UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

Connection
FALL 2013
ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

First season of Women’s Swimming and Diving

Biomechanics Lab

National Flight Academy immerses students in STEM education

College of Business Phase III

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President’s Q&A

Dear Alumni & Friends,

I begin my first letter to you as the Interim Vice President of University Advancement with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm, optimism and confidence in where UWF is headed in the months and years ahead. As I began my new role in July, I took a moment to reflect on the hundreds of students that I’ve had the honor and privilege of serving in the Department of Communication Arts over the last decade. My experiences as a professor, department chair and, eventually, as the Director of the School of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts have taught me that what makes UWF different is that our alumni exist in the nexus between teachers and students. As alumni and friends of UWF, you understand the value we place on maximizing student success. I want to personally thank you for your support in helping us maintain that focus.

Our academic programs continue to grow in numbers and strengthen in stature among top-tier institutions. The stories in this issue illustrate the hands-on, immersive learning opportunities that fuel academic innovation and produce distinctive graduates from UWF. In addition, we are honored to reflect on the success stories of our alumni and the commitment of donors who believe the university is a vital part of our community.

As we draw closer to 2017 and the 50th anniversary of UWF, you will begin hearing more about our strategically focused capital campaign that addresses institutional priorities that will benefit UWF as a primary economic driver for Northwest Florida. Again, thank you for believing in UWF. I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our alumni as we move forward.

Warmest Regards,

Dr. Brenda Kelly
Interim Vice President, University Advancement
Alumni Board President’s Message

2013 Alumni Board of Directors
President: ‘00 & ‘03 Luke van Blaricom; BS Biology & MS Education; Orlando, Fla.
Vice President: ‘80 Dave Langston; BS Interdisciplinary Sciences; Milton, Fla.
Secretary: ‘99 & ‘02 Ildi Hosman; BSBA Business Administration & MA Communication Arts; Pensacola, Fla.
Treasurer: ‘98 John Gormley; BSBA Business Administration; Pensacola, Fla.
Director at Large of Northwest Florida: ‘88 Robert Lea; BA Communication Arts; Powder Springs, Ga.
Director of Chapters: ‘92 & ‘02 Jeff Bedenbaugh; BA Accounting & MBA; Quincy, Fla.
Director at Large Within Northwest Florida: ‘81 Paul Pratofiorito; BA Accounting; Pensacola, Fla.
Director of Student Programming: ‘04 Becca Tieder; BA Theatre; Clearwater, Fla.
Director of Student Programming: ‘04 Becca Tieder; BA Theatre; Clearwater, Fla.
Director at Large of Northwest Florida: ‘92 Harriett Wyer; BS Marketing; Tampa, Fla.
Director of Alumni Affiliates: ‘01 Jay Windham; BSBA Business Administration; Pensacola, Fla.
Past President: ‘93 Caroline Hartnett; BSBA Business Administration; Pensacola, Fla.
Student Representative: ‘14 Jordan Self; Panama City, Fla.

Participation Matters!
The Alumni Association knows that your time is incredibly valuable, so we appreciate your choice to spend some of it with us. Thank you to the students and alumni who joined forces with us last year. We hope to see you again in the near future!

3,800 alumni attended an association sponsored event.
124 alumni and friends played golf in our annual tournament and raised $8,925 for scholarships.
2,964 alumni made a gift to the annual fund, of whom 391 were new donors.
171 current students joined the Student Alumni Association.
151 seniors made a class gift to UWF.

What’s Happening Now?
Partnerships, student awards and initiatives at the university

By Margaret Roberts

UWF Student Teams Place 1st and 2nd in International Engineering Contest
Two UWF student teams were recently awarded 1st and 2nd place in the Myron Zucker Undergraduate Student Design Contest, a prestigious international competition sponsored by the Industry Applications Society, a special-interest society within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.
This year, senior Nathaniel Eubanks, Chris Hazes, Vadian Iliu and Andrew Potter were selected as the recipients of the first place award for their project, Design of a Solar Array Positioning Controller. Drs. Bassam R. Shaer and Muhammad H. Rashid advised the team at the REEF campus at UWF Emerald Coast. Seniors Aster Pastoral, Chris Doobal and Jon Lister, also advised by Bakhoum and Rashid, were selected for second place for their project, Design of a Global System for Mobile Communications GPS Vehicle Tracking System.

Fellow Alumni,
What an exciting time of year as the university welcomed new students to campus! These new Argonauts began their UWF experience and will create fond memories like those so many of us remember. Recently, the Alumni Association Board of Directors convened to reinvigorate our vision for the upcoming year. With our momentum, we strive to increase the value of your degree and provide services that enhance your life.

The fall semester also is the time we welcome our annual Homecoming activities. If you have not visited campus recently, take a fresh look at how the university is evolving. It is a great opportunity to enjoy the fall weather, participate in an alumni activity, and support our defending NCAA Division II women’s national soccer champions.

As always, we seek your input as we move our association forward. Your thoughts and suggestions are often the catalysts that serve as our greatest ideas! Feel free to reach out to all of us. We need your support in order to grow our membership and provide the kind of events that you want to see.

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Best Regards,

Luke van Blaricom, President, UWF Alumni Association Board of Directors
FACULTY FELLOWS EMERGE
A group of 25 faculty fellows representing the UWF College of Professional Studies embarked this summer on a curriculum called Emerge. The program encourages Emerge Faculty Fellows to develop high-quality learning activities, including travel study, community-based projects, faculty-student research, capstone experiences and experiential learning during the 2013-14 academic year.

