopular, especially at a time of economic anxiety across Florida. But the state's university system makes a good case for an 8 percent increase in the next academic year.
Florida's public universities suffered a stinging $90 million cut in funding from Tallahassee in September. They are braced for another huge cut to complete the academic year, and expect another reduction for 2008-2009.

The 8 percent hike will mean a $93-per-semester increase on a 15-credit load. That will surely cause some hardship, but Floridians must acknowledge that tuition rates are bargain basement.

Today, Florida has the cheapest tuition rates in the nation. Our $3,361 average yearly tuition is nearly 50 percent lower than the national average of $6,185.

Put bluntly, you get what you pay for, and the Legislature and governor historically haven't been willing to pay or authorize much in funding for public university education. People angry over the tuition hike should point blame at the executive and legislative branches, not the Board of Governors that oversees the public colleges and universities.

What's more, the Board of Governors is right to enact the tuition increase without seeking the approval of the Legislature or governor. Voters created the panel to govern the state university system, and the Board of Governors ought to be entrusted to set tuition rates.

In fact, Tallahassee politics is one reason why state university funding is at woeful levels. The Board of Governors, however, won't be able to undo all of the damage.

Florida is a global crossroads. We're a key player in the competitive marketplace.

The Board of Governors acknowledges the need for a university system that can churn out a top-notch workforce. Tallahassee must be a partner in this effort, not an obstacle.

**BOTTOM LINE:** The money is needed, and the board should have authority to implement it.

**Another challenge: University funding**

02/10/2008 © Pensacola News Journal

In the late 1990s, when Charlie Reed was booking out of Florida to take over as chancellor of the California university system ? the same job he held in Florida ? he warned that university funding was headed down a bad road.
Under Reed's tutelage, Florida's system was being talked about nationally as a rising star. Today, you are more likely to hear about North Carolina's universities, or even California's again. (Gov. Charlie Crist met with Reed late last year to discuss Florida's problems.)

And it could be getting worse.

Tuition is already the lowest in the country in terms of what it really costs to educate a student in a Florida university.

And while that might make it seem like a bargain, it is a double-edged sword. In real terms, state funding for the universities has been on a downward trend, and tuition has failed to close the gap.

Today Florida is well below the national average in per-student funding. The impact? With almost 80 percent of a university's funding going to hire faculty and staff, reduced funding quickly translates into fewer faculty.

Because it is politically sensitive — legislators hate to be blamed for higher costs — the Legislature and state officials have resisted tuition increases. But with budget woes hitting the state budget across the board, funding cuts are bringing on what university officials are calling a crisis.

At Florida State University, for example, officials are cutting incoming freshmen by 1,000 students to control costs. Last year, FSU officials reported they were doing things like diluting dyes used in biology experiments to save money.

To make up for the current 4 percent budget cut and inflation, it would take a 40 percent tuition increase just to get back to where funding is today, University of West Florida President John Cavanaugh says.

But while tuition needs to go up — and reduce the share taxpayers are carrying — that sort of one-time increase would be prohibitive.

What's needed on university funding is the same thing needed with property taxes: a thorough, comprehensive reform designed to craft a system that meets state needs without putting an unbalanced burden on any one group.

One place ripe for reform is the lottery-paid Bright Futures scholarship program. The way it works today, the state leaves tens of millions — perhaps hundreds of millions — of dollars in federal Pell grants on the table. Tweaking the formula to use Pell grant money first would inject new money into the system.
In trying to transition away from the tourism-housing-construction economy that is a major source of Florida's current economic woes, higher education will be a key player.

But that takes investment aimed at long-term returns. North Carolina began investing in its famed Research Triangle in the 1950s, and it is paying off big today.

This isn't a quick fix, something that can be solved this year. But the sooner the problem is addressed, the sooner a comprehensive solution can be found.

**Editorial: Cut off private colleges**

02/09/2008 © Palm Beach Post

That second round of cuts from Florida's public universities, for a total of $157 million this academic year? It only hints at the slashing looming next year. So, why is the Legislature still diverting $102.6 million in public money to students at Florida's private colleges?

Gov. Crist proposes changing that. His budget reduces the Florida Resident Access Grants by $47.6 million. No new students would receive the grants of as much as $3,000 a year. But students with at least a 2.0 grade-point average still could renew their grants at such private institutions as Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach or Lynn University in Boca Raton.

The reduction is overdue. Tallahassee's refusal to adequately finance the state's 11 public universities helps to explain why for 6,000 students at those schools there is neither state financing nor adequate revenue from Florida's lowest-in-the-nation tuition. The university system's Board of Governors - which is being forced to think beyond freezing enrollment to cutting enrollment - no longer is waiting for leaders in the Legislature to become adults. Like the governor's cut of the private grants, the board's planned 8 percent tuition increase, which would raise $32 million, only begins to bring balance to higher-education financing.

Even as former Gov. Jeb Bush failed to finance enrollment at public universities, he allowed the private-college grant program to grow from $70 million to its current level. The grants still are being sold as benefits to minority students, more of whom lost out when Gov. Bush abolished affirmative action in university enrollment. Gov. Crist's reduction exempts Florida's three historically black private schools: Bethune-Cookman, Edward Waters and Florida Memorial.
That at least is more consistent with the need-based approach that should have been the state's focus. Instead, the Bright Futures entitlement program transfers money from poor people who gamble to families who could afford to send their children to a state university. Still, if Florida is coming up so short when it comes to money for public colleges, Florida can't keep subsidizing private colleges.

**Office of the Chancellor**

**Budgets pinch med schools**
02/11/2008 © St. Petersburg Times

With a newer school at FSU and others coming to UCF and FIU, the state's decades-old programs seek a "fair share."

TAMPA - The state leaders who embraced new multimillion-dollar public medical schools in Orlando and Miami insisted their creations would not diminish Florida's investment in existing medical schools.

But two years later, Florida's public university system is losing tens of millions of dollars because of a statewide revenue shortage. And the state's oldest public medical school is in trouble with national accreditors because its state funding has dropped as enrollment climbed - leaving its lecture halls and student clinical facilities overcrowded.

"Our accreditation's in jeopardy," said University of Florida medical school dean Dr. Bruce Kone. "It's a real crisis, and we need some tangible evidence that the state is going to increase its support."

So as the legislative session nears, UF and University of South Florida officials are lobbying hard to make sure their decades-old medical schools don't suffer so the newer ones can flourish.

They want about $16-million more each year in state money - $9-million for UF and $7.4-million for USF - to put themselves on more equal footing with the medical programs at Florida State University, the University of Central Florida and Florida International University.

Moreover, UF and USF administrators want the state to develop a policy that ensures all public medical students enjoy the same state investment in their education, no matter which school they attend.
"We're not asking them to take away money from other medical schools," Kone said. "We're asking them to grow the pie and give us our fair share."

Tough budget year

Kone and UF president Bernie Machen met with state House Speaker Marco Rubio last month to talk about their concerns. Kone also met with the governor's chief of staff and Senate President-designate Jeff Atwater. Rep. Joe Pickens of Palatka visited the medical school last month.

Meanwhile, USF president Judy Genshaft has repeatedly declared medical school funding one of her priorities for the legislative session that begins March 4.

But now is not the best time to be asking lawmakers for more money. Florida's budget is bleeding red, with an expected $2-billion deficit for the 2008-09 year.

"Everything is going to be tough this year, and that's a capital EVERYTHING," Pickens said. "I certainly agree that UF is deserving of some additional funding, and I think USF is probably in the same boat. But nothing is going to change the fact that this is a difficult budget year."

And there appears to be no turning back on the fledgling medical schools at UCF and FIU. Administrators are hiring faculty and planning ambitious curricula. Last week they got the green light to recruit their first student classes.

UCF and FIU split $10-million in startup money from the state last year and are asking for an additional $18-million this year, for a total of $28-million - a request endorsed by Gov. Charlie Crist.

The schools are expected to cost $500-million over the next decade. Supporters say the investment is worth it because the schools will produce much-needed doctors in a growing state with many elderly residents and families.

"We've been given some very strong, positive support," said Steve Sauls, vice president for government relations at FIU. "Am I concerned about the funding for universities this coming year? Yes. But I believe it's all about economic development, and this medical school for us is a major economic development initiative."

Critics argue the best solution to a doctor shortage would have been to increase the number of residency slots, since many doctors settle down where they complete their residencies - not necessarily where they graduate from medical school.
Just 14 percent of Florida's doctors graduated from a Florida medical school.

Uneven spending

Meanwhile, the state is still spending millions to build up the medical school it approved seven years ago amid much controversy and political maneuvering.

Since 2000, the state has spent $200-million for the college of medicine at FSU, an initiative so contentious it triggered the dissolution of the state Board of Regents, the university system's former governing board.

FSU’s $43.9-million in state dollars this year translates to about $120,000 for each of its 357 students. Enrollment will be capped at 480 students by 2010.

In contrast, UF gets less than $30,000 per student from the state, even though it costs the medical school $73,000 a year to educate each aspiring doctor. The average cost nationally of educating a medical student is $58,267.

USF gets slightly more than UF per student, though administrators could not provide an exact figure.

For the rest of their operating costs, the two schools rely on student tuition and revenues from faculty medical practices.

The newer programs get most of their annual operating dollars from the state.

UF has increased its enrollment by 25 percent to 540 students in the past five years, yet state money dropped by 40 percent during that period, Kone said.

National accreditors sent UF a letter this summer warning that if state money continues to decline, "it is likely to compromise the quality" of the medical school. They said lecture halls are too crowded and the library resources "challenged."

UF and USF officials say they just want a common funding formula that levels the playing field for all of the schools and their students.

"Both USF and UF have received reductions in general revenue in the past few years," said Patricia Haynie, associate vice president for USF Health. "The concern we have is that, with the development of additional medical schools, there might be additional reductions. The fact is there are now several schools, and each needs a certain amount of base state funding to satisfy accreditors."
Kone said his medical school's dependence on revenue-generating medical practices puts too much pressure on faculty who should be focusing on teaching and research. UF has hired more nontenure-track medical school faculty - practicing doctors, not professors - who can teach students while bringing in revenue to support the medical school's operations.

"Our research is suffering," Machen said.

The number of UF clinical faculty jumped from about 330 to 611; tenured and tenure-track faculty dropped from 632 to 565.

"Clinical faculty are not engaged in academia and research," Kone said. "We're fast going from a flagship medical school to a trade school."

Florida A&M University

Bishop Eddie Long And Attorney Willie Gary Speakers For FAMU?'s Spring Commencement
02/10/2008 © St. Petersburg Weekly Challenger

Commencement for April 27. The Schools and Colleges graduating at 9 a.m., where Bishop Eddie Long will be the keynote speaker, are College of Arts & Sciences, College of Education, School of Architecture, School of Journalism and Graphic Communication (SJGC) and Environmental Sciences Institute.

The line of march will commence at 8:40 a.m. and doors will open for the public at 8 a.m.

The Schools and Colleges graduating at 2 p.m., where Attorney Willie Gary will be the speaker include College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (COPPS), FAMU/FSU College of Engineering, College of Law, College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture (CESTA), School of Business & Industry (SBI), School of Allied Health Sciences and School of Nursing.

The line of march will commence at 1:40 p.m. and doors will open for the public at 1 p.m.

Florida Atlantic University
Florida Atlantic University's Lifelong Learning enrollment surges
02/10/2008 © Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

More than 40 percent of students at Florida Atlantic University never do homework, take exams or write research papers.

No, the Boca Raton school isn't facing a sudden influx of slackers. Instead, it's seeing a surge in participation in the Lifelong Learning Society, a non-credit, continuing education program that caters to senior citizens in South Florida.

Enrollment has risen 2 to 3 percent a year, growing from about 10,000 in 1995 to 19,000 this year. About 26,000 students take regular, for-credit classes at FAU.

FAU officials boast in their literature that the Lifelong Learning program is the largest of its kind in the country. One reason is Palm Beach County's large senior population. About a quarter of county residents are 62 or older. The program has spread through word of mouth, since its founding in 1980.

"One of the major contributing factors is FAU's support of the program," said Ely Meyerson, assistant provost for Lifelong Learning. "Most universities around the country aren't interested in lending strong support to programs that don't generate income for the undergraduate programs. But FAU has decided this is a priority."

In fact, about 80 percent of the lecturer are FAU faculty members, who receive a stipend for instructing a class, Meyerson said. The remaining 20 percent are outside experts.

Students take such classes as the history of opera, art history, politics through film and American foreign policy. There are no admission requirements, other than students pay for the classes. They can become members for $30 a year, which entitles them to take eight-week classes for $55 each. Nonmembers pay $75 for each class. The program is self supporting.

"This is much better than when I was back in school," said Jack Jacobson, 79, who lives west of Delray Beach. "You don't have to study, and the seats are very comfortable."

Classes on the main Boca Raton campus are conducted in a large lecture hall at the Barry and Florence Friedberg Lifelong Learning Center, built in 1999 to house
the program. There also are large programs on the Jupiter and Port St. Lucie campuses and a limited number of classes on the Davie campus.

"The lectures are excellent," said Ruth Levine, 68, who lives west of Boynton Beach. "You just sit here and learn. It's a great way to pass the time."

Henry Brietstein, 93, who lives west of Boynton Beach, has been attending Lifelong Learning classes for 15 years. He's noticed how the class sizes have increased as more people have learned of the program.

