

Presidential Search

Candidate's Letters of Recommendation

Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D.
408 Beachside Place
Omni Amelia Island Plantation
Amelia Island, FL 32034-6551
904-277-6999 (Phone) 904-277-7211 (Fax)
E-mail: AudreySchiebler@gmail.com

6/16/14

Dear Chairman Burr-

This letter - endorsing John Thrush for
consideration as the next President of Florida State
University - was forwarded by FAX to Mr. R. William
Funk on June 9th - the same day that he resigned
as the Consultant to the Presidential Search Advisory
Committee.

I was not sure whether or not Mr. Funk's
copies of correspondence and information was forwarded
to you as Chair of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

Then, I am enclosing a copy for your
review and distribution as appropriate.

Please contact me if you have
any questions about any aspect of this letter.

Sincerely,

Gerold Schiebler

Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D.
408 Beachside Place
Omni Amelia Island Plantation
Amelia Island, Fl 32034-6551
904-277-6999 (Phone) 904-277-7211 (Fax)
E-mail: AudreySchiebler@gmail.com

June 9, 2014

May this letter serve as my enthusiastic and unqualified endorsement of the appointment of John Thrasher as the next President of Florida State University.

It has been my wife Audrey's and my personal privilege, and indeed special opportunity, to have known the Thrasher family for over four decades.

Thus, this recommendation of John Thrasher is based on the following spectrum of observations;

- a) his long-established commitment to Florida State University has been documented for decades in a broad constellation of forums;
- b) such an appointment in no way would be a "stepping stone" waiting to be recruited to another institution. John Thrasher would consider this appointment as the pinnacle of the academic world;
- c) some of the cognoscenti in any such selection process believe that FSU's forward march to a higher rank in the hierarchy of prestigious institutions would best be achieved by selecting an "academic"- whatever that term connotes. What FSU needs is a LEADER – a role that John Thrasher would instantly fill with outstanding advocacy- and the ability to acquire additional resources that would serve as a foundation for rising higher in the ranks of the nation's academic world;
- d) he would immediately establish himself, and thus FSU, as a lead spokesman for all Presidents in the State University System;
- e) His well known contacts in the Florida legislature would instantly catapult him as a prime spokesman for the entire State University system- a pivotal role in any initiative involving the legislative arena;
- f) his knowledge of the legislative process would serve as a fulcrum of advocacy for all of the institutions in the State's University System, as he would have instant credibility; and

Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D.
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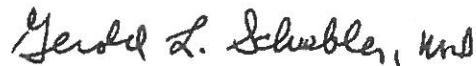
g) whereas, his array of contributions and legislative achievements for FSU are well documented, it is important to also recognize his many sterling efforts on behalf of other institutions throughout the state.

In my twenty-five years as the University of Florida's Health Science Center's representative in the Tallahassee legislative arena, I am very cognizant of the many projects and specific funding items that would never have been successful without his skillful advocacy.

Thus, it is with great pride, and without any qualifications that I recommend for your consideration John Thrasher as the next President of Florida State University.

FSU would be most fortunate to have the opportunity to have him serve in that capacity.

Sincerely,



Gerold L. Schiebler, M.D.

Member – Institute of Medicine National Academy of
Sciences

Distinguished Service Professor- Emeritus

Department of Pediatrics- University of Florida College of
Medicine



SENATOR DON GAETZ
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

June 2, 2014

Florida State University President Search
R. William Funk & Associates
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Members of the Committee,

First, please allow me to commend you on the course you are following with regard to this important search for the next president of The Florida State University.

Some years ago I served on a university presidential search committee whose process was overshadowed by the undisguised preference of many of us in the community for a well-known, influential "non-candidate." Because the small world of presidential searches has no secrets, we attracted less than stellar outside prospects and carefully chose the least worst among them. Our selection process was perfect but our selection, an underperforming president, had to be eased out after a few embarrassing years. After that false start, the trustees did what should have been done originally -- they interviewed that "long shadow" first and hired Judy Bense without further ado to be President of the University of West Florida. Not a perfect process but a far, far better president.

Unfortunately, the lost years were costly for UWF. Fortunately, our "non-candidate" was still available and Judy Bense, happily an unconventional president, has led our regional university to its strongest position ever.