The lead-off Emerge event, a faculty professional development seminar, detailed the benefits of using high-impact practices to increase student learning.

Through community involvement in the public school districts of both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, Emerge boosts immersive learning experiences steered by those who have been engaged.

MULTICULTURAL CENTER PLANS UNVEILED
In May, the university partnered with Gulf Power and the West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. to unveil plans to transform the Bac- com Building into “The Voices of Pensacola,” a multicultural resource center highlighting the city’s diverse history. Gulf Power and Southern Company donated $605,000 to West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. for this initiative.

The new center will feature displays representing the varied cultural groups who have shaped Pensacola’s history. Potential exhibits will showcase the Native American, Asian, Hispanic, African-American, Greek, Jewish and European cultures.

It will also include: two stages for oral history, storytelling and musical performances; two acoustically controlled Aural Exhibit spaces where oral histories can be heard and recorded; a research room; computer research stations and more.

West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc. owns the Beacon Building, formally known as the Normam Simons Building. The building is located at 110 Church St. in downtown Pen- sacola and was built in 1912 by S. E. Fulghum & Co. for D. Kugelman & Co., a wholesale grocer. Since then, it has housed several other wholesale grocers, wholesale liquor companies and the Pensacola Cigar and Tobacco Co.

PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHES DEGREE COMPLETIONS
This year, the Legislature launched the Degree Completion Pilot Project to recruit, recover and retain the state’s adult learners and assist them in completing associate or baccalaureate degrees that meet high-wage, high-skill workforce needs. Nearly 2 million Florida adults have earned college credits but may have not been able to graduate for various reasons.

Last summer, UWF developed an Operations Work Plan that details specific degree-completion efforts by various postsecondary education institutions and provides an overview of the overall project plan, identifying key tangible outputs of the program.

This spring, the Legislature provided $4 million for the statewide, online Complete Florida Degree program. UWF will lead the initiative, in collaboration with other Florida College System and State University System institutions to further support the program’s exceptional advising and student support system.

PARTNERSHIPS PRODUCE HIGH DEMAND DEGREE
The University of West Florida and the University of South Florida have partnered to produce a Doctor of Physical Therapy program. This partnership will expand access to UWF students interested in pursuing a DPT and help meet a state-identified need for more physical therapists in a largely rural region of the state.

At a September 2012 Florida Workforce Estimating Conference, physical therapy was the second highest in-demand occupation among those requiring a master’s degree or higher, with a 2.59 percent annual percent growth.

The new DPT degree program has only 12 slots available for qualified applicants. Admission is reserved for qualified graduates who have completed bachelor’s degrees at UWF. Each student accepted into the program this year will receive a $2,500 scholarship for each of the three years they spend in the program.

Applications are open until Nov. 15, 2013 for the Fall 2014 semester. Applicants can apply online using the PTCAS application, located at ptcas.org.

NEWS • NOTES

THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM will not meet a state-identified need for more physical therapists in a largely rural region of the state.

MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER
Rendering by Carter Quinn.

UWF Continues Military Support Through Tuition Assistance
In early March, Congress mandated cuts in federal spending, including new requests for tuition assistance for active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces. To offset the cuts, UWF offered waivers for undergraduate active-duty military students using tuition assistance. The waiver will impact an average of 110 students per semester.

The waivers apply to fees for both on-camp and online courses at UWF. “As a university rooted in a large military community of all branches, we have an obligation to provide military-friendly support,” said Marc Churchwell, director of the Military & Veterans Resources Center, said. “Our military deserves it, and we owe them.”

“The support and flexibility the UWF MVRC offered me during this time allowed me to continue to serve my country while obtaining my degree.”
— Kim Price, Health Care Administration senior

UWF CONTINUES MILITARY SUPPORT THROUGH TUITION ASSISTANCE

UWF lost one of its kind alumni over the summer. Known fondly as “Dot” Stewart, Dorothy Stewart was the first lady of the Alumni Association. Dot graduated from UWF in 1979 with a B.A. double major in Communication Arts and Interdisciplinary Humanities. She was one of the first four employees of the University and was responsible for a variety of administrative areas in the 1970s. Her entertaining ability to share those memories with others was legendary and included references to trekking through the woods with UWF’s first president, Harold Olin, and others to help make decisions that laid the foundation for what the campus looks like today.

Dot can be credited for many accomplishments at UWF, but her research and guidance in establishing the first Alumni Association is among the most memorable. Her endearing personality made it difficult to say no when she asked students and alumni to volunteer by encouraging alumni to attend or assist with special events, or become chapter leaders, she kept them engaged, and many became her lifelong friends.

Stan Gasi, the second Alumni Association president, became one of those lifelong friends. He remembers Dot recruiting him to help start the Atlanta alumni chapter in 1972.

“Dot had a special way of working with us to help them achieve more than they ever thought was possible,” he said. “Her support and that ability to relate to the student and alumni population made her the perfect fit for UWF.”

Dot served the university for 18 years. After retirement, she remained connected and supportive of UWF. Finally, in 2010, she was named a Trailblazer — 50th and 40th years and participated in the Retired Employees Association.

If you have a favorite Dot Stewart memory, have a story you’d like to share, email alumni@uwf.edu. Contributions to the Dorothy Stewart Endowment, created in her honor, can be made by making a gift to the UWF Foundation, 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514.

For university-wide news, visit news.uwf.edu. To receive more information on your college’s latest happenings, visit us online!

