President’s Q&A

With the University’s 50th Anniversary rapidly approaching in 2017, we sat down with President Bense to discuss UWFF’s role in our region and the highly anticipated recent hiring of our first football coach.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR UWFF TO BE LOCATED IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA?
Our Board of Trustee Chairman Lewis Bear often says that at the heart of great cities, you find great universities. UWFF is working hard every day to serve Northwest Florida and the state at large as a center point for higher learning, opportunity and innovation. As UWFF matures and grows, the institution becomes more and more essential to the region, as well as the people and economy we serve.

WHAT’S SO UNIQUE TO THE CHARACTER OF UWFF?
What’s so unique to the character of UWFF is the role we play in helping to build a great community. With the salary disparity between high school graduates and college graduates continuing to grow, our attention to professional workforce development is increasingly more important. We continue to find ways to partner with industry to create unique opportunities for students and research. Most importantly, these partnerships serve as an essential component of the learning experience. We serve a large population of military, non-traditional and first-generation students who continue to thrive by earning college degrees and going on to make better lives for themselves and their families.

HOW WILL THE STUDENT LIFE EXPERIENCE BE ENHANCED BY UWFF FOOTBALL?
We have a very successful athletics program at UWFF. Seventy-five Gulf South Conference championships and seven national championships are testaments to the accomplishments of our student athletes, coaches and athletics administration. Our women’s basketball team played in post-season semi-finals, and our inaugural swimming and diving team competed in the NCAA championship meet. The addition of a football program is a natural next step in moving our campus forward and enhancing UWFF’s student life. Since the announcement a few months ago that we would officially hit the field in Fall 2016, there has been a notable change in the level of excitement on campus and throughout the community.

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Hiring Pete Shinnick as the first head football coach at UWFF is making football a reality in people’s minds. Coach Shinnick has started a program that will officially hit the field in Fall 2016, there has been a notable change in the level of excitement on campus and throughout the community.

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Shinnick is the right man to give us a strong start for UWFF Football. He brings with him nearly 30 years of experience coaching at the collegiate level, including stints at Ohio State and Oklahoma. Coach Shinnick is the epitome of what we are looking for in a head coach. He is humble, he is hardworking, he is committed to student success, and he is committed to building a program that will be successful both on and off the field.

WHAT’S MOST IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAM?
What’s most important to the success of our program is the support of our fans. We have a limited number of ticket packages available, and we encourage all UWF alumni, students, and friends to support the program as it continues to grow and develop. Additionally, we are building an endowment for our football program, and we encourage all alumni and friends to consider making a gift to help support our program.

WHAT’S THE FUTURE OF UWFF FOOTBALL?
The future of UWFF football is bright. We have a strong recruiting class, and we are committed to building a program that will be successful both on and off the field. We are excited to see how our program continues to grow and develop, and we are confident that we are building a strong foundation for success.

Thank you for believing in UWFF. I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our alumni and student athletes.

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

Fellow Alumni,

On behalf of the UWF Alumni Association, thank you for your continued support of our alma mater. This issue of Connection contains great information that helps you stay up to date on the latest events and news of UWF.

Staying connected is one of the greatest ways you can continue to assist the Alumni Association. We love to hear from you whenever you have exciting news to share regarding your career, family or significant milestones. We publish these updates in our “Class Notes” section of Connection. So, let us hear from you!

Staying in touch with you is also one of our greatest challenges as an Alumni Association. Our alumni often relocate, for a multitude of reasons, and our contact information for you becomes obsolete. That is why our Alumni Relations office has partnered with Harris Connect to produce an alumni directory titled UWF Alumni Today. Your updated information will help us stay in touch, so you can continue to hear about the great strides UWF is making as a university.

Alumni play a key role in the success of UWF. We want to further the value of the education you received and do everything we can to increase our presence nationally and globally. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/UWFAlumni, follow us on Twitter @uwfalumni, or email us at AlumniRelations@uwf.edu. So, regardless of how we hear from you, reach out to us soon. It is a great time to be an Argonaut!

Best Regards,

Luke van Blaricom

President

UWF Alumni Association

2014 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 of Chapters: ’92 & ’02 Jeff Bedenbaugh; BA Accounting & MBA; Quincy, Fla.
Director of Alumni Development: ’96 Heidi Lannom; MPA; Gainesville, Fla.
Director at Large Outside of Northwest Florida: ’88 Robert Lee; BA Communication Arts; Powder Springs, Ga.
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Director of Student Programming: ’04 Becca Tieder; BA Theatre; Clearwater, Fla.
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UWF Alumni Association
Certificate in Cybersecurity
Focused on networking and security, the certificate in cybersecurity prepares professionals to become cybersecurity specialists. Students develop technical and problem-solving skills to help organizations defend their network systems.

Certificate in Intelligence Analysis (Online)
This certificate in intelligence analysis is designed to prepare students in analysis skills related to federal and law enforcement strategies to protect national security and national interests, both domestic and abroad.

Certificate in Information Security Management
Both the Bachelor of Science with a specialization in Cybersecurity and the Master of Science in Administration, specialization in Cybersecurity, are offered with a specialization in cybersecurity theory and applications.

What’s Happening Now?

The new Cybersecurity Center will also feature a state-of-the-art Cybersecurity Battle Lab, allowing students in the program hands-on learning access to detect and defeat hacker attacks in a simulated and controlled environment. Through networks independent of the University’s computer systems, students will be able to explore cybersecurity freely by forming competitive teams and exercising the role of the attacker and the defender. These types of exercises will provide practical learning experiences, further preparing students for long-term industry careers.

