

Board of Governors State University System of Florida

*News Clips of the State University System of Florida
February 1, 2007*

Board of Governors

[Board: No desire to replace O'Connell](#)

02/01/2007 © Gainesville Sun

A member of the University of Florida's board of trustees went unconfirmed by the state Senate last session, but the chair of the state Board of Governors says there's no plan to replace UF trustee Cynthia O'Connell.

"There's been no conversation with me about (replacing O'Connell)," said Carolyn Roberts, chair of the Board of Governors. "We're very pleased with her."

The Board of Governors, which oversees the state's 11 public universities, is empowered to appoint five of UF's 13 trustees. In 2006, the board reappointed O'Connell, senior vice president of a public relations firm headquartered in Tampa, for a second five-year term as a UF trustee. But since the Senate did not confirm O'Connell last session, the board could appoint another trustee if it desired.

Without confirmation, O'Connell can still serve as a voting member through the regular legislative session ending in May. If O'Connell were not confirmed this time around, however, the board would have to appoint a new trustee in her place under state law. Roberts said she believes O'Connell will be confirmed this session, which would extend her term through 2011.

O'Connell, who was confirmed by the Senate in 2001 for her first five-year term, was not confirmed last session because of a technicality, according to board officials. Bill Edmonds, spokesman for the board, said required paperwork for confirmation was not submitted before deadline to begin the confirmation process.

In addition to O'Connell, the board failed to submit paperwork for eight other trustees at universities across the state who are also unconfirmed, Edmonds said.

Just as some of his predecessors have done, newly elected Republican Gov.

Charlie Crist has used the Senate confirmation process — or lack thereof — to appoint his own choices to state boards and councils. This month, Crist announced that he would withdraw the appointments of 284 people who had been appointed to state boards and councils but weren't confirmed by the Senate. Of those 284 seats, five are on university boards, but none of them is at UF.

Constitutionally, the governor is empowered to appoint six of the 13 members of UF's board. O'Connell's seat, however, is filled by a Board of Governors' appointment so Crist can't withdraw her name and replace her. But might Crist pressure the Board of Governors to replace O'Connell? Roberts, the board's chair, says she doesn't see that happening.

"That doesn't appear to be his style," said Roberts, president of Roberts Real Estate in Ocala. "He's very respectful of our board."

Crist will be entitled to appoint two new trustees to UF's board in 2008 when the terms of Al Warrington and David Brown expire.

In addition to the 11 trustees appointed to staggered five-year terms by the governor and the Board of Governors, UF's Student Government Association president and Faculty Senate chair serve one-year terms as trustees by virtue of their offices.

O'Connell, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday, was married to the late Stephen C. O'Connell, a former UF president for whom the university's basketball stadium is named.

She is vice president of Hill and Knowlton, and serves as general manager of the public relations firm's Tallahassee office. O'Connell, a Florida State University graduate, is one of two appointed trustees to have not attended UF.

Office of the Chancellor

No Articles Today

Florida A&M University

[A leader is needed - now - to save FAMU](#)

02/01/2007 © Tallahassee Democrat

The Pappas Consulting Group's proposed master plan for higher education in Florida represents a clear and present danger to Florida A&M University's future as a research institution. The FAMU Board of Trustees must respond by hiring a president today who has the experience, vision and tenacity to fight this threat.

The Pappas plan, submitted to the Board of Governors on Jan. 15, urges Florida to create a new "State College System" within the existing university system that will award only bachelor's degrees. It further identifies FAMU as one of the "natural choices" to become an exclusively baccalaureate institution.

I join five other former FAMU student-body presidents - Kristin Tucker Harper, Andrew D. Gillum, Andre T. Hammel, Virgil A. Miller and Ramon J. Alexander - in declaring the suggestion that FAMU should award only bachelor's degrees shocking, insulting and outrageous.

Just last year, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classified FAMU as a doctoral research university. This achievement resulted from FAMU's aggressive push to add new doctoral programs during the mid-1990s. At that time, FAMU added seven new doctoral programs and received state authorization to add nine more over a 10-year period.

The idea of removing FAMU's master's and doctoral programs is reminiscent of segregation. FAMUans have not forgotten how the state closed our law school in 1968 and shifted its entire library collection over to a newly created College of Law at Florida State University. We will not sit idly while this painful, discriminatory history is re-created in 2007.

Today, more than ever, FAMU needs a leader who has an uncompromising position on graduate and professional education. The FAMU community fought vigorously and effectively against the Board of Regents' 1998 so-called "three-tier plan," which attempted to bar FAMU from adding new doctoral degrees. It will take a leader with tested skills in lobbying, research grant-raising, and doctoral education management to combat the Pappas plan.

