



Orlando Chapter Update

DID YOU KNOW?

- Orlando has almost 1,100 UWF alumni
- UWF's athletic conference includes some sports from local schools- Rollins College and Florida Southern College
- Over 40 new students attend UWF from the Orlando area every year

Inside this issue:

UWF Athletics at Florida Southern 2

UWF License Plates 2

August 2008 Student Send-Off 2

Philanthropic Activities 3

June 2008 Orlando Chapter Reception 3

IT'S A NEW YEAR!!!

I hope everyone had a joyous and merry holiday season. I know I did, and my "Christmas pudge" is an excellent testament to my family's cooking.

This fall we've seen a transition within our Orlando Chapter, as the reigns of the chapter have been passed on from Steve Peacock to me. I have served on the Alumni Board for the past five years and currently serve as our National Association's treasurer. Recently, my job with the University of Central Florida has re-located me to Orlando.

We are so fortunate to have had Steve be such a terrific leader these past several years. His contributions to the Alumni Association are immense, and I especially appreciate the groundwork he laid. It is making it that much easier for me to work with you all, thanks to his efforts! Thanks so much, Steve!!!

As 2008 is already here, I wanted to have a new way to update our Orlando area alumni about happenings in central Florida to which we can all contribute. I know how much our alma

mater means to all of us, so continuing to stay involved helps to only strengthen the "value" of our education. Lots of UWF things are happening very soon in our area, so be sure to be proactive so we can continue to be the best Chapter the UWF Alumni Association has!

- Luke van Blaricom



Upcoming College Fair in Orlando

One of the best ways to contribute to the UWF community is by helping to recruit new students. You can share your experiences to prospective students and let them know what your UWF education has done for you! There is an upcoming college fair at Bishop

Moore High School on Saturday February 23rd, 2008 from 11:00am-1:30pm (but plan on arriving by 10:30am as parking is often hectic). Students from various private high schools from around the Orlando area will be in attendance. We need one to two

volunteers to help out with this program. This is one of the few times of year that we can help out with area college fairs. If interested, please send an e-mail to me at lukevanblar@yahoo.com for more information about participating.



The UWF softball team warms up before a game.

UWF Athletics at Florida Southern

Many UWF athletics events are played as visitors at local Orlando colleges and universities. These include men and women's tennis, men and women's soccer, baseball, softball, and men and women's cross country and track.

The men's baseball team will be competing against Florida Southern in a triple header on February 8th and 9th. The games start at 7:00pm on February 8th and 1:00pm on February 9th. For more information about this

year's team, checkout athletics web site at <http://uwf.edu/athletics>. For directions to Florida Southern's baseball field log onto <http://www.flsouthern.edu/athletics/basbeball/directions.htm>.



What better way to show your UWF pride?

UWF License Plates in Orlando

Ever been driving around town and happen to see one of these license plates on a vehicle speeding by? What better way to show your Argo pride than by purchasing a UWF license plate? There is an extra annual fee of \$25.00 applied to purchase these, but that

fee actually is given directly back to UWF for scholarships for students. Be sure the next time your license plate is up for renewal you contact our local tag office to request one of these. Not only will you be helping out our alma mater's students, but you'll be helping to

spread the word about our university! Let's make it so these become a common sight in our area!



The Orlando Chapter student send-off, August, 2006.

Orlando Student Send-Off

Soon it will be that time of year again when local Orlando high school students will begin finalizing their college selection process. Many students from our own area choose to attend UWF. In 2006, an event was organized by our chapter to officially "send-off" new students before they began their first day of classes for the fall semester. Let's

see if we can continue this tradition by letting new students and their families meet our area's alumni and help them to know that choosing UWF will be a great choice. The event will be held on a weekend late in August of 2008.

Volunteers are needed to help organize this event by contacting new

students and helping to organize the reception. Also, we will again be in need of a location for the event (i.e. home or restaurant). If you have any suggestions about locations or wish to volunteer to help out, please contact Luke at lukevanblar@yahoo.com or 850-380-8494.

Serving Our Community in UWF's Name!

With the help of many of our dedicated local alum, I have had the pleasure of spearheading our chapter's philanthropic activities over the last several years. Our efforts have included home building with Habitat for Humanity, cleaning local water ways via a "Canoe Cleanup", helping with fun events at Give Kids the World, etc. At each event, we have created great bonds with one another while serving our community and proudly representing UWF.

As some of you may know, Chris and I are thrilled because we are expecting our first baby (it's a boy!) in early April. Pregnancy, planning and intense career demands have interfered with my ability to plan any events as of recently, but my passion for philanthropy has not diminished. I just need some help!

Please send me any thoughts or ideas for some philanthropic service activities. Also, if you are espe-

cially fond of a particular organization/activity, and if you already volunteer, please feel free to begin making plans for us (and I can help!). You can reach me at 407-905-5312 or katiescheer@cfl.rr.com.

I look forward to 2008 being a successful year of chapter growth and community contribution! Happy New Year!

- Katie Scheer



A clean-up event held at Lake Eola on 9/16/06.

Orlando Chapter Reception in June 2008!

The Office of Alumni Relations is organizing an upcoming event in June 2008 right here in Orlando! This is always a great time to reconnect with our local alumni and get a university update from one of the university's top administrators. We will also try to briefly discuss upcoming chapter events at the reception as well. Details are forth-

coming, but please plan to attend! We only have an event like this once a year, and it's always a lot of fun. Possible locations are being considered right now including downtown Orlando, Disney World area, or Winter Park. If you would like to voice your opinion about where it should be held, please feel free to contact me at

lukevanblar@yahoo.com or 850-380-8494 and let me know of any venue suggestions. Don't forget to check your mailboxes for the invitation! If you need to update your address, e-mail your new information to our Alumni Relations office at alumni@uwf.edu.



The 2007 Orlando chapter reception.

In October 1967, students at the newly opened University of West Florida voted to select the school's mascot. Would competitors in the athletic arenas be known as the seahawks, the mariners, the marlins or the argonauts? Perhaps those students just liked the sound of the name, or perhaps they were wiser than their years, for the outcome gave birth to a prophesy and defined us forever. Their choice was the legendary Argonauts, the courageous Greek sailors who ventured across treacherous seas in search of the golden fleece.