New College Structure
► College of Business
► College of Science, Engineering and Health
► College of Education and Professional Studies
► College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

UWF Takes on a New Organizational Vision
The University is currently working to implement academic reorganization. This process will restructure the academic departments from the existing three colleges, Arts & Sciences, Professional Studies and Business, to fall under four colleges.

Certificate in Cybersecurity
The Bachelor of Science with a specialization in cybersecurity prepares students to be leaders in the protection of data assets and analysis of potential threats to systems and networks. The curriculum focuses on the techniques, policies, operational procedures and technologies that secure and defend the availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality and non-repudiation of information and information systems.

Master of Science in Administration, specialization in Cybersecurity (Online)
The Master of Science in Administration with a specialization in cybersecurity is offered entirely online and is designed to prepare students for leadership roles in cyber-related positions in public, nonprofit and private organizations. The program provides preparation to assume leadership positions in organizations by integrating the best practices in business and management with state-of-the-art cybersecurity theory and applications.

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Spring 2014

Stand Up and Be Counted
Dr. Mike Huggins, ‘96 BS Chemistry and Malcolm Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has challenged his colleagues to compete in alumni giving. The academic department with the most improved participation rate wins. With no amount too small to make a difference, the challenge will be won based on the rate of alumni participation of the total dollars raised. Cast your vote of confidence in your alma mater and designate your gift to your favorite department or any of the 100-plus funds at UWF. Show your pride today and visit uwf.edu/argorollcall.


Number of Alumni Donors Rising

New College Structure
► College of Business
► College of Science, Engineering and Health
► College of Education and Professional Studies
► College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

The University of West Florida Innovation Institute
The University of West Florida Innovation Institute serves to identify and develop educational projects that will have a substantial impact on the regional economy and enable the University and its partners to meet growing workforce demands. Projects identified, established, maintained and evaluated through the Innovation Institute connect the University’s resources, research, faculty experts and high-caliber students in an interdisciplinary environment to the communities UWF serves.

The University of West Florida Innovation Institute

Student & Alumni Success Stories

With so many remarkable stories of impact, triumph and opportunity, University of West Florida graduates and current students alike have unique perspectives on how the University changed the course of their lives. Taking pride in how UWF has challenged, rewarded and ultimately solidified the way they define success is at the very core of one of the institution’s most prominent values — quality. Stories that reflect the University’s commitment to uncompromising excellence serve as a reminder that UWF’s outstanding students and alumni are the innovators, leaders and problem solvers of today and tomorrow. They are UWF, and these are just a few of their stories.

Hailey Egido-Betancourt, Chemistry Student

In September 2013, UWF sophomore Hailey Egido-Betancourt became the first UWF student to participate in a prestigious program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she made a research presentation to faculty and graduate students. Egido-Betancourt is involved in the UWF Chemistry Scholars program, which recruits and retains high-achieving chemistry students in an effort to increase the number of students pursuing Ph.D. or M.D.-Ph.D. degrees. According to Egido-Betancourt, her experiences at UWF have been rewarding and are preparing her for a successful future in science. “The Chemistry Scholars program has provided me with scholarships and leadership experience,” she said. “It has also given me opportunities to develop as a scientist and to meet great scientists throughout the country.”

John Herber, Alumnus, ‘98 BA Elementary Education

In John Herber’s fifth-grade science classroom at Oakcrest Elementary School in Pensacola, lectures are rare. Instead, the UWF alumnus relies on hands-on, immersive learning experiences to show the students what they’re learning. Herber frequently utilizes his school’s raised vegetable gardens and greenhouse to teach his classes lessons about how plants grow, the life cycle of butterflies and more. His active learning philosophy and passion for teaching are part of the reason why he was recently selected as one of People Magazine’s 2014 Teachers of the Year. Herber not only credits UWF for his success, but also says teaching has given him a deeper appreciation for the education he received during college. “As you’re teaching, it reminds you of everything you learned in school,” he said. “You don’t know how much it will impact you until you apply it.”

Ruth Ashley, Alumna, ‘13 BS Mathematics

Ruth Ashley, an alumna of the UWF Department of Mathematics, spent her Summer 2013 semester participating in an undergraduate research program at Harvard University. As part of the internship, she and two other students worked for Quantam Reservoir Impact Group (QRI) to create a data-driven model that would predict the best places to drill in the Southern region of Texas. After graduating from UWF in December 2013, Ashley was offered a position as an associate analyst for the Innovation Group at QRI. She credits the education she received at UWF, as well as her involvement in the UWF Honors Program, for providing her with the skills needed to succeed in the Harvard internship program and in her career. “The Honors program was by far the most enriching aspect of my experience at UWF,” she said. “It’s a community of hard-working, intelligent community advocates—the leaders of today and tomorrow. It’s a family of incredible individuals, each uniquely different, which made me appreciate diversity and praise creative differences. It provided me many opportunities to lead, learn, present academic work, and network across America.”

For more university-wide news, visit news.uwf.edu.
Two women sit outside a wooden cottage on Zaragoza Street in Pensacola. One mends a pair of men’s trousers, while the other scrubs a white cotton shirt over a washboard. A sign next to them lists prices for laundering services for soldiers – a necessity in any fort town in the early 1800s.
The T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum includes the new City of Five Flags exhibit as well as an eclectic assortment of artifacts.
**UWF Historic Trust** manages 29 historic properties and sites in downtown Pensacola that allow visitors to take a walk through the area’s past. A few popular properties are shown below.