► College of Arts & Sciences uwf.edu/cas
► College of Business uwf.edu/cob
► College of Professional Studies uwf.edu/cops

Dorothy Stewart—First Lady of the Alumni Association

BY GRETCHEN VANVALKENBURG

Dorothy Stewart—First Lady of the Alumni Association
Calendar of Events

September

Oct. 7

UWF Men’s and Women’s Cross Country

The men’s and women’s cross country teams will compete in the Gulf Coast Stampede at the Escambia County Equestrian Center. The women’s 5K begins at 8 a.m. and the men’s 8K begins at 8 a.m. The campus community is invited to cheer on the Argonauts during their races. Visit goargos.com for additional information.

Oct. 8

Alumni Golf Classic

Join us for a fun day of golfing at Scenic Hills Country Club at the University of West Florida. Registration begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. The 18-hole tournament will be followed by an awards ceremony with great company and prizes. The cost is $325 for a foursome or $85 per individual and includes green fee, cart fee, range balls, lunch, the awards ceremony, a goodie bag and a ticket for the prize drawing. For more information, visit uwf.edu/alumni/programs.

Oct. 9

Argie’s Birthday Bash

Join the Student Alumni Association as a Hosts’ Argie’s Birthday Bash on the Pensacola campus in the Commons Auditorium. The bash will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and celebrates the “birth” of the University, as classes officially began on Sept. 25, 1967.

October

Oct. 7 & 8

The Annual Homecoming Bonfire

The annual Homecoming Bonfire features good music, friends, s’mores and more!

Oct. 10

UWF Volleyball Game

The UWF women’s volleyball team will play West Alabama at 6 p.m. in the UWF Field House. The campus community is invited to cheer on the Argonauts in their first home match since winning the 2012 NCAA Division II Championship. Visit goargos.com for additional information.

Oct. 11

Men’s and Women’s Soccer Game

The campus community is invited to come and cheer on the Argonauts at the UWF Soccer Complex during the Homecoming game against the Lee University Flames. Men’s and Women’s games will be played at 7 p.m. Visit goargos.com for additional information.

Oct. 11

UWF Women’s Swimming & Diving Meet

The campus community is invited to celebrate with the UWF women’s swimming and diving program as the team competes for the first time ever against Florida State University and Tulane University in the UWF Aquatic Center. The scheduled start time is 1 p.m. Come cheer on the Argonauts at their inaugural meet! Visit goargos.com for additional information.

October

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Tailgate Party

Join alumni, students, families and friends of UWF as we come together around food, drinks and games to get ready for the night’s soccer matches. The free tailgate begins at 4 p.m. and will be held at the UWF Soccer Field. See Homecoming Tailgate policies at uwf.edu/homecoming.

November

Nov. 12

Alumni Chapter Event, Atlanta Area

The UWF Alumni Association will host a chapter event for alumni in the Washington, D.C., area from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at Maggiano’s at Perimeter Mall, 4400 Ashford Dunwoody Rd. Enjoy the opportunity to catch up with fellow alumni and hear about the latest updates from UWF. For more information, visit uwf.edu/alumni.

December

Dec. 14

Commencement

Join us at the Pensacola Bay Center as we welcome the newest members of the UWF Alumni Association. Graduate and undergraduate students will be honored at both ceremonies. The morning ceremony, held at 10 a.m., will recognize graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences. The afternoon, scheduled for 2 p.m., will recognize graduates of the College of Business and the College of Professional Studies.
Andrew Clark is sitting in the mess hall onboard the aircraft carrier “Ambition” when an alert is issued: A tanker has collided with a cruise ship, leaving a trail of chemicals dangerously close to the passengers stranded in the water. Red flashing lights mark the situation as urgent, a matter of life and death. Clark and the rest of his squadron gather for an emergency meeting to create a master plan for a rescue mission, including a flight plan with calculated trajectories and fuel needs. Once the mission is completed successfully, they meet again for a mission debrief.

National Flight Academy immerses students in STEM education.
**NATIONAL FLIGHT ACADEMY**

Clark, 14, is not your average pilot, and this is no ordinary mission. He is an Ambi-
tion Experimental Pilot participating in the Aviation in Residence program on the Am-
bition, a simulated carrier at the National Flight Academy (NFA) facility at Naval Air Station Pensacola. The five-and-a-half-day camp serves as a hands-on, immersive learn-
ing experience that engages seventh to 12th grade students with aviation-based missions.

The students must solve these missions using science, tech-
nology, engineering and math (STEM) skills, as well as criti-
cal thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and communication.

“I’m learning more about how forces work against an airplane, and how to deal with different situations. Like when fog rolls in around a ship the lights are dimmed, so it becomes really hard to see the people you’re try-
ing to save,” said Clark, a ninth-grade student in the Peninsula High School IB program. “This may not feel like it’s real, but they have the noises of the airplane taking off, and the simulations and the ship move so that it feels like you’re really there.”

The STEM Outlook

Between 2008 and 2012, fewer than half of U.S. high school students met the ACT col-
lege readiness benchmark in math or science, according to that college testing organization’s 2012 Condition of Career and College Readi-
ness Report. Yet, the number of jobs in STEM fields continues to grow each year. By 2018, STEM occupations will account for an estimated 8.6 million jobs in the nation’s economy, up from 7.5 million in 2008, according to a 2010 report by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce projects.