By some measures, John Thrasher would be an unconventional president for FSU. He has devoted his professional life to public service and the law. But if that were a disqualifier, then America's greatest public university, the University of Virginia, could not have been founded and managed by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe. And, arguably, FSU's strongest position ever was reached under President Sandy D'Alemberte and President T.K. Wetherell, who both made their bones in public service, lawmaking and, famously in the case of President D'Alemberte, lawyering.

Leadership of a great university is not unlike leadership in politics. Having closely worked with (and sometimes against) John Thrasher for a decade, I know that he is an exceptionally successful political leader. He is one of the best and most respectful listeners I've ever known. He comes at issues with a vibrant curiosity, an open mind and careful research. He expects intellectual rigor and displays it, himself, with grace and wit. A compassionate man of deep faith and abiding principle, his public service is an unrelenting search for unifying solutions. His advice to those negotiating their differences: "Always be the most reasonable person in the room."

As someone who voted differently than he did on in-state tuition for undocumented students, I'm bemused by the criticism he has gotten from some "Dream Defenders." The fact is that it was John Thrasher who crafted the parliamentary solution that allowed the in-state tuition bill to come to the Senate floor, allowing both sides of the issue to be heard fairly and respectfully. While others took the credit, he took the responsibility. As presiding officer of the Senate, I can attest that, but for John Thrasher's skill at resolving conflict and the respect he commands, the in-state tuition bill would have died without ever being heard in the Senate.

It's well-known that FSU's medical school would not exist without John Thrasher's leadership, nor other FSU facilities and programs, as well. What may be less known is that it was John Thrasher who ensured that Florida would advance not just one university but two for academic pre-eminence. FSU's mission to achieve national academic exceptionalism, unlikely if not impossible but for John Thrasher, is the catalyst for building an even stronger faculty, more scholastically successful graduates and a more robust and significant research infrastructure. His commitment to FSU runs deep and wide and embraces the many academic and artistic centers of the University.

As his friend, I know something about John Thrasher's heart for students. Also not well known is that John's own education did not come easily and that's why he values opportunities for students so dearly. He overcame steep odds and had to rely on not only his own grit but the kindness and support of others to attend FSU and then to return, after distinguished military service, to work his way through FSU's law school. His values were forged in the hardship of achieving his own education. In my years serving alongside him in the Senate, I've seen his voice break and tears come to his eyes on those occasions when he negotiated, debated, argued and entreated for educational opportunities and support for students burdened with poverty, disability or discrimination.

A review of his record and career provides ample evidence that John Thrasher has expertly managed vast, complex organizations in the private and public sectors. He has built and balanced budgets multiples larger than FSU's. He has organized and led large teams of highly varied and diverse, sometimes brilliant, sometimes ordinary people, convincing them to meld their agendas into the service of a common cause and then giving them the credit when the cause is successful.

I appreciate the gravity of the decision you must make as you select FSU's next President. No process will be uncritically praised unless the choice is to the critics' liking. No choice will be universally popular. You can hope that the person you choose, four or five years hence, will have been so effective that you'll be proud to put on your resume that you helped select him.

Undeniably, John Thrasher does cast a long shadow. In my view, that is because he is the obvious President to lead Florida State University now.

Respectfully,



Senator Don Gaetz
President of the Senate



May 19, 2014

William Funk
R. William Funk & Associates
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

I write to nominate John E. Thrasher for President of Florida State University. He has a distinguished career as an attorney, a leader and a public servant, and he has been involved in education in very important ways.

By way of background: John grew up in Jacksonville and obtained his bachelor's degree in business from Florida State University in 1965 before joining the United States Army. He served first in Germany, where he received the Army Commendation Medal, and later in Vietnam, where he led a medical evacuation unit and was awarded two Bronze Stars. John attained the rank of Captain. He returned to Florida State University to earn his law degree and graduated "with honors" from the Florida State University College of Law in 1972.

I first met John when he served as a young lawyer on the staff of the Florida House Impeachment Committee that was investigating the conduct of three Florida Supreme Court justices; this resulted in the resignation of two of the justices, one of them after the House voted articles of impeachment.

