

History of Science Society Relocates to UF

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GAINESVILLE, Fla.-- The History of Science Society, the world's premiere society in the history of science field, is now headquartered at the University of Florida. The society is the oldest and largest of its kind in the world.

"The History of Science Society is over 75 years old, outstripping its British counterpart by almost a quarter of a century," says Frederick Gregory, history of science professor and former president of the society. "So it means a great deal to host the society's operation, which is very international in scope."

Formerly located at the University of Washington in Seattle, the society's executive office now resides in UF's Turlington Hall. It handles all the administrative duties of the 3,000-member society—organizing its annual conference, which draws 700-800 participants from all over the world; producing a quarterly newsletter, the *History of Science Society Newsletter*; and acting as a liaison between the society and the public. The office is also the administrative arm of the Philosophy of Science Association.

Leading the office is Jay Malone, a UF history alumnus, who has served as the society's executive director since 1998. Malone received all three of his degrees from UF, including a PhD in the history of science in 1996, and looks forward to teaching as an adjunct professor in the department beginning spring 2004. He has hired three graduate students to help run the society's office and will recruit an officer manager through the UF personnel office to round out the team.

"We have had wonderful support from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Neil Sullivan, the history department and, particularly, the history of science program," Malone says. "These are my former teachers, and they have been great about helping us get set up."

The History of Science Society, founded in 1924, is dedicated to understanding science, technology and medicine and their interactions with society in their historical contexts. Through its journals *Isis* and *Osiris*, as well as other activities, the society provides scholars, decision makers and the public with historical perspectives on science policy and the achievements and limitations of basic and applied science.

UF's history of science program, housed in the history department, offers undergraduate and graduate degrees and has five full-time faculty. "For many years, history of science has been one of the most dynamic sections within the department," says Department Chair Brian Ward. "The faculty have published important research and secured substantial outside funding, as well as provided exceptional undergraduate teaching and attracted top-flight graduate students. The society's arrival will only enhance the department's national and international reputation as a center of excellence in this field."

The society will host an open house sometime in the early fall to give the campus a chance to meet the group and learn more about the society. The date and time are still to be announced. For more information on the society, go to www.hssonline.org.