MEN’S EMPOWERMENT NETWORK OFFERS SUPPORT AND MENTORING FOR MALE STUDENTS

UWF FOOTBALL—IMPRESSIONS INAUGURAL CLASS SIGNED

HANDS-ON LEARNING ABOARD THE R/V BELLOWS

DIVING INTO PENSACOLA’S PAST

SPRING 2015 ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE
WHAT ARE SOME RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT DISPLAY UWF’S COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE? 

At UWF, we are constantly working to embrace an environment that makes it possible for students to achieve a high level of academic success. As you’ll read in this issue, the UWF Archaeology Institute recently received a grant to explore a Spanish fleet associated with Tristán de Luna from the 1500’s. The archaeological remains of the Spanish ships, located in Pensacola Bay, are the oldest documented in Florida waters. Through this grant, our undergraduate and graduate students are gaining experience in their field by excavating and doing conservation work on this shipwreck. Our faculty and staff are constantly striving to lead, inspire and mentor students to achieve academic excellence. Their innovative approach to hands-on learning is one of the many reasons that UWF continues to receive grants for further research and real-world experiences that benefit our students.

HOW DO COMMUNITY PARTNERS PLAY A ROLE IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT UWF? 

As a regional comprehensive university, we are continually growing and establishing partnerships in our community to further enhance our ability to support our students, giving them every opportunity possible. Providing experience outside of the classroom gives our students the experiences that set them apart while benefiting the community at the same time. For example, one of our seniors, Jini Curry, recently received the title of Student of the Year from the National Collegiate Honors Council, while another one of our students, Joseph Smith, recently was awarded a prestigious international scholarship, which grants funding for a study abroad experience.

Additionally, four of our students were recently selected to join the Maximizing Access to Research Careers, or MARC, Scholars Program. The new program was recently funded as part of a multi-year National Institutes of Health grant totaling more than $960,000. This specific program provides students with compensation to conduct research while preparing for graduate school. These kinds of opportunities make it possible for students to be successful academically and set attainable goals for the future.

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DOES UWF PROVIDE FOR STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS? 

UWF Men’s Football 2015 Spring Season Schedule

In history-rich Pensacola, where Don Tristán de Luna y Arellano led Spanish sailors in the first settlement attempt of the New World, stories of voyages past are still being uncovered today. The UWF Division of Anthropology and Archaeology is at the forefront of this discovery.
Alumni Board President’s Message

Fellow Alumni,

As I write you this letter, my service as your president is coming to a close. I would like to thank my fellow alumni and friends of this great university for the honor and privilege. When I assumed the role of president of the Alumni Association, it was my goal to help increase the level of awareness of the Association, improve alumni engagement through meaningful activities and continue to support the annual giving levels we have achieved. Reflecting on my term, I am happy to say we have made significant progress towards these goals. The Alumni Association has increased its presence by collaborating with academic departments, community partners, Athletics and the UWF Historic Trust. We have seen alumni attendance at events increase by 300 percent and our alumni continue to financially assist with securing the future of UWF.

I am greatly encouraged by these accomplishments but know there is still room to move the Alumni Association forward. I challenge you to get involved with the UWF Alumni Association. Be an advocate for UWF by sharing your story and the story of the University, attending alumni events and offering your support of our alma mater. Our role is crucial in UWF’s success! Only through the strength of our alumni can the University continue to offer an outstanding experience for both current and future generations of Argonauts.

Go Argos!

Luke van Blaricom, ’00 & ’03

Investing in Education
How the Alumni Grant Program Expands the Impact of UWF

Before University of West Florida senior and chemistry student Carla Staton attended the American Chemical Society (ACS) Meeting and Expedition in Dallas, Texas, she wasn’t sure what path she wanted to take after graduation. Today, Staton has been admitted to graduate programs at competitive universities such as Yale, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Georgia Institute of Technology. The opportunity to attend this conference and realize her full potential was made possible through funding from the UWF Alumni Grant Program.

“The funding from the UWF Alumni Grant Program that made it possible to attend the ACS Meeting and Expedition not only allowed me to have a broader idea of how my degree is relevant, but also gave me the confidence to reach out to professors from other institutions,” said Staton. “I realized after presenting my research among professionals and speaking one-on-one with graduate professors that I was a competitive applicant for graduate school.”

The Alumni Board of Directors established the UWF Alumni Grant Program back in 1999 to provide students like Staton with the opportunity to represent the University, network with professionals, present research and more. Thanks to a partnership with Pen Air Federal Credit Union and the UWF Alumni Association, with each use of an official Pen Air UWF Alumni association credit card, a percentage of the transaction is invested into the educational experiences of UWF students. Trips and programs among various departments are funded by the Alumni Grant program and work dually to positively impact both the University and its students. The UWF Alumni Grant Program aligns with the UWF Strategic Plan and optimizes students’ prospects for personal and professional success.

Staton was part of a group of 27 chemistry students, led by assistant professor of chemistry Dr. Karen Moloko, who traveled to this meeting. Moloko said exposure through these conferences helps attain goals outlined in the UWF Strategic Plan that attract visibility for both the students and the University. Additionally, the program creates well-rounded students who are able to network with professionals and present research to a national audience. This encourages the community to support trips like these.

“Outstanding students benefit exponentially from attending conferences where they are given the opportunity to present their research to a national audience and network with graduate professors as well as industry and government research lab recruiters,” said Moloko. “Not to mention their passion and enthusiasm when they return to UWF is infectious to the younger students, which creates more motivation and excitement for research in everyone!”