John was in private law practice in Daytona Beach and Tallahassee for several years before returning to Jacksonville to serve as General Counsel to the Florida Medical Association, a position he held for 20 years. He then served in the distinguished position as "of counsel" to the prominent, highly regarded Jacksonville law firm of Smith Hulsey & Busey from 1996 to 2008.

John began his political career in 1986 with his election to the Clay County School Board. He served as vice chairman and then chairman of the board before being elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1992. From 1998 to 2000, he served as

Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. He currently sits in the Florida Senate, where he has served under two Senate Presidents as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. Throughout his years in public service, he has advocated consistently and successfully for the future and well-being of higher education and of Florida State University

During my time as President of the University, John repeatedly was the legislator who understood the need to support higher education and he always took a direct interest in the issues that related to FSU.

But for John Thrasher, there would be no Medical School here at Florida State University. The building on campus that bears his name is but a small tribute to this accomplishment.

It was my privilege to serve as president when John was appointed the first chairman of the Board of Trustees of Florida State University. In that position, he demonstrated his dedication to, and understanding of, higher education gained during his years of service on the Clay County School Board and in the Legislature. Service on both House and Senate Education and Education Appropriations Committees allowed him to develop a depth of knowledge that gave him insight and understanding on university needs, resources and accountability.

He was an active chairman of our Board of Trustees. He insisted on thorough briefings, but was respectful to the professional staff. He understood the importance of faculty governance and worked well with students, faculty, staff and other university shareholders. He made himself available for anyone who wished to discuss matters. It was, quite frankly, a joy to work with John.

I hope there is no problem in considering lawyers for university leadership since Michigan, Columbia, Harvard and other great schools have had lawyer presidents. I also observe that Florida has had some great successes when we reached outside the academy for chancellors and presidents. Consider: Chancellors Charlie Reed, Frank Brogan and Marshall Criser III, Presidents Stephen O'Connell (UF), Marshall Criser, Jr. (UF), Betty Castor (USF), John Delaney (UNF). Some might argue that TK Wetherell and I should be included as a "non-academics," but T.K. had served as a college president and I had been a dean at FSU for 5 years.

Some commentators have insisted that we should have an established scholar to lead the university, and, in ideal times, I would agree with this view. I take a different position at this time because FSU, like all Florida schools of higher education, has suffered an extraordinary loss of resources in recent years. Indeed, my admiration for my successors is huge when I consider the cutback in state funding and in state programs such as the matching gift program. Our first priority now is getting that base funding restored and John Thrasher is the best person to accomplish this.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. I care about FSU and I believe John Thrasher would be an excellent, and the best, choice to serve as our next President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Talbot D'Alemberte".

Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte
President Emeritus and Professor

FSU

May 12, 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75205

Re: Florida State University Search

Dear Mr. Funk:

I am writing to give my support to Mr. John Thrasher as a candidate for President of Florida State University. My father came to FSU in 1956 and remains a Professor Emeritus. I am proud to say that I graduated from FSU with both my undergraduate and JD degrees and that my son attends FSU now. So I am speaking as someone who has a long and very proud tradition at FSU.

I have known and worked with Mr. Thrasher for many years, both in his role as General Counsel at the Florida Medical Association, where he spent many years serving the physicians of the State of Florida, and then during his time as a legislator and leader in the Florida legislature. Mr. Thrasher's intelligence, honesty and integrity have always shone through, no matter what the issue or controversy. He is a leader with the very best of qualities: character, commitment, courage and focus. I cannot think of a better person to serve the university.

Sincerely,



Francesca Plendl

4274 Raleigh Way
Tallahassee, FL 32311

FSU

14 May 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

It is my pleasure and privilege to support the candidacy of Senator John Thrasher for President of Florida State University. I have had the honor of working with John in numerous capacities over the past twenty plus years.

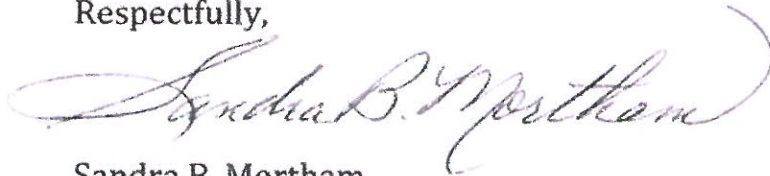
As both the former leader of the Florida House and Florida Secretary of State, I found John to be a tireless public servant willing to help others make sure the job always got done in the most positive and effective way possible. He never looked for accolades but rather was seeking solutions to many very difficult issues facing our state during those years.

