

FSU gives students a peek at the past



A display at Florida State University shows one how dorm life was around 1967.

tional and was renamed Florida State University.

Sherill Ragans, associate vice president of student affairs, suggested replicating dorm rooms after seeing a similar display at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. The exhibit not only shows how student life has evolved but also points out campus traditions and newsworthy events.

Copies of front pages of several issues of The New York Times are hung on the walls. The one closest to the door is a copy of the Sept. 17 issue, which has a picture of two smoking World Trade Center towers. Other copies displayed include coverage of the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and President John Kennedy, as well as Gen. Robert E. Lee's Civil War ending surrender.

"It's designed to show how historical events - both national and world events - have shaped and influenced the lives of students at FSU and its predecessor institutions through the years," said junior public relations student Emily Hawker, who is a member of the committee that produced the exhibit.

FSU alumnus Kitty Hoffman attended the opening reception last week. Her story, told in the exhibit by a bucket of oranges, helps bring to life the university's reputation for compassion for its students.

PHOTO BY MIKE EMMEN

During the 1933-'34 school year, Hoffman was a sophomore at the Florida State College for Women. The nation was in the middle of the Great Depression, and Hoffman's family didn't have enough money for her to return that spring. "But I didn't want to go home, so the college bought enough oranges from my father to pay my expenses for the rest of the school year," she said.

Hoffman said she is not the only student who benefited from this compassion.

"We thought maybe somebody got through on sweet potatoes," she said. "And it was suspected somebody got through on collard greens."

by Tia Mitchell

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Last week, the Florida State University Union Gallery was converted into a time machine. Current students who visited the gallery were able to see how students lived and what they lived through in the university's 150-year history.

The exhibit - titled "Alumni: Celebrating 150 Years of Student Life" - includes replicas of four dorm

rooms, pictures and other memorabilia. It was unveiled earlier last week as part of the homecoming celebration at the university. The display is now on exhibit in the school's Student Life Building for six months.

Diane Greer, who oversees the exhibit, said it allows current students to get a "peek at the past."

"We just wanted them to see the kinds of things students might have had in their rooms at the time," said Greer, who is also director of cultural resources.

"I think dorm life is part of the history of the university that tends to be ignored."

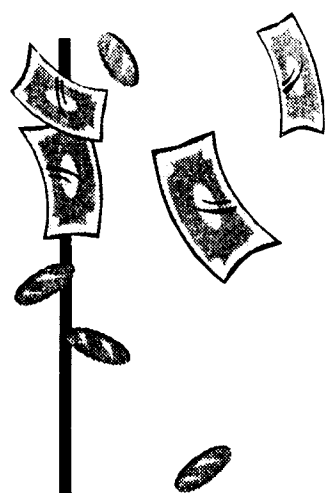
The four dorm rooms are decorated to reflect the eras they represent - the 1880s, 1901, the 1940s and the 1960s. In 1851, the Florida General Assembly established the Seminary West of the Suwannee River. The institution became known as the Florida State College in 1901, and in 1905 the Legislature turned it into a females-only institution. In 1917, the Florida State College for Women became coeducational.

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