FAMU cannot wait another month to seat a permanent president. The state will not put its higher education restructuring plans on hold while a long presidential transition takes place at our university. An interim administration cannot make the long term academic decisions or secure the political commitments that are necessary to protect FAMU from the Pappas plan.

FAMU trustees must heed presidential search co-chair R.B. Holmes Jr.'s suggestion to select a permanent leader today. Any further delay in the selection process will send the message that FAMU's leaders are not moving with a sense of urgency to counter the imminent threat to the university's research status.

Trustees also have a responsibility to make a hiring decision that makes sense in light of grave danger that our graduate and professional programs currently

face. The upcoming battle to save our master's and doctoral degrees leaves no time for on-the-job-training.

It is time to put personal agendas aside and do what is necessary to save FAMU.

By Larry O. Rivers
MY VIEW

[Hail to the president? New FAMU leader may be picked Thursday](#)
02/01/2007 © Tallahassee Democrat

Hail to the president? New FAMU leader may be picked Thursday

The full 13-member Florida A&M University board of trustees may decide on Thursday to hire a new permanent president.

At an all-day public meeting, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the student union grand ballroom, the trustees will interview the three finalists for the job, discuss the candidates and decide whether to vote. The alternative would be to wait until March 8 and vote at the regular board meeting.

The historically black university has been led by Interim President Castell Bryant for two years, and the presidential search process has lasted more than a year.

The vote comes at a critical moment for FAMU, where enrollment and fundraising is down, research dollars are up and re-accreditation is due in 2008. There's also a new consultant's visioning report to the Florida Board of Governors that suggests FAMU is among several state universities that would be good candidates to become four-year colleges that only grant bachelor's degrees.

Florida Atlantic University

[Board of Governors OKs FAU construction plan during Boca visit](#)
02/01/2007 © Boca Raton News

The Board of Governors – the state board that oversees Florida's 11 state universities – spent a couple of days visiting the Boca Raton campus of Florida Atlantic University this month.

And they left something behind for the university's Board of Trustees. The BOG approved FAU's request for \$109 million for construction projects over the next three years.

In the end, state legislators must approve the financing.

While in Boca, BOG members also watched as trustees reorganized. Norman Tripp succeeded Sherry Plymale as chairman and Nancy Blosser was picked as vice-chairman.

"I look forward to working with Trustees Tripp and Blosser in their new roles, as both have shown such a strong commitment to FAU and higher education in general," said FAU President Frank T. Brogan. The BOT governs and sets policies for the university in accordance with the laws of the state and the policies of the Board of Governors.

Chairman Tripp is founder, chairman emeritus and a partner in the Tripp Scott law firm in Fort Lauderdale. He was founder and general counsel of Alamo Rent-A-Car. He lives in Fort Lauderdale, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami and earned a Juris Doctor degree, magna cum laude, from Cleveland State University.

Blosser, also of Fort Lauderdale, graduated from the Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing in New Jersey and received a master's in business administration from the University of Miami.

The board also elected a new slate of committee chairs, including Armand Grossman, chair, and Robert Stilley, vice chair, of the Committee for Academic and Student Affairs; Scott Adams, chair, and Lalita Janke, vice chair, of the Strategic Planning Committee and Nancy Blosser, chair, and William Bryant, vice chair, of the Audit and Finance Committee.

Governors also held their own meeting while visiting FAU.

To the trustees, though, the most important vote was on the construction program.

A month earlier, Tom Barlow, FAU's lobbyist in Tallahassee, outlined the legislative spending proposal for the coming year.

The largest single request in the legislative package – for the coming year and over the next three years – is construction of a new engineering building on the Boca campus. The total ticket is \$41 million. Barlow said FAU is asking for \$17,982,000 in 2007 for Phase I of the project. Last year, lawmakers came up with \$3 million to get it started.

Also on the university's needs list is a new \$16 million general classroom building, a \$2 million expansion of the College of Arts and Letters and a new \$30

million environmental sciences facility on the David campus.

During the BOG's meeting, its members heard recommendations from a private consulting firm that has evaluated the current structure of the state university system. The production of degrees has increased, the firm noted. But graduate and professional degrees have grown faster than undergraduate diplomas.

A public hearing will be held Feb. 27 for citizens to comment on the study.

[\\$75 million !! Largest single donation ever to a US community hospital](#)

02/01/2007 © Boca Raton News

The future of Boca Raton Community Hospital took a major upturn Tuesday.

In what speakers called "a milestone in health care," the Schmidt Foundation presented BRCH with a \$75 million donation for its new teaching hospital on the campus of Florida Atlantic University.