Elected officials come and go, but I can say without hesitation, John has been one of the very best friends I could ever possess. He is genuine, thoughtful and courageous. He never retreats from what he believe is right no matter the challenges. John is highly intelligent and possesses the highest moral character and integrity.

Florida State University has always been one of John's passions throughout the time I have known him. He loves FSU and never misses an opportunity to make it even better.

I can think of no one who would be more dedicated and loyal to his alma mater than John Thrasher. He would truly be a fantastic President and leader.

Respectfully,



Sandra B. Mortham

FSU

5/12/2014
Troy M. Tippet MD
2253 Banquos Court
Pensacola, Florida 32503

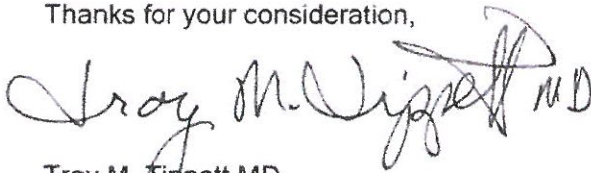
Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

I am writing to support the selection of John Thrasher for President of Florida State University. John has been a friend and trusted advisor for more than 30 years. I have worked with John when he was variously Chief Counsel for the Florida Medical Association, a Florida State Representative, working in the private sector, and a Florida State Senator. He has always been intelligent, honest, likable, reliable, and one whose word you could count on. He has the highest moral character. I was always struck by the fact that he took time to help and advise me on the best course of action despite the many demands upon his time. He has the characteristics one would like to see in every public servant. The breadth of his experience, his problem solving abilities, his remarkable knack for helping adversaries find common ground, and his personality will bode well for Florida State University.

If I can be of any further assistance please call any time- c 850-418-1679.

Thanks for your consideration,



Troy M. Tippet MD

THE LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTOPHER L. NULAND

FSU

CHRISTOPHER L. NULAND
DEBORAH A. KNAUER, OF COUNSEL

1000 RIVERSIDE AVENUE, SUITE 115
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32204
TELEPHONE (904) 355-1555
FACSIMILE (904) 355-1585

May 12, 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75205

Dear Mr. Funk:

I am delighted to be able to write to you to support Senator John Thrasher's candidacy for the Presidency of Florida State University.

Having known Senator Thrasher in his capacity as a state senator, I can attest to the width and depths of his contacts, his reputation for careful insight and fair deliberation, and his standing among the legislative and lobbying ranks.

More importantly, however, I was fortunate enough to serve as his Associate General Counsel at the Florida Medical Association. In that role I was able to rely on John not only as a boss, but as a mentor and a friend. In fact, it is his unparalleled mentorship that I most treasure and which I believe will serve the students of Florida State University very well.

Thanks you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely



Christopher L. Nuland

**S. Curtis Kiser
5385 WPA Road
Lamont, Florida 32336**

June 10, 2014

Mr. Edward Burr, chair
Presidential Search Advisory Committee
C/O Florida State University
600 West College Avenue
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Dear Mr. Burr:

I support Senator John E. Thrasher for President of Florida State University. Senator Thrasher is well known for his political and governmental record, which, by any measure is pretty amazing and incredible. Many others have noted his lengthy achievements and accomplishments. I will focus on a different perspective that perhaps has gone unnoticed. I believe his love for Florida's history and his careful attention to detail are attributes that would well serve him, and Florida State, if he is named President.

As Speaker of the House, Senator Thrasher was rightly concerned with the passage of Term Limits for Legislators and changes that were foreseeable in the culture of the Legislative process. Many believe that Term Limits threaten "institutional knowledge" due to high turnover and contribute to many short-term solutions to long-term problems. John organized several veteran ex-legislators to create the "Florida Legislative Research Center and Museum" to preserve Florida's Historic Old Capitol Building and collect important Legislative documents and provide a place for research on the legislative process.