**A new avenue was created for the University to utilize our historic properties as living-learning laboratories for students. It also allowed us to enhance the importance of educating the public about preservation.**

— Robert Overton, Chief Operating Officer, UWF Historic Trust

**Gift to UWF Builds Eternal Legacy**

The Lewis Bear family recently showcased their belief in the impact and value of higher education through a $1 million gift to the University of West Florida to support the UWF engineering department and supply chain logistics program. “Our family believes there are no great cities without great universities,” said Lewis Bear Jr., president and CEO of the Lewis Bear Company. The Bear family is contributing $700,000 of the total gift to engineering, which is emerging as a distinctive department for the University. The gift will advance the University’s ability to align programs with workforce needs in the region and provide opportunities for students in high-wage fields that are important to Northwest Florida. “We hope to be able to help this University grow to meet the needs of the 21st century job market, not only for today but also for the future,” Bear said.

The University’s engineering programs are fully accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology. ABET accreditation is the “gold standard” for quality in engineering programs. The gift will continue the success of the Department of Engineering, as student teams in the department regularly place in national and international competitions. The Bear family has allocated the remaining $300,000 to fund an Endowed Professorship in Supply Chain Logistics, which will enable the program to continue recruiting and retaining top faculty in the discipline. In recent years, the University has experienced an increased demand for the supply chain logistics program based on the success of its graduates and recognition among students that the supply chain field is a growing career opportunity in today’s job market. This gift will ensure the UWF Supply Chain Logistics program is equipped with leadership that will contribute to its growth and enhancement, allowing it to pursue outcomes consistent with the best programs in the nation. “This gift will build an eternal legacy at UWF by helping to train the future logistics professionals and engineers in the region,” UWF President Judy Bense said. “The entire Bear family truly understands the importance of investing in education.”

To learn more about giving to the University of West Florida, visit uwf.edu/give.
We are Ready for Some Football

BY SABRINA MCLAUGHLIN

Looking at the Maritime Park stadium field, Pete Shinnick doesn’t see the bases, the outfield markers or the home plate where Pensacola Blue Wahoos batters take their position. He imagines a field with goal posts, carefully outlined in 10-yard intervals and one-yard hashmarks. He sees sidelines, not baselines, guiding ball carriers as they strategically dodge opponents, holding tightly a prized piece of leather as the crowd chants “go argos.”

For the University of West Florida, Shinnick’s vision as the founding coach for Argonaut football will be the basis of a new chapter for the athletic program, student life and northwest Florida.

Without question, UWF is ready for football. Shinnick, no stranger to the game, is part of a football legacy. His father, Don Shinnick, played 13 seasons for the Baltimore Colts and later coached the New England Patriots, Chicago Bears, St. Louis Cardinals and Oakland Raiders in the National Football League. In addition to Pete’s standout performance at the University of Colorado, three of his four brothers also found success on the gridiron at Division I colleges – Josh at UCLA, where he played on three Rose Bowl teams, Adam at Penn State, and Chris at the University of Hawaii. Their dad, who passed away in 2008, imparted the mantra Pete lives by and the core of his love for the game.

“One of the great things about my dad was that he coached in Super Bowls and played in Super Bowls, but he never made us play sports. He just said, if you are going to do something, then do it the best you possibly can and give it everything you’ve got,” Shinnick said.

That simple philosophy worked well for him when he took the reins of the football program at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke in 2005. He revived a football program that had been inactive for more than 50 years. In only seven seasons, he successfully built the Braves into a nationally ranked NCAA Division II team and compiled a record of 50-24. Prior to his tenure with the Braves, Shinnick had made his mark as head coach of former NAIA powerhouse Azusa Pacific University, where his teams posted a 53-22 record, reaching the national semifinals twice in seven years.


Shinnick and his wife, Traci, have been married for 22 years and are the proud parents of four children: Anna (19), Rachel (17), Elijah (14) and Benjamin (12). Anna, the eldest, will attend UWF and plans to major in Hospitality, Recreation and Resort Management.

“Everyone says that when you add football, each player will bring two other people with them, so I guess you could say I am already recruiting,” Shinnick said.

We have a great plan to maximize the resources we have,” Shinnick said. “Beyond the facilities and other logistics, my goal is to build a team of young men who will represent UWF in a first-class manner and add to the outstanding academic and athletic culture that already exists.”

“As a true believer in the Division II philosophy of ‘life in balance,’ Shinnick said he hopes to maintain the UWF ideal of building champions for life both on and off the field. “Growing up with my dad, I was able to see a great example of what it looks like to mold young men into great husbands, fathers, employees and employers,” Shinnick said. In building a program, he said, “that’s always been my focus.”

To learn more about Shinnick or watch the press conference announcement, visit goargos.com/football.

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Pete Shinnick by the Numbers

Heads Coach

Total Years Coaching

NCAA Division II

Total Wins

UWF 35-27 (Wellborn Field)

2003-04: Antelope (California State)

2004-05: Bulldogs (California State)

2001-02: Highlanders (California State)

2000-01: Blue Angels (California State)

2002-03: Otters (California State)

2005-06: Otters (California State)

2007-08: Otters (California State)

2008-09: Otters (California State)

2009-10: Otters (California State)

2010-11: Otters (California State)

2011-12: Otters (California State)

2012-13: Otters (California State)

2013-14: Otters (California State)

2014-15: Otters (California State)

2015-16: Otters (California State)
Do you know a student who would be a good match for the University of West Florida? If so, please participate in our Future Argonaut Referral Program (FAR). We know that referrals are a great source of qualified prospective students who have not applied to UWF. Because of your unique understanding of the type of student that would thrive at UWF, we invite you to send some students our way.

Start by submitting a Future Argonaut Referral form online at uwf.edu/futureargo. Your referral will receive an information packet, an application fee waiver*, and a call from an admissions counselor.

FAQ

*Please remember, fee waivers can only be used for students who have not submitted an application fee.