"They're bigger, and the caliber is getting better," he said.

While some students love to attend a variety of classes, others are attracted to seminars on their specific interest. That was the case for some who attended the "Greatest Operas You Never Heard," a lecture about some of the lesser known operas. The university hired opera buff Joe "Giuseppe" Albanese to speak to the class.

Sandy Cooper, 71, who lives west of Boca Raton, said she loves opera and heard good things about Albanese, who has given lectures for years in South Florida. The Lifelong Learning classes are a great opportunity for seniors to stay active, she said.

"Just because you're old doesn't mean you have to stop learning," she said.

A similarly named program, the Center for Lifetime Learning, is conducted on Palm Beach Community College's campus west of Lake Worth. The program, run by a nonprofit board, serves about 250 to 300 seniors, up about 75 students from a year go, but down from its peak of about 900 in the early 1990s, said Alan Egenthal, executive director.

FAU hires interim research head for $25,000 a month
02/09/2008 © Palm Beach Post

A former Auburn University administrator is earning $25,000 a month as acting head of FAU research while a national search is conducted for someone to fill the critical role permanently.

C. Michael Moriarty, a past colleague of Florida Atlantic University Provost John Pritchett, started Jan. 1 after retiring from Auburn in December.
The job, which has the formal title of vice president for research, is vital for FAU as the school builds its research reputation with partners such as The Scripps Research Institute and the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies.

FAU’s former research head, Larry Lemanski, resigned in the fall to take a position at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Moriarty’s employment agreement ends June 30, meaning he will earn about $150,000 for his work, but that does not include health insurance or accrual of vacation.

"This is a person who's been there and done that, has Washington connections and has had success," Pritchett said. "We're well on the way to having the infrastructure in place for the new person when they hit the ground."

Moriarty's compensation is comparable to what vice presidents for research earn at major research universities, Pritchett said.

It is higher than the $16,000 a month paid to the vice president for research at Florida State University and the $20,650 a month paid at the University of Central Florida. But Moriarty's salary is less than what the University of Florida pays its vice president for research: about $26,916 a month, or $323,000 a year.

Lemanski earned about $16,600 a month - $199,345 a year - but his position also carried benefits, as do those at FSU, UCF and UF.

"It's hard to look at a six-month special effort and compare it to a permanent position, but I guarantee if we get the kind of person that we need here, you'll be paying them a hell of a lot more than the provost makes and that doesn't bother me at all," said Pritchett, who as provost earns about $260,000 a year.

An FAU search committee headed by College of Science Dean Gary Perry has decided to hire a national search firm to help look for Lemanski's permanent replacement.

Pritchett and Moriarty met at Auburn University when Pritchett was associate provost and dean of the graduate school and Moriarty served as vice president for research. Pritchett came to FAU in 2004.

During Moriarty's 12-year tenure at Auburn, he aided in the development of a $25 million research park and helped increase research funding. Auburn's sponsored research programs are now valued at $100 million.
FAU research funding grew under Lemanski from $35 million in 2001 to $93 million last year.

Moriarty "was always congenial and supportive of my interactions with him," said former Auburn colleague Henry Baker, a professor of veterinary medicine. "As vice president for research, he is competent. I expect that he will serve Florida Atlantic University well."

Moriarty's position as vice president for research at Auburn ended in December 2006. A local newspaper reported at the time that Moriarty was fired and was taking an assignment in Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine.

But Moriarty and Pritchett said the move was an administrative change initiated by new leadership, a common practice at universities.

"The president wanted to make a change, and everybody serves at the pleasure of the president," Moriarty said.

At FAU, Moriarty's focus will be mostly at the administrative level, working to electronically integrate paperwork and help the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution align its operations with FAU.

FAU took over the Fort Pierce institution this year.

Moriarty said he's not interested in the FAU position long term, but added: "I've been around a long time, and I've learned never to say never and never to say always."

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**Florida Gulf Coast University**

**New FGCU chief rejects lavish inauguration**

02/11/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

Guests attending Wilson Bradshaw’s inauguration at FGCU will leave with a goody bag full of nothing.

Rather than shower guests with souvenirs and keepsakes of his March 28 inauguration, Bradshaw is depositing that money into a scholarship fund at Florida Gulf Coast University.
“It’s more meaningful than what the money might otherwise be used for,” Bradshaw said Tuesday.

The inaugural scholarship would cover in-state tuition for one financially needy student from Palm Beach County. At the current tuition rate, the scholarship’s value would be $15,100.

Bradshaw, 58, on the job since Nov. 13, was raised in Boca Raton, attending now-defunct Palm Beach High School, Palm Beach Community College and Florida Atlantic University. He relied on need-based financial aid, along with jobs at the post office and a shoe store, to pay for his studies.

“I was given a great educational opportunity, and if I can somehow help someone else, I will,” he said.

The FGCU Foundation budgeted $75,000 for Bradshaw’s inauguration, a two-hour formal ceremony at Alico Arena on campus. The event will feature multiple speakers, a processional, dignitaries, refreshments and a speech by Bradshaw expected to set the tone for his presidency.

“An inauguration is a symbol of knowledge, learning and leadership, and it is tradition to give a souvenir,” said Audrea Anderson, associate vice president for community relations and marketing. “We’ve decided to have a scholarship to honor the president and memorialize his presidency.”

Bradshaw wouldn’t be the first college president to waive their right to a lavish inauguration.

“We had no event whatsoever, and concentrated our efforts on raising money instead,” said Cecilia Lauenstein, director of development operations at University of Albany in New York.

Albany originally budgeted $100,000 for President Kermit Hall’s inauguration in 2005. Hall threw in $10,000 of his own cash to go with that money, creating the Kermit L. Hall and Phyllis A. Hall Inaugural Scholarship. Donors also jumped on the bandwagon, and the fund has generated $3 million to date.

Ball State University President Jo Ann Gora opted for a similar plan three years ago, redirecting the $150,000 party budget and subsequent donations into Presidential Scholarships and Inauguration Scholarships. Twenty-five Indiana students each received $32,000 worth of financial aid.
FGCU students are no strangers to financial aid. Last year, 3,413 of 8,316 students — 41 percent of the student body — shared $9.5 million in scholarships from local, state and national organizations. FGCU offers scholarships for students with disabilities, transfer students, honors students, Latin American/Caribbean students and others.

FGCU has a good draw from Palm Beach County, with 313 Palm Beach students enrolled this semester.

Fort Myers resident Bert Hamilton said Bradshaw’s willingness to create a new scholarship, along with his decision to drive a hybrid vehicle instead of a luxury SUV, is a good sign for FGCU.

“The things he’s saying and doing ... He seems to have his mind in the right spot,” Hamilton said. “I always rely on first impressions, and he made a good one on me.”

Inquiry: FGCU officials tried to fire coach a year ago
02/09/2008 © Naples Daily News

Florida Gulf Coast University athletics officials first tried to fire volleyball coach Jaye Flood over one year ago, according to documents released as part of an investigation.

In a Feb. 19, 2007 meeting, Athletic Director Carl McAloose and Associate Athletic Director Kathy Peterson were told by FGCU’s interim president, general counsel and director of human resources that Flood’s personnel file did not support a decision to fire her.

McAloose and Peterson were told in order to fire Flood, they would need additional documentation, like a poor performance evaluation.

On July 8, Peterson and McAloose finalized Flood’s evaluation that gave her an overall rating of below expectations, which is the second lowest score an FGCU employee can receive. This rating was modified from the original because human resources told Peterson her evaluation of Flood did not support an overall rating of unsatisfactory, the lowest possible score.

Also on July 8, Peterson and McAloose finalized an evaluation for women’s golf coach Holly Vaughn with an overall rating of meeting expectations — the third of five rankings — although the notes say Vaughn marginally meets
expectations. This rating was modified from the original because human resources told Peterson her evaluation of Vaughn did not support a below expectations rating.

As a result of these facts found in an investigation by the law firm Littler Mendelson, on Jan. 21 FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw put written reprimands into the personnel files of Peterson and McAloose.

Peterson even told the Littler Mendelson investigators she would find it hard to give Flood a good evaluation because she didn’t like the volleyball coach. If another employee Peterson did like gave the same performance as Flood, Peterson said she would give a rating of exceeds expectations, the second highest score a FGCU employee can receive.

After consulting with McAloose, the following day Peterson told the investigators that she did not mean to imply she gave Flood a bad evaluation because she didn’t like her.

Peterson did not return requests for comment, and McAloose could not be reached on the matter Friday.

McAloose and Peterson told investigators the evaluations of Flood and Vaughn were worse than previous years because this was the first year Peterson performed the evaluations, and she is much tougher than McAloose.

“AD Carl McAloose and Associate AD Kathy Peterson disagree with the Littler Mendelson reports’ description of the performance evaluations for coaches Jaye Flood and Holly Vaughn, and emphatically say that the performance evaluations were objectively conducted based on job performance,” FGCU spokeswoman Susan Evans said in an e-mailed statement. “Regardless, they are enthusiastically moving forward with President Bradshaw to lead FGCU’s successful athletics program and our student-athletes into NCAA Division I competition.”

These investigations stem from September complaints Flood and Vaughn filed with the FGCU Department of Equal Employment Opportunity, saying they were being retaliated against for their role in a sex discrimination complaint in the athletics department.

On Jan. 18, Flood filed a federal lawsuit against FGCU saying she was defamed and retaliated against for those same reasons.
“This case is about retaliation, and these reports reflect that,” said Linda Correia, the attorney for Flood. “While we are in litigation, I’m not going to comment beyond that.”

FGCU interpreted the Little Mendelson investigation reports as saying McAloose and Peterson did not go as far as retaliation for the sex discrimination complaints; but the poor evaluations weren’t supported by any evidence. That’s why the two received reprimands.

Littler Mendelson also investigated reports that Flood grabbed the shirt of a player during practice and sexually harassed someone during a volleyball road trip. Although the investigation cleared Flood of any wrongdoing regarding the shirt-grabbing or the sexual harassment, it did allege she aggressively pursued a relationship with a student athlete.

The claim of an inappropriate relationship with a student claim was backed up text messages, e-mails and witness testimony. Flood chose not to be interviewed by the investigators.

As a result, Flood was fired by FGCU on Jan. 21, the same day McAloose and Peterson received their reprimands.

When she was fired, Flood was the winningest coach in FGCU athletics department history and was named the Atlantic Sun conference coach of the year. During the fall season, the volleyball team won the Atlantic Sun conference in its first year in Division I competition.

During the course of the Littler Mendelson investigations, McAloose and Peterson said their bad evaluations of Flood and Vaughn couldn’t be in retaliation to a May 24 complaint filed by former athletic director Merrily Dean Baker about sex discrimination in the athletic department.

The internal investigation into Baker’s complaint wasn’t released until July 9, and their evaluations of Flood and Vaughn were finalized July 8.

However, Littler Mendelson discovered McAloose had knowledge of the Baker complaint as early as May 28, and Peterson knew June 4. Furthermore, the entire athletics department received two separate e-mails June 5 and 8 saying a complaint had been filed.

Peterson acknowledged to investigators that after she met with the FGCU internal auditor on June 11, Peterson believed Flood was involved in the Baker complaint.
A timeline of the events surrounding the retaliation complaints against FGCU made by two female head coaches:

-- Feb. 15, 2007: Volleyball coach Jaye Flood meets with Athletic Director Carl McAloose and Associate Athletic Director Kathy Peterson over concerns of her job performance.

-- Feb. 19: McAloose and Peterson meet with the FGCU interim president, general counsel and director of human resources about terminating Flood’s contract. They are told there are no grounds to fire her at that point, saying that only documentation like a poor performance evaluation could substantiate terminating Flood.

-- May 24: Former FGCU athletic director Merrily Dean Baker submits a complaint to the university interim president over how women are treated in the athletics department.

-- June 13: Peterson forwards a unfinished copy of Flood’s performance evaluation to human resources officials, who tell Peterson the individual ratings of Flood don’t substantiate an overall rating of unsatisfactory, the lowest of five scores an FGCU employee can receive.

-- July 8: Peterson finalizes Flood’s evaluation, and it is signed by McAloose. Many of the individual ratings from the June 13 evaluation have been changed toward the negative and has an overall rating of below expectations, which is the second lowest of five scores.

-- July 8: Peterson finalizes the evaluation for women’s golf coach Holly Vaughn, and McAloose signs it. The initial rating of below expectations was changed to meets expectations at the recommendation of FGCU human resources, although the notes say Vaughn marginally meets expectations. Three of the individual ratings from the evaluation originally sent to human resources have been changed downward before the report is finalized.

-- July 9: FGCU’s internal investigation into the Baker complaint is finalized and released, finding no sex discrimination in the athletic department.

-- July 11: Flood receives her evaluation and claims the negative rating came because Baker submitted a complaint to the university president.

-- July 16: Vaughn receives her evaluation and claims the negative rating came because Baker submitted a complaint to the university president.
-- Sept. 7: Flood files a complaint of inequity/discrimination with FGCU’s Department of Equal Employment Opportunity, alleging she has been retaliated against for her role in the Baker complaint.

-- Sept. 13: Vaughn files a complaint of inequity/discrimination with FGCU’s Department of Equal Employment Opportunity, alleging she has been retaliated against for her role in the Baker complaint.

-- Sept. 28: FGCU retains the law firm Littler Mendelson to investigate the Flood and Vaughn complaints.