To address serious concern over declining STEM skills and standards throughout the country’s education system, the U.S. Navy na-
thorized the NFA in 2001 as a subsidiary of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. It is a self-supporting, tuition-based educational pro-
gram that is not financially supported by the Navy. The cost to attend a five-and-a-half-day camp is $1,250. Competitive scholarships are available through the Boost program for stu-
dents to participate in the Ambition experience.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Through the use of modern technology, in-
tegrated curricula based on current research, engaging instructors and an immersive learn-
ing environment, the NFA is making an im-
pact on STEM education for middle- and high-school students across the country.

In 2009, the NFA contracted the Uni-
versity of West Florida to lead curriculum development for the Aviation in Residence pro-
gram. Dr. Pam Northrup, associate pro-

orthopedic surgeon, led an interdisciplinary team of teacher educators, instructional designers,
opportunity to witness firsthand the Aviation in Residence program's impact on students.

The most important thing I have learned from the NFA is that there are different ways to educate and inspire people,” he said. “We just need to think of new, creative ways to tackle the education gap for America’s children. The education these students receive is wonderful, but the greatest thing is the ability to inspire them to go into STEM subjects.”

The NFA’s next step to affect what goes on in classrooms across the country has been the development of the Aviation Classroom Experience, in collaboration with UWF and TEQGames. The first ACE classroom opened in 2010 at Warrington Middle School in Pensacola. Since then, 15 additional ACE classrooms have been developed in middle and high schools in Florida, Maryland, Arkansas, Tennessee and Washington, including one at Milton High School.

These classrooms provide students with the opportunity to solve problems in an immersive, game-based environment similar to that onboard the Ambition, through the use of flight simulation technology and aviation-based assignments and missions. Working as individuals or teams, students are tasked with calculating the proper weight and balance to prevent an aircraft from stalling, understanding the basics of flight, including altitude and calculating air speed, and leading a search and rescue mission for an elephant in the African desert.

“Classrooms can be both inspiring and engaging,” said Watson, TEQGames chief creative officer. “We often see students inspired in art classrooms when they become places for students to follow inspiring stories and engage in play. However, classrooms in STEM subject areas have been reduced to educational assembly lines, with rigidly defined student pacing through complex topics and very little engagement in play. UWF and TEQGames are working hard to reverse this trend by integrating classroom experiences that bring math and science to life through real-life, relevant experiences.”

As was the case with students who participated in the summer program onboard the Ambition, students who participated in the ACE program at Warrington also saw increased test scores. In the first year of the ACE program at Warrington, 25 percent of seventh- and eighth-grade students participated and scored 37 percent higher than their school’s average on standardized math and science tests.

A VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP

In March 2012, UWF became the first institution of higher education to be equipped with an ACE classroom, the U.S.S. Argo. The Argo is a Super ACE classroom in the nation primarily used to support degree programs for UWF students and to provide teacher development and training. It can also be used for middle- and high-school programs through coordination with school districts.

In March 2013, UWF and the NFA officially joined forces, recognizing an educational partnership with an agreement signed by President Judy Bense and retired Vice Admiral Gerald Hoeving, president of the NFA. Both teams will continue working together to develop a cutting-edge curriculum for middle- and high-school students, as well as a new Professional Development program hosted onboard the Ambition, which provides the same engaging experience for adults seeking to improve their corporate skills in communication, collaboration and complex problem solving.

Additionally, 11th and 12th grade students who participate in the Aviation in Residence program now have the ability to earn one college credit hour in the field of engineering technology applications at UWF.

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“This partnership is a game changer,” Bense said. “It has the potential to revolutionize STEM education. We are delighted to have been a partner from the beginning and will now step up and take the responsibility of this involvement process and the five-and-a-half day residential academic experience.

“Education of our young people is the responsibility of all. It can be by just the teacher in the classroom, or the superintendent, or the school board. Education is at the heart of our future.”
On Oct. 4, 2012, the University of West Florida celebrated a monumental accomplishment: the opening of a 36,000-square-foot state-of-the-art College of Business Education Center. The opening of the Education Center enhanced the College of Business’ efforts to carry out the college’s vision of being a key contributor to the educational and economic development of the region.

The Florida Legislature this year granted the UWF College of Business $8.4 million in funding toward its renovation Phase III. The main scope of this project includes adaptive reuse and renovation of four campus buildings constructed in 1977 to provide a fully integrated college.

The Phase III renovation will include interior and exterior upgraded hardware and infrastructure, equipment components and finishes; and one-level and two-level classroom designs with connectivity to the new Education Center. All structures will meet state code requirements.

The UWF College of Business Phase III supports a high-quality, student-oriented, educational experience with a focused priority on excellent teaching, supported by scholarship and service. The College of Business prepares students for success in business and society and advances the educational and economic development of Northwest Florida.

DID YOU KNOW
there are eight UWF alumni chapters across the United States? If you live in the following areas, we invite you to contact the following chapter representatives to learn about how you can meet fellow alumni and reconnect with old friends in your community.