What should I refer to UWF?
You should refer high school students who are considering post-secondary education and have not yet applied to UWF, for whom we may be a good “fit.”

Does the student have to apply for admission to UWF after learning about our programs and campus life? They are not required to apply for admission after being referred.

Does the student have to be a member of my family?
We hope that you would refer students in your family, but you are not limited to family members. Send us the names of family friends, neighbors, etc. If you believe the student to be a good fit for UWF, we would love to hear from you.

Does the student have to be a senior in high school?
No. In fact, we know students are beginning the college search process earlier in their high school career. You can send in the names of students who are in the first year of high school all the way through the fall semester of their senior year of high school.

What else can you do to help spread the word about our program?
• Share your own experience with potential UWF students.
• Direct them to our website uwf.edu/futureargo.
• Encourage them to attend an on-campus event or schedule a tour of UWF.

Fall 2013 was one of the most successful seasons in University of West Florida Athletics history. The University currently ranks third in the latest Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings after the completion of five NCAA Division II Championships this fall.

The UWF women’s soccer team finished runner-up at the NCAA Championships and earned its second consecutive Gulf South Conference title this past season. The Argonauts boasted a program record 34-match unbeaten streak that dated back to the 2012 season and had six student-athletes earn All-America honors.

The West Florida men’s soccer team captured its eighth Gulf South Conference Championship title in 2013. The Argonauts advanced to the NCAA regional finals before falling to top-seeded Rollins. The men finished their season ranked No. 18 in the final national coaches poll, the first time since 2008 that the team has ranked in the top 25.

The women’s UWF volleyball team won 28 matches in 2013 en route to the program’s sixth-consecutive GSC title. West Florida advanced to the NCAA regional finals before falling to top-seeded Tampa in four sets. UWF boasted two All-Americans in the 2013 season.

The West Florida men’s and women’s cross country teams were both runners-up at the GSC Championships this past fall. The Women’s team finished fourth at the NCAA regionals, while the men finished fifth.

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The women’s UWF volleyball team won 28 matches in 2013 en route to the program’s sixth-consecutive GSC title. West Florida advanced to the NCAA regional finals before falling to top-seeded Tampa in four sets. UWF boasted two All-Americans in the 2013 season.

The West Florida men’s and women’s cross country teams were both runners-up at the GSC Championships this past fall. The women’s team finished fourth at the NCAA regionals, while the men finished fifth.
69 Judge Thomas E. Williams, Accounting, retired as an Escambia County, Fla., county judge. Johnson was elected to the bench in 1988 and served the citizens of Escambia County as a judge for 25 years, retiring three tumultuously 16 years in private practice.

69 Gail E. Sanetti, BA Psychology, recently completed a five-year term as a member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. Sanetti served as chair of the board, 2012-2013. As an attorney to the practice of law in Florida.

69 Dave Walby, BA History, presented and signed copies of his recently released book highlighting the life and times of William Chase, the senior engineer who supervised the construction of Pensacola forts, during the William Henry Chase Celebration on Saturday, April 5 at Fort Pickens.

70 Sybil Stoudemire, BS System Science, has been named Volunteer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2013 by the Thomas Hospital Auxiliary in Fairhope, Ala. Stoudemire is a powerhouse for the volunteer service area, where she trains and schedules volunteers.

71 Kenny C. Williams, MS Aeronautical Systems, a shareholder at national law firm Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Austin, was recently named to the 2014 list of “The Best Lawyers in America” in the construction law practice area.

71 Stan Dean, BA Theatre, has coordinated the Pensacola State College Lyceum Series for more than 23 years. Dean is the author of two books of poetry, “Loss and Remembrance” and “In the Autumn of Always.” A third book is in the works.

73 & 78 William Rone, BA Accounting & MBA, has retired after 42 years of service at Eglin Air Force Base. Rone left his post at the helm of Air Force Special Operations Command’s $16 billion budget.

74 Ellen Anson, BA Special Education, 2013 Elementary Teacher of the Year at Rocky Ridge Elementary School in Hoover, Ala. Anson has been teaching for 39 years.

75 Michael Tarwater, BA Management, has been elected to the Board of Pineda Natural Gas in Charlotte, N.C. Tarwater is the CEO of Carolina’s Healthcare System, which owns and manages hospitals, nursing homes, physician practices and outpatient facilities in both North and South Carolina.

76 & 96 Gerald H. Hilbert, Jr., has joined CharterBank as a commercial lender. Hilbert is a member of the Pensacola Association of Realtors and the Home Builders Association of West Florida.

76 & 77 Shelley Jean Ovsak, BS Health Education & MS Health, Leisure & Sports, recently retired as a Delta Connection flight attendant. Ovsak, who retired is military, was also a military flight attendant on Air Force II. A freelance model, she has done photo shoots with the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels and the Griffith Advertising Agency.

77 Tommy H. Huff, BA Special Education, is the principal of Willow Grove Elementary School in the Rancho Bernardo area of California. Huff was previously the assistant principal of Willow Grove, where he served on the leadership team that opened the school in 2008.

80 John Gradone, BS Marketing, has been named the new Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director of the Ocean Group Camp Meeting Association in Ocean Grove, N.J.

80 Thom Watson, BA Accounting, has retired and opened the Sweet Home Alabama Camper and RV Park on Point A Lake in Andalusia, Ala.

90 Dr. Ronald C. Thomas, Jr., BA Communication Arts, was elected chair of the Librarian Party of Volusia County, Fla., representing Daytona Beach and the surrounding area. Thomas is currently a course director for the graduate program in New Media Journalism at Full Sail University in Winter Park.