The UWF Alumni Grant Program gives students preparation in the job force through learning opportunities and career readiness. The students conduct and present high caliber research that prepares them for graduate and professional programs or a job. Among the 47 students who have attended a national ACS Meeting in the past three years, 41 students have graduated and 32 of the graduates are currently enrolled in Ph.D., M.D. or M.D.-Ph.D. programs. The 27 students who attended the ACS Spring 2014 meeting are all pursuing Ph.D., M.D.-Ph.D. or professional graduate programs.

Each year, the UWF Alumni Association carefully decides how funds from the UWF Alumni Grant Program will be allocated to provide opportunities for as many students as possible. The UWF Alumni Association strives to fulfill as many grant requests as possible. Typically these requests, like the ACS Meeting, give students an interactive, advanced learning opportunity to showcase their accomplishments while representing UWF. “In the 2014 fiscal year, we were able to provide 71 students from 10 different organizations with funding to experience hands-on learning and programming,” said Mary Grace, director of UWF Alumni Relations. “The Pen Air credit card offers a great opportunity for UWF supporters to impact students.”

For additional information about the UWF Alumni Grant Program, visit uwf.edu/alumni/student-programs/alumni-grants.
News & Notes

BY MARGARET ROBERTS

Stay informed with the most recent news headlines from the University of West Florida.

UWF receives prestigious community engagement classification from Carnegie Foundation

The University of West Florida was selected to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification, an honor designated to 361 institutions nationwide by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Colleges and universities with an institutional focus on community engagement were invited to apply for the classification, first offered in 2006 as part of an extensive restructuring of The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. This is the first time UWF has received this prestigious classification.

Office of Economic Development and Engagement announces industry research matching grant program

The UWF Office of Economic Development and Engagement launched a $1.8 million matching grant program, the Northwest Florida Industry Research Matching Grants Program, to connect Northwest Florida businesses with research resources available through UWF.

New college deans as part of academic reorganization

The UWF Division of Academic Affairs implemented a restructure of its academic departments by transitioning the former three-college structure into four academic colleges, with four new deans hired. The year-long academic reorganization process was completed to re-energize the Division of Academic Affairs and better align the University’s college structure with the UWF Academic Master Plan.

Dr. Steven Brown was appointed dean of the newly formed College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and is responsible for oversight and management of eight academic departments and the Division of Anthropology and Archaeology.

Dr. William Crawley was appointed dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies and is responsible for advancement and support of seven academic departments as well as the ROTC programs and several institutes and centers. Dr. Michael Huggins was appointed dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Health. The newly formed college includes 11 departments and houses the Center on Aging and the Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation.

Dr. Tim O’Keefe was appointed dean of the College of Business and is responsible for oversight and management of four academic departments and the Florida Small Business Development Center at UWF.

UWF creates University College to enhance student success, support and professional readiness

The University recently launched University College to enhance the effectiveness of student support services by streamlining programs into one comprehensive unit. The college consists of academic programs, including the Kugelman Honors Program and General Studies Program, as well as the First Year Advising Center and professional readiness programs. Dr. Gregory Lanier is the dean of University College.

First class of MARC Scholars

Four students at the University of West Florida were selected to join the Maximizing Access to Research Careers, or MARC, Scholars Program. The new program was recently funded as part of a multi-year National Institutes of Health grant totaling more than $960,000.

UWF senior named Student of the Year by National Collegiate Honors Council

A UWF student was named Student of the Year by the National Collegiate Honors Council during the Council’s 2014 Conference in Denver, Colorado. Jini Curry, a senior biochemistry major, Kugelman Honors Scholar and president of the UWF Honors Council, was chosen from students enrolled at colleges and universities across the country for the prestigious honor.

UWF Historic Trust hosts Arcadia Mill grand reopening

UWF Historic Trust recently hosted the grand re-opening of the 37-acre Arcadia Mill Archaeological site. The event showcased Arcadia’s newly constructed bridge over Pond Creek and an associated boardwalk that connects to the nature trails.

UWF Historic Trust hosts grand opening of Voices of Pensacola presented by Gulf Power

UWF Historic Trust hosted the grand opening of “Voices of Pensacola” presented by Gulf Power, a multicultural center highlighting the city’s diverse history. Through a $605,000 gift from Gulf Power Company and Southern Company, the UWF Historic Trust transformed one of its downtown properties, previously known as the Beacon Building, into Voices of Pensacola.

Visit the UWF Newsroom to read more of the latest University news at news.uwf.edu.
What is a man?
Ideally, men seek, forge and are driven by academic excellence, quality careers and compassion for their families and others. College seems to be a perfect launch pad for them to attain this maturity, but some facts suggest otherwise.

Dr. Kim LeDuff, chief diversity officer and associate vice provost for the University of West Florida’s Office of Equity, Diversity & International Affairs, highlighted some factors that currently characterize the male student body.

“One of the things that struck me was the fact that our overall enrollment for men was down,” LeDuff said about de-aggregated data she examined. “Our overall graduation rate for men was lower, and in certain populations, our retention rates were lower.”

Overall, according to “Mysterious Decline—Where Are the Real Men on Campus?,” only 43 percent of men are degree graduates, only 40 percent of Hispanic graduates are male and the ratio of African-American graduates female to male is 2-1.