-- Oct. 1: Vaughn resigns her position and gives two weeks notice after her golf team wins its first tournament of the year.

-- Oct. 15: Flood is placed on indefinite paid administrative leave for issues regarding student welfare, later to be discovered center around a shirt-grabbing incident at a volleyball practice and alleged sexual harassment on a team road trip.

-- Jan. 18, 2008: Flood files a federal lawsuit against FGCU, saying she was defamed and retaliated against for speaking out against sex discrimination at the university.

-- Jan. 21: FGCU releases the reports from the Littler Mendelson investigations, which were complete in Jan. 18. The investigation clears FGCU of any sex discrimination and Flood of both the shirt-grabbing and sex harassment claims. However, Flood is fired after another investigation says she pursued an inappropriate relationship with a student. Two other investigations find the poor performance evaluations shouldn’t have been filed against Flood and Vaughn, although the evaluations were not in retaliation against the sex discrimination claims. Letters of reprimand are placed in the personnel files of McAloose and Peterson.

Florida International University

Scholarships for seniors up for grabs
02/10/2008 © Miami Herald

The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Inc. will offer more than $125,000 in college scholarships again this spring. The annual scholarship is awarded to one senior at every Miami-Dade County public high school and several private high
schools throughout the county. The deadline for submitting applications is March 7.

Each applicant must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and have demonstrated a commitment to voluntary participation in school and community activities. Application forms are available at the College Assistance offices of all private and public schools. Home-schooled students may pick up and return their applications to the school they would have attended.

Since the inception of The Fair's scholarship program 37 years ago, more than $2 million has been awarded to Miami-Dade seniors.

Each scholarship will be $2,000, and applications are made available to all high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college, university or trade school in the fall of 2008.

"The Fair's dedication to recognizing and rewarding youth achievement is at the heart of what we are all about," said Phillip M. Clark, president and chief executive officer of The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Inc., in a release. "The annual scholarship program is one of the many ways that The Fair supports our community. It is through the funds raised at each year's Fair that we are able to give back to the community in such a meaningful way."

Awarding more than $500,000 annually in scholarships, awards and premiums along with outstanding educational student and youth programs, the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition is more than just an 18-day fair and a sought-after venue for community events and festivals held throughout the year.

The nonprofit organization is also a South Florida institution. In addition, The Fair provides every Miami-Dade student in both private and public schools with free fair admission.

The Fair also has contributed $2 million toward the Florida International University football stadium and $1.4 million toward the development of the FIU Performing Arts Center.

The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Inc. will be celebrating its 57th year beginning March 27 to April 13 and is expected to attract more than 700,000 visitors. Ranked among one of the largest and most successful fairs in the nation, the Miami-Dade County Fair is an 18-day event that includes rides, games, food and shows. Close to 50,000 student and adult exhibits are showcased during The Fair.
Matthew Allen Grindy checked off one more of his life's goals when he received a doctoral degree from his hospital bed.

Grindy was dressed in ceremonial cap and gown on Friday, lying in his bed at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, as Florida State University President T.K. Wetherell, Provost Larry Abele and Communication Dean John Mayo conferred upon him the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Speech Communication.

Several days earlier, Grindy had opted out of further treatments for the cancer spreading throughout his body and into his brain, making arrangements to go home to hospice care.

"Even though I knew I probably wouldn't survive, there were some things I still wanted to accomplish. I didn't want my experience to be nasty overall, and I feel like I got that," Grindy told the Tallahassee Democrat. "Statistically, with my diagnosis, I should've been dead a long time ago. But I fought back, and today I accomplished another one of my goals. It's just a piece of paper to some people, but it's more than that to me."

The 28-year-old's friends, family and professors had wanted to know whether Grindy had done enough work to earn his degree. His father, Scott Grindy, said he and Wetherell exchanged phone calls until everything came together and the ceremony was set.

The degree is not an honorary one, Abele said.

Grindy has been FSU’s director of debate for the past two years and was named the top graduate student-coach in policy debate in the country last year. He was still coaching debaters by phone a week ago.

Rwanda, Saudi Arabia officials to attend conference at FSU
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- The president of Rwanda and the Saudi Arabian minister of state will speak at Florida State University on Monday as the schools aim to play a part in international politics.

FSU is the leading U.S. college in the United Nations' new Alliance of Civilizations, which is an attempt to bridge religious and cultural divides around the world. Saudi Arabian Minister of State Abdullah Alireza and Rwandan President Paul Kagame will attend a forum hosted by the FSU Claude Pepper Center for Intercultural Dialogue.

Aside from launching the alliance of colleges, it is also the first step in the construction of a school in Rwanda to be paid for with money raised by FSU students.

"We're talking about bridges, and the bridge to development is education," Pepper Center director Monsignor William A. Kerr told the St. Petersburg Times. "Universities, being learning environments, have a unique ability to expose the commonalities between these different groups. Things are not going to get better, we're not going to have a climate of dialogue, unless universities are involved."

FSU and the Pepper Center will serve as a think tank for policy development and research to help the U.N.'s peace-building alliance, Kerr said.

The alliance was created by Turkish and Spanish prime ministers after the March 2004 train bombings in Madrid. It officially kicked off in Madrid last month.

Alireza is scheduled to speak about U.S.-Saudi relations, and Kagame will discuss the importance of education in helping Rwanda rebound politically and economically from war.

Later this week, Kagame is set to receive an honorary FSU degree and a commitment from FSU students to begin work on a technical school in his country. A group of 17 students will use more than $40,000 raised through a student campaign called "True Seminoles" to build the school.

FSU leads in international politics
02/10/2008 © Gainesville Sun

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The president of Rwanda and the Saudi Arabian minister of state will speak at Florida State University on Monday as the schools aim to play a part in international politics.
FSU is the leading U.S. college in the United Nations' new Alliance of Civilizations, which is an attempt to bridge religious and cultural divides around the world. Saudi Arabian Minister of State Abdullah Alireza and Rwandan President Paul Kagame will attend a forum hosted by the FSU Claude Pepper Center for Intercultural Dialogue.

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**World leaders gather at FSU**
02/10/2008 © St. Petersburg Times

The Saudi Arabian minister of state will sit down Monday with Rwanda's president in a rare face-to-face gathering aimed at improving relations between their very different countries.

The meeting spot? Not a foreign embassy or the White House, but the Tallahassee campus of Florida State University.
The research institution is the leading U.S. college in the United Nations' fledgling "Alliance of Civilizations," an attempt to bridge religious and cultural divides around the world. Monday's forum, hosted by the FSU Claude Pepper Center for Intercultural Dialogue, is expected to draw 300 state and national officials, students and scholars.

"This is certainly one of the biggest things to happen to FSU," said student body president Joe O'Shea of Dunedin. "We certainly have a growing international presence, and I think this is really part of FSU's niche."

For FSU, the conference also marks the launch of two pioneering efforts: an international alliance of colleges that will do research to help countries develop new policies and relationships; and the construction of a school in Rwanda, to be financed with money raised by FSU students.

"We're talking about bridges, and the bridge to development is education," said Monsignor William A. Kerr, director of the Pepper Center. "Universities, being learning environments, have a unique ability to expose the commonalities between these different groups. Things are not going to get better, we're not going to have a climate of dialogue, unless universities are involved."

He plans for FSU and the Pepper Center to serve as a think tank for policy development and research, much of which can help the U.N.'s peace-building alliance.

The alliance is the brainchild of the Turkish and Spanish prime ministers, who came up with the idea following the March 2004 train bombings in Madrid. It officially kicked off in Madrid last month with attendees including former Irish President Mary Robinson and Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka of Nigeria.

People who go to Monday's forum will hear Saudi Arabian Minister of State Abdullah A. Alirezza discuss U.S.-Saudi relations.

The keynote speaker, to be introduced by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's son Yuval Rabin, is bestselling author and former Lebanon War fighter Michael Oren. Oren is a Middle East expert who served in the elder Rabin's government.

Paul Kagame, Rwanda's president since 2000, will discuss the importance of education in helping his nation rebound politically and economically from war.
Before Kagame leaves Tallahassee this week, he'll receive two significant gifts: an honorary FSU degree, and the promise of a technical school to be built by FSU students starting this summer.

A group of 17 students, including O'Shea, will use more than $40,000 raised through a student campaign called "True Seminoles" to build the school.

"We really hope we can build a permanent relationship with the students of FSU and the students we'll be working with in Rwanda," O'Shea said. "We are a school that can reach out and piece together the resources to support the U.N.'s goals."

New College of Florida
No Articles Today
University of Central Florida

Colleges expecting tough fiscal year
02/11/2008 © Orlando Business Journal

It was a tough fiscal year for public colleges and universities in Central Florida in 2007 – and this year's not looking much better, thanks to less money in the state budget.

Take the University of Central Florida.

In October, the Florida Legislature instituted a 3.6 percent budget reduction, which cost UCF $9.6 million. Then on Jan. 4, cash disbursements to state universities were reduced by another 3.8 percent, which translates to a $10.4 million cut in UCF's state budget allocation.

Due to the cuts, the university now is under a hiring freeze, and is freezing increases in freshman enrollment in 2008-2009 to current levels.

Citrus peel in fuel tank? Ethanol's juicy new twist
02/11/2008 © Orlando Sentinel

Central Florida's citrus groves could play a key role in filling up your car's fuel tank in a futuristic Florida.
A $5.9 million plant planned in Auburndale will produce ethanol from citrus peels with the help of a $500,000 grant as part of the state's "Farm to Fuel" initiative, Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson announced Tuesday.

In all, $25 million in renewable energy grants were awarded, including the grant to Southeast Biofuels LLC, a subsidiary of Xethanol Corp., a New York-based publicly traded company, for the citrus peel project in Polk County. U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers in Winter Haven have worked for years on the technology.

"Florida is particularly interested in generating renewable fuels from biomass and cellulose," said Larry Parsons, a professor at the University of Florida/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. "Florida has the climate and land to produce a great deal of biomass."

The ethanol plant, which will lease space from Cutrale Citrus Juices USA Inc. in Polk County, will use a 10,000-gallon fermenter and about 67,000 pounds of citrus peels per batch. The goal is to have a plant that could make 8 million gallons of ethanol a year using 800,000 tons of citrus waste.

As early as 1992, researchers at the USDA's Agriculture Research Service in Winter Haven began looking at ways to use citrus peels for ethanol fuel, but costs of making it compared to the cost of gasoline offset the practicality. In 2003, Bill Widmer, a researcher with the center, began building on the early work of his predecessor and not only lowered the cost but also recovered limonene, a product used as a fragrance and cleaning agent.

Widmer estimates that Florida's citrus waste could produce from 40 million to 60 million gallons of ethanol a year. Florida drivers are expected to use more than 9 billion gallons of gasoline in a year.

"Most ethanol is produced by fermenting corn, and because of recent interest, the price of corn has nearly doubled since 2005," wrote Parsons in a recent trade magazine.

The value of ethanol has fluctuated from $1.25 to more than $4 per gallon and can be made from orange peels for about $1.80 per gallon.

Currently about 3.5 million to 5 million tons a year of citrus peels are used for cattle feed, which could affect the future of the ethanol business.
Since the interest in citrus peels has broadened, the value of the cattle-feed citrus-pulp pellets has gone up to $135 per ton -- nearly three times what it was during most of the 1990s, Parsons said. Citrus waste's rising cost makes it a less-attractive alternative, however.

The Auburndale project is one of two Central Florida grant recipients of the dozen doled out. The University of Central Florida also received $500,000 for a project in Cocoa to generate clean-burning synthetic fuels from animal waste and other biomass.

Proposals were judged on things such as their use of Florida-grown crops and their potential to expand agribusiness in the state.

In a prepared statement, Bronson said, "We believe that awards such as these are critical in triggering the development of a renewable energy industry in Florida. We're hopeful that these projects will yield positive results and serve as a catalyst for major commercial investment in this industry."

*VA comes through to detail hospital's cost*

02/11/2008 © Orlando Sentinel

Just when you think the wheels of bureaucracy couldn't turn any slower, they snap into high gear.

Last Monday I criticized the sluggish pace at which the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was responding to my request for public documents that detail the contract option between it and Lake Nona Land Company on property for a new VA hospital.

Four days later, the contract appeared in my inbox, courtesy of the VA's Freedom of Information office.

Here's the deal: The federal agency will spend $34 million to buy 55.9 acres in Lake Nona next door to the UCF medical school that is now under construction, according to the contract. The deal is expected to close later this year.

That's a purchase price of about $608,000 per acre and included in the transaction is a donation from Lake Nona of an additional 10 acres valued at about $6 million. If construction on the hospital doesn't begin within five years, then Lake Nona has an option to buy the land back.
All of this is significant because it's the first public information about the sale price of land in the area dubbed as the future "Medical City" that will include not only UCF and the VA Hospital, but Nemours Childrens Hospital, the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando and a branch of the University of Florida.

Land for UCF, which will share space with M.D. Anderson, and for Burnham, which is partnering with UF, was donated by Lake Nona land owner Tavistock Group.

Tavistock Senior Managing Partner Rasesh Thakkar said the 10-acre donation was offered to the VA from the very beginning of talks about moving the hospital to the site in southwest Orlando.

In addition, Lake Nona will name a central road that runs in front of the hospital "Veterans Way."

