

Connection



UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

Fall 2024 | Alumni & Friends Magazine

ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH

ANATOMY

P. 15

IMPACTFUL GIFT
NAMES THE UWF
LEWIS BEAR JR.
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

09

UWF IS HERE
TO STAY.
UWF IS HERE
FOR GOOD.

11

FIRST FEMALE
STUDENT-ATHLETE
RECEIVES NCAA
ELITE 90 AWARD

23

CONNECTION MAGAZINE

Fall 2024

PRESIDENT

Dr. Martha D. Saunders

VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Howard Reddy

ADVANCEMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Claire Stewart

Katie Schutts

Robin Zimmern

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Brittany Sherwood '14

MANAGING EDITOR

Zachary Farrington '14

DESIGN DIRECTION

Jennifer Peck '08

DESIGN

Hannah Bledsoe '21

Carly Richards

PHOTO DIRECTION & PHOTOGRAPHY

Brian Butler

Morgan Givens '18

Conlan Taylor '23

Joe Vinson '23

WRITERS & EDITORS

Samantha Jeffries

Will Kennedy '93, '21

Allison Morgan

CONTACT US

Web uwf.edu/alumni

Email alumni@uwf.edu

Phone 800.226.1893

Mail UWF Alumni Association,
11000 University Pkwy., Building 12,
Pensacola, FL 32514

TO GIVE

Online uwf.edu/give

UWF Connection is published semi-annually by Alumni Relations and Institutional Communications. The purpose of Connection is to communicate and engage with UWF alumni, donors, friends and others interested in the activities of UWF.

Inside

- 2 Q&A WITH THE PRESIDENT
- 3 LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT
- 3 NEWS & NOTES
- 7 MILITARY RANKINGS
- 9 LEWIS BEAR JR. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
- 11 HERE FOR GOOD
- 13 FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JACOB SHIVELY
- 15 ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ANATOMAGE
- 21 ALZHEIMER'S LED GOGGLES
- 23 BROOKE DORR, NCAA ELITE 90 AWARD
- 26 ALUMNI EVENTS
- 27 ALUMNI PROFILE: NESLIHAN SUHI-MOORE
- 28 ALUMNI PROFILE: DANIELA CRUZ MEJIA
- 29 SNAPSHOTS
- 31 CLASS NOTES

15

**UWF'S USHA KUNDU, MD
COLLEGE OF HEALTH**
enhances student learning
with Anatomage Lab



09

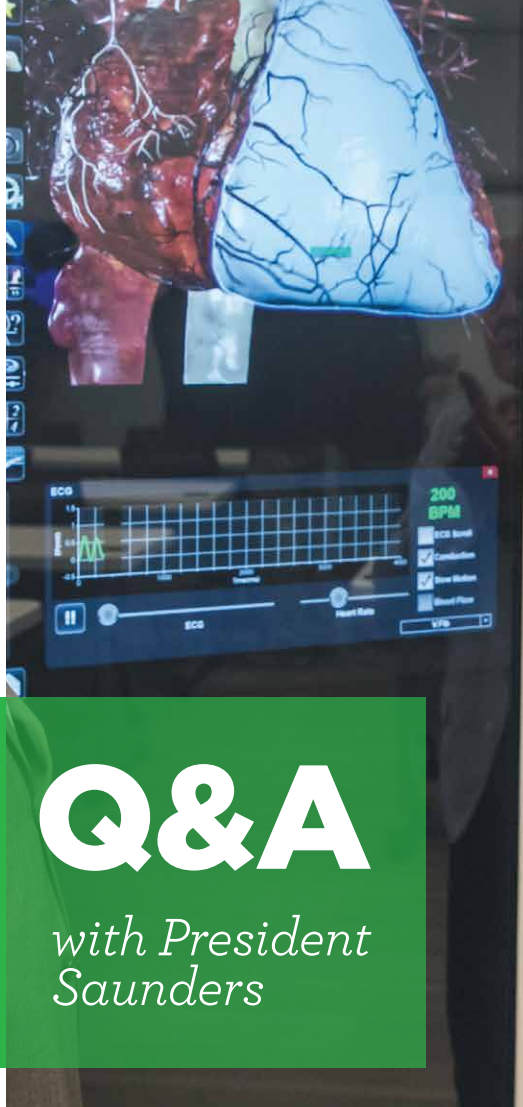


11



23





Q&A

with President Saunders

Dr. Kelley Henderson shows UWF President Martha D. Saunders the different functions of the Anatomage table.

The University of West Florida recently opened an Anatomage Lab with three Anatomage tables, bringing curricula to new heights. President Martha D. Saunders discusses how the new technology is producing superior learning outcomes.

UWF places a laser focus on integrating innovative technology into classroom instruction. Share how these tables are providing high-impact learning experiences.