Fortunately, male students can change these statistics by taking part in a new program with their personal betterment in mind: UWF MEN.

UWF MEN (Men’s Empowerment Network) is an academic initiative sponsored by the Office of Equity, Diversity & International Affairs consisting of four levels—one for each undergraduate classification—designed to nurture and develop male students into academically focused and career-driven young men. Specifically, the group promotes the core values of commitment, discipline, responsibility, support and versatility.

UWF MEN, which was launched in April 2014 with an eight-member Junior Advisory Board, has grown to include more than 100 men, recently welcoming 72 new students during their Feb. 11 induction.

“The program was also originally going to launch with only the Freshman and First Year Transfer Males level, the other three (Sophomore Mentoring Program, Junior Challenge and Senior Recognition) were to be integrated in subsequent years. However, UWF MEN took flight with all of the stages due to the high amount of student interest,” LeDuff said.

Student members participate in specialized programs and networking events under the guidance of the Campus Liaison Team and the Advisory Board, a leadership council comprised of local volunteers recognized for their professional excellence and dedication to the community.

“There are a lot of advisors, there are a lot of UWF professional staff, and there are a lot of people in Pensacola…there are a lot of people who are a part of UWF MEN,” said Michael Krueger, UWF MEN’s recruitment executive and one of the original eight members.

Members then progress to the Junior Challenge, where they work with Advisory Board mentors to create a meaningful community service project. The final level of the program—Senior Recognition—encourages the young men to find internships and attend career and graduate fairs, further preparing them for the competitive world outside college.

Even though UWF MEN is only one year old, its members have succeeded in getting the word out and making their presence known.

“With this inaugural year, what they needed to do, and what they achieved, was to create a core group of young leaders to help kick off the program, and they’re just such an outstanding group of gentlemen,” Jay Massey, MEN mentor, said.

Krueger said that making sure people
know about the group has been UWF MEN's biggest goal this year, and that the next steps are to better inform the University community of their values and upcoming projects, thereby growing an educated network. “They see the name everywhere. They see people wearing shirts. They see it on social media, but they don’t really know the basics of what UWF MEN is,” Krueger said.

Men in the organization help develop the wealth of knowledge they can impart to each other and the community at large with the University Commons and have even put together discussion groups focused on different scholastic and professional subjects.

“Since I’m the father of a son, I want to raise him in a manner that makes him respectful of anybody for any reason, whether it’s ethnicity, whether it’s gender,” Massey said.

Richardson concurred with his fellow MEN brethren, echoing what others have said about what they want UWF MEN to be— not just another campus organization, but a forum for leaders to enrich the teaching and learning environment at UWF by sharing their unique knowledge, experience and perspective in their respective career fields.

Currently the chairman, president and chief executive officer of Georgia Power, Bowers said that seeing the growth of the University both physically and academically was impressive, but the highlight of his trip was the opportunity to engage with students. “I encourage students to pursue excellence,” said Bowers. “This pursuit is something that people and organizations respond to, and it leads to greater vision and performance. Going beyond incremental growth each year, this philosophy encourages students to set a precedence that will allow them to achieve greatness.”

After attending UWF and graduating with a bachelor's degree in political science, he earned a master's degree in management from Troy University. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School of Advanced Management. Prior to his current role, he served as chief financial officer of Southern Company, where he was rated by Institutional Investors Magazine as one of the Top Three CFOs in America. Bowers said that the achievements made by his team are vital to his personal and organizational success working in the energy and nuclear industry.

“Successful leaders develop a team that will carry the organization forward after they leave,” he said. “Recently, we’ve announced a lot of movement among the top leadership of Georgia Power, and this excitement has created the aura of ‘I can do this too’ in our organization. Helping our employees grow into the leaders they aspire to be creates the greatest sense of pride for me as I look at the legacy I want to leave behind.”

His achievements as CEO of the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, one of the nation’s largest producers of electricity, can be traced back to his performance at UWF. After an injury ended his college football career in Mississippi, Bowers moved back to Pensacola to finish his degree where his motivation was inspired by personal interactions with professors that reinforced positive decision-making.

“It’s so important that students find an institution that will fit them, and UWF offers many capabilities to personalize curriculum,” he said. “The small class sizes that are offered at UWF are valuable because they offer students a platform to be personally coached by their professors.”

Bowers said he was humbled to return in fall 2014 as an honored guest and have his affiliation with the University recognized. He hopes that through this recognition he can be a role model not only for students, but also for other UWF alumni to start a conversation with current UWF students.

Alumni Spotlight: Paul Bowers
UWF Readies Students to be Successful Leaders and Influencers

BY OLIVIA WISE AND MEGAN GONZALEZ

University of West Florida graduate and Pensacola native Paul Bowers recently returned to UWF as a 2014 Profiles in Leadership Fellow. The Profiles in Leadership Lecture Series introduces individuals with a distinguished record of leadership to the UWF and Northwest Florida communities. It provides an opportunity for leaders to enrich the teaching and learning environment at UWF by sharing their unique knowledge, experience and perspective in their respective career fields.

LeDuff said the group, intends to teach participants to partner with other such individuals in a more multicultural approach.

As a parent, Massey said that things like learning to befriend women helps challenge cultural conventions and don’t make one less of a man, but a compassionate and well-rounded human being.