Thakkar said the hospital's proximity to the medical school will provide for easy interplay between the hospital's doctors and faculty research. Those benefits should also help recruit doctors to the hospital.

Aromatech Flavorings hits town

Ever wonder how Dannon or Yoplait develop that perfect strawberry flavor in yogurt that tastes the same every time?

Most likely, they use a company such as Aromatech Flavorings Inc., one of the latest foreign-owned companies to set up shop in Orlando.

The French company that was founded 20 years ago and makes flavors for everything from alcoholic drinks to organic products, pastries and candy opened an office here last summer. Now it's preparing to grow.

Ultimately, the company would like to bring some of its flavor manufacturing business to town, said David Pujol, director of sales for North America.

First, Pujol said, the company is getting a handle on the local tastes and preferences of the U.S. market.

"Some consumers may perceive strawberry different from a French person," he explained. "You go to France and strawberry is very natural, very green. In [the U.S.] it may be very fruity, very candy-like."
Aromatech is one of dozens of foreign-owned companies operating in Orlando, which lately has become an even more appealing option considering the strong euro compared with the dollar.

Pujol said Orlando was chosen for the company's first U.S. office because of its proximity to Latin American and other markets in the U.S. The company is leasing 1,800-square-feet in south Orlando.

"The growth of the region, the dynamism of the area, it's obviously a city that offers a lot of possibilities to new businesses," he said.

University of Florida

New Taser policy: A closer look
02/11/2008 © Gainesville Sun

A revised Taser use policy for the University of Florida Police Department explicitly prohibits discharging stun guns on a person who is passively resisting or merely running from police.

The new policy is the product of 14 separate drafts, hammered out by UF lawyers and police officials, that have been written since a UF student was Tasered by police at a September forum with U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. The student, Andrew Meyer, was Tasered when he refused to be escorted from the University Auditorium by police who considered him disruptive.

If the policy were in place at the time of the Meyer incident, officers still would have been justified in Tasering the student, according to Lt. Robert Wagner of the UPD.

"The (officers) were fine with the Kerry thing," Wagner said. "They were well within policy, they were well within statute, and that's not going to change."

A Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation ruled that the officers involved in the Tasering had followed state guidelines.

Linda Stump, chief of the UPD, said the new policy really just clarifies protocols that were already described in the department's use of force matrix.

The policy is far more specific, expanding a manual section that once covered two pages to more than four pages.
"We've trained like this for years," Stump said. "But really for the average reader, I think you can read it now and get some true clarification of when we might use (Taser guns) and when we might not."

The new policy is in the process of being implemented, Stump said. An ad hoc committee formed after the Meyer incident is still drafting a report, however, that will weigh in on whether Taser guns belong on campus at all. Stump said she's been impressed with the committee's thorough work. She added, however, that the UPD would continue to support the use of Taser guns whether the committee shares that view or not.

"We would still advocate as a department for the use of it," she said.

The new UPD policy states that Taser use "is not a justified response to 'passive physical resistance.'" That would apply to a person who goes limp in the hands of officers, a technique often used during sit-in style protests. The technique also appeared to be employed by a UCLA student who was Tasered multiple times by campus police in 2006 when he refused to show a library card.

Stump said she was familiar with the UCLA incident, which was captured on videotape, but she said she didn't want to comment on whether officers from another agency were justified in their actions.

Critics of Taser use have expressed concern that people who have pre-existing medical conditions may be placed at fatal risk when shot with Taser guns. Interestingly, one of the drafts of the UPD policy would have tried to protect officers against that very risk.

The draft policy stated that an officer who volunteers to be Tasered - as some do to learn the weapon's effects - "must determine before doing so that he or she does not have a medical or other condition that would increase risk from exposure to a Taser."

Officers don't sign similar waivers when they train with pepper spray or other weapons, so it didn't seem appropriate to create that exception just for Taser guns, Stump said.

While Stump said she was sensitive to concerns about the Taser causing real harm to those with medical conditions, she still thinks having Taser guns protects officers and prevents them from having to use potentially lethal force in some cases. "I think we've come out as a department all along and said we
believe this is a good tool," she said, "and we haven't been shown anything to date that says it's not a good tool."

**Pugh Hall dedication**  
02/10/2008 © Gainesville Sun

Printed programs for Saturday's dedication of the Jim and Alexis Pugh Hall at the University of Florida gave no hint that the couple had yet another gift they planned to give Jim's alma mater.

The Pughs had already helped bankroll the new $14 million building with a $5 million gift. Pugh Hall, which stands between Newell and Dauer halls, where it houses the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program and the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures.

Near the end of the dedication, Jim Pugh took the podium to tell a standing-room-only crowd that to totally complete Pugh Hall, UF needed $1 million to name the auditorium. While saying that he and Alexis would provide the money, Pugh's voice caught in his throat and tears appeared in his eyes as he gestured toward former Gov. and Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay and his wife, Ann, and said, "If it's OK with everyone, we'd like to name it the Buddy and Ann MacKay Auditorium."

A standing ovation provided the answer that again his former school would accept Pugh's generosity.

"The word philanthropist is a very important word," UF President Bernie Machen told the crowd. "It means to do good with the resources they have on this earth, and that's what they (the Pughs) have done."

What got the Pugh Hall project started was a friendship that began more than 50 years ago at the Sigma Nu fraternity between Pugh and former Florida Gov. and U.S. Sen. Bob Graham.

While Graham went on to a career in public service and politics, Pugh became a nationally recognized building professional. Graham's vision was to create a place similar to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where UF could train students to work in public service and leadership.
The Graham Center for Public Service, housed inside Pugh Hall, is designed to offer education in public service, homeland security and hemispheric (Latin American) relations. A similar center of the same name will be housed at the University of Miami.

The Graham Center is in many ways the anchor of Pugh Hall, and the other programs housed within the building were specifically selected to complement the center's function. It is no coincidence, therefore, that Pugh is now the home of the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures.

Graham has stressed that students need to be armed with foreign language skills, particularly suited toward working in burgeoning economic markets like China and global hotspots like the Middle East.

The move of some key foreign languages into Pugh dovetails with a significant spike in student interest in those languages. Arabic is now UF's fastest growing language, with course enrollments jumping from just 55 students in 2000 to 343 today — a 524 percent increase. Over the same time period, enrollment in Chinese courses has grown from 152 students to 463 — a 205 percent increase.

"I think there is growing interest in students learning about languages in parts of the world involved in globalization," said Ann Wehmeyer, chair of the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures.

For all the celebration Saturday, there are still stark reminders that UF is struggling in difficult financial times. When plans were crafted for the Graham Center years ago, the hope was that a national search would have netted a permanent director by now. That search, however, is indefinitely on hold because of state budget cuts.

"I don't have a lot of spare money, so it's very difficult for us to do our part in injecting funds into the program," said Joe Glover, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

There were early concerns that the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, also housed in Pugh, would also need interim leadership. UF secured the funds, however, to hire a new director. Paul Ortiz, an associate professor of community studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, will soon take the helm to head the program.

UF's renowned oral history archives contain some 4,000 taped and transcribed interviews collected since 1967. The program has recorded the history of Florida leaders, World War II veterans and civil rights activists.
"The richness of that collection is really remarkable," Ortiz said.

The program's space in Pugh Hall will allow for expansion, including greater use of video to record oral histories.

"I like to use all the mediums," Ortiz said. "My goal is to draw people in."

**Sen. announces program to undo laws**

02/09/2008 © Gainesville Sun

Speaking to a pro-business audience, state Sen. Steve Oelrich said he wants to eliminate laws and regulations that aren't being enforced so businesses can operate with as little government intervention as possible.

Continue to 2nd paragraph Oelrich, R-Gainesville, was joined by Rep. Larry Cretul, R-Ocala, in talking about the upcoming state legislative session at a Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast Friday.

He said he is starting a program this year to undo laws, starting with traffic enforcement, and asked for help also identifying laws that affect businesses but are seldom enforced.

Cretul said he favors reduced regulations that will stimulate the economy instead of increasing taxes.

As examples of traffic laws that aren't enforced, Oelrich mentioned the use of turn signals and keeping mufflers on motorcycles, something he previously advocated as sheriff of Alachua County.

Asked about eliminating tax exemptions that could generate billions of dollars while the state is facing budget cuts, Cretul said that could be counterproductive with certain exemptions - such as on manufacturing equipment - that stimulate the economy and produce jobs and products, while the additional expenses would be passed on to consumers.

He predicted the taxation commission that is reviewing exemptions will also recommend property tax reductions on top of those passed by voters Jan. 29. In regard to Alachua County, he said, "It might be time to revisit the whole idea about the amount of property that is off the tax rolls" that passes the tax burden to a small group of property owners.
While Oelrich is focused on repealing laws, he is also sponsoring several new ones, including one to prevent local governments from spending tax dollars to advocate political positions, specifically citing Alachua's $21,000 mailer to oppose Amendment 1.

He is also reintroducing a bill to create an organ donor registry overseen by medical practitioners after a similar bill was vetoed last year, and is sponsoring a bill proposed by the Attorney General's Office to combat sophisticated marijuana grow houses.

As chairman of the higher education committee and member of the higher education appropriations committee, Oelrich said he is going to try to protect funding for the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College, with a greater emphasis on research and development funding that spins out high-tech businesses to help diversify Florida away from a service-based economy dependent on a fluctuating tourism industry.

He said he is also pushing research funding to develop desalination plants and protect North Central Florida's clean water resources.

"We're not going to be piping water down to South Florida," Oelrich said. "If you want to continue to build in South Florida, you need to supply your water to support that."

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**University of North Florida**

**No Articles Today**

**University of South Florida**

**USF president wants control of Alzheimer's research center**

02/09/2008 © Sarasota Herald-Tribune

TAMPA -- University of South Florida President Judy Genshaft appeared before the board of the Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute Thursday with an idea: that USF take control of the center, which resides on the campus of her university.

The board shot the idea down, even though it faces drastic cuts to its state funding -- cuts that Genshaft said she could cushion if USF absorbs the Byrd Institute.
With little support for Genshaft's plan, the board agreed to form a committee to examine how to build a relationship with USF.

In the end, though, the state universities' Board of Governors may give Genshaft what she wants.

Mark Rosenberg, the chancellor of the state university system, recently wrote lawmakers proposing that the Byrd Institute fully integrate with USF.

Such a move, Rosenberg argued, would save the state money by reducing the number of services that both USF and Byrd perform separately. They could share resources and enhance research.

Rosenberg said he will ask the Board of Governors to recommend that move to the Legislature in March, when lawmakers consider Gov. Charlie Crist's proposal to cut the Alzheimer's center's budget in half. The Byrd Institute's board voted to develop a plan for a relationship with USF before then.

The strongest opposition to Genshaft's proposal came from former House Speaker Johnnie B. Byrd Jr., who envisioned the institute and sits on its board. The center is named after his late father.

"I'm going to go to Tallahassee and I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure the Byrd Institute remains independent," Byrd said.

Sen. Durell Peaden, R-Crestview, said in an interview on Thursday that he does not want to see the Byrd's dollars placed in the control of any one institution, be it USF or any other. Rather, he said, its governing board should include researchers from research universities and other relevant institutions around the state, to promote collaboration and sharing of resources.

Peaden has a bill filed currently that would eliminate the Byrd Institute altogether. But he intends the existing bill to be jumping-off point, he said; he will eventually add a proposal for overhauling the Byrd's governance, once he has one ready.

At one time, Johnnie B. Byrd Jr. proposed that the institute integrate with USF, but only if the $15 million the state spends on the institute be directed to research, with USF picking up the overhead costs.

That would not happen under Genshaft's proposal, Byrd said.
Genshaft, however, said that the Byrd Institute already performs services and research now done at USF. If the two combined, USF could eliminate that duplication, Genshaft said.

**USF student tells kids, 'Let's B Safe'**
02/10/2008 © Bradenton Herald

MANATEE --For years, Brenda Zofrea was dedicated to educating parents on how to keep their children safe.

But it wasn't until Zofrea attended an Oprah's Book Club show with Ann-Marie McDonald, author of "Fall on Your Knees," that she was inspired to write her book, "Let's B Safe."

"That was truly what got my fire going," she said.

The book aims to teach children safety and literacy through rhyming verses.

Formerly a New Jersey resident, Zofrea shared information with parents at corporate lunches and at parent-teacher meetings, giving workshops called Raising Safe Kids in an Unsafe World.

Now, as a University of South Florida graduate-level intern at Daughtrey Elementary, Zofrea has been able to introduce "Let's B Safe" to Manatee County students.

The book, published in 2004, will be used to launch a countywide initiative in April, said Dawn Lengel, coordinator of community involvement.

The initiative involves enlisting the help of community partners, who will fund a book and a plush bee to represent the book's mascot, and volunteer readers who will visit the first-grade classrooms April 21-25.

"It's not just the school district's responsibility, but it's about what we can all do working together," she said. "As the community gets involved, the community gets to take a piece of ownership in educating our children, as well."

Twenty-three of the 34 elementary schools will be able to participate in the program this year, but Lengel hopes the program will expand.
The beauty of the book, she said, is that children learn to read through the rhymes and the real-world application of the book's content, making it fun to learn.

"Children identify with characters and it really brings home the message of the book and it excites them to read. They're getting a message they almost don't know they're getting. It's truly an investment into our community. If we can get this message out every year, every child will have received it."

Zofrea, who often hears from parents who are grateful for the book, said teaching child safety requires laying down ground rules, such as not talking to strangers.