- **Atlanta**
  - Robert Lee, 718, sclem@uwlax.edu

- **Emerald Coast**
  - Mary Grace, 70, mgrace@uwf.edu

- **Jacksonville**
  - Logan McEwen, 70, logansky54mcewen@gmail.com

- **Pensacola**
  - Paul Protellino, 718, pprotellino@authentics.com

- **Orlando**
  - Mary Grace, 70, mgrace@uwf.edu

- **Tallahassee**
  - Andre Libeiro, 718, allibeiro@yahoo.com

- **Tampa**
  - Chip Todaro, 717, williamtodaro@hotmail.com

- **Washington, D.C.**
  - Mir All, 713, mirwuall@gmail.com or
  - Kayla Wright, 701, kwright@gwmail.gwu.edu

New ideas are welcome! If you would like to share your idea about how to increase alumni participation in these areas or would like to learn more about ways to establish a chapter in your part of the world, please send your recommendations to alumni@uwf.edu.
By Matt Rowley & Sean Sullivan

Andrew Hancock was hired in Summer 2012 as head coach of the new UWF women’s swimming and diving program, and the man from Australia has brought added excitement to the program that will begin this fall.

“I am very excited about seeing our first class of student-athletes compete this fall,” Hancock said. “There can only be one group of firsts, and they are going to be setting the course for the future days to come. I hope these student-athletes face on a daily basis.”

As a student-athlete at Cleveland State, Hancock was a 10-time champion in the Horizon League and was named Horizon Swimmer of the Year in 2002. He helped the team earn four consecutive conference titles as a member of the 800-yard freestyle relay team. Hancock also graduated from Cleveland State with honors and understands the academic pressure student-athletes face on a daily basis. “As a former student-athlete, I do have great experience balancing the athletic and academic sides,” Hancock said. “My hope is to help these student-athletes balance the two, so that hopefully they can be even more successful than I was.”

Hancock is finalizing the team’s first schedule, which was not yet available at the time this information on the team’s first season. Visit gargos.com for more information on the team’s first season.

Hopes are high for new UWF team as inaugural season approaches

The UWF swimming and diving team’s spring signing class includes several star recruits, including freshman Carla Robles out of Coral Reef High School in Miami, Fla. Robles was ranked as the No. 30 recruit in the state of Florida by CollegeSwimming.com.

“I was delighted to hear that Carla chose UWF, because I felt we were a great fit for her,” Hancock said. “Carla is the impact sprinter our first year program needs, and she has a great chance to qualify for the national meet even as a freshman, both individually and in relays.”

Another incoming freshman, Hikaeia Aponte from Pompano Beach, Fla., competed in the 5A statewide event, representing Bolivia at the FINA World Women’s Swimming Championships in Barcelona this July.

“Hikaeia made great improvements last year and will join UWF with international experience under her belt,” Hancock said. “She is going to be a great college swimmer, and I can’t wait to start working with her.”

As a student-athlete at Cleveland State, Robles was ranked as the No. 30 recruit in the state of Florida by CollegeSwimming.com.

Gary Buffington Jr., played golf at UWF from 1985 to 1987 and was named a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-American in 1987. Now his son, Gary Buffington III, is pursuing his education at UWF. Along with the legacy of his name, the elder Buffington passed down his passion for golf and the values of our school and golf program. When I put on my uniform or take my Argos golf bag to Scenic Hills, I feel a great sense of pride.”

The addition of Scenic Hills has made a great impact on the team’s game, he said, providing a facility to practice in tournament format. “It allows us to be more prepared and confident. I believe it was a major component of why we made it to the national championship tournament.”

While much has changed at UWF since the ’80s, some things remain the same. “My dad didn’t have classes in a new College of Business building, live in new dorms, or have access to a course as great as Scenic Hills. What we share about our time at UWF is having professors who know students by name and experiences that have created memories to last a lifetime.”

Copyright Ty Leeland No. 1
2013. Whitfield took 25
courses to London for
eight weeks and taught a
course entitled
"Organizational
Culture in the
UK." Follow
Whitfield and
her students on her blog at
http://mariagolden.2013@sps.pfco.co.uk.

89 Christina K. Money, BA
Communication Arts, has been
named development director at the
Arbor Hospice Foundation. Money
is responsible for the management
of special events, donor communications
and annual giving programs.

87 Brett Barrow, BS
Management, has been named the
city president of Regions Bank in the
Pensacola/Fort Walton Beach area. In addition to his
city president responsibilities, he will also
continue in his role as a private wealth
executive in the Panhandle.

87 Liz Watkins, BA
Communication Arts, has produced a
documentary film on the life of "Pearl
Harbor, One Last Goodbye,"
and has been elected a fellow of the
remaining Pearl Harbor survivors.

87 Kimberly C. Bonner, MA
History, was appointed by Florida Gov. Rick Scott to
serve as a faculty member in residence
at Tallahassee Community College.

52 ‘07 Martin Bidwell, BA
English & MS, has been named as the principal of
the consolidated kindergarten through
12th grade school in Franklin County, Fla.
Bidwell previously served as assistant
principal of the school.

53 Michelle D. Stinson, BA
Legal Administration, has been promoted to
senior vice president of human resources
at The Florida Farm Bureau Insurance.
Stinson began her career in human
resources with a professional staffing
collection experience over more than 23 years in
the health care industry.

53 Maureen Thurston, BA
Communication Arts, has received a master’s
degree in Philanthropy and Development
from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota
in May 2013.

55 ‘96 Hugh E. Wolfgang, BS
Computer Science & MS Computer
Science, is a Programmer 3 at Applied
Research Associates in Niceville, Fla.

56 William S. Francis, BS
Finance, has earned the Chartered Financial
Consultant designation, which prepared him
to offer financial services to his customers.
Francis joined Stifel, Nicolaus and Company in 2009.

57 Catherine L. Rodriguez, MS
Public Administration, has been named the
senior public information officer of the Walton County Sheriff’s Office.