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Calendar of Events

April

April 30
College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) Annual Alumni Showcase
Make plans to join us for the 2015 CEPS Alumni Showcase on April 30 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the UWF Conference Center. The event will feature alumni awards, presentations, prizes, food and beverages. Come help us celebrate another great year of accomplishments in CEPS.

May

May 2
Spring Commencement
Join us at the Pensacola Bay Center on May 2 as we welcome the newest members of the UWF Alumni Association. Graduate and undergraduate students will be honored with their respective colleges at both morning and afternoon ceremonies.

Alumni Chapter Events
Meet and reconnect with your fellow alumni, hear the latest University news and learn about our new alumni programs and services. Watch your email and mailbox to find out who our special guests are going to be at each event. For more information on upcoming events in your area, visit alumni.uwf.edu. See event dates below.

Calendar of Events

May

May 2
Spring Commencement, Pensacola Bay Center. The morning ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. and will feature students from the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and the College of Education and Professional Studies.

May 7
Intercollegiate Athletics Argonaut Scholarship Golf Tournament May marks the return of the annual Argonaut Scholarship Golf Tournament. Please join our student-athletes at the course to help us raise money for our athletic scholarships. May 7, 2015, 1 p.m. shotgun start at Scenic Hills Country Club at UWF. For more information or to register please visit GoArgos.com.

May 13
Emerald Coast Alumni Chapter Event

May 14
Tallahassee Alumni Chapter Event

June

June 16
Orlando Alumni Chapter Event

June 17
Tampa Alumni Chapter Event

June 17
MBA Alumni Event Join us as we welcome the newest cohort of German MBA students on June 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the College of Business Atrium. The event will feature MBA alumni presentations, prizes, food and beverages. Come help us welcome our German MBA students and reconnect with your classmates. Visit the event calendar to find the latest student and alumni events at uwf.edu/calendar.

Some go with the flow.
Others make a splash

We offer Master’s, Specialist, and Doctorate programs in more than 50 specializations on campus and online. There’s never been a better time in your career to jump right in and make a splash. Online. In person. Refresh your career—classes are offered during the week and even weekends.

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DIVING INTO PENSACOLA’S PAST

From classic novels like Jules Verne’s “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” to epic movies such as “Pirates of the Caribbean” or “Master and Commander,” tales of adventures on the high seas have delighted us for generations. History textbooks and documentaries do their part to shed light on famous seafaring explorers. Still, reading and watching these accounts—some fictional, some real—are as close as most people will ever come to the great pioneers and their famous expeditions.

BY AMY MINCHIN
In history-rich Pensacola, where Don Tristán de Luna y Arelano led Spanish sailors in the first settlement attempt of the New World, stories of voyages past are still being uncovered today. The UWF Division of Anthropology and Archaeology is at the forefront of this discovery.

Through the University’s Maritime Field School, archaeologists and students have the rare opportunity to explore firsthand the remains of two 16th Century Spanish ships associated with Luna.

Archaeologists call the ships Emanuel Point I and Emanuel Point II because of where they were found in Pensacola Bay. The two ships were part of Luna’s colonization attempt in the 1500s, when he brought 1,500 Spanish colonists from Mexico to Florida. The colony was struck by a hurricane in 1559, and seven ships carrying their supplies were lost.

Each day the UWF Maritime Field School students are in the water, they are salvaging important artifacts that reveal new clues about the colonization.

“The Emanuel Point shipwrecks represent an incredible laboratory for UWF students and archaeologists,” said John R. Bratten, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology. “More than 4,000 artifacts have been recovered from the two Spanish vessels including pottery, food remains and cooking implements.”

The first ship discovered, Emanuel Point I, was found by the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in 1992. BAR and UWF archaeologists continued investigations of that ship through 1998 under the direction of Roger Smith, Ph.D., Florida State underwater archaeologist.

During the summer of 2006, Bratten and Gregory D. Cook, Ph.D., assistant professor of anthropology along with maritime field school students, were exploring a targeted area of the Bay where magnetic detection tools had led them in their search for a second ship.

Two students were probing some rock during the last week of the summer field school, and that is when Emanuel Point II was found,” Bratten said. “The two ships are located at a 12 ft. depth, about a quarter mile apart on a sandbar.”

UWF archaeologists have continued to investigate portions of Emanuel Point II during summer field schools in the years since.

Now, thanks to a recent grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources, funding is in place to support underwater fieldwork year-round. UWF announced the receipt of the special category grant totaling more than $290,000 in January.

“Through the University’s Maritime Field School, archaeologists and students have the rare opportunity to explore firsthand the remains of two 16th Century Spanish ships associated with Luna.

“It is wonderful to have a grant like this,” said Elizabeth Benchley, Ph.D., director of the UWF Archaeology Institute and the Division of Anthropology and Archaeology. “It will enable us to expand the maritime archaeology field school and work relatively continuously as we investigate Emanuel Point II and search for additional ships.”

Bratten agreed, noting that fieldwork is “slow and methodical,” and not having an end-of-summer deadline will allow the archaeology team to “investigate in the best scientific way possible.”
archaeologists. More than 4,000 artifacts have been recovered from the two Spanish vessels including pottery, food remains, and cooking implements. “It’s one the students – and history – won’t soon forget.”