The Anatomage tables are game changers, making learning fun and engaging for UWF faculty and students. The 3D, touchscreen tables help students learn about complex anatomy.

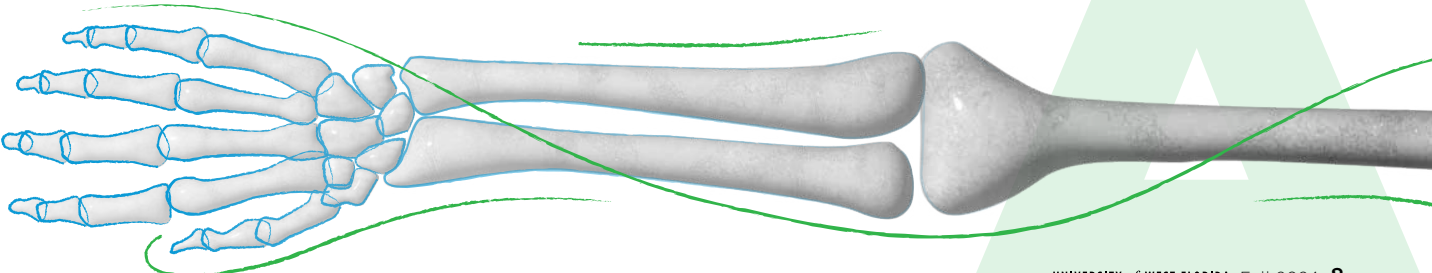
Elaborate on how the lab and tables have benefited students from different disciplines.

In addition to assisting students in the Usha Kundu, MD College

of Health, the Anatomage tables are also enriching educational experiences for Department of Art and Design students and students with an interest in forensic anthropology. You will learn more about this on page 19.

What are additional benefits of this new technology?

The tables offer long term benefits to the University. Faculty can save lessons, demonstrations, games and exams for future classes and share them with colleagues. The lab will support students' studies for years to come.





Letter from the Vice President

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

The launch of the public phase of the Here for Good capital campaign at the University of West Florida inspires us to consider the great heights we can achieve together. You can read about our campaign goals and focus areas on page 7.

As alumni and friends of our University, your support is invaluable for this campaign — our most ambitious to date. Here for Good is not just about raising funds; it is about raising the bar on what is possible for future generations of Argos. We envision a future where cutting-edge facilities ignite innovation, scholarships empower and our community impact extends even further.

We are inviting you to participate. Every gift, big or small, fuels our success. We want you to strengthen your relationship with the University and help us to move forward together. Visit uwf.edu/HereForGood and learn more about the impact we are making on our campus today and how you can help shape our future.

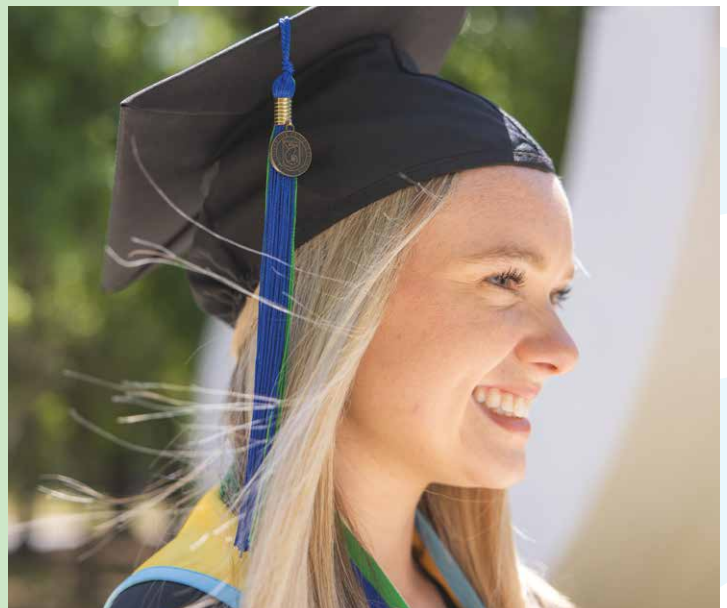
Sincerely,

Howard Reddy
Vice President for
University Advancement

News & Notes

Recent news from the
University of West Florida

BY SAMANTHA JEFFRIES



UWF earns highest marks in University history in key Board of Governors' metrics

In the Florida Board of Governors' 2023-24 performance-based funding model, UWF excelled in metrics measuring retention, median wages upon graduation and high-impact practices. UWF earned some of its highest marks in University history and landed in the top three in three metrics among all Florida State University System metric-participating institutions.



'Moon Tree' takes root on UWF Pensacola campus

This summer, UWF celebrated the planting of a "Moon Tree" seedling that flew around the moon on NASA's Artemis 1 mission in 2022. UWF was selected from hundreds of organizations that applied to receive a seedling. UWF President Martha D. Saunders unveiled the loblolly pine during a ceremony near the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering on UWF's Pensacola campus.



