

# The *Women* for FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring/Summer 2013



## GET TO KNOW FSU'S FIRST FEMALE PROVOST

As provost and executive vice president of Florida State University, Garnett S. Stokes, Ph.D., oversees the overall academic mission of the University and then some. In fact, she is the second-highest ranking official at the University — after the president. Stokes is the first woman to hold the position at Florida State.

“Being the first female provost at Florida State is an honor and a privilege,” Stokes said. “Being in a position of leadership provides an opportunity to influence the future and make people’s lives better.”

How did Stokes prepare for this leadership role? After all, her first name, Garnett, seems to indicate she was destined to join the administration. However, Garnett is a family name dating back at least two previous generations; it was not divine intervention that led her to Florida State. Prior to moving to Florida State, she was dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Georgia, where she also earned her doctoral and master’s degrees in industrial and organizational psychology. As dean of the Franklin College, she was head of the largest college at the university — which included the departments of social sciences and fine arts — and provided the perfect segue to becoming provost at Florida State.

Not only is Stokes responsible for the academic mission of the University — all



*Garnett S. Stokes, Ph.D.*  
*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs,*  
*Florida State University*

16 college deans and the graduate school dean report to her — but the offices of Admissions, Records and Financial Aid, International Programs, Learning Systems Institute and Information Technology Services report to her as well. She also has an appointment as a professor in the psychology department at the University.

“One of the rewarding parts of my job is working with wonderful groups like Women for Florida State University,” the provost said. “Interacting with students, volunteers and community members through an organization like Women for FSU gives me the opportunity to see the best and brightest shine.” ✨



Cherie Rowland

It is hard to believe that I am finishing my second term as chairwoman for the Women for Florida State University. It has been a wonderful experience and I am honored to have served W4FSU. I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for making our work seem like play and for their commitment during the organization's formative years.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will meet Garnett Stokes, the first female provost at Florida State. You also will meet one of the first African-American students to graduate from FSU, Maxine Thurston-Fischer. We also are excited to announce an inspirational new partnership between W4FSU and the FSU Center for Leadership and Social Change.

It has been my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with the special women of the Women for Florida State University. Stay tuned for our Fall/Winter 2013 newsletter to read about the new Executive Committee. I am confident that this talented group of women will continue to carry the torch for our organization! 🌿

– Cherie Rowland  
Chairwoman, Executive Committee

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Florence Ashby  
Molly Barron, Ex Officio Member  
Jeanne Curtin  
Fran Gilbert  
Leslie France Patterson  
Cherie Rowland  
Janet Stoner  
Phyllis Underwood  
Jaimi Wacksman

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [W4FSU.ORG](http://W4FSU.ORG)



## DARING TO BE GREAT

The Women for Florida State University (W4FSU) and the FSU Center for Leadership and Social Change (The Center) are delighted to announce a joint initiative: The inaugural W4FSU Women's Leadership Institute Oct. 11-12, 2013.

The Center for Leadership and Social Change evolved from the combining of Florida State's centers of multiculturalism, leadership and civic engagement. The Center's mission is to transform lives through leadership education, identity development and community engagement. The programs and services provided enhance students' learning through participation in community service, development of leadership capacity and understanding of their unique identity. Laura Osteen, Ph.D., director of the Center, said, "Given the history of Florida State, the mission of the Center and the role of women in creating our futures, we are thrilled to host a leadership forum tailored for FSU's female students."

Last fall, Osteen proposed the concept of a Women's Leadership Institute to the W4FSU Philanthropy Committee. The Institute will initially offer the opportunity for a diverse group of 40 Florida State undergraduate women to:

- Enhance their leadership identity and capacity;
- Identify issues of concern within their communities and take initiative to solve these issues; and
- Learn strategies to create positive, sustainable change in their communities.