John R. Bratten, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology

“Undoubtedly, the most important artifacts are the ships’ hulls. Continued documentation of the buried timbers in the form of detailed drawings and photographs permits a detailed reconstruction of this 16th-century colonization fleet,” Bratten said. “Funding [from the DHR grant] will also ensure the continued search for the as yet undiscovered vessels, allow for continued artifact conservation, provide opportunities for many students and bring new information to the public about the founding of Pensacola in 1559.”

Updates from the Maritime Field School are posted regularly on the UWF Maritime Archaeology Facebook page. The archaeologists and students share everything from photos of underwater excavations to accounts of how the divers stay warm in cold water.

Documenting maritime history is a unique skill set for students who complete the Maritime Field School – one that isn’t often seen on resumes or curriculum vitae.

“Some students in our master’s program will go on to Ph.D. programs, but many of them want professional careers,” Bratten said. One career path for students with underwater fieldwork experience is with cultural resource management firms, he says. Some CRM firms do archaeological surveying offshore before construction or pipeline projects begin in order to meet government requirements, Bratten explained. Others may find archaeological jobs on land. Regardless of where their future leads, the experience gained in Maritime Field School is valuable. It’s one the students – and history – won’t soon forget.

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—John R. Bratten, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology

According to the terms of the matching grant, UWF archaeologists will conduct fieldwork, laboratory analysis, artifact conservation and curation, archival research in Spain and public outreach for two years. Faculty, staff and students from the UWF Division of Anthropology and Archaeology, which includes the Anthropology Institute, Department of Anthropology, Florida Public Archaeology Network and the Maritime Services Center, will contribute to the research activities. Dr. Cook and Dr. Bratten will serve as principal and co-principal investigators, respectively.

“When we find artifacts, our students learn to stabilize or conserve them, which can take several years,” Benchley explained. “We store the collection in our curation facility on campus.”

Helping to connect the dots between the past and the artifacts students and professors are finding today is another area of research supported by the grant. UWF faculty and students will travel to Seville, Spain, under the direction of John Worth, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology, to examine critical 16th century archives.

While it may be years before some of the newly found Luna artifacts can be displayed publicly, those hoping to catch a glimpse of the recovered items are not completely out of luck. The T.T. Wentworth, Jr., Florida State Museum in Downtown Pensacola houses the anchor from the Emanuel Point I ship. ‘The Archaeology Institute at UWF also maintains exhibits of Emanuel Point artifacts. Located near the main entrance to campus, it is open to the public Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. As for community outreach, Bratten and Cook speak to the Pensacola Archaeological Society each year, providing the public with updates on their research. They have presented to Florida educators and local school groups as well.

Also, although specific plans had not been determined at the time of this writing, Benchley says she and others are committed to finding ways to expose people to the underwater fieldwork that is being done in Pensacola Bay.

The Maritime Field School Experience

“UWF is one of only three schools in the nation offering students opportunities in underwater archaeology,” Benchley said. “We’re proud to be able to offer both undergraduate and graduate students maritime field school experience as part of their academic work.”

Each field school session begins with a week of scientific diver training for the students. Scientific diver training consists of land, pool and open water sessions where supervisors train the students on their underwater archaeology skills, while a dive safety officer reviews general dive skills.

“This vital week not only familiarizes the students with the scientific archaeology skills they will be expected to perform, but it also allows the students to experience the conditions they will be working in,” wrote graduate student Meghan Mumford, in a blog maintained by students to record their experiences in Maritime Field School.

Once training is complete, exploration begins in Pensacola Bay. A UWF barge serves as a dive platform for the students and professors to enter the water each day. Using the methods they’ve learned and specialized archaeological equipment, they uncover new items and information.

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“When we find artifacts, our students learn to stabilize or conserve them, which can take several years,” Benchley explained. “We store the collection in our curation facility on campus.”

Helping to connect the dots between the past and the artifacts students and professors are finding today is another area of research supported by the grant. UWF faculty and students will travel to Seville, Spain, under the direction of John Worth, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology, to examine critical 16th century archives.

While it may be years before some of the newly found Luna artifacts can be displayed publicly, those hoping to catch a glimpse of the recovered items are not completely out of luck. The T.T. Wentworth, Jr., Florida State Museum in Downtown Pensacola houses the anchor from the Emanuel Point I ship. The Archaeology Institute at UWF also maintains exhibits of Emanuel Point artifacts. Located near the main entrance to campus, it is open to the public Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As for community outreach, Bratten and Cook speak to the Pensacola Archaeological Society each year, providing the public with updates on their research. They have presented to Florida educators and local school groups as well.

Also, although specific plans had not been determined at the time of this writing, Benchley says she and others are committed to finding ways to expose people to the underwater fieldwork that is being done in Pensacola Bay.

The Maritime Field School Experience

“UWF is one of only three schools in the nation offering students opportunities in underwater archaeology,” Benchley said. “We’re proud to be able to offer both undergraduate and graduate students maritime field school experience as part of their academic work.”

Each field school session begins with a week of scientific diver training for the students. Scientific diver training consists of land, pool and open water sessions where supervisors train the students on their underwater archaeology skills, while a dive safety officer reviews general dive skills.

“This vital week not only familiarizes the students with the scientific archaeology skills they will be expected to perform, but it also allows the students to experience the conditions they will be working in,” wrote graduate student Meghan Mumford, in a blog maintained by students to record their experiences in Maritime Field School.

Once training is complete, exploration begins in Pensacola Bay. A UWF barge serves as a dive platform for the students and professors to enter the water each day. Using the methods they’ve learned and specialized archaeological equipment, they uncover new items and information.