New partnership promotes historic preservation and enhances community programming

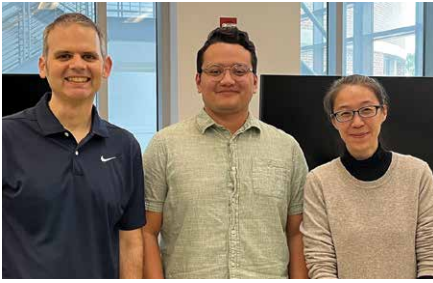
The UWF Historic Trust has partnered with F. Diane Pickett, founder of DeFuniak Landmarks, to preserve historic homes in DeFuniak Springs. The partnership supports the mission of preserving Northwest Florida's history through two endowments for preservation and public education. The collaboration will offer educational programs, workshops and tours to promote historic preservation and community engagement.

Sixth annual Day of Giving surpasses fundraising goals

UWF had another successful year exceeding its fundraising goals for the sixth annual Day of Giving, raising nearly \$198,000 from 1,226 alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University. The annual fundraising initiative was held on April 18, 2024, during UWF's Founders Week.



UWF ART STUDENTS REDESIGNED and reconstructed this public art piece on campus with the goal of finding balance between nature and architecture. The new elements are constructed of wood and steel, featuring an asymmetrical composition that celebrates the diversity of nature on campus with abstracted native flowers.



Team of UWF students place in top 5 in national data science competition

A UWF team placed fifth in the University of South Carolina National Big Data Health Science Student Case Competition. UWF graduate students Gail Han and Jason Gerstenberger and UWF undergraduate student Dylan Wright worked for more than 24 hours to solve a healthcare data science challenge. The team, 'Data Detectives,' was guided by faculty members Dr. Achraf Cohen and Dr. Shusen Pu, who work in UWF's Department of Mathematics and Statistics.



NASA at Human Exploration Rover Challenge awarded to UWF students

Students in the UWF Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering were recognized with the Ingenuity Award at the 39th NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge. The award, judged by NASA engineers, is given to a team that shows the most creative design and problem-solving process. The annual competition is an engineering design challenge that tasks student teams worldwide with designing and constructing human-powered rovers.



UWF students win first place in the 2024 Southeastern Hedge Fund Strategy Competition

UWF Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business students took home a first-place win at the 2024 Southeastern Hedge Fund Strategy Competition. MBA student Ada Turemis and Aaron Korel, an undergraduate accounting and finance major, submitted their paper, "A Bullwhip Strategy," via the competition website. The team beat students from 28 other universities and split a \$10,000 award.

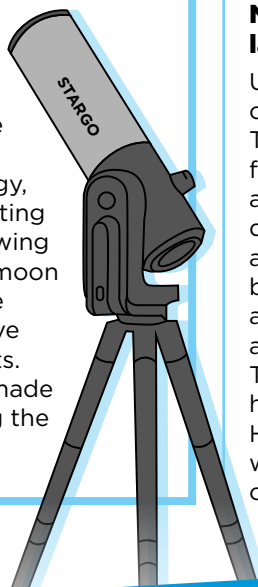


UWF student team places second at National Robotics Challenge

An engineering student team in the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering placed second in the Sumo Robot category of the National Robotics Challenge. The team was tasked to build a self-propelled, autonomous, sensing robot, designed to force another Sumo robot outside a ring. The competition was knock-out style, and the team won all contests but one, earning the Silver award.

Innovative project brings the universe to UWF and beyond

The 2023-24 LEAD class partnered with the UWF Department of Physics and the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering to fund and develop outreach programs for a new telescope, Stargo. Stargo is an EVSCOPE 2 immersive smart telescope with enhanced vision technology, a smart solar fitting for daytime viewing of planets, the moon and sun and the ability to observe deep sky objects. The telescope made its debut during the solar eclipse.



New behavior analysis degree launches at UWF

UWF launched an online Master of Science in Behavior Analysis. The program prepares graduates for a career in applied behavior analysis by offering curriculum and degree requirements for national and international examinations to become board-certified behavior analysts, qualified behavior analysts and international behavior analysts. The new master's program is housed in the Department of Health Sciences and Administration within the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health.

UWF and three other State University System of Florida institutions partner to test a model for oyster metabolites and Vibrio bacteria

A research team from several Florida universities, including UWF, received a \$200,000 grant from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to develop an AI tool for predicting and controlling pathogenic Vibrio bacteria. The project, led by Dr. Lisa Waidner, assistant professor in the UWF Department of Biology, aims to mitigate the risk of Vibrio infections and resulted from a National Science Foundation initiative fostering interdisciplinary collaboration on environmental challenges.