8 Lisa E. Jackson, BA
Elementary Education, has been named to the
Ms. Wheelchair America competition in
Houston. Jackson was crowned Ms.
Wheelchair Florida for 2012.

8 Christopher Walters, BA
Interdisciplinary Humanities, went in the
Peace Corp. to the country of Georgia after graduation.
After two years, Walters completed graduate
school at Columbus University, receiving
a Masters in International Educational
Development. He is currently teaching
in Georgia for an additional year. Walters
is currently the grants manager for The
ARTS Cabell County. He and his wife, Anne, live in Coning, NY.

8 Samantha Armbruster, BS
Kinesiology, has joined San Marcos as the
new program manager. Armbruster, a native of Texas, San Marcos is an official Main City Street
that promotes historic preservation and economic revitalization in the heart of the city.

10 Rebecca Gross, BA
Theatre and Dance, and ‘98 Kelly Walker, BA
Communication Arts, both served as
instructors in the summer faculty program
at the 2011 “This is Us” workshop and class, during which they
partnered with theatre students from across
children’s theatre programs in South Florida.

10 James Madison, MSBA
Business Administration, has been named to the
UWF Hall of Fame Class of 2012-2013. Warrick is one of the
Most Distinguished Alumni and created the
International Student Association after eight
years spent in the Peace Corp. Warrick is
the new student relations coordinator, and her main responsibility
is advising the Student Alumni Association.

13 Kevin Warrix, BS Economics, has been selected to the
Academic All-District Team for the College of
Class of 2012-2013. Warrix is one of the most decorated players in the history of the
UWF Men’s Soccer Program. He earned recognition as a three-time All American. He was a key part of the team that won the State Championship this year. He and his wife Christal were married on March 31, 2012.

13 Anthony Simmons, MSBA
Business Administration, has been named to the
UWF Hall of Fame Class of 2012-2013. Simmons
played on the Argonaut soccer team for four years, during which team he was named MVP every season and won two Gulf South Conference
championships. Simmons is currently employed by Landshark Lake, Fla. where he lives with his wife, Samantha, and two sons.

15 Michelle Carol Fried, BFA, weld David D’Agostino in a fall 2012 faculty exhibition in Calvin Hall, Flora. Fried was formerly an assistant principal in the Nashville Situation school at the Software Engineering Institute.

15 Kyle R. Newsom, MEd Educational Leadership, has been named to the
teachers educational program at Rollins.
Newsom is a native of Chilton, Fla. Newsom
was former assistant principal in the
Washington School at Kern High and
an assistant principal in the
Pensacola Community School.

15 Abigail Wiggins, BA Organizational Communication, has been
to assistant vice president of corporate
to executive vice president before her
recent promotion.

15 Erik Medley, BS Mathematics, won the
2012 Best Sports Faculty of the Year Award
in Dora, Fla. He and his wife, Mindy, have
their twins in 2009.

15 ‘08 & Autumn Noelle Morris, BS Business Administration,
has been named a Rising Star by
the Independent News of Pensacola, FL.

15 Leigh Weikle, BS Business Administration, has joined the
staff at Coastal Bank and Trust as a business
to CNO Martina and has
her new baby boy.

15 ‘08 & Autumn Noelle Morris, BS Business Administration,
has been named a Rising Star by
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UWF Prepared Alumna to Set Sail

BY MARGARET ROBERTS

Fair winds and following seas have traveled with Rachel Pryor from South Florida to the shore of the University of West Florida to NOAA Ship Oregon II, a 700-ton, 172-ft. research vessel home ported in Pensacola, Miss. A 2008 UWF alumna, Pryor attributes her current position as a junior officer onboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Vessel, where she is responsible for ground fish, plankton and shark longlining surveys, to her first university field trip.

“We would take trips to the buried island, salt marshes and pine forests, searching for critters or environmental staples,” said Pryor. “My professors were always encouraging me to communicate on a daily basis with scientists about their needs to complete their project goals,” Pryor said. “UWF’s facilities give students the best hands-on experience that exponentially sets them apart in an application process for a career position.”

Pryor’s most authentic experiences and memories at UWF are related to the university’s small class sizes and high-quality mentor-student relationships.

“My professors were always encouraging my progression in the field and were always available to write incredible letters of recommendation that have paved my path to success,” she said.

“For Pryor, the best part of her professional success is giving back. “I have the opportunity to provide valuable service for the environment and my country,” said Pryor.

Rachel Pryor, BA Environmental Studies, ’08 graduated from UWF with a bachelor’s degree in environmental science, with a natural science specialization. She then went and earned a master’s degree in environmental studies from Florida International University.

“My education from UWF helped train me to communicate on a daily basis with scientists about their needs to complete their project goals,” Pryor said. “UWF’s facilities give students the best hands-on experience that exponentially sets them apart in an application process for a career position.”

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“My professors were always encouraging my progression in the field and were always available to write incredible letters of recommendation that have paved my path to success,” she said.

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UWF Alumnus Pursues Dream

BY BRITTANY CARR

Derek Lang’s portfolio includes interviews with Elton John, Smokey and the Beach Boys. He has covered countless award shows, including the Academy Awards, Grammys and Emmys. For the entertainment reporter and producer with the Associated Press, it is a dream come true that he says would not have been possible without the diverse education he experienced at the University of West Florida.

Lang said he always knew that he wanted to be a journalist reporting on the entertainment industry. To achieve his dream, the UWF alumnus and Fort Walton Beach native spent his college career pursuing experiences that would enable him to excel in journalism. Before graduating with a bachelor’s degree in 2003, Lang was heavily involved on campus, working as an assistant in the Student Activities Department and a resident advisor and director at Martin Hall, as well as serving as an editor of the student newspaper, The Voyager.