91 Michael J. Charest, BS Systems Science, has joined GMR Software Technology as Vice President of Sales for GMR Services Inc. Charest will support the company’s continued expansion of its customer relationship management and operational support services in North America.

94 Wendy Livingston, BS Marketing, is the new professional librarian for the West Florida Public Library System’s Molino Branch Library.

95 John Siriano, BA Communication Arts, earned a Master’s in Education with advanced certification from St. Bonaventure University in 1993. Siriano has over 25 years as a middle- and high-school counselor in Jamestown, NY.

96, ’08 & ’12 Dr. Susan Diane Flagg, MA Social Work, MA Educational Specialist in Education, Doctor of Education Curriculum and Instruction, was honored by Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges during a ceremony at the John C. Pace Library on April 5, 2013.

97 Sukanya Senapati, MA English, is an instructor in English in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Coordinator of Learning Support Services at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.

97 Barbara B. Albrecht, BS Marine Biology, was recently named an advocate for watershred quality. Albrecht has worked for The Nature Conservancy and continues volunteering as a watershed coordinator with UW. Albrecht, a 1994 graduate of the University of Delaware, has a master’s degree in marine and coastal science from the University of Florida. She is currently working to establish a Marine Science Center in Panama City, Florida.

98 & 99 Cassandra Faye Smith, BA History & MBA, was recently promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer for the Atlanta-based Hotel Equities, a full-service hotel management and consulting firm.

99 Howard W. Brown, Jr., Master of Science, has recently been hired as the Chief of Staff for the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.

99 & ’97 Mark Peterson, BA International Studies & MA Communication Arts, has been appointed Web developer for Vreeland Marketing and Design in Yarmouth, Maine. Peterson is responsible for Web and applications development for Vreeland Marketing’s B2C e-commerce clients.

99 Jessica Miller Klodnicki, BA Communication Arts, recently relocated to Pensacola, Fla. and was promoted to Executive Vice President and General Manager in the Action Sports Division of Easton-Bell Sports, where she leads the production of Bell Helmets and Blackburn Cycling Accessories. She was included in the Bicycle Retailer & Industry Association News 50 Most Influential Women in the industry. Klodnicki was also appointed to the Board of Directors of People for Bikes, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving bicycling in the United States.

99 John D. Forlini, Master of Business Administration, is publishing a book this year. One, “The 1930’s Road from the Past Portal to the Future,” is already available. The other two books will be released soon.

99 & ‘00 Jenny Crafford Bernard, MS History & MBA, was recently promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer for the South Louisiana region with Raymond James & Associates. Bernard is responsible for the supervisory, administrative and operational assistance for six locations in the region. Bernard has over 10 years of experience, has joined the Washington, D.C., office, and is located in the office. Bernard recently passed a reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

99 & ’99 Susan Flagg, BA History, graduated in 1999 and has recently earned the title of Teacher of the Year at Rocky Ridge Elementary School.

100 Dr. Lyman Harris, BA Political Science, has been practicing law in pre-kindergarten through third grade.

100 John W. Johnson, BA Accounting & MBA, has retired as an Escambia County, Fla., county judge. Johnson was elected to the bench in 1988 and served the citizens of Escambia County as a judge for 25 years, retiring three tumultuously 16 years in private practice.

101 Dr. Linda Wu, MD, has recently graduated from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine and Children’s Welfare Bureau for Region III.

101 & 13 Lyss Meser, BA Social Science and Med Educational Leadership, is the new head football coach at Bozeman High School in Sand Hills, Fla. Meser served as the assistant head at Pine Forest High School in Pensacola for the past two years.

101 Mike Renacker, MA History, recently returned from a 10-month deployment in Afghanistan. Renacker is the program manager for military construction for Regional Command East in Afghanistan. Renacker was awarded the NATO medal, the Commander’s Award for Civil Service Medal and the Bronze Star for his service in the Global War on Terrorism.

102 Ashley Harris, BA Communication Arts, has recently been named Director of Affiliations Development and Physician Outreach at Baptist Healthcare in Pensacola. Harris is currently pursuing a master’s degree in business administration at UW.

102 John Hair, BA Political Science & Philosophy, has been named the California Independent Insurance Company’s newest Federal Affairs Director. Hair, a veteran of the Peace Corps for eight years, has joined the Washington, D.C., office, and is located in the office. Hair recently passed a reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.
and will be pursuing a career in family medicine. As a medical student, Davis was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and received the Class of 2013 Mission Award. Davis will complete her residency in Anderson, S.C.

**Nicole Huie**, BA Communications Arts, has been named the director of University of Central Florida College Relations, Outreach and Engagement for the University of Central Florida Office of Alumni Engagement. Huie previously served as the Communications Coordinator for the UCF Office of Student Involvement.

**Darcy G. Baugh**, BA Psychology, has taken the position of coordinator in the Office of Financial Aid at the University of West Florida.

**Andie Bills**, BA Studio Art, has been promoted to Coordinator of Alumni Engagement in the new Student and Alumni Engagement department at Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, Ala.

**Samantha Morgan**, BS Clinical Lab Science & Master of Public Health, has been inducted into the University of West Florida Service Commissioned Corps. Morgan is the first UWF MPH Program graduate to be commissioned in the U.S. Army.

**Marco Matteucci**, BS Health, Leisure and Exercise Science, is the women’s assistant coach at the women’s tennis team at Baylor University.

**Alyssa Maki**, BS Communication Arts, is the community service coordinator at Great Falls Pre-Release Services in Great Fall, Mont. In his new role, Smart will also serve as the coordinator of the Cascade County DUI Task Force.

**Tanner Martin**, BS Environmental Studies, graduated with a master’s degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Florida in Fall 2011. He married fellow UWF graduate Alyssa Maki in May 2012 at Pensacola Beach.