A nearly \$1.7 million grant awarded to UWF to train biomedical students

UWF earned an approximately \$1.7 million, five-year renewal grant from the National Institutes of Health to mentor and train the new generation of biomedical scientists. The undergraduate research training scholars program for student enhancement, known as U-RISE, supports high-achieving junior and senior undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are pursuing a Ph.D. or MD-Ph.D. degree and a research career in a biomedical relevant area.

MEET BUD THE DEER,

UWF's newest spirit animal to join the ranks of the Argodillo and Sheldon the Turtle.



Submit an idea for a story at uwf.edu/connection.

Military RANKINGS

For many years, UWF has provided resources and educational support to those who have served or are currently serving in the military in many meaningful ways. A long list of accolades distinguishes UWF as an institution committed to sustained success for military affiliated-students. Recent recognition includes 2024-2025 Top Ten Military Friendly®, 2024-2025 Military Spouse Friendly, No. 12 on 2023 Best College for Vets list and one of the first Florida State University System institutions to be named a Florida Collegiate Purple Star campus. Lori Milkeris, director of Military Veterans Resource Center, credits the MVRC, the collaboration of all areas of the University and the community for the comprehensive support to students.

**UWF creates
sustained
success for
service members
and students**

BY ALLISON MORGAN

“The location of UWF provides an automatic connection with our military community,” Milkeris said. “We have training bases here and the Blue Angels so there’s a lot of respect for the military in our community and on campus. At UWF, there’s a lot of collaboration between all departments of the University. Students know they will be embraced by the community and embraced by UWF. UWF is willing to listen and do appropriate things so students can thrive while earning a degree.”

The MVRC immediately engages with students when they fill out and indicate a military affiliation on a UWF application. Military-affiliated students receive assistance using VA education benefits and scholarships, learn about programming, tutoring and counseling opportunities, as well as accommodations that are made for those with disabilities. Milkeris said in recent years, her staff has added students to an on-line project management program, JIRA, that tracks the status of anything students





The staff helped ease my anxiety. Lori and people at the MVRC would tell me the truth that I needed to hear. I also received a lot of influence and great mentorship in the communication department.

— Kenny Porter, '22,
U.S. Air Force Veteran



are waiting on, including tuition money or benefits, so they can easily check the status of items at any time. Milkeris said this has created a platform of open communication with students and UWF staff members assisting the students.

Milkeris and her staff have also recently organized Veterans Week, a weeklong celebration of veterans marked by special events. A committee at UWF has been formed to help organize Veterans Week along with community organizations, after a bill signed in 2023 established Veterans Week. The website veteransweekus.com details the events.

Milkeris has had a great influence on students and staff, including Kenny Porter '22, a U.S. Air Force veteran, who was having a difficult time adjusting to civilian life. After coming to the Florida Panhandle to be closer to family, he decided to apply to UWF to earn a bachelor's degree in communication.

"I met Lori and we have mutual friends," Porter said. "We took a photo together and

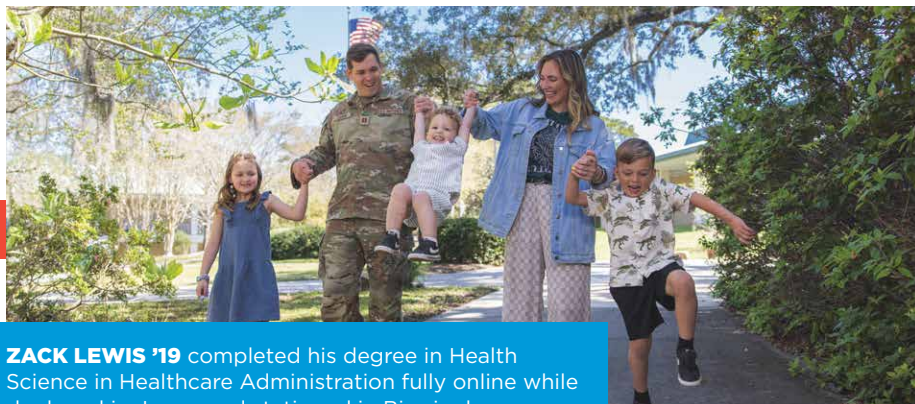
she sent it to them and said 'I'm going to have him working here soon.'"

Until May 2024, Porter was a communications specialist for the MVRC, where he planned and managed all communications strategies and helped plan events for veterans. Once he completes his capstone he will earn his master's degree.

"The MVRC was friendly right off the bat," Porter said. "The staff helped ease my anxiety. Lori and people at the MVRC would tell me the truth that I needed to hear. I also received a lot of influence and great mentorship in the communication department."

Milkeris said her exceptional employees, some who are prior service members, make all the difference.

"They are disciplined from being in the military and able to relate to military-affiliated students since they have walked in their shoes," Milkeris said. "We take great pride in the service we provide those who have served, are serving or will serve our country and their families."