“From participating in the Student Government Association to helping create The Voyager each week, I was afforded many opportunities at UWF that I likely wouldn’t have been given had I pursued an education at a traditional institution,” he said. “Such diverse experiences helped set me apart from the pack when it came to applying for all-important internships and fellowships. They also helped prepare me for the complexities of the journalism world, where I have to call on a vast array of skills.”

But the most valuable opportunity given to him, Lang said, came through a UWF Alumni Association scholarship that enabled him to spend a semester interning in New York for Entertainment Weekly, through the American Society of Magazine Editors internship program.

“If I had not been awarded a scholarship from the UWF Alumni Association to pursue the ASME internship program, I likely wouldn’t have been able to participate in that unique opportunity,” he said. “It laid the foundation for my career as a national entertainment journalist.”

Thanks to his experience at UWF, Lang spends his days doing what he loves most – writing.

“I have a passion for storytelling, and I’m able to do that almost every day,” he said. “I love being able to write about extraordinary, creative and innovative individuals in Hollywood and beyond, utilizing the amazing worldwide platform that is the Associated Press. Like any job, it can often be mind-numbing and tedious, but it’s usually always fascinating.”

DERRIK LANG posing with Kermit the Frog on the set of The Muppets Movie.
Smile!

Whether gathering at a board retreat, recognition dinner, chapter event or baseball game, our Alumni Association events provide the perfect opportunity for us to show our appreciation of your continued support. They are also a wonderful chance for you to socialize with fellow alumni, current students, staff, faculty and friends of the university.

Don’t miss out! Our Alumni Association keeps adding more new events into the mix. For a look at upcoming events visit alumni.uwf.edu.
Alumni Reception Welcomes Germany MBA Graduates

BY MELISSA BRODE

The Master of Business Administration Program hosted its annual alumni reception in June to welcome the 2013 MBA graduates from the Transatlantik Institute in Germany into the association. The reception, held in the recently opened 36,000 square-foot College of Business Education Center, provided an opportunity for alumni to gather, share stories of success and interact with the latest graduating class of MBAs from Germany.

Celebrating its 10th year, the MBA Program in Germany is a partnership between the University of West Florida College of Business and the Transatlantik Institut of the Universities of Applied Sciences, Ludwigshafen and Worms. Using its network relationships with the German business community, the Transatlantik Institut recruits mid-level managers to participate in UWF’s MBA Program. Students in this year’s graduating group included employees of BASF, one of the world’s leading chemical companies, and John Deere, a well-known agricultural machinery manufacturer.

The German cohort’s three-week capstone learning experience in Pensacola promoted not only diversity, but a high-quality, global perspective within the MBA program at UWF. The alumni reception, a highlight of their visit, continued the celebration of cultural differences by providing a forum for UWF’s newest alumni to connect with previous MBA graduates.

“It was such a pleasure to attend the MBA Alumni event,” said Mambwe Mutanuka, ‘08 MBA. “It is an outstanding event that not only provides an opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni, professors and staff, but also an opportunity to interact with our fellow German MBA students, who have become such an integral part of the MBA program. The presence and interaction of our German counterparts undoubtedly adds to the many invaluable experiences that comprise the UWF MBA program. I am proud to be a part of it.”
Donor Moved by Biomechanics Lab

Hal Marcus donates $50,000 for additional equipment, enhancing the lab’s capabilities

BY MEGAN GONZALEZ

Hal Marcus is no stranger to the University of West Florida. He’s been a long-time supporter of the university and its commitment to enhancing research, instruction and the quality of life of the Northwest Florida area.

During his continued support of the university, Marcus became familiar with the Biomechanics Laboratory in the Health, Leisure and Exercise Science Department at UWF and met Dr. Eric Greska, the professor who spearheads the lab. After touring the facility in 2012, Marcus gave $50,000 for additional equipment, further enhancing the lab’s capabilities.

“As a child, Marcus suffered from Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease and was not allowed to walk for two years. “Exercise is an important part of everyday life, and a lab like this will continue to improve many lives,” he said.

Today, Marcus prides himself on keeping in shape. “I walk four miles a day, rain or shine,” he said.

Marcus’ passion for the lab has driven him to make others in the Northwest Florida community aware of its value. In fact, Marcus recently worked with the university to host an event that brought residents of Azalea Trace to UWF to explore the lab and learn more about it. “Including others in this project may be one of the biggest things I have done in my entire life,” said Marcus.

“As soon as I found out about the lab, I instantly thought of everyone at Azalea Trace and others throughout Northwest Florida that could benefit from it,” Marcus said.

The newly outfitted laboratory boasts industry-leading technology that enhances education within the program as well as UWF’s regional outreach.

The lab’s equipment allows UWF students and researchers the ability to view and analyze discrete human movement. Students work directly with the equipment in a hands-on approach to understanding normal human movement. Several courses in the department take advantage of the laboratory’s capabilities, making data collection and analysis a part of course objectives and hands-on learning.

“As a UWF alumnus, I think about the valuable hands-on experience I received throughout my education,” Greska said. “This is another way for UWF students to have the ability to learn real-world experiences in the classroom.”

Through the lab, the University is able to partner with local hospitals and organizations to develop enhanced injury-prevention and rehabilitation protocols, as well as improve surgical outcomes through pre-planning.

