The Florida State University is a community of scholars in pursuit of excellence in higher education, both at the undergraduate and graduate level, and dedicated to public service. Superior faculty members interact with students in and out of the classroom and laboratory, stimulating their creative intellects as well as their realistic capabilities, to promote lifelong learning that enhances the well-being of the individual, the state, and the nation. In an atmosphere of responsible freedom, students gain the benefits of a strong liberal arts tradition — deep, rich cultural understanding. The University encourages the learning process, critical thinking, sensitivity to others and to the environment, and the development of ethical principles on which to base a life of intellectual curiosity and satisfaction within a wide range of careers.

The Florida State University’s main campus in Tallahassee is well known for its beauty. Jacobean Revival structures are combined with the latest in modern architecture, set in a landscape of rolling hills and live oaks draped with Spanish moss, pines, palms, and dogwoods protected by a strict municipal ordinance. Flowering shrubs, notably azaleas and camellias, provide year-round color. Nearby, a national forest, wildlife refuge, lakes, rivers, and the Gulf of Mexico beaches offer opportunities for numerous outdoor pursuits.

Tallahassee is not only Florida’s capital, but is one of its oldest and fastest growing cities. The capital city is located in Leon County, which has a population of 252,056. More than 100 state and federal agencies furnish our students with opportunities for internships, research and work-study programs matching all areas of academic interest. In addition, Tallahassee affords a rich offering of social, cultural, and recreational activities, making it an excellent place in which to live, study and grow.
The Florida State University has earned a growing national reputation as a university that blends outstanding teaching with research that advances its community and state. We are home to a talented community of learners, committed to excellence and engaged together in the pursuit of knowledge in the classroom, in the research lab and through community outreach.

Our dedication to excellence encompasses many realms. Consider, for example, our academic programs. Ranked as a Doctoral/Research University-Extensive by the Carnegie Foundation, and with many of our schools and colleges rated among the country’s finest, we stand firmly in the ranks of the nation’s top public universities. Led by a world-renowned faculty, which has included six Nobel laureates and numerous eminent scholars in many areas of the arts and sciences, our academic programs continue to receive major recognition for their quality and overall strength. Hundreds of National Merit, National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholars have made Florida State their top choice for higher education.

Among many points of excellence is our College of Medicine, the country’s first new medical school in a generation. Established in 2003, the college opened its first three regional campuses in 2003, where students can complete their third-year clinical rotations in fields like family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and surgery.

In the realm of scientific excellence, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory — which houses the most powerful magnets in the world — is located on our campus. We have the most powerful supercomputer owned by a single university, and the United States Navy has chosen The Florida State University to develop the advanced power systems that will drive its next generation of ships.

For more than a decade now, The Florida State University has consistently ranked in the top four universities nationally in royalties from patents. Licensing and royalty income to Florida State, primarily from the enormous commercial success of the cancer-fighting drug Taxol, totaled more than $12 million in 2003. Our external research awards have been increasing during a time when declines have been more typical, and our endowment has increased six-fold in less than a decade. These achievements truly are marks of our excellence as an academic institution.

We are involved in a campus-wide effort to create a next-generation learning environment at The Florida State University. Using our foundation as one of the country’s “most wired” campuses, we are moving toward becoming a wireless campus, ensuring that students are well prepared for the technological demands of this new century. We also are recognized as a pioneer in the area of distance learning.

Our excellence also shines in realms beyond traditional academic settings. Located in countries throughout the world, our international programs are unparalleled. In the realm of athletics, our scholar-athletes continue to perform at championship levels on and off the field, and their hard work and dedication add to this University’s great reputation. Our students supplement their academic pursuits with community service time outside of the classroom, and in the last year they recorded over 150,000 hours of service. In uncountable ways, this University reaches out to our community, the region, state and the nation.

With a dedicated faculty and staff, a commitment to strong undergraduate and graduate programs, and a research agenda that contributes to the region’s economic well-being and quality of life, The Florida State University is a leader in higher education. I hope that, as you become a part of our community, you will join us in our continuing pursuit of excellence.
The academic experience at The Florida State University presents a variety of educational opportunities for scholarly excellence on a campus with a rich academic heritage.
The multicultural studies component, Living and Learning environments, guest lecturers, ready access to advisors, and a commitment to digital access prepare students for a variety of careers - from art to business to medicine.
A student’s learning experience at The Florida State University goes beyond the classroom.
This sense of community enables students to come together, enhancing the social and cultural education of tomorrow’s leaders.
During its distinguished history, The Florida State University has built a reputation as a strong center for research in the sciences, the humanities and the arts.
Whether you’re seeking the world’s most powerful supercomputer owned by a single university or one of the nation’s “Most Wired” campuses, The Florida State University has it all.
See the world FSU Style with year-round or summer programs from Costa Rica to Vietnam.

At The Florida State University, the world is truly your campus.
The six faculty members introduced in this section have been named either a President’s University Teaching Award Recipient, Martin Luther King Distinguished Scholar Award Recipient, or Superior Liberal Studies Honors Teaching Award Recipient.

Each has been recognized for his or her research, scholarship and dedication to the teaching profession.
**M U S I C**

Working together with students on a one-to-one basis is at the heart of teaching applied music. I consider it a privilege to be involved so intimately with the creative and artistic development of my students. Many of them are also discovering themselves as human beings, seeking independence, attempting to define their own goals, and often floundering aimlessly in the process.