The Institute will focus on specific areas of women's leadership development, create a dynamic theory-to-practice learning environment and invite female FSU students to learn with and from Florida State's female faculty, staff and alumnae. After joint discussions, the proposal was formulated to include a weekend of seminar sessions each fall with facilitators from W4FSU, follow-up group sessions with the facilitators and a celebration in the spring. The Executive Committee of W4FSU enthusiastically approved funding for the Institute, which will come from the W4FSU Endowment.

With your support to grow the W4FSU



Laura Osteen, Ph.D.

Endowment, the Women's Leadership Institute could expand into a comprehensive, yearlong leadership learning experience. Designed as a 40-contact-hour program, which qualifies it as a Garnet and Gold Leadership Development experience, the Institute would kick off a year of cohort-based learning opportunities. Participants would engage in an ongoing series of workshop offerings, mentoring opportunities and service-learning experiences that would culminate in student-led community change initiatives.

W4FSU's objective is to attract support for the University from alumnae and friends, and the Women's Leadership Institute provides an opportunity for women to become involved through the giving of their time, talent and resources.

The W4FSU Endowment was established by President Eric and Mrs. Molly Barron shortly after their arrival at Florida State University. Molly is a highly engaged member of W4FSU, and through her advocacy, nearly 75 individuals have contributed more than \$215,000 to the Endowment.

The growth of the W4FSU Women's Leadership Institute is dependent on the growth of the W4FSU Endowment. If the idea of developing female leaders from FSU is something you believe in and are passionate about, please make a gift at [W4FSU.org](http://W4FSU.org). If you have questions, please email us at [Women4FSU@foundation.fsu.edu](mailto:Women4FSU@foundation.fsu.edu) or call (850) 644-6000. 🌿



# ENGAGE SHARE CELEBRATE

W4FSU has so many reasons to celebrate. Here are a few highlights from the past year!

- The FSU Women's Leadership Initiative was established. This initiative is co-sponsored by W4FSU and the Center for Leadership and Social Change. Funding is provided by the W4FSU endowment.
- Backstage Pass was held in March 2013.
- We hosted an ENCORE event at the FSU Panama City campus in October 2012.
- President and Mrs. Barron hosted W4FSU at both the FSU homecoming game and a women's basketball game.
- The Student Engagement Committee hosted five activities for students.
- W4FSU participated in FSU Career Day.
- The Marketing Committee produced a new W4FSU promotional video. See it at W4FSU.org.
- The Philanthropy Committee hosted a tea for more than 60 women at Westminster Oaks.
- W4FSU formalized its structure as we developed and approved bylaws for our organization and elected the first Executive Committee using the new guidelines.

These things were accomplished by a rather small group of volunteers. If you are not yet actively involved with W4FSU, contact us. We need your help to continue growing our organization and furthering the values of W4FSU – Engage, Share and Celebrate!!! 🌸



Attendees at Backstage Pass 2013

## PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

The Women for Florida State University is proud to welcome Maxine Thurston-Fischer as one of our newest members. We extend our grateful appreciation for Maxine's recent gift to the University. Maxine has many memories of her Florida State University experience and enjoys visits with the Florida State family.

Upon a visit from Colette Podgorski, director of Development for the College of Social Work, Maxine and her husband, Kenneth Fischer, M.D., were more than generous with an estate gift of \$2 million. The gift will benefit the **General Scholarship Fund** in the College of Social Work and the **Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE)** academic support program in the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. These funds will be directed toward scholarships to needy students.

The Thurston-Fischer gift is a perfect illustration of friends of the University who just need to be asked for a gift. I encourage all of us



Joyce Miles

to learn more about the University — it is constantly changing and so are its needs. Consider giving back to the programs or colleges you are passionate about. Get involved with faculty, staff and students — they want to maintain a relationship and show you the impact of your gifts. 🌸 – Joyce Miles

## Giving Back



Maxine Thurston-Fischer

On a clear and sunny morning in September 1962, I began classes in the MSW program at FSU. I was the first black student in the School of Social Work and as I later learned, one of the first two or three blacks admitted to the University. I had received my BSW two years earlier from Indiana University and planned to attend graduate school in the Northeast. After meeting with an FSU recruiter, I changed my mind.