**Katie Garrett**, BS in History and MA in History/Historic Preservation, has opened Old Hickory Whiskey Bar on South Palafox Place in historic downtown Pensacola.

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Manager for QMotion. Hoyt worked previously as a customer service manager for QMotion in Ellison Convery’s store in Anchorage, Alaska, since May 2010, working in the human services field.

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UWF Public Piano Project Turns Downtown Streets into Music Halls

BY JENNIFER PECK

A sensational marriage of art and music, UWF is leading the Public Piano Project initiative alongside the City of Pensacola in an effort to further enrich the already vibrant culture of downtown Pensacola. Donated pianos are hand-painted by local artists, including some of UWF’s very own art students, and installed in publicly accessible locations, giving any inspired passerby the opportunity to live out their dream as a modern-day Beethoven for any lucky pedestrian within earshot.

The Public Piano Project is led by Dr. Hedi Salanki-Rubardt, Distinguished Professor and director of the piano and chamber music programs at UWF. Her vision is inspired by her desire to enhance Pensacola’s cultural capacity while building the University’s visibility. “Pensacola has the perfect climate and the ideal arts community to support this project,” she said. “It is a progressive idea to advance both the culture of the city and the awareness of the University.”

The first piano, painted by UWF student Josh Green, has been installed on the corner of Palafox and Garden streets, just outside Vinyl Music Hall. A second piano, designed and painted by Jessica J. Stephenson—also a UWF student—will be placed in the Pensacola Community Maritime Park. Plans are underway for several additional downtown locations to house public pianos, as well.

“As a patron of the arts, I am delighted to see art and music brought into public spaces for everyone to enjoy.”—Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward

“I'm delighted to see art and music brought into public spaces for everyone to enjoy,” Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward said. Similar public piano projects have been successful in many larger U.S. cities, including Cleveland, Boston and New York City. UWF is confident that Pensacola can sustain such a creative endeavor.

The Public Piano Project is looking for business owners in downtown Pensacola to house pianos. If you are interested and have a semi-covered, public location that could protect a piano from rain, please contact Dr. Hedi Salanki-Rubardt at hrubardt@uwf.edu or 850.857.6295.

GRACE RESENDEZ MCCAFFERY
and her son, UWF student Brandon McCaffery.

“UWF completely changed my life. It provided me with the confidence I needed to pursue a vocation I really enjoyed, and it taught me that I'm valuable professionally. I have a degree that I earned from an incredible educational institution that can really take me anywhere.”

— Grace Resendez McCaffery, ’02, Founder, La Costa Latina Newspaper

Growing up in Grace Resendez McCaffery’s home, two things were clearly understood: Men work hard for a living, and women work hard from the home.

“I came from a very traditional, old-fashioned culture,” McCaffery said. “I was raised knowing how to cook and clean, but was never encouraged to read. I wasn’t really aware that attending college was possible, because nobody ever told me that I could be anything that I wanted. But at 25, McCaffery found herself widowed and a single mother of two, questioning what future she would be able to provide her children without a college degree.

“I had always heard that parents who go to college have children who go to college,” McCaffery said. “I wanted my children to see that getting a degree was realistic, because I knew that was going to be the difference between their having to compete for a minimum-wage job or a position they really desired.”

After enrolling at the University of West Florida, McCaffery was initially intimidated by the academic atmosphere. “Often I’d return home and help my kids with their homework and put them to bed before I was able to complete my own,” she said. “There were times where I felt like I was struggling, but I made it through.”

McCaffery credits UWF’s Department of Communication Arts, as well as instructor Edith Perigo, for providing her with the instruction, inspiration and motivation she needed to earn a B.A. in Communication Arts with a specialization in public relations. Since graduation, McCaffery has been an inspiration to the Pensacola community, serving as a voice for Latino residents who proudly live and work in the area. She founded the La Costa Latina newspaper in 2005 as a means to provide news and information to Spanish speakers throughout the Gulf Coast. La Costa Latina published its final edition on Jan. 10.

“UWF completely changed my life,” McCaffery said. “It provided me with the confidence I needed to pursue a vocation I really enjoyed, and it taught me that I’m valuable professionally. I have a degree that I earned from an incredible educational institution that can really take me anywhere.”

Through her college degree, McCaffery inspired her own son, current UWF student Brandon McCaffery, to pursue his dreams with a degree in Criminal Justice. Brandon also serves as president of the Hispanic Student Association and a senator for the Student Government Association.

“I enjoy watching him flourish at UWF more than anything, because I know exactly how that feels,” McCaffery said. “He’s no longer going to be a first-generation graduate, and regardless of whether or not I was the inspiration for it, he’s taking full advantage of his opportunities. I couldn’t be more proud.”

Grace Resendez McCaffery

Founder, La Costa Latina Newspaper

Founder, La Costa Latina Newspaper
Smile!

Whether we gather at a board retreat, recognition dinner, chapter event or baseball game, our Alumni Association events provide the perfect opportunity 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 to the mix. For a look at upcoming events, visit alumni.uwf.edu.

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“We want to make it clear that diversity is a priority to our UWF family. We’re a hub for academics and cultural exchange, and we feel that inclusiveness only benefits the educational and social experience of college.”
—Kim LeDuff, Ph.D., UWF Chief Diversity Officer
Pen Air Federal Credit Union Partners with College of Business to Deliver Financial Literacy

BY PATSY VEAL, PEN AIR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

According to the Federal Reserve Board of New York, approximately 37 million student loan borrowers have outstanding student loans today. A report on this topic from Accounting Principals indicated that approximately one-third of recent graduates—if they could do it all again, would have pursued more scholarships or financial-aid options, pursued a major that would have led to a higher-paying job, or gotten a job while in college and started saving earlier.