ZACK LEWIS '19 completed his degree in Health Science in Healthcare Administration fully online while deployed in Japan and stationed in Birmingham, Alabama, with his wife and their three children.

RANKINGS



2024-2025 Top Ten
Military Friendly®



2024-2025
Military Spouse
Friendly



No. 12 on 2023 Best
College for Vets list



Named a Florida
Collegiate Purple
Star Campus



UWF PRESIDENT
Martha D. Saunders attends a check presentation for the \$5 million gift from The Bear Family Foundation to name the Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business.

A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY:

The Bear Family's TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT

BY BRITTANY SHERWOOD '14

Lewis Bear Jr.'s steadfast service to the University of West Florida and unwavering commitment to the community will undoubtedly span for decades. In Spring 2024, UWF announced a \$5 million gift from the Bear Family Foundation to name the College of Business in honor of Lewis Bear Jr., marking the third named college in the University's history.

His legacy at UWF is deeply rooted, and this latest gift will extend his influence. "Lewis Bear Jr.'s service and support to the University was exceptional and will continue to impact UWF for many years to come," said President Martha D. Saunders. "Many students have already benefited from his generosity and hard work, and many more will also through this legacy gift. We are forever grateful for his commitment to UWF."

The endowment will significantly bolster the resources of the Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business, enhancing its ability to offer scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, operational support from the gift will improve the college's capacity to provide a world-class teaching and learning environment.

The college, accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of

Business, has a longstanding reputation for excellence. It prepares students for successful careers through high-impact, student-focused courses, innovative research and real-world experiences. This year, the college has achieved many accomplishments, showcasing the wealth of knowledge faculty provide students and the success of our students applying those skills outside the classroom.

In March, the UWF student-managed Argo Bond Fund placed second in the Quinnipiac University Global Asset Management Education's Global Portfolio Competition in New York City, competing against more than 150 other universities. Established in 2019, the Argo Bond Fund program provides students with hands-on experience in fund management. In 2020, the UWF Foundation Board granted approval for students to manage actual funds,

enhancing the program’s practical learning opportunities. The QGAME Global Portfolio Performance Competition ranks the realized returns of qualified student-managed funds, which must have a live performance history of at least one year with real capital. The winning Argo Bond Fund portfolio managed \$1 million in assets for the competition.

Later in the spring, a team of students took home a first-place win at the 2024 Southeastern Hedge Fund Strategy Competition, hosted by the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University, beating out teams from 28 other universities. The students developed a strategy and presented it to a panel of investment professionals from across the globe. In addition to their success in the competition, this experience provided the opportunity for the students to speak with and learn from established hedge fund managers about their research process, application of their strategy and the state of the financial world today.

The college is also home to five centers that extend its reach into the community, including the Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Center for Leadership, the Cen-



ter for Entrepreneurship, the Center for Supply Chain Management Excellence, the Florida Small Business Development Center at UWF, and the Louis Maygarden Center for Financial Literacy.

The transformative gift from the Bear Family Foundation ensures that Lewis Bear Jr.’s legacy will continue to inspire

and benefit future generations of students. “There is no better way to honor his love for our community and the impact of his life’s work,” said David Bear, Lewis Bear Jr.’s son and CEO of the Lewis Bear Company. “This enduring gift in his memory ensures that his contributions will continue to benefit others for years to come.”

“There is no better way to honor his love for our community and the impact of his life’s work.”

— David Bear, Lewis Bear Jr.’s son and CEO of the Lewis Bear Company



LEFT, Belle Bear speaks at an event announcing a gift to name the Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business.

RIGHT, President Saunders and Bear family members pose in front of new signage marking the newly named college.



Here Today.
Here to Stay.

HERE FOR GOOD



THE CAMPAIGN
FOR UWF

UWF launches the
public phase of \$90
million campaign

BY CLAIRE STEWART

On April 11, 2024, inside of the newly renovated Field House on the University of West Florida's Pensacola campus, UWF leadership announced a campaign that will not only change the face of the campus today, but shape the trajectory of the University and community for years to come.

"The Here for Good campaign is a proclamation," said President Martha D. Saunders at the launch event in April. "It is a promise to expand the passion of our people and unleash the best of UWF. We are telling our community and our world that UWF is here today and here to stay."

Work on the campaign began in 2022 with a feasibility study conducted with UWF supporters. During the feasibility study, supporters shared their passions and areas of interest at UWF. The ideas of people, programs, place and community were recurring themes throughout these conversations. These areas of focus became the four pillars of the campaign. Upon completion of the feasibility study, a goal of \$55 million was suggested and a Spring 2024 launch was planned.



Here for Good

CAMPAIGN PILLARS

People

At the heart of UWF are the people—the students and faculty from around the world who gather here with the intention to learn and grow their potential. Gifts to the area of People include donations made to scholarships, faculty endowments and faculty fellowships.