“Undoubtedly, the most important artifacts are the ships’ hulls. Continued documentation of the buried timbers in the form of detailed drawings and photographs permits a detailed reconstruction of this 16th-century colonization fleet,” Bratten said. “Funding [from the DHR grant] will also ensure the continued search for the as yet undiscovered vessels, allow for continued artifact conservation, provide opportunities for many students and bring new information to the public about the founding of Pensacola in 1559.”

Updates from the Maritime Field School are posted regularly on the UWF Maritime Archaeology Facebook page. The archaeologists and students share everything from photos of underwater excavations to accounts of how the divers stay warm in cold water.

Documenting maritime history is a unique skill set for students who complete the Maritime Field School – one that isn’t often seen on resumes or curriculum vitae.

“Some students in our master’s program will go on to Ph.D. programs, but many of them want professional careers,” Bratten said. One career path for students with underwater fieldwork experience is with cultural resource management firms, he says. Some CRM firms do archaeological surveying offshore before construction or pipeline projects begin in order to meet government requirements, Bratten explained.

Others may find archaeological jobs on land. Regardless of where their future leads, the experience gained in Maritime Field School is valuable. It’s one the students – and history – won’t soon forget.
Pete Shinnick was introduced as the first football head coach at the University of West Florida in a press conference on Feb. 6, 2014, one day after the college football world turned its attention to the annual tradition known as “National Signing Day.”

“That’s going to happen here,” Shinnick said at the press conference. “All that excitement that was around all of the football programs yesterday, that will be us 12 months from now.”

The excitement arrived for UWF on Feb. 4, 2015, as Shinnick kept his promise nearly a year later and signed 32 high school seniors to join the first UWF football team. The paperwork came in early, and the first official signing was Mike Beaudry, a quarterback from Hagerty High School in Oviedo, Florida. That email came in at 6 a.m. and was the first of many.

The next wave of signings came from student-athletes from the central time zone starting at 7 a.m. Devin Gibson, an offensive lineman from West Florida High School and the first Pensacola native to become an Argonaut football player, was among the group.

The final signing became official in the early afternoon, before Shinnick addressed the media at a press conference in the Argonaut Athletic Club.

“We were looking for special young men who could catch the vision of what we were going to do and what our future would be like. Someone who could catch that vision and say, ‘This is where I want to spend the next five years.’”

—Pete Shinnick, UWF Head Football Coach

Argo Spirit continued to grow as day turned into night and a large group of UWF fans, faculty, staff, alumni and students gathered at Seville Quarter in downtown Pensacola for a celebration. UWF President Judy Bense addressed the crowd and handed the microphone to Shinnick, who highlighted the accomplishments of each of the 32 signees.

“Go Argos!” Tyrone Jones, Quarterback/Defensive Back, from Pine Forest High School at the first UWF Spring football practice.

“The group’s collective athletic accomplishments are impressive. Of the 32 signees, 13 earned all-state honors. The group includes 21 young men from Florida and 11 from Alabama. Not only are they athletically gifted, but the group also works hard in the classroom. The class will come in with a combined grade point average of 3.4 and an ACT score of 22.

Important Dates for UWF Football

Sept. 4, 2013: President Bense announces team will begin playing in 2016

Sept. 18, 2013: UWF announces agreement to play home games at Maritime Park Stadium

Jan. 31, 2014: Pete Shinnick hired as first head coach

March 20, 2014: First assistant coaches hired

Sept. 9, 2014: UWF receives $250,000 legacy gift from Burr family as lead gift for football

Dec. 19, 2014: Team announces first two transfer student-athletes

Feb. 4, 2015: Team signs 32 high school seniors to join team in fall

Fall 2015: First signing class enrolls at UWF, starts full season of practices and scrimmages

Fall 2016: Team begins inaugural season

—Matt Rowley
For more than twenty years, the R/V Bellows, a seventy-one foot, state-owned, research vessel, has played a key role in the success and development of UWF’s Department of Biology. Students of varying levels, including high school students taking part in dual-enrollment courses, have the opportunity to experience life at sea via instructional days on the Bellows.
“While I was sitting on the bow of the Bellows watching the sunset after a long day of collecting and filtering phytoplankton samples, I told myself that this is where I want to be.”

— Heather Barineau, UWF Biology Major
Legacy Gift
Local Family Leaves Legacy Gift to High-Impact Learning Experience and UWF Football

BY MEGAN GONZALEZ AND MARGARET ROBERTS

When you truly believe in something, a piece of yourself stays with it forever. This is true for John Thayer and Joan Ames Burr, who left a legacy gift totaling more than $770,000 from their estate to the University of West Florida.

Of the total gift, $250,000 is being allocated to UWF athletics and more than $500,000 will create an endowment to support undergraduate research opportunities in the College of Science, Engineering and Health.

The son of John and Joan, Tim Burr said his family has a long history and passion for supporting higher education in the Northwest Florida region.

“My parents believed that higher education creates opportunities for people to improve themselves and the community,” Burr said. “They also really loved Pensacola, Gulf Breeze and the entire Northwest Florida region, so there was no better way to give back to the community than by supporting the University.”

The portion of the gift designated for the College of Science, Engineering and Health will be used to establish the John Thayer and Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research Endowment.

“It is our family’s hope that this gift furthers the University’s stature in the education community and attracts high-quality students, so that together we can achieve something for the greater good.”