The Florida Legislative Research Center and Museum still exists today and is in the process of expanding its role in preserving legislative history. John Thrasher's efforts to create the Florida Legislative Research Center and Museum should help in preserving institutional knowledge.

John Thrasher lead the efforts to remodel the House chambers in a very discrete and respectful approach that reflects tradition, most importantly it tells the rich history of Florida through magnificent large murals painted by the renowned Florida artist, Christopher Stills. Florida has John Thrasher to thank for his vision and commitment to Florida's history. The House Chamber is spectacular in its beauty and the story it tells about Florida. It is very moving and memorable. John knew the impact it would have on the thousands of Florida citizens and school children that visit the House Chamber each year.

This is the John Thrasher I know; he will serve Florida State well. He will make us proud. Is he up for the task? In my opinion, one has only to look at the House Chamber for the answer to that question.

Mr. Edward Burr
June 10, 2014
Page 2

As a former House Republican Leader and State Senator, I submit this letter recommending that the Search Committee vote for John to be President of Florida State University. I graduated from the second graduating class of Florida State University's School of Law in 1970, and became the law School's first elected member of the Legislature in 1972. After ten years in the House of Representatives and ten years in the Florida Senate, I served for seven years as Chairman of the LeRoy Collins Institute at FSU. I look forward to John's leadership and steady hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Curtis Kiser". The signature is written in a cursive style.

S. Curtis Kiser

SCK

SENATOR
STEVE GELLER



FLORIDA SENATE
1998-2008
SENATE MINORITY LEADER
2006-2008

May 22, 2014

Ed Burr, Chair
Florida State University Presidential Search Committee
7807 Baymeadows Road East #205
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Re: Letter of Support for Senator John Thrasher to be the next President of Florida State University

Dear Mr. Burr:

My name is Steve Geller, and I'm writing this unsolicited letter to you in your capacity as Chair of the Florida State University Presidential Search Committee. I am writing to support President D'Alemberte's nomination of John Thrasher as the next President of Florida State University.

I am a loyal FSU Seminole. I received both my B.A. and my J.D from FSU. My wife graduated from FSU. My brother also received both his B.A. and J.D from FSU. Both of my now teenage children had their newborn pictures taken in FSU attire, instead of the traditional white swaddling.

I also served in the Florida House of Representatives for nine years, and the Florida Senate for eleven years, from 1988-2008. I attended our Seminole Caucus meetings. I served with great Seminoles like T.K. Wetherell, Jim King, and John Thrasher.

I know that students and professors sometimes object to politicians becoming University Presidents. This is an extremely shortsighted view. Fortunately or unfortunately, politics and the State of Florida Budget are integrally intertwined with the State University System in Florida, and having someone as President of FSU who knows how to negotiate the corridors of the Capitol would be invaluable. Fundraising is also one of the top priorities for a University President, and John certainly knows how to fundraise. He has a gravitas and affability about him that would make him an excellent representative of Florida State.

I know that some people would be concerned about Thrasher's background as a Republican, and might feel that this would discourage Democrats from being supportive of FSU. Like D'Alemberte, I am a Democrat, and, in fact, was the Minority (Democratic) Leader of the Florida Senate. I have disagreed with Thrasher's political views over the years, but have always found him to be fair and willing to work with everyone. I regard him as a friend, and can tell you that I have complete confidence that he understands

the importance of non-partisanship of the President of The Flagship University of the State of Florida, and would comport himself accordingly were he to be chosen for this important position. I am sure that the Board did not feel that Wetherell or D'Alemberte used their positions as President to advance a Democratic agenda, even though they were both Democratic State Representatives, and I am confident that Thrasher would not use his position (if chosen) to advance a Republican agenda.

Please consider this letter to be my strong recommendation for the Search Committee to choose John Thrasher as the next President of FSU.

As this is an unsolicited letter, I am not familiar with the etiquette or correct method of sending you this letter. I am e-mailing it to you, with copies to Allan Bense (as Chair of the Board of Trustees), and to the University Trustees website. I am sending you a hard copy at your Jacksonville address. Please take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that this letter complies with any necessary Sunshine provisions.