My own responsibility and commitment as a teacher is to help each one realize his or her own potential as a person, as a teacher, and as a performer. There is nothing more inspiring than watching a smile unfold on a student’s face as she suddenly grasps a new concept of interpreting Mozart or makes an important discovery relating to the physical and kinesthetic aspects of playing the piano. For me, performing is also teaching; I must serve as a role model for my students who are striving for excellence in their own performances.

I am challenged, inspired, and energized by my students. I delight in their accomplishments and help them face their difficulties. I respect them and command their respect in return. I want my students to love learning, teaching, and performing to such a degree that they will be committed to their own students in the future, in the same way I am committed to them now.

*Carolyn Bridger*

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**N U T R I T I O N, F O O D A N D E X E R C I S E S C I E N C E S**

One of my primary goals as a teacher is to provide students with both the skills and the enthusiasm for a lifetime of learning. Facts change, especially in a science-based field like nutrition, and students need to stay abreast of current findings. I also challenge them to think in an integrative manner and to learn as much as they possibly can. The passion for learning that I try to convey to my students is strengthened by my long-term ties to Florida State University as both a graduate and an educator.

Another important aspect of teaching is to never stop my own learning process. My students are among my best teachers. I credit them with getting me out of my ivory tower now and then, and for not allowing me to become too technologically impaired. They energize me and are my motivation to keep coming back to the classroom. Students also have helped me realize the diversity of learning styles that exist and the need to individualize my instructional approach whenever possible. Dr. Jim Smith, Professor Emeritus in Psychology, once credited his success as a teacher to treating each student as he would want his own children treated. His philosophy has become my own credo and continually shapes my interactions with students.

*Carolyn Bridger*
**HISTORY**

When I first began my teaching mission twenty years ago, I was a traditionalist in every sense of the term. I was a challenging and caring instructor who gave information to students and expected them to give it back to me on exams. I am still a challenging and caring instructor, but I have grown tremendously over the past two decades, and my teaching philosophy has evolved as well. I impart and share knowledge, but I also challenge my students to think critically about the past and to question it. In fact, I give them an opportunity to live it. My take home essays require that students transport themselves back in time and to think and write about how they would have reacted to certain events. I give students the opportunity to recreate what it might have been like to be a slave trader, a slave on a cramped and filthy ship during the middle passage, a southern white listening to Booker T. Washington’s 1895 Atlanta Compromise Speech or the editor of a Populist newspaper during the 1890s. Important lessons can be learned from walking in the shoes of others, even if only creatively.

Learning is a two-way street and I learn much from my students. I challenge my students to think critically, to be open-minded and to search for new perspectives. Ignorance and narrow-mindedness are the source of many of our social problems. Education is the key to solving them. It is my role as a teacher to guide them along that path.

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**CLASSICS**

The study of Classics offers unique opportunities to teachers. Because it is by nature an interdisciplinary field, students and teachers of the classics can integrate studies of literature with material culture, art with history, and issues of gender, race, class, and sexual orientation with all of these. This has always been the case, but recent alterations within traditional structures of the academy have made this interdisciplinary aspect of the classics even more valuable. Students in all of my classes learn that there is much more to the ancient world than its rules of grammar or select “masterpieces.” Classics also has unique limitations, insofar as students of other periods of history frequently have more raw information at their disposal. But this too can be used to advantage: my large civilization classes focus on developing reliable criteria with which to evaluate different kinds of (sometimes contradictory) evidence; this is something I consider a life skill. A vital part of teaching is, in my opinion, helping students to discover what kinds of questions to ask and how to guess in an educated fashion when there are no answers available, and Classics is again well-suited to this enterprise.
SOCIAL WORK

The single most important investment my parents made in me was to provide for my opportunity to learn. Whether it related to my spiritual education, my music or other long-term goals, learning was valued in my home. Currently, I am pursuing my doctorate in child development, which will afford me an opportunity to contribute to the body of knowledge; moreover, attending classes as a student accents for me why I teach and what I hope to accomplish.

It is my hope to open doors for students. I want the college students I teach to re-examine the way they think and what they value in their lives. I hope to communicate that it takes energy and commitment to accomplish personal and professional goals. It is vital for them to learn that many of the obstacles to success that each of us encounter are erected by us, and can be removed if we make the effort.

For choir members, I want to instill and reinforce the value of formal education. I want each of these boys to understand that it is possible and critical in today’s world to become a master of one’s destiny through higher education. So much happiness in life comes through productivity, and each child is capable of achieving whatever he sets his sights on — the sky is the limit!

PHILOSOPHY

My 8-year-old nephew Alex recently asked me about my job as a philosophy professor: “Do you just philos [fi-las’] all day or do you teach or something?” Good question. Luckily, not only do I get to teach, but teaching is an integral part of my ‘philosing.’ Thinking about how to present the ‘big questions’ to my students is the best way for me to think about what the questions really mean, how they are tied together, and why they are relevant. This is especially true for the central questions my research focuses on: What is free will? And how is it challenged by what the sciences say about human nature? Teaching my students reminds me why I became interested in these questions and motivates me to pursue answers to them.

Teaching philosophy is a daunting responsibility because my job is to get students thinking and talking about questions at the core of our belief systems: What makes me what I am (e.g., a soul or a brain)? What do I value and why? How can I reconcile the existence of God and the existence of evil? Most have considered these questions before, though perhaps not so systematically. I enjoy helping my students see how their own questions connect to a long tradition of great thinkers. In one student’s words, “The most useful piece of information I received from taking philosophy was the knowledge that I am not alone… that these questions have been around for thousands of years.” I succeed when my students ‘philos’ for themselves — seeking good reasons for the answers to the important questions they have.
BECOMING A PART OF THE FSU COMMUNITY SETS STUDENTS ON THE PATH TO A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.