This strike a chord with Stu Ramsey, President/CEO of Pen Air Federal Credit Union, who comments, “Pen Air Federal Credit Union sees a need for financial literacy more and more as we see potential borrowers enter our doors with lower credit scores on average as compared to borrowers 10 and 20 years ago. This trend needs intervention, and it is the basis behind our board’s decision to partner with UWF’s College of Business.”

Pen Air Federal Credit Union’s generous gift of $100,000 will create The Pen Air Federal Credit Union Betty M. Petree Endowment, which will provide lasting support through scholarships and a Financial Literacy Boot Camp. The endowment is named in honor of Betty M. Petree, who served as the general manager of Pen Air Federal Credit Union for 36 years and currently serves on its board of directors. The boot camp will provide students essential resources, tools and financial necessities for the real world, such as personal financial planning, understanding of tax-deferred savings, retirement plans, health care options and benefits, review of insurance, debt management and other financial literacy topics.

The CIA, the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Telecommunications Services and the National Reconnaissance Office are just a few organizations that mark the extraordinary resume of UWF alumna Jill Tummler Singer.

Singer, BSBA ’84 and MS ’85, said her desire to work in the IT industry stemmed from receiving an excellent grade in her first computer science course at UWF.

“Computer science was very new at the time, but I took it as my first elective,” she said. “Then, I took the next one, and realized this is something I can do. Before I knew it, my first two years were up.”

Singer made her way through the University of West Florida as a first-generation college student by utilizing local resources and working in a co-op with IBM. Her passion for the IT industry continued to grow as she received valuable support from University faculty and mentors. Singer recognizes the support of those mentors to her past success, current achievements and future endeavors.

“Even when you are at the very top, you still have something you can learn,” Singer said.

After graduating from UWF with a bachelor's degree in computer science, Singer received her first job through a lottery selection and began the long process of gaining a top-secret security clearance to work as a programmer for the CIA. During the clearance processing time, she earned a master’s degree in systems analysis from UWF.

Tummler Singer Associates, LLC

As a UWF alumna, Singer is passionate about building the next generation’s workforce through mentoring. In 2010, she was named the CIA’s Manager Mentor of the Year. She was especially honored to receive this award, as the nomination was made by those whom Singer has dedicated her experience, time and heart to teaching.

“This award recognized that even a senior executive in the CIA could still be awarded for giving back to others,” Singer said. “Mentoring wasn’t my job, it was my passion.”

As the current Federal CIO Emeritus at Tummler Singer Associates, LLC and partner at Deep Water Point, Singer acknowledges that the biggest struggle in her career has been learning collaboration and the value of others’ opinions, especially working as a female in a generally male-dominant workforce.

“There’s always a challenge of collaborat- ing and fitting in well into a corporate eco- system,” Singer said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s a two-person team or the thousands of people in the U.S. intelligence community; you must recognize that everyone has a valuable role to play and that we all need each other to be successful.”

Singer’s resume highlights years of experi- ence in the IT industry, as well as numerous awards and honors, but she credits UWF with providing the key to her success: her education.

“My education at UWF opened the door to many valuable career opportunities,” she said. “It has enabled me to successfully adapt to the changing IT industry. Over the past four decades, I have seen firsthand that the changes are remarkable, and to be able to respond to them using the skills I gained during college and throughout my career is breathtaking.”

Alumni Spotlight: Jill Tummler Singer

UWF Prepares Alumna with Life-Changing Opportunities

BY MARGARET ROBERTS
With a machete in one hand and a sextant in the other, UWF alumnus Jerry Maygarden’s first encounter with UWF was nearly 50 years ago, when he worked for the old state road Department as a member of a survey crew. In true pioneer fashion, he helped map the main entrance to UWF’s campus.

In the fall of 1972, he came back, but this time as a student. During his tenure, he received good grades and served as student body president. Today, he touts UWF as the catalyst to his success.

“I love the place,” Maygarden said. “It was good for me. They took me in after I came back from serving in the Vietnam War. I probably wouldn’t have gone to college if it hadn’t been for PSC and UWF. The presence of the University in our community is an extraordinary asset.”

Maygarden has maintained the same enthusiasm for UWF as the first day he stepped foot onto campus and has continued to be a pioneer in many ways throughout his life. He has served in various leadership roles in state and local government, as well as health care. Maygarden is a former city councilman and Mayor of Pensacola, who also served as a state legislator and Majority Leader in the Florida House of Representatives from 1994 to 2002. The Florida State Legislature honored Maygarden and UWF in 2000 by creating the Jerry L. Maygarden Distinguished Lecture Series to recognize his contributions and enable notable speakers to address UWF students, faculty, staff and community members. Currently, he serves as the president and CEO of the Greater Pensacola Chamber. He also is the chair of the UWF Historic Trust Board of Directors, where he has served as a board member since 2004.

“UWF is where I developed my love for public service, it is where I gained my initial leadership experience, and it is where I met my wife,” he said.

In honor of his commitment to his profession, community and the University, UWF named Maygarden an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the 2013 Fall Commencement ceremony, where he served as the keynote speaker.

“The measure of our success as human beings is how much we improve the lives of others,” he said during his Commencement address. “What you do, or don’t do, is going to make a difference. I see brilliance, creativity, motivation and a hunger for learning. You are bigger than the challenges that you will face. I’m energized about the possibilities that brings. Keep on learning, even after you ‘know it all.’”

Kylan Osley is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and junior criminal justice major at UWF who has a passion for law enforcement and plans to pursue a role as a federal law enforcement agent upon graduation.