Classmates and faculty were genuinely friendly or at least polite and accepting of my presence. My experience, however, would undoubtedly have been very different had I been in another department with greater exposure to the general campus population. For the most part, my life as a graduate student was relatively uneventful. There were exceptions, however. For example, shortly before graduation, I was summoned to the dean's office and informed that the traditional party/reception for graduates hosted at his home would not be held. There was concern that my presence would be offensive to neighbors.

I received my MSW in April 1964, and Adele Cooper, who began the program a year later, received her MSW in 1965. The College of Social Work (CSW) had quietly made history by awarding the University's first degrees to African-American students. In the decade following, I became a field instructor for social work students placed in Miami. I joined the 1974 inaugural class of the school's doctoral program and received my Ph.D. in 1987.

I am grateful that my journey took me down this unique road. I know that because of me, others have prospered. My experience with many gifted young people without resources to attend college compelled me to give to both CARE and the CSW. I believe in the value of education and know that each of us can make a difference. 🌸

– Maxine Thurston-Fischer, Ph.D., MSW  
Florida State University  
College of Social Work



# BACKSTAGE PASS TO THE VERY BEST OF FLORIDA STATE—MARCH 1–2, 2013

The Women for Florida State University had its share of kicks and twists during the fourth annual Backstage Pass to the Very Best of Florida State as members of the championship women's soccer team and performers of the famed FSU Flying High Circus treated attendees to some exciting hands-on demonstrations. More than 90 alumnae and friends were given a behind-the-scenes glimpse into a few of Florida State's unique and innovative programs. 🌸

TO VIEW A SLIDESHOW FROM BACKSTAGE PASS 2013, VISIT [W4FSU.ORG](http://W4FSU.ORG) AND SELECT "EVENTS."



(L to R): Molly Barron, former Florida first lady Donna Lou Askew, Dr. Sally Karioth, Florida first lady Ann Scott.

The *Women* for  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION  
2010 LEVY AVE., BLDG. B, STE. 300  
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32310

## REUNITED AT BACKSTAGE PASS



Back row (L to R): Ginny Kennedy-Palys, Barbara Coen, Vivian Kendall;  
Front row (L to R): Barrie Gonzalez and Clare Hamil

Sometime in 2009, I was invited to meet with some Florida State women who were interested in starting a women's group at FSU. While at the meeting, we developed the name — Women for FSU — and established our purpose. It was decided that we needed an annual event that would draw alumnae and friends back to campus. This is how Backstage Pass was developed.

That first year, in 2010, we were encouraged

to invite women who we thought would be interested in attending the first Backstage Pass. I decided to invite Barrie Brett Gonzalez ('73), one of my Salley Hall suitemates I had reconnected with in 1988. Barrie and I had SO much fun that Barrie decided to invite another Salley Hall suitemate, Clare Karr Hamil ('73) for the 2011 Backstage Pass.

Once again, we all had SO much fun that Clare was able to find Ginny Kennedy-Palys

('73), another Salley Hall suitemate for the 2012 Backstage Pass. It was, again, a VERY fun weekend!

While working at the College of Nursing booth at Homecoming 2012, I ran into the fifth of my Salley Hall suitemates, Vivian Featherstone Kendall ('73). We talked about Backstage Pass and how neat it would be to get all five of us together again. For Backstage Pass 2013, all five of us were able to attend and we had a blast! We now are talking about coming to 2013 Homecoming with our spouses since we had so much fun at Backstage Pass. Vivian Featherstone Kendall even wrote a "Salley Hall rap" for us:

*We're the Salley Hall Gang and we're proud to say,  
it's been 40 years since we've been away.  
We've cherished our careers and our families too;  
Our trials and tribulations, we got through.  
We managed to survive by crying in our beer,  
and persevered with some good ol' cheer.  
Now all is said and done and we're back on track.  
The mighty Salley Hall Gang is forever back...  
As the Women For F...S...U...YAY! 🌸*

– Barbara Coen