As hospital CEO Gary Strack announced the contribution to a hushed crowd gathered at Avitat Aviation at the Boca Raton Airport, the covering dropped on a portrait of family patriarch Charles E. Schmidt, one of Boca's most famed philanthropists. The new hospital scheduled to break ground next year and open in 2011 will be named the Charles E. Schmidt Medical Center.

The gift is the largest ever received by BRCH in its history - the largest ever given to a US community hospital, and the third largest ever given to any kind of US hospital or health care facility, officials said.

"This is part of the amazing journey that started 45 years ago," said Strack. And he introduced Gloria Drummond - the woman who led the charge to create a hospital in Boca Raton in the early 1960s. Drummond, who lost two children to poisoning because they could not reach a hospital in time to save their lives, drew a standing ovation from the crowd. And Strack told how she "turned tragedy into triumph."

Speakers said the Schmidt donation will help BRCH, FAU and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine continue the joint physician education program.

What began as a program that allowed FAU students to take the first two years of medical doctor training on the FAU campus, then transfer to UM, has now been extended to all four years. But the Boca-based university needed a local hospital for internships and continued training.

BRCH stepped up with a plan to build a new hospital on campus, replacing its current Meadows Road facility. The hospital got the Florida Cabinet's OK late last year to move to the Boca campus. Other than fundraising, virtually all hurdles have been jumped.

Strack said the new hospital will be "the very best in design and the safest teaching hospital." He called the Schmidt family largesse "a transformational donation."

Richard Schmidt, chairman of the Schmidt Foundation and also chairman of the board at Boca Hospital, arose from his seat next to the podium to thunderous applause. "I have a message for you," he told the crowd. "No one is more excited than my family and me."

He recalled that 10 years ago, his family foundation funded the Schmidt Biomedical Center at FAU - a program and building designed as a prelude to a physician education program. He said that construction of "a new academic medical center raises the bar for medical quality in this community."

The foundation chairman also told the audience: "If you have thoughts for philanthropy, now is the time to consider it."

Calling the Schmidts both "wise and generous," FAU President Frank Brogan pointed out that many buildings on the campus already carry the Schmidt name.

The success of the hospital, Brogan said, also means success for FAU and the community. "We stand as a full partner," he told Strack. "Our board stands ready, willing and able to help this through."

Also on hand was Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp, representing Gov. Charlie Crist. He applauded the Schmidts for creating "a resource unparalleled in Florida or the United States."

Plans call for 530 private patient rooms at the new hospital. Strack said it will "become a standard for hospital safety by improving visibility of patients to staff, standardizing and automating certain tasks and procedures, minimizing physician fatigue and empowering patients' families to participate in their care."

[Architects plan FAU alumni center](#)

02/01/2007 © South Florida Business Journal

A Boca Raton architecture firm is to design the \$2.8 million Florida Atlantic University Alumni Center on the university's main campus in the same city.

Retzsch Lanao Caycedo said the 13,000-square-foot building will be a signature feature of the campus at 777 Glades Road.

"FAU will now join the ranks of other great universities worldwide where alumni centers build affinity and renew school spirit," FAU President Frank T. Brogan said.

The Marleen and Harold Forkas Alumni Center is named for the Boca Raton couple that donated \$1 million toward its design and construction.

The two-story facility is to have a series of interior and exterior gathering spaces interconnected to a main reception/dining/event area.

Plans also call for office space, flexible classrooms and a boardroom to be located in a "beacon-tower" at one end of the complex to serve as a professional development center.

The facility is also to house offices for FAU Alumni Relations, a small alumni library and a hall of fame atrium.

RLC Architects is providing schematic design, design development, construction documents and construction administration.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for February, with completion anticipated in late 2008.

Florida Gulf Coast University

[Heavy task at hand](#)

02/01/2007 © Bonita Daily News

Florida Gulf Coast University severed the last of its ties with Bill Merwin on Wednesday, agreeing to pay the former president nearly \$400,000 in severance.

Merwin requested an early retirement and publicly announced his affair with another university employee two weeks ago. The scandal has embroiled the south Lee County campus ever since as investigations into the conduct of the former president were carried out and speculation grew over the identity of the female faculty member.

Trustee Larry Hart was among the board members to emphasize the need to move the university past the controversy.

"It's a mess. It's an embarrassment to the community," Hart said. "It's embarrassing to sit before the board of governors having this hang over our heads like a halo. I'd like to remove that today."

Trustees discussed a severance package worth \$2.6 million, the estimated value of the presidential contract the board renewed with Merwin in June to employ him through 2009, before they agreed to pay Merwin a lump sum settlement of \$398,000.

That amount is equal to one year's salary, plus benefits and the upkeep of his home office. Merwin, 67, who has hired a personal attorney to represent him, has already agreed to accept the amount, said trustee David Lucas.

