

Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Passes.  **HURRY! OFFERS ARE GOOD ONLY THROUGH LABOR DAY 2009. CLICK FOR DETAILS.** **Hot Summer Deals!** **Find Space Coast Hotels**

Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#) | [Subscribe Now](#)

Find it: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Dating](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Weekly Deals](#)



All [Local News](#) [Archives](#) [Calendar](#) [More »](#)

SPONSORED BY:




[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [CAPITAL](#) [FSU](#) [FAMU](#) [COMMUNITIES](#) [OPINION](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [WEATHER](#) [OBITUARIES](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [CUSTOMER SERVICE](#)
[Local News](#) [Breaking News](#) [Update Florida](#) [Photos](#) [Video](#) [Nation & World](#) [Business](#) [Health](#) [MomsLikeMe.com](#) [Text Alerts](#) [Archives](#)



Comment, blog & share photos
[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#) | [Search people](#)



Get **TEXT ALERTS** sent to your phone.

Florida State student paying homage to father

BY DOUG BLACKBURN • DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER • AUGUST 11, 2009

[Read Comments\(2\)](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#) [Share ?](#)

This has been an intensely bittersweet summer for Bryan Rill.



Special to the Democrat Bryan Rill, a graduate student in anthropology at FSU, is studying spiritual power and healing in contemporary Japan. (Special to the Democrat)

ADVERTISEMENT



Hurricane Season
**GET READY
IN 5 EASY STEPS**

» Roll over to get started



The Leon High graduate is closing in on a doctorate in anthropology at Florida State. Last month he received a prestigious, \$40,000 Fulbright-Hays award to complete his research in Japan.

Rill's success has been tempered, however, by the death of his father on July 6. Randy Rill, a professor at FSU for more than 35 years, spent many years studying means of fighting cancer, then succumbed to it at age 65.

"His death came suddenly, and I was not ready. Only a week before I had been on Skype (Internet telephone) with him and he seemed to be recovering," Rill said. "The news was extremely hard on me, and not going home was even harder."

Rill was scheduled to go on a pilgrimage that was the pivotal event in his research, which is focused on spiritual power and healing in contemporary Japan. He is 35 years old, and has been working on his doctorate for five years.

"I remembered his final wish of me, and that was to finish what I came here for," Rill said. "So I decided to stay and go on the pilgrimage to honor him and all the support he gave me in my studies."

Rill learned he had received the Fulbright-Hays award only after he returned from his trip to the Japanese mountains. Glen Doran, chairman of the anthropology department, believes Rill is the first ever FSU anthropology student to earn a Fulbright-Hays.

Three other graduates students in anthropology — Stephanie Litka, Timothy Parsons and Dan Seinfeld — received National Science Foundation grants this year to work out of the country on their dissertations.

"I think it's a pretty clear statement about the quality of our students and our faculty," Doran said. "We're pretty excited."

The students' success comes at the same time Doran's department is in limbo, due to drastic reductions in state revenue for FSU and the other schools in the state university system. Three tenured faculty members in anthropology are scheduled to be laid off, no new students are being accepted into the graduate program and there's a one-year suspension on admitting freshmen and sophomores as anthropology majors.

"It certainly is ironic that national entities are recognizing the quality of our students and we're sitting here not able to fund the university system and have no idea what the future holds for our department," Doran said. "We've got a good crop of people who are interested in coming to FSU. We need to keep that tap open."

Receiving the Fulbright-Hays has enabled Rill to focus solely on his research and speed up completion of his dissertation. He went to Japan earlier this year without a grant, and worked as an English teacher to support

ADVERTISEMENT



Hurricane Season
**GET READY
IN 5 EASY STEPS**

» Roll over to get started



More FSU Headlines

[FSU appeal may wind up being heard Nov. 15](#)

['Noles' Dawkins returns to defensive end](#)

[FSU's Alabi not going to Spain](#)

[Former FSU star Buckley settles in as graduate assistant \(2\)](#)

himself.

"I do not regret staying here in Japan," Rill said, "for had I gone home, I would not be where I am now in my work.

"Yet it pains me greatly inside, and my heart must heal. My father's death has transformed both me and my work, making this research not only academic, but also a personal quest to honor my father."

In Your Voice | READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY

Hide Comments ▲

Newest first -



wr1967 wrote:

He already [did] thank 'his' god (small case 'g.)

8/11/2009 7:26:17 AM

Recommend New post Reply to this Post Report Abuse



LarryWalters wrote:

Nice work Brian Rill.
Make your father proud.

And thank you for not thanking god, and for not saying you couldn't get through this without god.

Your father taught you some important lessons.

Make him proud.

8/11/2009 6:37:30 AM

Recommend New post Reply to this Post Report Abuse

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

1000characters left

Tallahassee.com on Facebook

[Become a Fan](#)

Tallahassee.com has 1,039 Fans

Jason	Valerie	Karinda	Barbara	Richard
Jamie	Michael	Kyanna	Bob	Alicia

Tallahassee.com on Facebook

Latest Headlines

Tropical Weather: Tropical depression forms in the Atlantic

Bob Gabordi's Blog: This blog is going Hollywood, well, YouTubeing

JFK's sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver dies at 88

Tallahassee weather: 50 percent chance of showers, thunderstorms

Fourth annual STARS conference kicks off in Tallahassee

ADS BY PULSE 360

[Get Listed Here](#)

Tallahassee Refinance at 4.37% FIXED!

\$160,000 mortgage for \$633/mo. Get 4 FREE Quotes - No Obligations!

www.LendGo.com

AARP Auto Insurance From The Hartford

Over 50? Save \$388 on Your Auto Insurance In Minutes w/ The Hartford.

AARP.TheHartford.com

Medical Billing Training

Become A Medical Billing Specialist Quick & Easy Home Study. Free Info

MedicalBillingCourses.com/Allied

Ad Links



Handcrafted Art & Home Accents
From Jewelry to Home Decor. Our Selection is Tallahassee's MOST Fabulous!
www.HumidityGallery.com



The adventure begins here
Outdoor supplies, travel, clothing, and footwear. The Gardens at Espositos.
[click here for more information](#)



Need a new dining experience?
Visit the dining guide and explore all of the flavors of Tallahassee!
[Take me there!](#)

Need an Apartment?
[Search hundreds of apartments from the](#)



comfort of your home.
Start searching

 **CHEVY** If your vehicle qualifies, you could get up to a **\$4,500 trade-in rebate.**



CARS
car allowance rebate system

[CURRENT OFFERS](#) [LEARN MORE →](#)



Partners: Jobs: [CareerBuilder.com](#) | Cars: [Cars.com](#) | Homes: [HomeFinder.com](#) | Rentals: [Apartments.com](#) | Shopping: [ShopLocal.com](#) | Dating: [eHarmony.com](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Capital](#) | [FSU](#) | [FAMU](#) | [Communities](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Weather](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Work for Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2009 Tallahassee Democrat. All rights reserved.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) , updated March 2009.