Programs

High-impact programs can ignite passions and inspire purpose for our students. Gifts to the area of Programs include donations to academic colleges, athletics programs and centers of learning.

Place

How our students learn is just as important as *where* our students learn. Gifts to the area of Place include donations made to new lab facilities, classroom updates and athletic facility renovations.

Community

As the only four-year public institution in Northwest Florida, UWF is a key player in the economic, social and cultural development of the region. Gifts to the area of Community include donations made to WUWF Public Media, the UWF Historic Trust, Luna Shipwreck and Settlement research and Downtown Lecture Series hosted by the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities.

Two years after the feasibility study, at the Here for Good campaign launch event, President Saunders shared that more than \$65 million had been raised for the campaign, shattering the previously projected goal of \$55 million. That evening, an official goal of \$90 million was announced.

To kick off this historic campaign, a transformational gift was revealed. Darrell and Debbie Gooden committed a gift in excess of \$9 million to build a football stadium on campus. The University will break ground on the new stadium, named the Darrell Gooden Stadium, in 2026. This

significant gift marks the largest donation by a living donor in University history.

UWF is calling on all alumni, supporters and fans to join in and become a part of the Here for Good capital campaign. Every gift of every size contributes to the Here for Good campaign and gets the University one step closer to reaching its campaign goal.


“So you may be asking, ‘what can I do to help?’” Saunders said at the Here for Good launch event. “Well, we need you on our team. We need you to gather the troops, pitch in and show our community, our state and our nation that we are a force for good and we are here for good.”



HERE FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EVENT (Clockwise from left) Debbie and Darrell Gooden after the announcement of their transformational gift; Vice President Howard Reddy speaking to the audience about the importance of the campaign; UWF supporters celebrating the campaign launch.



To learn more about the Here for Good campaign, read impact stories and see our progress, visit uwf.edu/HereForGood.

A man with glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and a red and blue striped tie, stands with his left hand in his pocket and his right hand holding a small globe. The globe is on a wooden stand with a white base. The background is a light gray wall with a faint, large sunburst logo. A blue decorative shape is in the top right corner.

“When I was in college, it felt like a calling.”

Dr. Jacob Shively

A lifelong scholar, Dr. Jacob Shively inspires students through his passion for politics

BY ALLISON MORGAN



DR. JACOB SHIVELY is an associate professor of international relations and vice president of Faculty Senate.

Dr. Jacob Shively credits his parents for imparting on him the importance of being a responsible person and sharing one's skills and knowledge with the world. This upbringing was a big factor in his thirst for knowledge and his desire to share it as an international relations professor.

"All of my siblings have ended up in some form of education and research," Shively said. "We spent a lot of time at church when we were young and I absorbed an ethic of helping other people. I also always enjoyed spending time in the library and reading."

Shively became the first person in his immediate family to graduate from college. A midwestern native, he stayed in his home state and earned a bachelor's degree in political science, with minors in history and Spanish from Indiana University Indianapolis. Like many UWF students, Shively worked throughout his undergraduate years to pay his way. As a college student, he always felt like he was meant to be there.

"When I was in college, it felt like a calling," Shively recalled. "Through graduate school, I made a point to teach and engage people on these particular topics. Politics can be alienating to people because they know it's an important part of their lives, but it's hard to get a handle on."

After earning a doctorate degree in political science from Indiana University-Bloomington, he landed his first tenure track job at UWF. Pensacola was familiar to him and the job was a good fit.

"My grandparents lived here in the 90s and I always loved the area," Shively said. "In addition, I could teach topics that I'm interested in and it felt similar to my undergraduate program with FTIC, traditional and nontraditional students."

Throughout his 11-year teaching career at UWF, Shively has developed courses for traditional undergraduate and graduate majors as well as for online students. His topics include Introduction to American Politics; Introduction to International Politics; Introduction to Comparative Politics; American Foreign Policy; Causes of War; Cyber, Drones, and National Security; Grand Strategy; International Law; International Organizations; Religion and International Politics; and Study of Strategy (Honors). Recently, Shively has delved into developing new courses relating to national security policy and creating technology and cyber-focused tracks in majors by working with UWF's Center for Cybersecurity. He has also written papers on evolving cybersecurity policy and lethal drones.

Mariana Mariano '22 co-authored an article with Shively and said he ignited her passion for the research world.

"In 2020, I began working on a research project with Dr. Shively, just as COVID-19 hit," Mariano said. "Despite the challenges, Dr. Shively scheduled weekly online meetings to ensure I had all the support I needed to succeed. He has been an extraordinary mentor, guiding me through brainstorming, drawing conclusions, and conducting my first research. I am thrilled to be Dr. Shively's co-author on our published paper. In addition to the research project, I took numerous classes with Dr. Shively throughout college. His dedication and care for his students' success are unparalleled. Moreover, he provided invaluable assistance during my graduate school applications, including writing recommendation letters. I have learned so much from Dr. Shively and am deeply grateful to have him as a mentor."