The trustees also awarded Merwin accrued benefits, which include a \$50,000 bonus left over from a \$75,000 performance bonus he was granted by the board of trustees in 2006.

Faculty senate president Sharon Bevins was among those who cautioned that there was strong criticism on campus over the amount given to Merwin. She said many faculty members did not support the compensation package.

"Most believe that no additional salary is warranted after Jan. 17," Bevins said, referring to the date Merwin made his announcement.

Both Bevins and student body president Kirt Gallatin voted against the compensation package.

"As a student, I just had to take a stance," Gallatin said. "I just kept thinking that's \$400,000 that could have gone to scholarships."

The severance package and the independent audit the board ordered in the wake of the resignation will be paid for through the FGCU Financing Corp., the public financing and bonding arm of the university.

The costs of the audit, which was released on Monday and cleared Merwin of using his office to promote the female faculty member through raises or promotions, are still being calculated, Evans said.

The audit analyzed travel reimbursements, phone records, raises and promotions, and expense reports as they related to Merwin and the woman, who was not identified in the report, for the past three years.

While the audit originally reported that Merwin did not have a university phone during the time of his employment, auditors have recently learned he did have a phone, said Jeff Tuscan, who represented the firm of Stroemer, Tuscan & Co.

More than 60 calls made on the phone, which is located in the SUV Merwin drove during his tenure, were deemed personal. Merwin paid \$22 to cover the cost of those calls, Tuscan said.

Along with tying up loose ends left in the aftermath of Merwin's resignation, the board also outlined instructions for the search committee charged with finding the next FGCU president. The 14-member committee has until the fall to bring three prospective candidates to the board, which will vote before the final candidate goes to the Florida Board of Governors for final approval.

Search committee members will be able to hire a firm to help carry out the search if they wish, said Scott Lutgert, chairman of the FGCU Board of Trustees.

"We will do a national search or an international search," Lutgert said. "Whatever it takes."

[Ex-president leaves FGCU with \\$811,000](#)

02/01/2007 © Ft. Myers News-Press

Former FGCU President William "Bill" Merwin's landing will be softened by more than \$811,000 in money from a severance settlement, an annuity and other benefits.

The largest segment of the money will amount to the \$398,000 Florida Gulf Coast University trustees OK'd Wednesday to settle Merwin's contract.

Merwin, who resigned two weeks ago over an affair with a faculty member, told The News-Press he likely will sign the deal.

The settlement will be paid in a single direct deposit using interest money from investments by the FGCU Financing Corp., a support organization that provides bonds for university projects, largely using housing, concession and parking revenues.

None of that money comes from taxpayers.

Trustees also approved an accrued benefits agreement that will pay Merwin \$92,649 for unused sick and vacation time, \$50,000 left over from a bonus that was part of the contract he signed last summer and \$271,000 in annuity money to be paid by a retirement-fund company.

Officials hope the settlement signals the end of the scandal and scrutiny that have gripped the campus since Merwin resigned Jan. 17.

"I really do believe that it's finally over," trustees chairman Scott Lutgert said. "It's time for the university to move on, and I think now that we have this settlement, we can finally do that."

The deal pays Merwin the equivalent of his \$298,000, annual base salary plus \$95,360 for benefits and \$3,000 to \$5,000 for a home office.

Merwin, who did not attend the trustees meeting, said he agreed earlier this month to a deal along those lines during negotiations with trustee David Lucas before resigning.

The agreement follows a clause in Merwin's contract that called for him to receive one year's compensation if he were fired without cause.

"I think it's fair," Merwin said. "It honors my contract, and that's all I wanted."

It's not what two trustees from FGCU's campus wanted.

Faculty representative Sharon Irish Bevins and student government President Kirt Gallatin cast the lone votes against the retirement deal. The remaining 11 trustees backed it.

Bevins favored paying Merwin only through the end of the academic year, an option that would have cut his settlement deal by more than half.

"I've had 75 faculty members come to me in the last two weeks to talk to me about this situation," said Bevins, an associate physical therapy professor. "My vote reflects the views they expressed to me. They want Dr. Merwin to be treated the way they would be treated in the same situation. That's why I suggested paying only through the end of the academic year."

Other options

Trustees discussed several other settlement options, including one that would have paid Merwin \$731,812. Another would have paid him \$2.6 million, covering the remaining 2 1/2 years of his contract.

"Of course, it's better to give 400 grand away than 2.6 million," Gallatin said. "That being said, as a student, that's 400 grand for scholarships. So I couldn't, in good conscience, vote for that."

The contract clause cited by Merwin likely left trustees with few strong options, said Raymond D. Cotton, a Washington, D.C., lawyer who specializes in contract

negotiations between university boards and presidents.