Marcus said he hopes his passion for the lab will continue to serve as a catalyst for those throughout the Northwest Florida community to continue to utilize and fund the lab.

“The more people who know about and support it, the greater the potential for creating a research niche in the UWF Biomechanics Lab,” he said.

If you’re interested in donating to the Biomechanics Lab, please visit www.uwf.edu/give or contact Martha Lee Blodgett at mlblodgett@uwf.edu.
“As a UWF alumnus, I think about the valuable hands-on experience I received throughout my education. This is another way for UWF students to have the ability to learn real-world experiences in the classroom.” — Dr. Eric Greska

Meet an Ambassador

UFV senior Greg Alford is learning firsthand the value of a high-quality education paired with real-world experience. The Clearwater, Fla., native, who is double majoring in hospitality and resort management and psychology, currently works as a pro shop assistant at Scenic Hills Country Club. The position allows him to gain valuable experience that can steer him toward his dream of working in the hospitality industry.

Alford started as an intern at Scenic Hills in the Spring 2013 semester. He was offered a part-time position at the end of the semester and leapt at the opportunity.

“The hands-on experience helps a lot more than anything I could do in the classroom,” Alford said. “It puts me out there in real-life situations.”

UWF’s Business Enterprises, Inc. purchased Scenic Hills last June to offer enhanced services for current and future members, as well as real-world experiences for students in the hospitality, sports management, exercise science, athletics, recreation, business and finance programs at UWF.

On campus, Alford is also involved in the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, the Student Alumni Association and the Student Ambassador program.

As recruitment chair for the Student Alumni Association, Alford said he hopes to “leave his legacy” by developing a recruitment campaign.

“I want the UWF Student Alumni Association to be an organization you join because you want to get involved,” he said. “We’re looking for people who are passionate and committed."

He says quality over quantity is what makes the UWF Student Alumni Association different from other institutions. This spring, Alford was given the opportunity to assume a leadership role on the Graduation Planning Committee through the Student Alumni Association, and he says that experience was a highlight of his college career.

Alford said that being involved at UWF has had a significant influence on his overall college experience.

“It changes everything,” he said. “When I go to events, I’m not just a student. University leaders get to know who I am and talk to me on a more personal level.”

PENSACOLA PLEDGE SCHOLARS

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA PENSACOLA PLEDGE SCHOLARS

Entering Class of 2013

Jennifer Ard
Victoria Ball
Carsten Bahnson
Michelle Bellanova
Allan-Peter Campbell
Jacob Campbell
Sterling Hardin
Colin Hayes
Michael Huang
Kevin Le
Alex Lindemann
Gregory Morgan
Renaldo Thompson
Kennedy Van Der Werff
Taylor Wilhoit
Sydney Yeager

Thanks to Quint and Rishy Studer, students who live within the city limits of Pensacola now have more opportunity to pursue higher education and more incentive to achieve while in high school.

Awarded recipients may select to attend either UWF or Pensacola State College (PSC).
AppRiver’s Gift Provides Global Perspective

BY GRETCHEN VANVALKENBURG

Imagine being a UWF student and gaining firsthand experience of how a global email and Web security expert protects 45,000 business customers and 8 million mailboxes worldwide.

What about being a UWF alumnus who’s looking for a unique career opportunity in an idyllic setting close to Pensacola Beach?

Thanks to the synergistic partnership and shared vision between AppRiver and the UWF School of Science and Engineering, those opportunities now exist for students and alumni alike.

AppRiver’s founders Michael Murdoch and Joel Schrader recognize the value of a higher education and growing the world’s digital infrastructure.

AppRiver’s CEO. “We’re proud to help UWF prepare tomorrow’s software developers and engineers for the challenges of managing and growing the world’s digital infrastructure.”

In addition to its private support, AppRiver’s experience of building a successful, global company is invaluable and offers many teaching moments to UWF students. Balancing technical expertise and an entrepreneurial spirit is the perfect business model to share, and doing so motivates students to dream big.

For additional information about AppRiver, visit appriver.com.

“We’re proud to help UWF prepare tomorrow’s software developers and engineers for the challenges of managing and growing the world’s digital infrastructure.”

— Michael Murdoch, AppRiver CEO

From the Editor’s Desk

For years we’ve asked you to “Think UWF.” Plastered on everything from car magnets to billboards to the pages of this very publication, the “Think” phenomenon provided a clear, concise request guiding people to remember the “little university in the woods.” As we stand at the threshold of a new day, illuminated by potential, the University of West Florida is poised to own its destiny. For years, we’ve said that we are a different kind of institution. In fact, many of the stories we have told in the pages of Connection Magazine have illustrated just that. We are different because of how we change lives, and we do so intentionally. As we like to say, UWF is “different by design.”

At the core of why we are different are our alumni, donors, friends, students, faculty, staff and partners. Together we have formed a community that embraces uniqueness and values quality. We know we are different because of YOU! It’s one of the many reasons that we want to hear from you. In issues of the magazine that follow, we plan to devote this section to hearing your feedback on the publication, in your own words.

To submit a Note to the Editor, visit us at uwf.edu/connectionmagazine and complete the form. Thank you again for reading Connection Magazine. We hope you have enjoyed the publication.

Best Regards,

Sabrina McLaughlin, MSA ’07
Managing Editor, Connection Magazine
Executive Director, UWF Marketing & Creative Services
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

HOMECOMING

2013

ARGOS

SET SAIL

OCTOBER 7-12

uwf.edu/homecoming