Please feel free to contact me should you require or request any additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Geller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and the last name "Geller" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Steven A. Geller

cc: Allan Bense
University Trustees website



Carl W. Lentz III M.D.
PLASTIC SURGERY

John Thrasher is one of the finest men I have been privileged to know. I first met John when he was the General Council of the Florida Medical Assn. where he worked for 20 years. In this role, he demonstrated the finest legal intellect and understanding. He was a great council for a bunch of individualist physicians. It was quite a task for this young lawyer. If you remember, the remark about leading Physicians is like trying to herd cats, you will understand what a difficult and great job he did. He has the calm, steady leadership that gives confidence to those with whom he works.

How he loves the Florida State University where he obtained he bachelor's degree in business and then later his law degree with honors after serving as a Captain in the Army in Germany and Vietnam where he won two Bronze Stars.

Having served as Chairman of Board of Trustees of Florida State University, he is very prepared to serve as the Next President of Florida State University. I recommend him to this prestigious post without reservation.

Carl W. Lentz, MD



Phone: 386.252.8051 • 1040 W. Int'l Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32114 • www.drLentz.com

Board Certified Plastic Surgeon, F.A.C.S.



Member
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS, INC.

Allen Mortham Jr.

6548 Weeping Willow Way Tallahassee, Florida 32311

May 19, 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Villages, Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

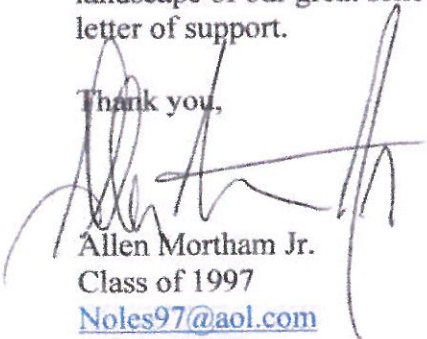
I am writing you to voice my support for Senator John Thrasher to be our next president of Florida State University. As an alumnus of the class of 1997 and a Golden Chief in the boosters club, I have a passion for my school just as I know that John Thrasher does.

I first had the opportunity to work for Senator Thrasher just after I graduated from FSU and he was Speaker of the House of Representatives here in Florida. I was also able to get to know he and his family and I can assure you that he is the type of person that will do whatever it takes to get the job done for our University.

John has been a fantastic lawmaker here in Florida, but even without those credentials and experience, I do believe he is the right person for the job. The fact that he has the connections both inside and outside of government make him all the more attractive as our next president. He will be able to leverage those relationships in the future to help fundraising as well as ensuring that we stand at the top of the academic mountain.

I would urge both you and the search committee to take a long hard look at the things that Senator Thrasher has done for FSU and the potential that his presidency will have on the landscape of our great school and you will see exactly why I am so excited to write this letter of support.

Thank you,



Allen Mortham Jr.
Class of 1997
Noles97@aol.com
850.566.3760

Ronald R. Richmond

Attorney at Law

Ronald R. Richmond, Attorney at Law
ronaldrichmond@comcast.net

1394 Millstream Road
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Phone: 850-545-5964
Facsimile: 850-329-6693

May 22, 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, Tx 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

This letter is for you and all the members of the Presidential Search Committee for the FSU Presidency, as well as the Board of Trustees. To give you a bit of my background, I served in the Florida House of Representatives from 1972 through 1984, and was the Republican leader before the Republicans had a majority. John Thrasher was the general counsel for the Florida Medical Association so I have known him for at least 35 years.

I have been involved with Florida State University since 1959 when I came to FSU from Indiana to play basketball. I have served on the Booster Board, the Athletic Board, the Foundation Board, and I was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Board. As a member of the legislature, I was the co-sponsor of the bill creating the joint Engineering School, although at the time I thought it was a mistake to do it jointly, Herb Morgan, my co-sponsor who was from Tallahassee, insisted we do a joint school. When Sandy D'Alemberte was President, he retained me to represent the University in moving the Florida High educational facilities to Southwood to make room for the Medical School. So, you can see, I have been intimately involved with FSU for many years.

As I said, I have been a friend of John Thrasher for at least 35 years. John has been as intimately involved with FSU as I have. I have great respect for John as a person, as a lawyer, and as a friend. He is totally competent. He is fiercely loyal. He is highly intelligent. He is what we need for our next President.