“They did the smart thing in abiding by the contract,” Cotton said. “Not only because of the legal obligations, but also because of the potential consequences to the university and its reputation if they didn’t.”

He pointed to a bitter court fight between Western Michigan University and former President Judith Bailey, whom trustees fired last summer. The two sides settled in October on a deal that will pay Bailey more than \$500,000.

“Now Western Michigan is having trouble attracting people for the president’s job because of the damage the legal battle did to the university’s reputation,” Cotton said. “As a trustee, you can’t just think about the money. You have to think about what’s next.”

FGCU trustees said they also feared losing to Merwin in arbitration had they not reached a deal.

“It’s a lot of money,” Lutgert said, “but we could have done a lot worse.”

In addition to his FGCU and annuity payouts, Merwin later this year will begin receiving an estimated \$58,000 in annual retirement benefits.

He’s eligible but hasn’t applied for similar benefits from Maryland, New York and Montana, where he also worked as a university president.

Perks Merwin lost from his FGCU contract include a \$50,000 annual housing allowance and a 2005 Cadillac Escalade paid for and maintained by the university.

“I did like that car,” Merwin said.

Tabbed “Dollar Bill” for his fundraising skills — officials say they helped him raise \$250 million for FGCU — Merwin now drives a 1997 Honda Accord.

[Foundation honors charitable father, son](#)

02/01/2007 © Naples Daily News

Artistic, brilliant, amazing, creative, effortless, thoughtful, wise generosity.

The words of praise seemed to go on and on as family, friends and a “who’s who” of business leaders recognized this year’s recipients of the LIFE Award, given out by the Edison College Foundation on Wednesday.

For the first time, the award, which recognizes leadership in advancing educational opportunities, went to a father and son – Raymond L. Lutgert and Scott F. Lutgert.

The spotlight shined on Raymond, the founder of Naples-based developer The Lutgert Cos., for a second time in less than a week.

On Saturday, he made a record \$2 million bid at the Naples Winter Wine Festival, winning a 2008 Rolls-Royce Phantom Drop convertible in the charity auction.

At Wednesday's awards luncheon, held at The Naples Grande Resort & Club, the bid became all the buzz.

After taking the stage to receive the crystal torch-shaped LIFE award, Lutgert brought up the bid himself.

"Everybody is telling me congratulations for buying the car," he said. "That isn't what it was all about, of course."

He said it was about giving back to the community. The auction benefits children's charities in Collier County, charities that teach and provide support in other ways.

He said he ordered the same model and make of car from a dealer "some time ago." But once he saw the manufacturer offering it at the auction, he knew he'd bid on it.

He expected to spend more on the car in the auction than at the dealership. What he didn't know is that he'd get into a bidding war and pay more than four times the value of the car.

"I can say I kind of cursed the buyer that bid against me. I didn't feel that kindly toward him," he told the crowd of about 350 who gathered in a hotel ballroom to honor him and his son.

"The moral of that story is to give to your community, help your community," he said.

In an interview after the ceremony, he admitted having second thoughts after spending so much.

"I think I had a little bit of buyer's remorse, as they call it," he said. "What did I do? What did I do?"

The car is so new, it won't be delivered until September. The one at the auction was actually a prototype. Only 100 will be made.

Scott's son, Kurt Lutgert, gave an emotional speech at the luncheon that brought his father and grandfather to tears. He thanked them for being "beacons of light" in the community and for their support of their families.

"We're all meant to shine as children do," Kurt Lutgert said. "Both of you cause all of us to shine a bit more."

"You're honest," he added. "You're fair. You're funny."

Kurt works as a vice president at The Lutgert Cos., where his father is chairman and chief executive.

The Edison College Foundation received an anonymous nomination for the father and son team. Other nominees couldn't beat out the two men, who have been business partners since 1970 in the company that developed Park Shore and the Village at Venetian Bay.

"We thought the father and son tipped the scale," said Tracey Galloway, district director for the Edison College Foundation. "When you put the two of them together and consider what they've been doing for all these years in Collier County, it's hard not to choose them over someone else."

The LIFE award is named after Holland T. Salley, the first recipient and a longtime member of Edison's foundation board. LIFE stands for Leadership in Fostering Education.

Raymond Lutgert's philanthropy has touched many educational organizations, from the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County and the YMCA to the Education Foundation of Collier County and Florida Gulf Coast University in Estero.

Lutgert helped start a specialized cancer center for the NCH Healthcare System. An accomplished artist, he created and donated a sculpture titled "Education... The Lyric of Life" to Edison's Collier campus.