How did you become involved in UWF’s Student Ambassador Program?
I noticed students in bright green jackets on campus one day, who really stood out to me. I was searching for an organization where I could make a difference at UWF, and I loved what the UWF Student Ambassadors represented. Their level of dedication and impact on the UWF community convinced me to apply.

What has been your favorite aspect of the program?
I enjoy meeting alumni who are successful and give back to the University. When you see them on a visit, it brightens your day. A connection is established with someone who has the experience you’re working toward. You never know what opportunities may result from one conversation.

What are some benefits of being a UWF Student Ambassador?
We are exposed to prestigious events that other students may not be able to attend, which give us the opportunity to connect and establish relationships with alumni. Another benefit is the relationships you establish with fellow Ambassadors.

What advice would you give to an upcoming UWF Student Ambassador?
Always strive for your best, and nothing is what it seems. As a UWF Student Ambassador, I always hope for the best and plan for the worst. You have to be able to adapt to any situation you encounter, and that is all part of growing, both as a person and as a leader.

 Alumni Spotlight: Jerry Maygarden

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UWF STUDENT AMBASSADORS

est. 1987

SA students have earned more than 72,000 service hours since 1987

303 students in the program

Kylan Osley accepts Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters diploma from President Judy Bense and Provost Martha Saunders.

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MAKE A GIFT
to Yourself and UWF

By making a life income gift of a Charitable Gift Annuity you can provide yourself with an income for life and also support the University of West Florida. For donors age 65 and above, in exchange for your irrevocable gift of cash, securities or other assets, the UWF Foundation agrees to pay one or two annuitants you name a fixed sum each year for life. The rate of return is set by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

BENEFITS:
• Safe, fixed income for your life and a loved one (spouse or parent)
• Tax savings—immediately and in the future
• Potential reduction of probate costs and estate taxes

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

$25,000 Cash

5.4% CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

Remainder to UWF

$10,378

Income Tax Deduction

$1,350

Annual Payments

Sample Annuity Rate for a $25,000 Gift*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Annuity (Annual)</th>
<th>Tax Deduction**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>$1175</td>
<td>$ 8,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>$1275</td>
<td>$10,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>$1450</td>
<td>$11,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>$1700</td>
<td>$12,412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a personal illustration or for additional information, please contact Martha Lee Blodgett, Assistant Vice President, University Advancement, 850.474.2712 or mblodget@uwf.edu.

Age Rate Annuity (Annual) Tax Deduction**
65 4.7% $1175 $ 8,407
70 5.1% $1275 $10,004
75 5.8% $1450 $11,257
80 6.8% $1700 $12,412

* For a single beneficiary.
** Charitable tax deductions will vary based on the IRS discount rate applicable at the time of the gift.

From the Editor’s Desk

As I write this, winter is fading away and spring is upon us. The UWF campus will soon begin to bloom with azaleas, and the signs of unreasonably cold weather (and “Snow-pocalypse 2014”) will be gone before we know it. As you’ve read in the pages of this issue, even more changes are coming in the summer and fall as our campus progresses through a transformative period.

My interview with our new head football coach, Pete Shinnick, was both inspiring and informative as he described his vision for the program and the impact it will have on our campus in the years ahead. By year’s end, the East Entrance of campus at the intersection of Campus Drive and Highway 90 is expected to provide a more welcoming experience with new retail facilities and restaurants.

Our virtual landscape has also changed over the last few months with the redesign of our website, uwf.edu. During a phased rollout that began late last fall, the new site has taken on a more modern look and is now responsive across all platforms, including mobile devices. Sites will continue to come online within the new design through the summer, with the goal of offering visitors up-to-date content and pages that are easier to navigate.

With so many changes, one thing remains constant—our sincere appreciation for our alumni, donors and friends. Thank you again for taking the time to read Connection. We’ve enjoyed reading your Notes to the Editor submissions and sincerely hope you will consider sending in your feedback on this issue as well. Forms are located at uwf.edu/connection.

Again, thank you for your continued interest in UWF!

Best Regards,

Sabrina McLaughlin, MSA ’08
Managing Editor, Connection Magazine
Executive Director, UWF Marketing & Creative Services

Notes to the Editor—Fall 2013 Issue

Just browsed through “Connection”, Fall 2013 today. It is by far the best UWF alumni magazine I’ve yet to see. And graduating so long ago, I have seen many, and have enjoyed all of them greatly. It is very wonderful to see how much the university influences so many people, not only in the Panhandle but nationwide. Keep up the good work! It is sincerely appreciated, I know.

Thomas L. (Les) Marshall ’76, BA Economics

Dot Stewart is my most well-remembered person from UWF. She was a gracious lady whom I will never forget. In 1973 while I was anticipating my move to Denver I hosted a brief alumni meeting at my apartment in Clearwater. She commented to us that I seemed to have my mind made up to move to the far end of the earth. When I got married I invited her to my wedding. She declined but sent my mother a note saying she hoped I would enjoy my Stewart as much as she had enjoyed hers, and I have. Over the years I thought of her every time I have received an alumni magazine in the mail. She will be missed by more people than we will ever know.

Bettie Pace Stewart ’70, BA Interdisciplinary Social Science
UWF Collegiate License Plate

No matter what the make, model or year, drive with pride and show off your Argonaut spirit! For only $25, you can purchase an official UWF Collegiate License Plate while contributing to UWF Scholarships.

How to get your UWF License Plate
Purchase a UWF license plate at a local tag agency or by mail. Just add $25 to the cost of your Florida vehicle registration.

Be sure to renew your tag every year at your local tag agency, by mail, or online. For more information about the UWF Collegiate License Plate program, please contact 1.800.226.1893.