Legacy giving at UWF not only impacts the existing University community, but especially generations to come. The $250,000 designated for UWF Football constitutes the largest gift to date. In recognition of the Burr’s gift, the UWF Field House Lobby will be named in their memory.

“Legacy giving provides and an opportunity for families to contribute in a way that most of us cannot while living,” said Dr. Brendan Kelly, vice president of University Advancement. “Whether it’s creating a scholarship fund, naming a building or classroom after a loved one or creating an endowment that will last forever, the impact is transformational. This gift from the Burr family will greatly enhance the University’s ability to pursue higher education and improve themselves and the community,” Kelly said.

In February, students, faculty, staff and alumni gathered in the College of Business Education Center Atrium for a celebration highlighting the Pennington’s transformational gift and to see firsthand what their gift will accomplish. Students from various organizations and clubs within the College of Business had the opportunity to meet with Brian, Kim and their children Laura and Mark to share more about how the gift would personally impact their lives.

“As accounting alumni, Kim and I both understand the need for more accounting professionals in the industry, and this is the best place to start,” said Brian Pennington.

“When we were going through school, we didn’t have these types of programs. We believe this gift will give students the opportunity to pursue higher education and learn real-world skills and expectations of employers before they get into the professional world.”

The gift will establish The Brian and Kim Pennington College of Business Professional Readiness Initiatives, allowing students to participate in professional readiness activities that provide students with skills to prepare them for their careers.

“Legacy giving provides the best place to start,” said Brian Pennington.

“As accounting alumni, Kim and I believe this gift will give students the opportunity to pursue higher education and learn real-world skills and expectations of employers before they get into the professional world.”

The gift from two accounting alumni, Master of Accountancy alumni, believe that supporting higher education paves the way for the future of many individuals. Through their generous gift to the UWF College of Business, students will have the opportunity for need-based scholarships that will enhance their college experience and create opportunities that may otherwise be seemingly impossible.

“Too often I have seen students who plan to attend college but are unable to do so,” said Brian Pennington. “The passion and desire is there, but the financial requirements necessary to make it happen are not. We’ve supported higher education in our family since 1991 because we know too many people who weren’t able to afford it, and this gift can help them meet their goals.”

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Additionally, the College of Business Education Center Atrium was named in their honor, allowing future generations of College of Business students to recognize this life-changing gift.

“If students are able to gain experience while obtaining a degree, they will already have a step up in the workplace,” said Kim Pennington. “The size of UWF truly benefits the students due to the personalized programs and practices. At UWF, students get these preparation activities in addition to an excellent degree.”

Aside from the real-world opportunities that students will encounter, the gift will also establish the Brian and Kim Pennington Accounting Scholarship Endowment to provide need-based scholarships. Preference will be given to undergraduate upper-division students who have declared accounting as their major or graduate students who are seeking a master’s degree in accounting.

The Pennington family anticipates a new coalition of well-trained, educated professionals who are ready to enter the industry right after graduation.
Whether we gather at a grand opening, recognition dinner, chapter event or Homecoming, our 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! We continue to add new events to the mix. For a look at upcoming events, visit alumni.uwf.edu.
SNAPSHOTS

Nancy Potterman and Foundation Board Chair John Hutchison at the Annual Donor Dinner.

Dr. Brendan Kelly, Dr. Judy Bense, new Foundation Fellow Bear, Jr. at the Annual Donor Dinner.

Bear Jr.

Grand opening celebration at the Voices of Pensacola, presented by Gulf Power.

UWF Bookstore team playing in the 2014 Alumni Classic.

Class Notes

1970s


*78 & ’90 Gerri MacDonald, BA & MA Elementary Education, is the Perdido Middle School Teacher of the Year. She has taught for a total of 35 years.

*79 Clifford Vannoy, BS Management, is the new LSU alumni association executive vice president and chief operating officer.

*71 Kerry C. Williams, MS Aeronautical Systems, has been chosen for inclusion among the 2015 Best Lawyers in America. Williams is an attorney in construction law and litigation in Houston, Texas.

1980s

*81 Karen Hall, BA Elementary Education, has been appointed to the Escambia County Extension Council.

*81 Capt. Jerry C. Patee, USN (Ret.), MS Sports Science, has been appointed to the Escambia County Extension Council.

*82 Charles Thornton, BS Management, has been named the new president of the Pensacola Chapter of the NAACP. NAACP is fighting for the civil and voter rights against voting suppression and civil rights violations.

*83 Patricia Bitar, Master of Accounting Information Systems, is the chief financial officer of TRACON Pharmaceuticals in San Diego, California.

*86 Mitzi Shanholtz, BA Communication Arts, has been appointed as executive assistant to the publisher and special projects manager for the Pensacola News Journal.

*86 & ’94 Sharee Rich, BS Management & MBA, was promoted to MYFree Taxes national trainer and support center supervisor. She is training call centers and specialists across the nation.

*87 Jose R. Rodriguez, MS Systems Analysis, has been appointed to the president of Rodriguez Financial Strategies. Rodriguez is a retired United States Air Force Colonel, who is now a financial advisor guiding professional and business owners on developing financial roadmaps.

*88 Cindy Marhart, MA Psychology, has been hired as director of the Aging Services Division of the Department of Human Services in Minnesota.