Scott Lutgert serves as chairman of the board of trustees for Florida Gulf Coast University. He's past chairman of the board of NCH Healthcare System and sits on the board of the Philharmonic Center for the Arts.

He's board chairman of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, which in seven years has raised more than \$55 million for Collier County children's charities. On

Saturday, the festival's auction raised more than \$16 million, shattering its own world record for a wine auction.

Scott Lutgert said it was extraordinary to receive such an award. He said getting it with his father, who he described as a longtime friend, made it all the more special.

He said his father has always emphasized the importance of education.

"We can invest in buildings and business...," he said. "But education is a wonderful thing. It's a long-term investment in the community. ... It just makes all of our lives better."

Raymond Lutgert offered these words to show his appreciation: "Thank you, thank you, thank you."

He urged everyone to give back to the community. He emphasized that everyone has something to give (even if they don't have \$2 million in the bank to buy a rare Rolls-Royce).

"The more you can give and share of your talents, whatever they may be, to make this a better community than it even is now, please, please do it," he said. "Do it to help others in the future."

Florida International University

No Articles Today

Florida State University

No Articles Today

New College of Florida

No Articles Today

University of Central Florida

No Articles Today

University of Florida

No Articles Today

University of North Florida

[From death comes hope for others](#)

02/01/2007 © Florida Times-Union

I don't know how to properly start a column about a fallen U.S. Marine whose grieving mother started a scholarship fund in his name at the University of North Florida.

That sentence alone is too sterile and too brief. So I'll share the story as it unfolded to me.

Amy Watkins Vazquez is a 51-year-old mortgage loan officer. Her son, Josh, was killed in Iraq by enemy fire just over three months ago. He was 25.

"He is the best thing that ever happened to me," Vazquez says.

As soon as Terri Pope, a fellow mortgage executive, learned of Josh's death, she called Vazquez. Vazquez often shared stories about her son and the care packages she would send.

Pope, who always intended to send one herself, wanted to know whether Vazquez or Josh had a favorite charity.

Vazquez remembered that Josh had made her promise that should anything happen to him, she should make sure that his best friend's baby son received a college education.

"That is the first thing I thought of," Vazquez says.

Pope quickly opened an account at Compass Bank with about \$400. The money came from her, her employer and the Mortgage Bankers Association of Jacksonville, which she serves as treasurer.

Josh's service was Oct. 27. Several days later, Vazquez spoke briefly to the mortgage bankers. "I prayed about it and I shared what I shared at Josh's service," she says. Pope recalls hearing about Josh's life and death and his best friend's son, and Vazquez read a poem she had given Josh. There wasn't a dry eye in the place.

Vazquez was returning to her seat when the meeting's keynote speaker, David Pillsbury, stood up and pledged \$10,000 to the fund on behalf of his organization. He is president and chief operating officer of the PGA Tour golf course properties. Vazquez cried.

Right away, Vazquez realized she was dealing with big money. Because Josh had completed three years at UNF toward a building construction management degree, she and her brother turned to the university.

They visited with Rod Grabowski, UNF associate vice president for development, to start the Marine Cpl. Joshua C. Watkins Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund for military personnel. "She felt a calling to try and provide something for people who served in the military to get their degree," Grabowski said.

The Watkins scholarship is a permanent fund, and the interest it earns will be used for the scholarships. The fund has grown to \$39,200 and when it reaches \$100,000, it will qualify for a \$50,000 state match.

The money that has been deposited in Compass Bank, which reached \$3,000, will be used to jump start the scholarships for the fall term.

(Anyone who wants to donate can do so through UNF. Call Grabowski at (904) 620-2113.)

Vazquez tells Josh's story when she's asked. She says she has spoken to a PGA event and is scheduled at the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville on Feb. 27.

Josh was an only child and his best friend, the one with the baby, is as well. Josh often called him "my brother by another mother."

The baby, now a year old, still is guaranteed a college education. Vazquez pledges to pay for that herself.

"That was my son's last request," Vazquez said.

University of South Florida

[Genshaft Aiming USF Toward Nation's Elite](#)

02/01/2007 © Tampa Bay Online

TAMPA - The University of South Florida will launch a series of "bold and ambitious goals" to join the nation's elite society of higher education, President Judy Genshaft said in her annual address to the university.

The university will try to recruit more international students, especially Fulbright scholars, and expand its international study and research programs, Genshaft said Wednesday. In addition, the university will continue to become more selective in the students it admits and work to improve its standing in key college rankings.

Genshaft said those steps will help USF secure a spot in the Association of American Universities, an invitation-only group of the nation's top schools. The

University of Florida is the only university in the state that belongs to the association, and Genshaft sees no reason why USF can't be the second.

"Rest assured, we can get there," she told about 200 faculty, employees and students gathered in a darkened auditorium in the university's theater complex.