"Prevention education does work. Obviously, predators don't want to get caught. They go after the easy prey. The easiest prey is a child that does not know the rules," Zofrea said.

Dave Bristow, spokesman for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, said any kind of safety initiative is welcome.

"I don't think they're ever too young to start teaching them child safety," he said. "Unfortunately, it's just the kind of the world we live in."

**Business-development center leaves Bartow for USF campus**

02/10/2008 © Orlando Sentinel

The Central Florida Development Council's Central Florida Small Business Development Center has moved from Bartow to the University of South Florida Lakeland.

In partnership with USF Lakeland, the small business council will continue to offer one-on-one counseling, entrepreneurial training and resources free of charge to small start-up and mature businesses throughout Polk County.

**USF Lakeland CEO to Head Hospital Board**

02/09/2008 © Lakeland Ledger
Marshall Goodman, vice president and chief executive officer of the University of South Florida Lakeland, has been named chairman of the Bartow Regional Medical Center Advisory Board.

Goodman said it's important for USF Lakeland to have strong ties to the health and medical community as the university focuses on applied health programs.

Goodman described 72-bed Bartow Regional as "a hub in our region and a vital aspect of our quality of life."

Bartow Regional's main areas of coverage are Bartow, Fort Meade, Mulberry, southern Lakeland, rural south Polk County and northern Hardee County.

Goodman, who has lived in Polk County since May 2006, has served on the Bartow Regional advisory board for almost as long.

He said it was one of the first organizations with which he became involved after moving to the area.

He is also on the boards of the Lakeland and Auburndale chambers of commerce, the Central Florida Development Council, the Lakeland Economic Development Council, myRegion.org, Tampa Bay Partnership, the Polk Museum of Art, the United Way of Central Florida and Polk Vision.

He is a member of the inaugural class of Leadership Polk.

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University of West Florida

**UWF lecture to focus on organ donation**
02/11/2008 © Pensacola News Journal

University of West Florida College of Arts & Sciences will present "A Better System for Organ Donations" at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 on the UWF campus, Building 58A, Room 105.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Sally Satel, a resident scholar at American Enterprise Institute and the staff psychiatrist at the Oasis Clinic in Washington, D.C.

Satel has published articles on cultural aspects of medicine and science in numerous magazines and journals.

A reception and book signing will commence immediately following the lecture.
University of West Florida employee Gabriela Grosse, office administrator for the Department of History, was named University of West Florida Employee of the Month for January.

Grosse was recognized for demonstrating significant and measurable efficiency and productivity in her work and going above and beyond to aid students.

Until recently, the medical establishment thought there were too many doctors in this country. In fact, the Journal of the American Medical Association predicted a surplus of 165,000 doctors by 2000. That never happened.

A confluence of factors kept the nation's supply of doctors at 800,000. Many physicians from the baby boomer generation are retiring, with the average age of retirement from professional practice decreasing from 65 to 61. In 1997, Congress capped the number of medical residencies at 80,000. Medical residencies, which can last from three to seven years, are required training for medical school graduates for them to become board-certified doctors. The supply of doctors coming out of these residency programs has not kept pace with an aging population that requires more healthcare.

While 800,000 doctors might seem like a large number in the United States, it's a drop in the bucket when compared to the nation's 300 million residents. In Florida, there are about 2.4 physicians per every 1,000 residents, according to professional associations and the U.S. Census Bureau. The national average is 2.6 doctors per 1,000 residents.

There's a national shortage of doctors, and the problem is critical in Florida. We may not feel the shortage as much in big cities, given the fact that many physicians are attracted to large metropolitan areas. But in less populated parts of Florida, such as Immokalee in the Everglades or Crawfordville in the
Panhandle, residents are medically underserved. In some cases, they would have to drive for hours to health centers or hospitals for basic services such as colonoscopies or diagnostic MRIs. It's even harder for them to find specialists such as orthopedic surgeons, oncologists, gastroenterologists, ophthalmologists, dermatologists, etc.

To make matters worse, more than 50 percent of all medical students who graduate from Florida's medical schools receive their medical training in other states. An overwhelming majority of all residents end up practicing within 120 miles of where they completed their residency training. Doctors educated in Florida medical schools were residency-trained in other states, creating a brain drain.

That wouldn't be the case if our elected leaders -- particularly at the federal level -- were to fund more graduate medical education to create more medical residencies in Florida.

The Florida Legislature and the Board of Governors, which oversee the state's higher education system, are doing their part to keep Florida medical graduates in state. Two years ago, they approved and initially funded the opening of two new medical schools at the University of Central Florida and Florida International University. The Legislature, with the advocacy of the governor's office, has funded contracts with private medical schools for Florida residents' student stipends.

Support legislation

But neither the publicly funded medical schools or private medical schools or the funding of Florida state residents' stipends can put the brakes on our departing medical school graduates if Congress continues to limit the number of residency programs in Florida. Right now, the state ranks 46th in the country in the number of residencies per 100,000 residents, according to the Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement.

U.S. Sens Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Harry Reid, D-Nev., have cosponsored legislation to expand residency programs in Florida and 23 other states where there's a shortage of doctors. If passed, the bill would add 347 new residency positions at hospitals throughout Florida. We need hospitals, healthcare groups, medical schools and the public to support this critical legislation.

It would greatly help medically underserved counties such as Glades, Gadsden, Levy, Collier and Highlands, as examples, as well as federally designated
medically underserved areas in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, to receive the healthcare they deserve.

Right now, Nova Southeastern University and Florida State University are rotating medical students out to underserved areas. Many of these medical students, after their residency training, end up practicing in those areas because they feel a strong connection to them. If Congress expands and supports residency programs in Florida, we can inspire our gifted doctors to keep their talents local.

Fred Lippman is the chancellor of Nova Southeastern University's Health Professions Division.

**How five colleges thrive in close proximity**
02/11/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

One public university.

One private university.

One Catholic university.

One private college.

One community college.

Five colleges call Southwest Florida home, but as each builds its academic programs, they’re adding more of the same degrees: criminal justice, management, education, business administration, accounting... They’re everywhere.

College officials say it’s not about creating a competition, rather supply and demand that fuels investments into programs that might be offered by the guys down the street. Further adding to saturation in the higher education market are two private universities that operate branches here, with a third outsider planning to set up a mini-campus here this fall.

Unlike the region’s saturated housing market, however, area colleges aren’t seeing classroom desks sit empty.

“It’s based on the needs of the community,” said Edison College provost Noreen Thomas, who pushed for two new bachelor’s degrees in secondary education,
programs Florida Gulf Coast University has touted for 10 years. “It’s absolutely supply and demand. I don’t believe any institution would offer a program unless there was enough demand.”

Criminal justice has emerged as the common denominator, a program featured across the region:

- Edison College: associate’s degrees in crime-scene technology and criminal-justice technology.
- FGCU: bachelor’s in criminal forensics and criminal justice; master’s in criminal forensic studies and criminal justice.
- Hodges University: associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s in criminal justice.
- Southwest Florida College: associate’s and bachelor’s in criminal justice.
- Nova Southeastern University: master’s in criminal justice.

Barry University also has a criminology major, although core courses are not offered at its Lee or Collier County centers. Ave Maria University does not have a criminal justice major.

Rasmussen College, a Minnesota-based school set to open a Fort Myers branch in August, has yet to announce which programs it will feature locally, but it has associate’s and bachelor’s programs in criminal justice available entirely online.

So what makes a student choose one school over another? Class size, cost, convenience and quality of professors, according to Edison criminal justice major Kyle Bradshaw, 20. Other factors are reputation and future plans.

“This is my stepping stone,” said 17-year-old Edison student Kevin Rivera, who wants to attend a four-year university after receiving his associate’s degree. “I want to go into law.”

Although criminal-justice programs are dime a dozen, colleges have no trouble filling those classes.

“If you look at the top television shows, it’s ‘Law and Order,’ ‘Cops,’ ‘CSI’ and ‘NCIS,’ ” said Edison criminal justice professor Michael Nisson, a former police officer who has seen his classes double in size since last year. “Everybody is just fascinated about law and what you can do to fight crime.”
At FGCU, the number of criminal justice, forensics and legal studies majors has grown by 15 percent annually to 850 students this semester, and its graduates are having no trouble landing employment.

“We continually have agency heads asking if we have graduates looking for jobs,” said Tony Barringer, associate dean of FGCU’s College of Professional Studies.

Duplicating majors

Criminal justice isn’t the only major found at more than one local college.

Hodges University and Southwest Florida College, located on opposite ends of Colonial Boulevard, have seven associate’s degrees in common: accounting, criminal justice, management, paralegal studies, drafting and design, medical administration and medical assisting.

Jeanette Brock, Hodges’ executive vice president for academic affairs, said other colleges’ programs “are always on your radar,” but careful consideration goes into determining which degrees will be added to the curriculum. Duplication of programs isn’t necessarily survival of the fittest.

“The more institutions available here, the more interest in higher education we’ll have in our area, and more students will shop around,” Brock said.

In its history, Hodges has only axed one program, a master’s in environmental management that attracted 10 students. Low enrollment and its subsequent cancellation was not related to market saturation, however, because no nearby colleges offered that major. Brock said Hodges simply overestimated interest.

FGCU offers the area’s highest number of majors — 44 bachelor’s and 22 master’s degrees — sponsoring programs that cannot be found elsewhere: anthropology, athletic training, chemistry, environmental engineering, marine science and Spanish, among others.

Ave Maria, with the region’s smallest selection of majors at 13, offers classic literature, sacred music and theology, programs not available anywhere within a two-hour drive of Southwest Florida.

Target audience
Each local college has its niche audience. Ave Maria targets students wanting the Catholic faith mixed into academics. Barry and Nova target working professionals.

FGCU recruits high school graduates and out-of-area prospects. Southwest Florida College, Hodges and Edison register many working adults.

This fall, Edison will offer two bachelor’s degrees in secondary education, programs championed by FGCU. Whereas FGCU eyes the first-time-in-college traditional crowd, Edison essentially had to prove to the state its program wouldn’t steal students from FGCU. As a result, Edison plans to recruit ethnic minorities, economically disadvantaged students, working adults and first-generation-in-college students.

FGCU worked side-by-side with Edison to formulate its programs, a cooperative effort intended at making sure area public schools have an ample supply of teachers.

“We have a great shortage of teachers, and more than one type of institution is needed to train teachers,” said FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw.

**Study: More higher learning needed in Cape**
02/11/2008 © Ft. Myers News-Press

More higher learning opportunities are needed in Cape Coral, according to a study being presented to the city council Monday.

The workforce study is coming to officials almost exactly five years after the city council voted to purchase land for a 171-acre academic village on Kismet Parkway.

It also comes days before a Cape Coral councilman is expected to meet with Florida Gulf Coast University officials about opening a campus in town.

"It's poetic, in a way," said Mike Jackson, Cape Coral economic development director.

"But a key component of our future is education. I think we're finally getting our arms around the extraordinary growth that has occurred here. Now is really the time."
While a final report of workforce needs and challenges won't be released until after it is presented to city council members Monday, Jackson expects it will show about 85 percent of the workforce has a high school diploma, and the percentage with a four-year college degree is lower than average.

"But that number is growing," said John Rhodes of Moran, Stahl, and Boyer, the economic development consulting firm hired to do the study.

As the cost of living in Florida increases, and the number of high-paying jobs that don't require a degree decreases, the percentage of educated people here is increasing, Rhodes said.

This report and an upcoming target industry report cost the city about $205,000 to produce.

Jackson said the report will show a need for higher learning institutions within the city. FGCU offers some classes at High Tech North, and Nova Southeastern has a classroom at the cottages by City Hall, but Jackson said demand is going up for a fully functional university campus.

Jackson said a university is needed to attract high-tech businesses and to create better opportunities for science and research institutions to develop in the city.

The study is coming out as city officials lobby FGCU officials to set up a campus on this side of the Caloosahatchee. District 6 Councilman Tim Day is meeting Wednesday with university officials about moving into the city's academic village.

The village, at Kismet Parkway and Del Prado Boulevard, was purchased by the city in February 2003 for $6.8 million, but the area has not been developed. Day said water management issues have continued to cause delays.

But city officials say once a plan is developed for the site, some of the issues involving wetlands preservation can be resolved.

Day believes a Cape Coral campus would be beneficial for both the city and the school.

"The public needs a way to advance in education, and the university needs to set up in a place with the number of people we have here," Day said. "A lot of people just don't want to drive that far for classes."
Jackson also hopes to generate interest from private colleges, such as Nova or the DeVry Institute. He has even researched opportunities for an international campus with universities in Germany or other European nations.

He would like to bring plans for development of a campus before the city council in the next few months.

If that can happen, he expects an increased presence for high education will stimulate a lot more interest in this area from major corporations.

"Throughout the region, we have a pretty good number of educational institutions," Jackson said. "It would be wonderful if they had a bigger presence here than they do. I think it would be good business for them and would be good for the city."

**UM fundraising drive brings in $1.4 billion**

02/09/2008 © Miami Herald

Shattering fundraising records in Florida, the University of Miami has raised almost a billion and a half dollars in an aggressive, seven-year campaign that promises to propel UM into a more elite league of schools.

The university raised $1.4 billion, surpassing its own billion-dollar goal -- an achievement that has coincided with a significant bounce in the school's placement in various national rankings.

