



SPRING
SUMMER
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Across the Spectrum

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

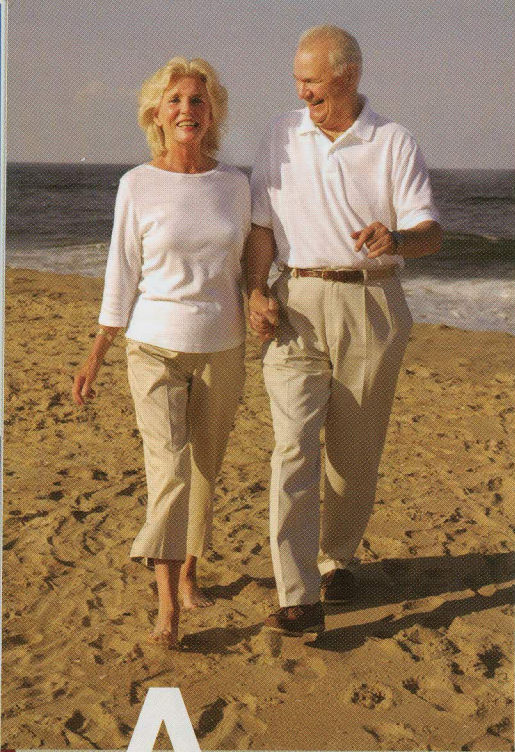
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Salute to veterans

Half century man

Professor Jim Jones





Institute for Successful Longevity

With people living longer than ever before, the need for new discoveries to promote health and quality of life in old age has never been greater. FSU's new Institute for Successful Longevity, an interdisciplinary partnership including the College of Arts and Sciences, addresses the 21st-century challenge of unlocking the secrets of aging well.

The institute, which is led in part by psychology professors Neil Charness and Walter Boot from the College of Arts and Sciences, addresses issues of aging across a wide spectrum.

Charness and Boot are already involved in the Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement (CREATE), a 13-year-old project funded by the National Institute on Aging that aims to help older Americans participate in the evolving world of technology. Through CREATE, the professors have developed software to help older people keep their social lives engaged. Other projects with the Florida Department of Transportation have improved driving safety for older drivers and those who share the road with them. Charness and Boot have even made discoveries about the possibility of reversing cognitive declines in older people through the use of video games.

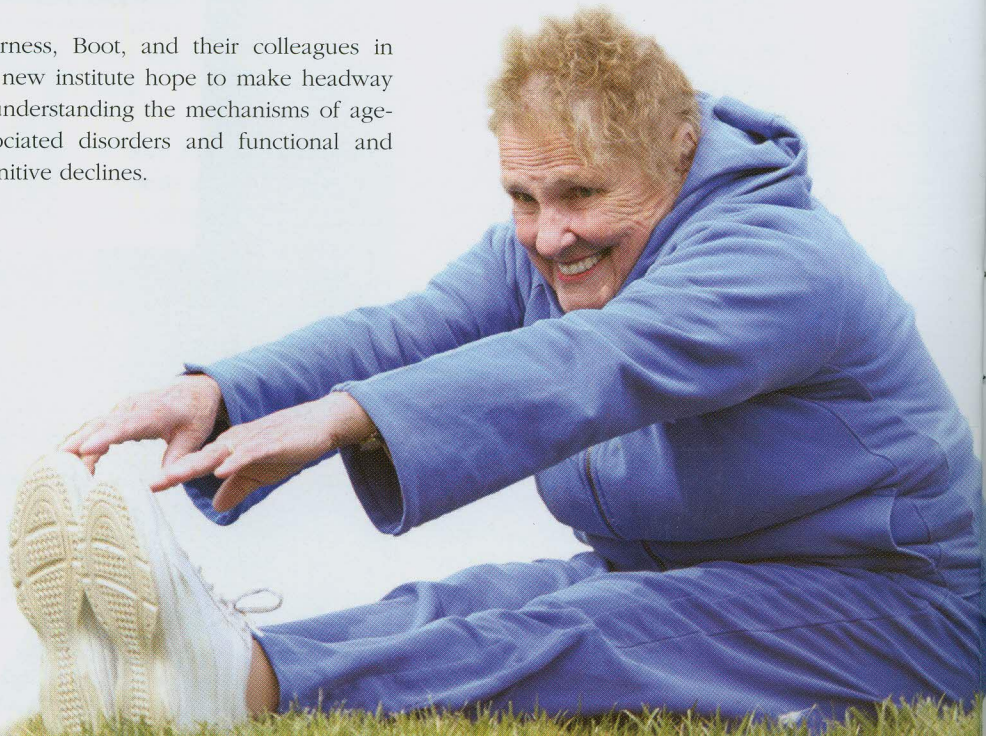
Charness, Boot, and their colleagues in the new institute hope to make headway in understanding the mechanisms of age-associated disorders and functional and cognitive declines.

"To improve cognitive functioning as we age, we need to understand cognitive development across the lifespan from the perspective of disciplines such as cognitive science, biology, exercise science, nutrition science, and others," according to Charness and Boot. "It takes multidisciplinary teams to create the knowledge and the technology to support effective interventions."

Already, the psychology department—with the help of the College of Medicine—has organized a successful speaker series on successful longevity. That series, which ran in Spring 2012, is slated to continue in the coming year and, with the support of donors, become permanent.

To reach its goals, the institute needs additional staff and facilities, in particular a neuropsychologist who specializes in cognitive aging and facilities such as an MRI center, a virtual reality center, and an updated driving simulator.

The institute will build on strengths FSU has had for a long time. Combining the expertise from the Department of Psychology with FSU's excellent programs in medicine, nursing, social work, nutrition, human performance, and cognition will create a formidable, interdisciplinary response to one of the world's fastest-growing challenges.



A As part of the comprehensive fundraising campaign in the College of Arts and Sciences, various new initiatives have arisen, many in response to President Eric Barron's call for "Big Ideas." These initiatives are changing the face of Florida State University and paving the way for an innovative and interdisciplinary future—all through the support of alumni and friends.