*89 Carrie Smith, BA Elementary Education, has been appointed as supervisor of special education in the Department of Special Education in St. Mary’s County Public Schools in Maryland.

1990s

*90 & ’99 Natalie Sommor, BA English Education & MEd Educational Leadership, has a business called Natalie Crafts, which was selected as a finalist in the 2014 American Made Awards by Martha Stewart.

*90 Colonel Charles Stein, BS Physical Education, is the project manager for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PMDCATS) of the 1st Signal Brigade in South Korea. Colonel Stein says he owes his start to the UWF ROTC program.

Notes

Mrs. Ann Belleau receives the 2014 Presidential Medal of Honor from President Judy Bense and Board of Trustees Chair Lewis Bear, Jr., at the Annual Donor Dinner.

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1970s

*72 Robert Ericson, BS Systems Science/Business, is a retired software engineer. Ericson is a part-time actor for the San Francisco Opera and has appeared in over 20 productions.

*72 Donald Willmon, BA Accounting, has been appointed chief financial officer of John Daugherty Realtors in Houston, Texas.

*74 & ’76 Samuel R. Mathews, BA & MA Psychology, received an honorary doctorate from Tallas University for significant contributions to the development of teacher education in Estonia.

*78 Dennis Goodspeed, MA Psychology, was elected to the executive boards of the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association and the Florida Council for Community Mental Health.

*78 Kenneth Walker, BS Systems Science, has been appointed as pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

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administration, owns DiscoverTec in applications development at QS/1. Science, has been named director of '93 Adnane Khalil, has been named the director of Consulting Group.

BA English '92 Sherry Marcolongo, Center in Pensacola, Florida. to the newly created role of chief Master of Accountancy, was promoted '92 & '94 Allison Hill, is the new vice president of sales for Spanco, Inc.

'92 Jeff Brazwell, has been appointed as director of sales for Jeff Brazwell, the next issue of Red Truck Review. recently appeared in This Land, and Community College. He is also a poet; award and stipend from Tulsa '92 T. Allen Culpepper, As a UWF student Colonel Roberson the 1st Signal Brigade in South Korea.

Tech Voc, is the 30th Commander of the new central bank governor in the Emirates Investment Authority, a marketing manager for the Pensacola的心理学博士在她的研究中，将女权主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注于13世纪的法国女性主义和劳动，他的研究将女性主义和劳动相结合，目前专注
Professor Emeritus Swarna Krothapalli, 1942 – 2014

Swarna Krothapalli, the founder and former program director of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) Program, passed away on March 2, 2014. She joined UWF in 1986 and served until her retirement in 2009. Krothapalli was credited for developing the CLS program, which has performed in stellar fashion over the years. Under her leadership, the program experienced increases in enrollment, increases in the number of clinical rotations and five successful accreditation reviews. During her UWF tenure, Krothapalli’s strength and effectiveness in teaching and high standards for performance were recognized with four UWF teaching awards. Additionally, her dedication and commitment to students resulted in UWF graduates achieving a more than 90 percent pass rate in the national certification and state licensure exams.

In recognition of her service to UWF and her commitment to student success, her surviving spouse, Dr. Ranga Rao Krothapalli, and their two adult children have established the Professor Emeritus Swarna Krothapalli Endowed Scholarship for Clinical Lab Sciences. The award will be made by the department to a meritorious student who has been admitted into the clinical year of the program, has a minimum 3.0 GPA and displays the ability to successfully complete the CLS program. For those desiring to do so, memorial gifts or gifts to the endowment may be made to the UWF Foundation, Inc.

UWF junior Austin Burkhard has learned how to use the connections he has made on campus to become a face of the University, while simultaneously bettering himself both personally and professionally. The Telford, Pennsylvania native, who is dual majoring in maritime studies and anthropology, has already completed two internships with the Fish and Wildlife Service at the Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge in Virginia and has taken advantage of every opportunity to be involved on campus that has come his way.

After joining University Student Ambassadors in fall 2013, Burkhard realized how valuable the connections he was making with University officials such as President Judy Bense and Dr. Kevin Bailey, were for his future. These connections not only enriched his student experience, but also helped him cultivate some of the skills he used during his internships.

“Not a lot of students can say they are on a first-name basis with the president of their University,” Burkhard said. “The guidance from President Bense, along with other University officials, has helped me achieve a new level of professionalism and ambition.”

With a new football program kicking off at UWF, Burkhard has been heavily involved with the recruitment process, working Krothapalli with UWF football head coach Pete Shinnick and giving campus tours to football recruits. Burkhard said that being involved with this program has been his favorite experience as a Student Ambassador.

“I’ve really enjoyed being able to be one of the people showing UWF’s football recruits what student life is like here on campus,” he said. “I’m able to talk to them on a professional level as a Student Ambassador, but I can also be personal with them as just another student.”

Representing UWF Personally and Academically

Student Ambassador Austin Burkhard

BY OLIVIA WISE
Last fall, when we asked UWF students why they love UWF, their answers were inspiring:

- Small Classes
- Amazing Professors
- Endless Opportunities
- Beautiful Campus
- Diverse Student Body
- Great Campus Events

Quotes shared by UWF students in the Fall of 2014 during “I Love UWF Week.”

It doesn’t take much to make life-changing experiences like these possible. If every UWF graduate gave just $25, students would benefit from $1.6 million in support.

Give to your favorite scholarship, department, program or athletic team today at uwf.edu/ShareTheLove.