However, USF's student government president said undergraduate education has become the ugly stepchild to high-profile research. At USF and throughout the state, "the emphasis is certainly greater on research and economic development," Frank Harrison said in remarks Wednesday to The Tampa Tribune editorial board. "Undergraduate education has fallen by the wayside."

Genshaft noted achievements the university reached in the past year: record research funding, a high-achieving freshman class and an \$8 million state award to launch a sweeping biotechnology initiative.

Genshaft also noted that the university received nearly \$70 million in private donations. She said that later in the year there will be a big announcement about USF's fundraising campaign.

The university is in the "quiet phase" of the campaign, which officials have said aims to raise \$500 million to \$1 billion in private donations.

Genshaft's address comes two weeks after a report was released showing that the state's university system is inefficient, underfunded and focused too narrowly on research.

USF trustees and administrators will discuss the report's findings at a meeting today. After her address, Genshaft said one of the report's suggestions to turn the university's St. Petersburg campus into its own college will never happen.

University of West Florida

No Articles Today

State Higher Education Issues

[PCC Works With Educators to Serve Needs of Polk County](#)

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In response to the Saturday article "PCC Plans to Stay a 2-Year College" [page B3], some background information may be helpful. In 1999, the Legislature first granted community colleges the authority to offer the baccalaureate degree. The 2001 Legislature streamlined the process and clarified its intent that community colleges were allowed to offer the degrees under specific conditions of access for "economic development needs and educational needs of place-bound nontraditional students."

An agreement signed on Jan. 10 between the Board of Governors (state

university system) and the state Board of Education (community college system) settled a legal challenge raised by the Board of Governors over the governance structure of community colleges that offer baccalaureate degrees.

Polk Community College is committed to working with all of our higher-education partners in Polk County to meet the demands for more teachers and nurses. We all know that there is an unmet need in our county in many high-demand workforce areas.

With regard to the teacher shortage, PCC established an Educator Preparation Institute in partnership with the Polk County School District to offer alternative teacher certification in high-demand areas. We are asking the Legislature this year to increase the funding so that we can expand our program.

With regard to the nursing shortage, PCC has expanded its two-year program to address the RN shortage. Our hospital partners have generously donated money for student scholarships so that we can continue to recruit students to the profession.

PCC students can pursue their BSN through USF on our Winter Haven campus, and we are looking forward to developing articulation agreements with Florida Southern College's new BSN program and with other private institutions as well.

As the article states, PCC is open to future discussions to offer limited baccalaureate degrees. Our immediate goal is to expand our two-year degree programs and workforce-training efforts to all parts of the county, and to strengthen our 2+2 partnerships with local colleges and universities.

EILEEN HOLDEN

President

Polk Community College

Winter Haven

National Higher Education Issues

[U. of California Sues the Family of Jacques Derrida Over the Noted Philosopher's Papers](#)

The Chronicle

The University of California has sued the family of Jacques Derrida, a pioneer in contemporary philosophy and literary theory who died in 2004. The lawsuit is

the first public eruption of a bitter, behind-the-scenes battle that involves both the papers and, perhaps, the legacy of the thinker.

The lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Central California in late November, focuses on the ultimate disposition of Derrida's papers, many of which are housed at the University of California at Irvine. At the time of his death, Derrida taught both at Irvine and at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, in Paris.

The Derrida papers at Irvine were donated by the author to the university in 1990. The papers are the centerpiece of the university's Critical Theory Archive, which is part of the Special Collections and Archives section of Irvine's libraries.

According to a guide to the Derrida archive, the papers include "manuscripts, typescripts, and recordings" that provide comprehensive documentation of his activities as a student, teacher, and scholar. The collection spans the years 1946 to 1998, the guide adds, but contains "no material that might be described as 'personal,' such as private correspondence."

What is at stake in the battle may be the remainder of Derrida's papers, which are held by his estate or in other repositories, including the Institute of Contemporary Publishing Archives, known by its French acronym IMEC, near the city of Caen, in northwestern France.

[Department Gives Rule-Making Panel Proposals for Regulations on Preferred Lenders and Inducements](#)

The Chronicle

The U.S. Education Department has drafted a package of proposed regulatory changes that, among other things, would bar colleges from recommending fewer than three lenders to students who are seeking federal loans.

The package, which was sent on Monday to members of a committee charged with crafting changes to the federal student-loan programs, will be taken up next week, when the panel convenes here for the second of three "negotiated rule-making" sessions scheduled for this winter.

In addition to requiring colleges to include at least three lenders on their "preferred lender" lists, the proposed changes would require colleges to disclose the "method and criteria" they used to pick the lenders, and to provide borrowers with information on interest rates and benefits offered by the preferred lenders.