"No one in Florida had ever tried to raise this kind of money before, so there wasn't any kind of competition to raising this kind of money," UM President Donna Shalala said in an exclusive interview with The Miami Herald.

``A lot of people thought we were nuts."'

The campaign concluded in December, but plans are being made to launch another this year to keep the momentum going, Shalala said. The new campaign will be specifically designed to propel UM up in national academic rankings, she said, declining to discuss specifics.

The university's success -- no other college in Florida has ever come close to raising that kind of money in a single campaign -- seems to have inspired others. The University of Florida last year announced an ambitious plan to raise $1.5 billion.
"A successful fundraising campaign in that nature can be hugely transformative in taking an institution to the next level it aspires to," said Rae Goldsmith, a vice president at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. "In some ways, people like to give to success, and so when there is a cause, like education at a particular institution that other people are giving to, it gives other donors confidence."

UM is using the money to endow 35 new faculty chairs, construct or improve 33 buildings and provide more scholarships, among other things.

Shalala, who took over as UM president in 2001 after serving as secretary of health and human services under President Bill Clinton, wants UM to continue its ascent in national rankings. It has already shot up from No. 66 in the country five years ago to No. 52 this year in U.S. New and World Report's annual college rankings, a commonly used point of reference. UM and the University of Florida, which came in at No. 49, are the only two universities in Florida in the magazine's top 100.

In terms of fundraising, UM was 32nd in the nation in 2006, sandwiched between Dartmouth College and Pennsylvania State University, both with much longer histories than the relatively young UM, founded in the 1920s. The school raised $158 million in 2006, according to records provided to The Miami Herald by the Council for Aid to Education, a national nonprofit research group. The University of Florida, which is older, bigger and has a much larger alumni base, raised $156 million in 2006.

UM is also becoming more competitive academically. The average SAT score for incoming freshmen has jumped 73 points, from 1202 in 2001 to 1275 last year. Average GPAs rose from 4.0 to 4.1, and the average freshman ranked in the 89th percentile in their high school, up from 86th.

"People want to be with winners," Shalala said. "We could not raise money if we were declining in the rankings. We could not raise the money if we weren't getting better academically. So everything had to move together."

The fundraising campaign also occurred at a time when the university's football program was not doing as well as it had previously, puncturing the conventional wisdom that a stellar sports program is critical for wooing financial donors.

Shalala said it took "a lot of dinners" with potential donors, and a certain amount of self-confidence, to bring in the money. UM's breaking of new ground for philanthropy could further energize a recent surge in charitable giving in South Florida and boost Miami's economy and prestige, she said.
Sergio Gonzalez, UM's chief fundraiser, explained that the gifts came from companies, foundations and more than 130,000 individuals -- mostly alumni. Creative methods like linking scholarships to specific positions on the football or basketball teams helped lure sports boosters. And Hispanics opened their wallets like never before, giving 16 donations of more than $1 million, Gonzalez said.

About 60 to 70 percent of the donations were to the medical school, and about the same percentage were from people who live in Florida, he said.

Gonzalez and Shalala said they are not worried about the slumping economy.

"We set out at a time when the economy was really bad," Gonzalez said. "The market was down, and there wasn't a lot of certainty about the future financial situation of South Florida. We decided that it was an opportunity."

The fundraising shows that UM has built significant momentum, said independent experts who evaluate colleges.

"I don't think they'd be achieving these campaign goals if people didn't have confidence in them and they hadn't already made the case that they could use the funds wisely," said Anne Kaplan, a director at the nonprofit Council for Aid to Education, which monitors giving to universities nationally.

"People who make large gifts have a lot of experience managing money and they have advisors that help them make decisions. Their success by its very nature demonstrates that these people have a high level of confidence in the places they are donating to."

Some of UM’s biggest donors are members of the school’s board of trustees. Trustee Judi Newman, a UM alumna from 1963, and her husband, a successful software developer, donated $7.7 million and will have UM's new alumni center named after them.

"Attending the University of Miami was a transforming event in my life, and I attended because they gave me a partial scholarship and that made it possible," said Newman, who was a United Airlines executive for many years and now lives in Denver. "So as an alumna of the university and a member of the board, my husband and I made this gift because I wanted to do something to thank them and provide for the future."

Miami lawyer Dean Colson, past chairman of UM's board and a co-chair of the fundraising campaign, donated $1 million.
"I never dreamt it was possible to raise this kind of money when we started this campaign," said Colson, who said he "reached deep" to increase his pledge.

Colson said the school is just getting started.

"Not only did we not tap out people's generosity," Colson said, "If we spend the money wisely, I think we can go back to some of these people who still have tremendous capacity and ask for more."

National Higher Education Issues

Budget cuts could hit R.I. higher education students hard
02/11/2008 © Boston Globe

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Students at Rhode Island's three public colleges could be hit hard by proposed budget cuts, including higher-than-anticipated tuition and fees and less money for scholarships.

more stories like thisGov. Don Carcieri is proposing a $17.8 million cut in the state's higher education system for the next fiscal year and is also asking the colleges to give back $3.7 million this spring.

At least $2 million of the cuts would require professors and college staff to work six days without pay.

Carcieri's plan would also reduce the state's scholarship program by half a million dollars this year and by $1.1 million for the 2008-2009 academic year.

As a result, about 670 college students who would have received last-minute scholarships of about $700 this month will not receive the grants, according to the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority.

"If you look at (the $3.7-million cut) plus roughly $17 million for next year, we are looking at a two-year deficit of over $20 million," Jack Warner, the state's higher education commissioner, told the Providence Journal. "That's a very big whack against higher ed."

The state Board of Governors for Higher Education will probably vote this spring to raise this fall's tuition and fees at the state colleges beyond the rates it set last September, according to Warner.
Those earlier rates included a 6 percent hike at the University of Rhode Island, for a total of $8,678 for in-state tuition and fees; a 5.6 percent increase at Rhode Island College, for a total of $5,552; and a 5.4 percent jump at the Community College of Rhode Island, for a total of $3,000.

Average room and board for in-state students in 2008-2009 is set at about $10,000 at URI and $8,300 at RIC.

The tuition and fee hikes come at a time when state education officials are trying to encourage more first-generation, low-income and minority students to attend state colleges.

Carcieri is recommending the cuts to try to help close a looming state budget gap of $151 million for the current year and up to $410 million for the new 2009 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

Rhode Island is out of step with other states who have managed to pour more money into higher education.

Nationally, states saw their higher education budget rise by 7.5 percent, the fourth year of increased state investment.

But Rhode Island, which has struggled economically, has trimmed its support of higher education, placing a stiffer burden on students and their families.

2-Year-College Leader Has Advice and Criticism for Peers at 4-Year Institutions - Chronicle.com
02/11/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

Colleges could play a far greater role in improving the educational attainment of Americans if they focused their efforts on classroom instruction, better measurements of learning, and new methods to finance institutions, Gail O. Mellow, president of City University of New York's LaGuardia Community College, told college leaders here on Sunday evening at the opening session of the American Council on Education's annual meeting.

For a gathering that typically attracts far more officials from four-year colleges than two-year institutions (only 12 percent of attendees are from community colleges), the selection of Ms. Mellow as the keynote speaker was notable. Indeed, Ms. Mellow used the occasion to educate—and at times criticize—her colleagues from the four-year sector.
"As higher-education leaders, we have allowed the baccalaureate and community-college systems to develop separately and unequally, with tenuous points of integration and inadequate financial support," Ms. Mellow said. "We have to come to a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of our students."

Using PowerPoint slides, she pointed out, for instance, that the overall number of bachelor's degrees awarded annually in the United States would drop by 700,000, or almost half, if not for community colleges. That's because some 300,000 of those bachelor's degrees are awarded to students who transfer from a community college, and an additional 400,000 are earned by "reverse transfers," or students who started at a four-year college, returned to a community college, and subsequently completed a bachelor's degree.

"Community colleges," Ms. Mellow said, "are as fundamental to the higher-education ecosystem as clean air and water are to the environment."

That higher-education ecosystem, though, is broken at a time when college leaders are well aware that the competitive edge long held by the United States around the globe is under siege, Ms. Mellow said. She then provided a laundry list of the well-known shortcomings of the American education system.

Nationwide, the high-school graduation rate for the class of 2001 was 68 percent, and among the 30 member democracies of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States ranks eighth in percentage of adults with at least an associate degree.

"Note in particular that the U.S. is the only country where people of my generation are more educated than those of younger generations," Ms. Mellow told the audience. "Any edge we used to have because of education is rapidly slipping away."

If colleges simply were able to persuade those Americans without a high-school diploma and those with some college to complete an associate degree, the country would gain $848-billion in personal income, Ms. Mellow said.

The hope for achieving that goal, she told the group, lies with community colleges.

"Community colleges are the only postsecondary system that will be the pinch hitter for the gaps in the K-12 system, and the clean-up batter for American business and industry," she said, quoting from a new book that she co-wrote, Minding the Dream: The Process and Practice of the American Community College, which was released at the meeting.
To improve the educational attainment of Americans, Ms. Mellow said, colleges need to:

- Develop better pedagogy. One of the "critical unexamined issues" in higher education, she said, was how to improve teaching. LaGuardia, she said, has made investments in providing sustained, faculty-led professional-development programs in teaching that have proven to work in educating a challenging group of students who collectively hail from more than 160 countries and speak 110 languages in addition to English.

- Create different methods of evaluating college success. The current federal metrics that focus on first-time and full-time students are "outdated," she said. Because community colleges largely educate people who live near their campuses, Ms. Mellow suggested that the colleges could be measured by changes in a community's salaries, new business starts, or new jobs.

- Redistribute how higher-education dollars are spent. Without proposing an alternative system, Ms. Mellow criticized how much money four-year colleges spend on educating their students, compared with two-year institutions. Annual spending on public community-college averages $9,183 per student, she said, while spending for four-year public-college students averages $27,973. Over all, national expenditures for public two-year colleges in 2004 were $24.4-billion, compared to $124.8-billion for public four-year colleges. "The disparity is shocking," she said. "American community colleges, despite enrolling almost half of all undergraduate students, spend 80 percent less than their public four-year sisters."

Testing Service Recommends Steps for Colleges to Improve Accountability - Chronicle.com
02/11/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

As colleges face pressure from the Bush administration and members of Congress to better demonstrate how they improve student learning, a new report by the Educational Testing Service recommends a detailed approach for how institutions can develop better ways to measure their work.

The report, which is being released today, lays out seven steps institutions can take as they create or improve their own systems for assessing and demonstrating how well they help their students learn.

It is the third and final paper in a "Culture of Evidence" series developed by the nonprofit testing service, whose first report came out in 2006 as a national
commission convened by Education Secretary Margaret Spellings was exploring ways to hold colleges more accountable for their outcomes (The Chronicle, August 4, 2006).

In September 2006, the secretary's panel concluded that too many colleges were providing low-quality educations and did not give students and taxpayers an objective way to evaluate academic performance.

As part of her campaign to make colleges more accountable for their results, Ms. Spellings tried last year to impose regulations to set specific types of measures, including standardized tests, that colleges would have been pressured to use to demonstrate what students had learned. But members of Congress in both parties helped colleges fight back, persuading Ms. Spellings to suspend that regulatory process.

**Respecting Colleges' Individual Missions**

As they release their report, officials at ETS emphasize that the framework they are proposing institutions follow respects the individuality of colleges' missions, student populations, and aspirations, something institutions had worried might not be adequately considered under any federally required method of measuring quality.

"It is critically important to allow the institutions to reflect on what they'd like to be able to claim about their students' learning," said David G. Payne, associate vice president in the testing service's higher-education division. "The focus should not be on the tests," he said, but on encouraging institutions to reflect carefully on what claims they want to be able to demonstrate about their students' performance.

The steps proposed by the testing service start with asking institutions to articulate the student-learning outcomes they desire. Then ETS recommends that institutions undertake a series of reviews of their assessment procedures and refine them. After that, the report walks colleges through how they can learn from their efforts, continue to make improvements in how they help students learn, and maintain a continuing "culture of evidence" on their campuses.

If institutions follow the steps the report outlines, the testing service says in its paper, a range of stakeholders (including students, faculty members, and government officials) would be involved in the accountability process and would then be assured that the colleges' resources were being used in cost-effective ways. If the results of the process are effectively communicated, the report adds, institutions will be able to improve their images as well.
Another advantage of the testing service's approach to measuring student learning, the report says, is that it seeks to support a new focus among students and professors on the science of learning and pedagogy as a scholarly activity.

A Rite of Science Puts On a Public Face - Chronicle.com
This week newspapers in Beijing, radios in Brisbane, and television sets in Berlin will all carry stories springing from Room 112, a windowless cell buried within Boston’s Hynes Convention Center. More than 600 reporters and producers from media outlets around the world will be buzzing around that news-briefing room and nearby meeting halls, lured by legions of scientists giving talks about AIDS, climate change, poverty, stem cells, and many other thorny issues that confront modern society.

This rite has been repeated, in one form or another, for the past 160 years, ever since the first meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, known to most as the AAAS. That initial gathering, in Philadelphia in 1848, convened the top natural historians of antebellum America, and the annual event soon became the premier intellectual meeting of the country. Henry David Thoreau joined the association, as did Millard Fillmore, a former president.