I have followed the Presidents since Gordon Blackwell. I have known all of them, but John Champion, well. It is ironic, but the University has been lucky in that each President came along at a time when FSU needed that particular person. I believe that it is that time when FSU needs John Thrasher. Eric Barron was serving a wonderful purpose, and was arguably our best President ever, but it is now time for a change of pace. There are several tough decisions facing the next President, and I don't think bringing in another academician is the best thing for FSU. We need someone from the political and business community to face and deal with those difficult decisions. John Thrasher is that man.

Very sincerely yours,


Ronald R. Richmond

1605 Pebble Beach Blvd.
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

May 23, 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75205

Dear Mr. Funk,

I am writing this letter in support of John Thrasher for the position of President of Florida State University. I have been a personal friend of John and his family for 30+ years. We have attended and still attend the same church and our children have grown up together. I can honestly say that John is an outstanding human being and man of great faith. He has always been gracious, generous, sincere, humble, and caring of his friends and in his work.

I have seen his work for the Florida Medical Association, the Clay County School Board, as a Representative in the Florida House and most recently as a Senator of our great state, along with several other positions of responsibility. And in all of these, his focus was on what was best for Florida and its citizens. As the Executive Director of the Florida Public Health Association, I have had dealings with John in his capacity as a State Representative and Senator. We appreciated his willingness to listen to our issues, learn about them and give us honest feedback.

I know John cares deeply about FSU. Anyone who knows him certainly knows he is a Seminole. John would bring to the President's position his personal interest and commitment, as well as his skill and desire keep FSU a great institution and guide it successfully into the future. John's past and current jobs, his many contacts, and personal support of FSU, make him the right person for this job.

As a graduate of FSU, I would be most happy to see John Thrasher at the helm leading Florida State University to bigger and even better accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra F. Magyar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sandra F. Magyar

**E. Russell Jackson, Jr.
2595 Bottomridge Drive
Orange Park, Florida 32065**

May 23, 2014

Mr. R. William Funk
100 Highland Park Village, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75205

Dear Mr. Funk:

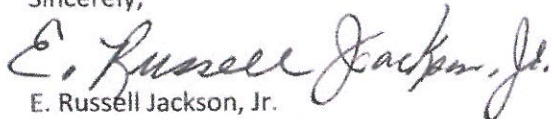
I am writing to strongly support the selection of John Thrasher as the next President of Florida State University.

I am the former Legislative Liaison for Florida Division of Health for 10 years starting in 1974 and was then on the executive staff of the Florida Medical Association (FMA) for 28 years from 1984 to 2012 and served as the FMA's Senior Vice President. Currently I am serving as a health care consultant and writing histories on medicine and public health in Florida for several organizations including the Florida Public Health Association. I worked closely and daily with John Thrasher for many years when he was the General Counsel of the FMA. My wife Sharon and I actively supported his successful candidacies for various important elected positions including as a Member of the Florida House of Representatives, where he served with distinction as Speaker, and his current position as a Member of the Florida Senate.

Throughout his career with the FMA and afterwards, Mr. Thrasher worked closely with the deans and faculty of the medical colleges in Florida and with the presidents and top administrative officers of the universities in the state. He also worked closely with the American Medical Association and its impressive leadership and staff all of whom have had outstanding academic careers and many of whom serve as faculty and in top administrative positions at universities across the United States. Of particular importance to me, Mr. Thrasher was instrumental as a State Representative in the creation of the current Florida Department of Health. Through Mr. Thrasher's knowledge and influence, the Department of Health was enacted unanimously by the Florida Legislature in 1996 after more than two decades of efforts to reestablish a state agency dedicated solely to the health of Floridians under the direction of a physician State Health Officer/State Surgeon General.

I know of no one more qualified to lead Florida State University as its President. John Thrasher will elevate Florida State University into new heights of accomplishments for its students, faculty, and researchers. Mr. Thrasher will inspire and demand academic excellence in all educational areas, and through his superb state, national, and international connections provide the leadership essential for Florida State University to fully maximize its future as one of the most outstanding and respected universities in the nation.

Sincerely,



E. Russell Jackson, Jr.

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