Shively has published two books, "Hope, Change, Pragmatism" and "Make America First Again," on the Obama and Trump foreign policies, in addition to his dissertation. His most recent book, "A Liberal World Restored: Grand Strategy Analysis and the Biden Administration," is in its final stages.

Shively is vice president of Faculty Senate, advises the Model United Nations club, frequently partners with the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council and works closely with international affairs on campus.

When not working, Shively enjoys spending time with his wife and four children. He also enjoys woodworking projects.



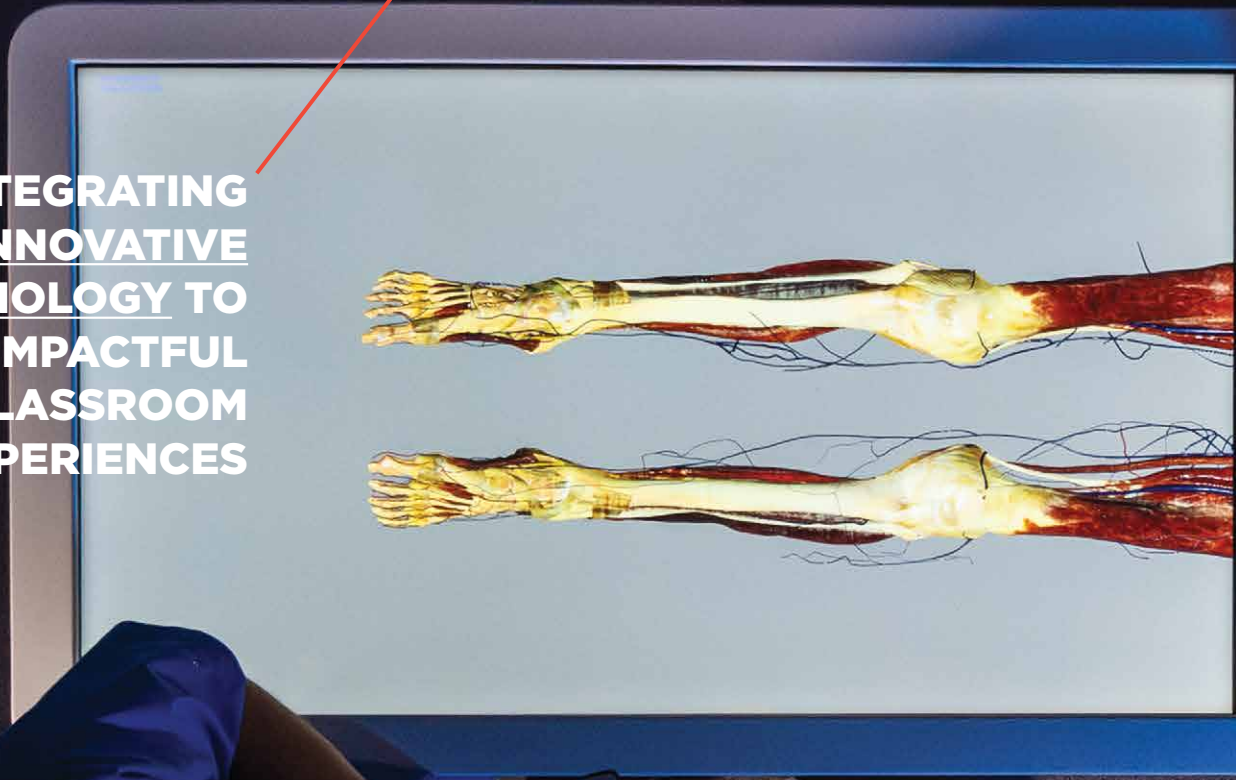
"His dedication and care for his students' success are unparalleled. Moreover, he provided invaluable assistance during my graduate school applications, including writing recommendation letters. I have learned so much from Dr. Shively and am deeply grateful to have him as a mentor."