In recent decades, though, the AAAS has struggled to keep its annual meeting from fading into history. As more-specialized societies have taken over the regular business of science, the AAAS meeting has had trouble attracting researchers and providing cutting-edge presentations. It actually loses money for its parent organization, and some have questioned its usefulness.

So the AAAS has tried to carve out a unique niche for its annual meeting — as a place where scientists can best reach out not just to colleagues, but also to the mass media and the world at large.

Sheila Jasanoff, a professor of science-and-technology studies at Harvard University, who has served on the association’s board, frequently speaks at the meeting and says her talks there reach a wide audience and have helped her career. "If I present my stuff at AAAS, it travels, it lasts, it speaks across communities," she says. "Pretty much every time I've talked at AAAS, the thing has either become a publication or it's resonated with people in ways I couldn't have predicted."

A Chore for Some

Her perspective on the meeting does not resonate with everybody. Journalists often complain that there’s no news at the meeting — no blockbuster results that are presented for the first time and will claim front-page real estate. If a researcher talks about interesting findings, they have almost always been reported previously, at some more specialized meeting or in the pages of a scientific journal, say reporters.
Scientists themselves carp at times that the AAAS meeting does not draw the fresh results or the numbers of researchers that the specialized meetings attract. Indeed, registration numbers for the AAAS convention have remained flat, even as the gatherings of other societies are ballooning. For scientists squeezed by increasing demands on their time and an expanding number of meetings to attend, the AAAS congress can be a low priority. Even if researchers do decide to go, some view it like a trip to the dentist.

Lloyd Keigwin, a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, is speaking at the meeting this year because a colleague asked him. "As usual, I regret agreeing to do this because it is a lot of work," he wrote in an e-mail message. "However, in my view the AAAS meeting is more about public outreach, which scientists are supposed to do."

Like Mr. Keigwin, who is driving in just for the day of his talk, D. Wayne Goodman, a professor of chemistry at Texas A&M University at College Station, will fly in only for Sunday, when he is scheduled to speak. "Honestly, I did this as a favor to the symposium organizer," he says.

Then there is the question of purpose. The association loses money on the meeting every year, officials acknowledge, although they are unwilling to specify how much.

The Society for Neuroscience, in contrast, made $8-million on its 2006 meeting. "Over the years, there have been discussions about whether the annual meeting is the best use of AAAS resources, whether the annual meeting was an anachronism now," says Carol Rogers, who ran the association's office of public affairs from 1976 to 1989 and presided over the meeting's media activities. (The AAAS derives most of its revenue from its journal, Science, but the organization, like many publishers, faces an uncertain financial future. As it profits from selling online access to institutions, it has lost more than 30,000 individual subscribers over the past dozen years, although the numbers have started to rebound and the association's revenues are climbing.)

**Nascar and Robots**

In raw numbers, the AAAS meeting pales compared with those of other scientific societies. As the event moves around the country each year, its sessions draw 3,000 to 4,000 paying registrants and nonpaying presenters, most of whom are scientists. On top of that, nearly 1,000 people register at no charge with the press room. More than half of those are members of the media; most of the others are public-information officers from universities, nonprofit organizations, and
federal agencies. Journalism professors and students make up the rest of the free registrants.

Compare that with the American Chemical Society, which holds two meetings a year. Each attracts 12,000 to 15,000 registered attendees. The American Geophysical Union's most recent annual meeting, in December, drew 14,600 registrants, out of a total membership of nearly 52,000. And the Society for Neuroscience, with only 38,000 members, pulled in 32,180 people to its meeting in November.

But direct comparisons of scientific attendance do not tell the entire story, because the AAAS has started to move in a new direction. In the past five years, the organization has added free events designed to attract thousands of members of the public.

During the weekend of the five-day meeting, the AAAS holds Family Science Days, a series of activities intended particularly for kids. Close to 5,000 people attended those events in Seattle in 2004. This year families can listen to Diandra Leslie-Pelecky, a professor of physics at the University of Texas at Dallas, talk about her new book, *The Physics of NASCAR*, to be released this week. David Calkins, a lecturer at San Francisco State University and founder of the ROBOlympics competition, will introduce children to battling robots. Corporations, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations will sponsor dozens of booths and activities.

In a separate event, the AAAS will hold what it calls a "town hall" meeting, designed for school teachers, health professionals, parents, and students, on the topic of obesity. Last year's town hall, on climate change, attracted 1,200 people.

"I love this part of it," says Alan I. Leshner, chief executive officer of the AAAS since 2001. "If the largest general scientific society is going to [visit] a community, we have an obligation to make science more accessible to that community, and to do it in a way that's engaging and participatory."

Despite the costs associated with the events, says Mr. Leshner, "they really are an opportunity for public engagement with science, which is a core mission for AAAS."

Rachel L. Falk, a science teacher at Mercy High School, in San Francisco, attended last year's meeting on climate change, where she heard some top scientists discuss the problem and potential solutions. "It got me fired up and inspired," she says. "It made me more knowledgeable before I taught that subject to my students."
The emphasis on interacting directly with the public parallels activities sponsored by the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the model upon which the AAAS was based back in 1848. In the late 1980s and 1990s, the British group made the transition from an annual meeting of scientists to a festival aimed at the public. In 2006, when the festival visited Norwich, England, almost 175,000 people participated.

Mr. Leshner says the AAAS board has had nothing but praise for the association's annual meeting in recent years. "They love the direction we're going to — more and more serving the community as well as the scientific community," he says.

Courting Reporters

For the AAAS, serving the community also means catering to the news media. That relationship goes back to the first meeting, in Philadelphia, says Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, a professor of the history of science at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and one of the authors of The Establishment of Science in America: 150 Years of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Rutgers, 1999).

In the past, reporters attending the meeting could get news stories by going to technical sessions, in which scientists discussed their recent work. But those sessions started to decline in number in 1948, when the AAAS began transforming the meeting into an interdisciplinary event that examined the intersection of science and society. By 1972 the technical sessions had vanished altogether, making it harder to draw scientists to the meeting.

"That was a mistake because the AAAS has been whining ever since about declining attendance at the annual meeting," says Michele Aldrich, who was archivist at the association from 1979 to 1996.

The complaint about the lack of news at the meetings goes back decades, says Bruce V. Lewenstein, a professor of science communications at Cornell University, who also contributed to The Establishment of Science in America: "There hasn't been news at the meeting for 40 years."

But reporters keep on coming by the hundreds (including three from The Chronicle this year). David Perlman, science editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, will be one of the senior journalists there. He has attended the meetings since the mid-1960s, a time when he could count on getting front-page articles out of the event. The prime reason for going now, he says, is to absorb background knowledge about important issues that might become news stories later, and to
meet scientists whom he might have written about or whom he plans to contact in the future.

"It's also a neat place to meet your colleagues, who you don't often see a lot of," he says.

That opportunity is one of the prime attractions for many reporters. They network, look for jobs, recruit employees, talk about their trade — and party. Each year the local community of science journalists throws a bash for the 1,000 or so reporters and public-information officers attending the meeting.

The AAAS also entertains reporters by staging a large party to honor the winners of its award for science journalism, which is sponsored now by Johnson & Johnson. Hundreds of reporters (including this one) have gone to the meeting over the past 63 years to pick up their plaques and prize money.

The AAAS leaders believe that nurturing science journalists is part of the organization's prime goal of advancing science. And that's a tougher job these days, so scientists need allies in the media.

"There's been a decline in public interest, public trust, and public support for science — and scientists want it back," says Sharon Dunwoody, a professor of journalism at the University of Wisconsin at Madison who has studied the behavior of reporters at AAAS meetings.

But with increasing competition for their attention, and tighter travel budgets, many journalists have trouble justifying a trip to the meeting. National Public Radio, for example, has not routinely sent any reporters to cover the meeting for more than a decade, says Richard Harris, a science correspondent at the network.

Still, Ms. Dunwoody expects the press room in a popular destination like Boston to be overflowing, a prediction that matches the high number of media-registration requests received by the AAAS.

Forecasts of shrinking news-media attendance are "a common refrain," says Ginger Pinholster, director of the office of public programs at the association, "but the same people show up every year, so you've got to wonder whether there must be some value in the meeting."

Although some top American reporters have stopped coming, the number of international attendees has climbed. This year reporters from 56 countries have registered in advance. The meeting is also attracting people from new types of media, such as science bloggers and Web producers, jobs that did not exist 15 years ago.
This weekend, as Ms. Dunwoody wades through the throngs of American journalism students, producers from the BBC, and German correspondents, she might run into a few of the reporters who have seen the meeting change over the decades.

Mr. Perlman, 89, of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, will be flying in to cover the meeting. He expected his request to attend this year to be turned down by the newspaper, given budget pressures these days. But he got the go-ahead.

"I figure I'll go to the last one when I'm 90," he says. "Then I'll stop."

**THE EVOLUTION OF A SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

**1848:** The Association of American Geologists and Naturalists broadens and transforms into the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which holds its first meeting in Philadelphia in September. The AAAS is dedicated to the following mission: "By periodical and migratory meetings, to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science … and to procure for the labours of scientific men, increased facilities and a wider usefulness."

**1849-97:** The annual meetings are the high point of American science. Mayors and other luminaries fete the distinguished scientists, whose evening lectures draw large crowds. The AAAS also helps spawn more-specialized societies, like the American Chemical Society.

**1898:** At its 50th anniversary, the AAAS is already struggling as more-specialized societies start to thrive. "It was a bittersweet moment … with falling membership and attendance signaling an uncertain future," says the historian Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

**1900:** The independent magazine Science becomes the official journal of the AAAS.

**1902:** To combat declining attendance at its meeting, the AAAS meets together with 24 affiliated societies during the last week of the year. This "Convocation Week," first held in Washington, proves a major success and becomes an annual tradition. President Theodore Roosevelt invites AAAS members to the White House.

**1919:** The AAAS Council urges those planning association meetings to steer away from controversial political issues. It is part of an early-20th-century trend at the meetings, as they focus inward, mostly on the concerns of scientific
On its 100th anniversary, the AAAS is in the process of transforming itself from primarily serving the needs of scientists to more broadly promoting public understanding of science and improving human welfare. With time, the annual meeting becomes more political. Members of the society stage protests against McCarthyism, and the organization fights segregation.

Student activists disrupt several AAAS meetings, denouncing the role of scientists in the Vietnam War. With its own sense of activism, the AAAS uses its annual meeting to push for the rights of people with disabilities.

On the association's 150th anniversary, President Bill Clinton speaks at the annual meeting, the last time a president has addressed the gathering.

The meeting adds two major events for the public: Family Science Days and a "town hall" meeting aimed at teachers, parents, and students.

Researchers Develop Online Tools for Science Collaborations
- Chronicle.com
Blogs, wikis, and social-networking sites such as Facebook may get media buzz these days, but for scientists, engineers, and doctors, they are not even on the radar. The most effective tools of the Internet for such people tend to be efforts more narrowly targeted to their needs, such as software that helps geneticists replicate one another's experiments. That was the underlying message of many presentations at the annual conference of the Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers held here last week.

"I've been conducting an informal nonscientific survey with every scientist I've met in the last 6 months, asking what social-networking Web sites you use, what blogs you use, and so far I've come up with a big, fat zero," said David A. Crotty, executive editor of *Cold Spring Harbor Protocols*, an online publication of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press. Scientists do not use the sites, he said, because they are too busy.

But create something online that is really useful, and researchers will flock to it. The speakers presented several examples.

Kent R. Anderson described an interactive feature called Clinical Decisions at the Web site of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, where he is executive director of international business and product development. Every few months, the editors create a fictional patient with a condition that can be legitimately treated in multiple ways. An expert on the patient's disease writes an argument to back each of three possible treatments. Then at the Web site, readers of the journal vote on which treatment they would choose, and can leave comments.

More than 6,000 doctors have voted on each of the three Clinical Decisions features published so far, Mr. Anderson said. "It's usually a topic that's on their mind," he said. "They get to see how their peers are viewing the topic."

Philip E. Bourne, a professor of pharmacology at the University of California at San Diego, spoke about the Web site SciVee, where scientists can link videos to their research papers that appear in open-access biomedical journals (*The Chronicle*, August 21, 2007). Mr. Bourne, who created the site, calls the videos pubcasts; they are typically about 10 minutes long and go into more detail than an abstract but less than the full-length article.

The videos are coming in at a trickle, says Mr. Bourne. (He attributes the slow rate to the high quality: the graduate students and postdoctoral researchers who make the videos have been crafting polished presentations.) But some of the ones already online have been viewed more than 100,000 times. When the pubcasts
are uploaded, Mr. Bourne has also witnessed a steep increase in downloads of the linked article.

Jill P. Mesirov described an application that she hopes will ultimately become mainstream for journals that publish computational science. Ms. Mesirov, director of computational biology and bioinformatics at the Broad Institute of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, has designed a way to make computational work repeatable by other scientists.

The software, called GenePattern, stores both data and analytical routines. As the researcher works to collect and analyze the data, GenePattern records the steps the scientist has taken, so that anyone else can follow the steps and check the result or expand on the method using new data. Ms. Mesirov said that more than 6,000 people from more than 100 countries use the software.

She is now working with Microsoft to link such information to manuscripts that could be published online by peer-reviewed journals, to give readers access to a researcher's computational methods. "One of the problems with publishing a paper that relies heavily on computational work," she said, "is that all of the methods that you would need to reproduce it never appear in the journal. If you're lucky, they're in the supplementary material [online]. How much better if the journal had a link to the paper which had the data and an instantiation of the method embedded right in that paper."

