



October 18, 2009

Campus notes

n FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Biomedical professor praised for leading lab

A Florida State University College of Medicine biomedical-sciences professor has been recognized as having one of the most influential structural-biology labs in the world. Michael Blaber was named No. 36 in a ranking of top scientists in the field by the Ion Channel Media Group.

NIH grants \$2.4 million for autism research: Amy Wetherby, an FSU researcher, has been awarded two grants from the National Institutes of Health totaling \$2.4 million to continue her work in detecting autism in children as young as 18 months. Wetherby is director of the Autism Institute in the College of Medicine.

Applied Superconductivity Center receives \$1.2 million grant: The Applied Superconductivity Center at FSU's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory has received \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to understand and enhance a new form of super-conducting material that could be used to build more-powerful magnets used in a wide range of scientific research. The grant is part of a larger \$4 million award over two years to a collaboration — the Very High Field Superconducting Magnet Collaboration — for which David C. Larbalestier, the magnet lab's chief materials scientist and director of the Applied Superconductivity Center, and Alvin Tollestrup of Fermilab are the project leaders.

n TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

U.S. Department of Justice recognizes safety institute: TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute has received awards from the U.S. Department of Justice totaling \$300,000 to continue support for criminal-intelligence training offered by the FPSI's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. With the aid of the grants, the FPSI will enhance existing infrastructure and programs in intelligence training.

n THOMAS UNIVERSITY

Thomas breaks ground for renovation: Thomas University recently broke ground on one of the most ambitious renovation projects in school history. The project, which will cost between \$4 million and \$5 million, will re-configure the university's roads and parking lots, renovate and group buildings into traditional campus quads and set the stage for a new 16,000-square-foot academic building.

- Compiled by Doug Blackburn. Contact Doug at dblackburn@tallahassee.com with higher education news.