It also would clarify what lenders can and cannot offer colleges and prospective borrowers to secure loan applications or loan volume. Among the "prohibited

inducements": additional financial aid or prizes; payment of conference or training registration, transportation, and lodging costs; hospitality suites; tickets to shows or sporting events; and meals and alcoholic beverages.

[At Selective Colleges, More Than a Quarter of Black Students Are Immigrants, Study Finds](#)

The Chronicle

More than a quarter of the black students enrolled at selective American colleges and universities are immigrants or the children of immigrants, according to a new paper by sociologists at Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.

The finding suggests that native-born African-American students are even more underrepresented at selective colleges than is commonly understood. The paper is likely to add fuel to a long-standing debate about the meaning and purpose of affirmative-action programs.

Selective colleges have expanded their enrollments of black students by "increasing the number of immigrant and multiracial black students," Camille Z. Charles, an associate professor of sociology at Penn who is one of the study's authors, said in an interview on Wednesday.

"If you're a purist" -- that is, if you view affirmative action as restitution for the harm done by American slavery and segregation -- "then you'll think that this is not in the spirit of affirmative action," Ms. Charles continued. "But if you're a diversity purist, and your idea is to expose everybody to as many different kinds of people as possible, then you'll think this is great."

[Industry Support for Academic Research Rebounded in 2005, After 3-Year Slump, NSF Reports](#)

The Chronicle

The paper, "Black Immigrants and Black Natives Attending Selective Colleges and Universities in the United States," appears in the February issue of the *American Journal of Education*. In addition to Ms. Charles, its authors are Douglas S. Massey, a professor of sociology at Princeton, and Margarita Mooney and Kimberly C. Torres, both of whom are postdoctoral fellows at Princeton's Office of Population Research.

After three years of declining support from industry, colleges and universities saw a sharp upswing in the amount of money they received from industry for

science and engineering research and development in the 2005 fiscal year, according to a report released this week by the National Science Foundation.

The [report](#), on the agency's latest annual Survey of Research and Development Expenditures at Universities and Colleges, finds that industrial financing climbed by 7.7 percent, reaching a record \$2.3-billion that year. Even with the increase, however, the industrial component of research and development financing remained just 5 percent of the total, lagging behind the support from the federal government, state and local governments, and institutional sources.

Colleges and universities spent \$45.8-billion on research and development in 2005, a 5.8-percent jump over the previous year. That increase falls below the double-digit gains that academic institutions made in the 2002 and 2003 fiscal years. Over all, academic spending on research and development has climbed more than 50 percent since 2000.

The federal government provided the largest share of that money, totaling \$29.2-billion in 2005. That amount surpasses the previous year by just 5.6 percent, a significantly smaller increase than those in the previous three years. Those gains were 13.7 percent in 2002, 13.2 percent in 2003, and 11.6 percent in 2004.

[CUNY Approves Steps for Dealing With Complaints About Professors' Conduct](#) The Chronicle

Trustees of the City University of New York have established a new [procedure](#) to handle student complaints alleging faculty misconduct in the classroom and in other university-related settings. The procedure, which CUNY's faculty union opposes, covers student complaints about professors' "incompetent or inefficient service, neglect of duty, physical or mental incapacity, and conduct unbecoming a member of the staff."

Students must file complaints within 30 days of an alleged incident. If the complaint cannot be resolved informally, the procedure provides for an investigation by a department chair or other senior faculty member or administrator. If a professor is found guilty of misconduct, a letter can be placed in his or her personnel file, or the university may decide to pursue disciplinary action.

The policy says university officials respect professors' academic freedom and don't want to interfere with that "as it relates to the content or style of teaching activities." But the policy adds: "At the same time, the university recognizes its responsibility to provide students with a procedure for addressing complaints

about faculty treatment of students that are not protected by academic freedom and are not covered by other procedures."

Spiritual Accountability Inside Higher Education

It's a task few assessment experts would envy — a mandate to measure a student's spiritual growth in a world far more complex than that simplistically sketched above. How to make the seemingly subjective experience of faith objective, to measure a college student's spiritual growth as you would a child's height, with penciled marks noting an inch here, an inch there, on a four-foot paper ruler taped to the president's door?

For many religiously affiliated institutions, that's not a hypothetical question. As the accountability pressures on higher education grow, and words like "measurable outcomes" become common parlance in academe, religious colleges are increasingly embracing a need to measure the spiritual and moral outcomes they promise in their mission statements to deliver. They're seeking ways not only to measure their own students' spiritual commitments — and how those commitments might change from freshman to senior year — but also how they as institutions stack up, spiritually speaking, relative to peer colleges.