The Royal Society of Chemistry has begun a process to make published articles more useable in another way, using semantic searches. Richard Kidd, the manager of informatics at RSC Publishing, demonstrated annotations that the society is adding to papers it publishes. The additions allow users to click on a chemical name, for instance, and see other names that describe it, as well as a diagram of its structure, and links to other articles that refer to the same chemical.

He did not present user data but did quote one scientist on the utility of the annotations: "I spent four hours digging about, which generated at least six new research ideas; printed half a ream of paper; and I missed my bus home."

Views on Immigrants Cost 3 California Community-College Trustees Their Posts - Chronicle.com
Three members of the board that oversees California's community colleges have lost their seats. The reason: They supported state legislation that would make some undocumented students eligible to receive financial aid.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, had appointed the three members, and they were already serving on the board when their confirmations came before California's Senate Rules Committee, in June. The full Senate's Republicans later blocked the confirmations. Some Democrats and community-college administrators say politics prevented highly qualified candidates from serving on the board.

The move may bring instability to the board as it continues its search for a new chancellor of the community-college system. And some legislators and higher-education officials worry that the decision may set an unfortunate precedent.

The 17-member Board of Governors sets policy for the largest community-college system in the country. The board is responsible for hiring and overseeing the system's chancellor. It also advises the Legislature on community-college matters.

Unlike some other higher-education panels in the state, the community-college board frequently takes positions on issues. In January 2007, for instance, the board voted unanimously to support a bundle of bills, including the California Dream Act, which would provide financial aid for undocumented students.

The proposal would expand existing law that allows undocumented students who meet certain criteria to pay in-state tuition at community colleges and California State University.

"I feel we're an open-door policy of community-college access," says Kay Albiani, a board member who lost her position. "When they come to our doors, we teach them."

'Breaking the Law'

Board members are appointed by the governor and can serve up to a year before the Senate votes on their confirmation. Members who are appointed for a second term must be reconfirmed by the Senate.

Last June the Senate Rules Committee held a hearing on the confirmations of three board members: Ms. Albiani, who had already served a term and was then the board's president, and two newcomers, Rose Guilbault and John W.
Koeberer. At the hearing, all four committee members who were present voted in favor of the appointees.

But Sen. Alex Padilla, a Democrat, raised the question that would come back to haunt them: Did they support the new version of the Dream Act?

Ms. Guilbault and Mr. Koeberer had not been on the board when it had voted in favor of the bill, but all three appointees stated their support for the measure. They also declared their intention to abide by whatever law was on the books.

Although the senators argued over the Dream Act during the hearing, they all voted to confirm the three appointees. But after the hearing, Republican senators met to discuss the candidates — and their support of the Dream Act. Sen. Roy Ashburn, a Republican who is on the Rules Committee but was absent from the hearing, says he had two concerns.

The first was his belief that the Board of Governors should not take positions on legislation. He also disagreed with the position the board took. "Illegal aliens are breaking the law," Mr. Ashburn says, and tax dollars should not be used to support them.

After learning that they were unlikely to be confirmed, Ms. Guilbault and Mr. Koeberer let the deadlines for their confirmations pass, and quietly left the board. Ms. Albiani, however, insisted last month on a floor vote. "I felt I had done nothing wrong," she says. She was four votes shy of the two-thirds majority required for confirmation.

The development raises questions for the rest of the board members, who unanimously supported the bill. "Logically, you have to deny the next two people whose terms expire this year," Ms. Albiani says. "Then what happens to our board?"

When asked if other board members would face the same consequences as their colleagues, Mr. Ashburn said, "We'll look at each fairly and objectively as their nominations come before us."

The results of the Senate hearing have already caused the board to make one change: It will no longer vote to approve the policy positions taken by its chancellor.

The impact on California's community colleges remains to be seen.
"From the point of view of operations and business, it's no problem," says Philip R. Day Jr., chancellor of the City College of San Francisco. "It's the larger issue of philosophy and public policy and how it plays out politically."

**Judge Reduces Jury's Award in Fresno State Discrimination Case to $6.6-Million - Chronicle.com**
02/11/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

A California judge has reduced by two-thirds, to $6.6-million, a $19.1-million jury award given to a former women's basketball coach at California State University at Fresno who sued the university for sex discrimination.

The ruling on Friday by Fresno County Superior Court Judge Donald S. Black, who presided over the trial late last year, gives the former coach, Stacy Johnson-Klein, until February 22 to accept or reject the reduced verdict. If Ms. Johnson-Klein does not accept or does not respond, the court will order a new trial.

A jury of 11 women and one man awarded the $19.1-million to Ms. Johnson-Klein in December after an eight-week trial (The Chronicle, December 7, 2007). It was believed to be one of the largest awards ever to an individual in a discrimination case.

On Friday, neither Ms. Johnson-Klein nor her lawyer, Warren R. Paboojian, gave any indication whether she would accept or reject the smaller sum. Ms. Johnson-Klein was "disappointed" in the judge's ruling, and "is considering all of her options," Mr. Paboojian said in a written statement issued on Friday afternoon. A woman answering the phone at his law office said neither Mr. Paboojian nor Ms. Johnson-Klein was speaking to reporters about the ruling.

Following the jury's decision in December, lawyers for Fresno State asked the judge for a new trial, saying the amount was excessive. On Friday, Dawn Theodora, a lawyer for the California State University system, said the ruling was a mixed bag.

"It's a good thing, and it's somewhere in the middle," Ms. Theodora said. "We were very pleased that the judge agreed with our argument that the damages were excessive. But at the same time, it's still a large amount, and we take that very seriously."

She said the university system "will continue to explore our legal options, including appeal."
Ms. Johnson-Klein was fired from Fresno State in 2005 near the end of her third season. She argued that Fresno State's athletics department at that time was in disarray, with top officials repeatedly making sexually discriminatory comments. She said she lost her job because she advocated for gender equity and women's rights.

Lawyers for Fresno State disagreed, saying Ms. Johnson-Klein was verbally abusive to her players and cheated on her expense reports.

The case is the third legal dispute over alleged sex discrimination at Fresno State to capture headlines in recent months.

In July, a California jury awarded $5.85-million to a former volleyball coach who sued for sex discrimination. A judge later reduced that award to $4.5-million. And in October, the university settled a sex-discrimination case filed by a former athletics official for $3.5-million.

Fresno State named a new athletics director, Thomas Boeh, in 2005.

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**At Louisiana Technical College, Fatal Shootings Leave 'No Answers' - Chronicle.com**  
02/11/2008 © The Chronicle of Higher Education

Two days after a woman killed two fellow students and herself at Louisiana Technical College at Baton Rouge, police officers continued to search for a motive on Sunday.

On Friday morning, Latina Williams, who was 23, shot and killed Karsheika Graves and Taneshia Butler in a classroom before committing suicide. Investigators had not yet determined what, if any, connection Ms. Williams had to the two women.

In a statement released the next day, the shooter's mother, Jennie Williams, offered sympathy to the victims' families. "In this tragedy, just like you, we have many questions but no answers ...." she said. "I will be haunted to the end of my days by what my child has done."

Ten months after the shooting massacre at Virginia Tech, the murders in Baton Rouge served as a harsh reminder that colleges of all kinds are as vulnerable to violence as many public places.
Around 8:30 a.m., Ms. Williams walked into an emergency-medical-technology class, spoke with the instructor, and left, according to the police. A moment later, she entered the room through another door and fired six rounds with a .357-caliber pistol. After shooting the two victims, she reloaded and shot herself in the head.

About 20 students were in the classroom, and several dialed 911. The first call was received at 8:36. Four minutes later, police officers had entered the building.

Louisiana Tech had immediately activated its emergency-response plan, and instructors told students to stay in their classrooms. Some remained there for hours as police interviewed witnesses, according to news reports. The college plans to remain closed until Wednesday.

Louisiana Tech, which has campuses throughout the state, offers programs in nursing and early-childhood education, among other subjects.

In interviews with a local television station, relatives of the victims said that they had no idea why Ms. Williams had shot the two women.

Ms. Butler, who was 26, had a husband and three children. "You are supposed to be able to go to school," Ms. Butler's mother, Bobbie Landry, told WAFB, a CBS affiliate in Baton Rouge. "It's supposed to be a safe place to go."

Ms. Graves, who was 21, had two children and was studying to become a nurse, her aunt, Karlyn Leblanc, told the station. She had planned to graduate next December.

**Turkish Parliament Allows Some Head Scarves to Be Worn on Campuses - Chronicle.com**
The Turkish parliament voted on Saturday to pass a pair of constitutional amendments that would allow Muslim female students who wear head scarves as a profession of their religious faith to do so on university campuses.

The controversial measures, supported by the governing Justice and Development Party and one opposition party, the Nationalist Movement Party, passed by more than 400 votes to about 100—exceeding the two-thirds majority required for constitutional amendments.

Neither measure explicitly refers to the wearing of头 scarves. The first, which would amend Article 10 of the Constitution, concerns universal equality before the law, and the second, which would amend Article 42, provides for the right to education for all. But the changes, once fully approved, would allow the government to proceed with plans to enact more-detailed changes in Turkey's higher-education law.

The amendments require the approval of Turkey's president, Abdullah Gul, which is expected, and may also have to withstand an anticipated challenge in the constitutional court.

Turkey's population is overwhelmingly Muslim, and a large and growing percentage of the country's women wear the head scarf, but the country's secular political, judicial, and military establishments have long insisted on the exclusion of overt symbols of religious observance from the public sphere, including even private universities. All universities fall under the supervision of the Council of Higher Education, a government body that has historically been staunchly secularist, but whose membership has recently been transformed by new appointments, among them a new chairman named in December by President Gul.

Secularists vs. the Observant

The head-scarf issue has been a lighting rod for controversy between secularists and observant Muslims, whose ranks include both Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Gul. Mr. Gul's head-scarf-wearing wife, like many Turkish women, was prevented from attending the university of her choice because of her attire.

Despite the comfortable margin of support the head-scarf proposals received in the legislature, the measures remain divisive, with opposition lawmakers from the secularist Republican People's Party vowing to take their objections to the
country's constitutional court to prevent the lifting of the ban, and some university rectors insisting that, even if the ban is officially rescinded, they will continue to attempt to enforce it.

Yesim Arat is a professor of political science at Istanbul's Bogazici University and the author of *Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy: Islamist Women in Turkish Politics*. On her campus, she said in an e-mail exchange from London, where she is spending a sabbatical leave, the head-scarf issue has long been controversial among faculty members, "even though there has been a liberal tradition at Bogazici and there is a significant group who have been against the ban in the context of liberal rights, freedom of education, and agency of the women who choose to wear it."

**Fear of Opening a Door**

Ms. Arat explained her position against the constitutional changes. "Ultimately, we have a secular constitution and the head scarf is an Islamic dictate," she wrote. "To allow the head scarf through a constitutional change opens a route to possible other Islamist changes—and even if it did not, I don't think a secular constitution should be a means to implement Islamic law."

Tens of thousands of protesters who share her opposition to the constitutional amendments took to the streets of Ankara, the Turkish capital, on Saturday after the votes. As was the case with a similar demonstration the week before, after a preliminary vote on the measures in parliament, many of the demonstrators were women wearing head scarves.

Neslihan Akbulut is the general secretary of AKDER Women's Rights Association Against Discrimination, an Istanbul-based group that describes itself as a human-rights association for students and professional women who face discrimination in educational and career opportunities because of their attire.

Ms. Akbulut hailed the passage of the constitutional amendments as a positive development but emphasized that they represent just the first step in what is likely to be a lengthy process before head-scarf-wearing students become a visible norm on Turkish university campuses. The easing of the ban will not apply to higher-education faculty members, and it does nothing to change provisions set down by the Council of Higher Education that allow for only head scarves tied under the chin, and not full head coverings or scarves knotted tightly behind the head that are seen by many as a symbol of political Islam.

"These two articles say that nobody can be [denied] the right to education or work, but that we can limit these freedoms by laws or regulations," she said. "So
now, if these amendments are accepted, they will give the right for everyone to
go to university, but in the [council's] regulations, they describe the kind of scarf
that is allowed, and only this grandma-style is allowed."

"We at AKDER declare that state officers cannot say to women that they cannot
have a certain style of haircut and they cannot decide what kind of scarf I can
wear," said Ms. Akbulut. "We want something in the law that says that
university is free for all, with or without the scarf, and without saying what kind
of scarf."

Ms. Akbulut, who finished her undergraduate degree at Istanbul Bilgi
University, pursued graduate studies abroad after the head-scarf ban began to be
enforced with more rigor in the late 1990s. She worries that a new phase of social
discrimination lies in store on some university campuses.

She noted that some university leaders have said they will protest lifting the ban,
"even if there is a law," by leaving class if women wear scarves, or by refusing to
give "full marks to veiled students." Ms. Akbulut cited as an example the rector
of Istanbul University, a bastion of the enforcement of the ban, who has been
quoted saying that he will not award grades to students wearing the scarf.

Ms. Arat, the political-science professor, thinks that, even if enacted and allowed
to take effect, the head-scarf measures would not have a transformative effect on
universities. "There might be an increase in the number of women wearing head
scarves in the universities, but I personally don't think the increase would be that
significant," she said. "The ones who want to cover their heads found ways
anyway."