— Mariana Mariano '22

**ADVANCING
OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH**

ANATOMY

**INTEGRATING
INNOVATIVE
TECHNOLOGY TO
CREATE IMPACTFUL
CLASSROOM
EXPERIENCES**



ANGLE



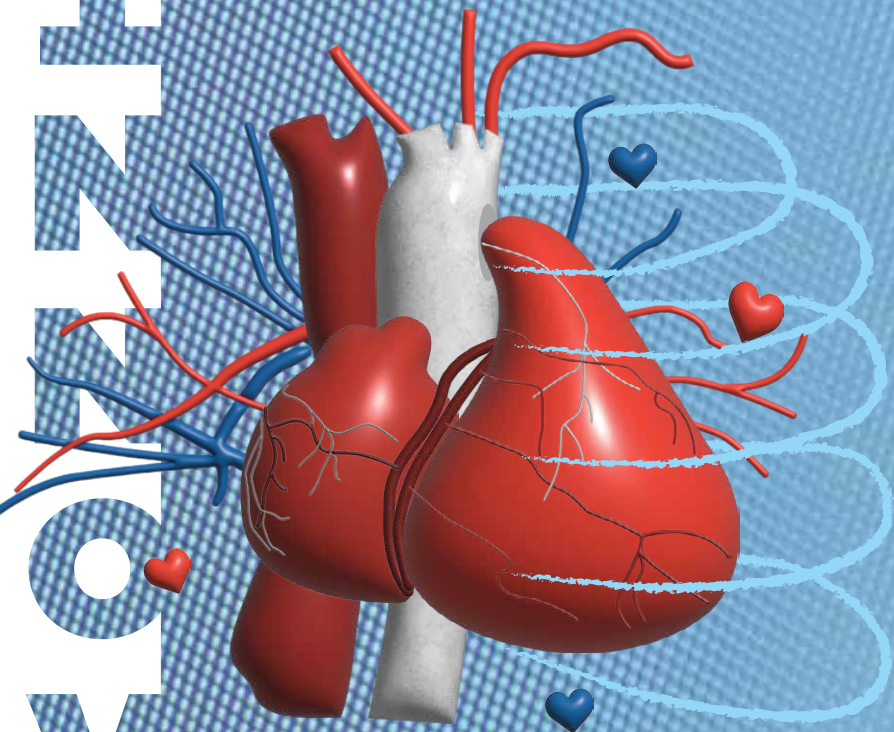
BY
**ALLISON
MORGAN**

There's a special place on campus where technology, learning and interdisciplinary collaboration converge. It began as an idea sparked by Dr. Debra Vinci to provide Usha Kundu, MD College of Health students with an advancement in technology and enhanced high-impact learning experiences.

"In 2022, I was in a grant-writing course and I thought 'how can I make this even more worthwhile and write a proposal for something our students could use?'" Vinci, who teaches health promotion, said. "Students in the college were currently using Syndaver models to learn about the human body. They were beginning to look tired, were cumbersome and required a lot of upkeep. I thought 'wouldn't it be great to upgrade with the best technology?'"

Vinci began researching the latest in technology and found Anatomage 3D Anatomy and Physiology Simulation Tables were being used in classrooms and by healthcare professionals. The opportunity to hone her grant-writing skills and bring new technology to campus motivated her to apply for an Instructional Technology Enhancement Project grant from the Provost's Office for the funding of two tables. The college was awarded the funding and Usha Kundu, MD College of Health Dean David Bellar funded one more for a total of three tables.

TRANSFORMING ANATOMY



“STUDENTS CAN REMOVE LAYER BY LAYER OF THE SKIN AND CONNECTIVE TISSUE. THEY CAN SEE THAT ON THE CADAVER WITHOUT BEING SCARED OF IT.”

— Dr. Armaghan Mahmoudian, assistant professor of movement sciences and health

TRANSFORMING TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

When the tables arrived on campus in 2023, faculty and staff in the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health wasted no time tapping into the technology.

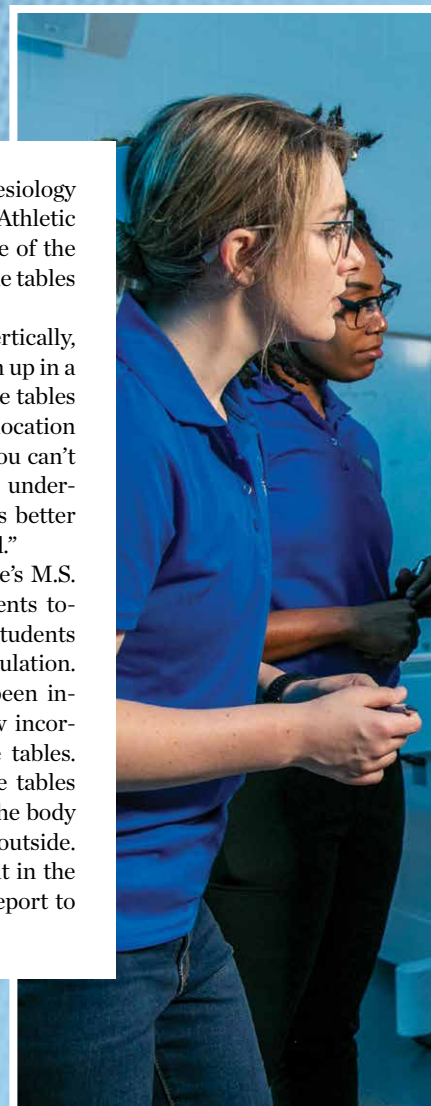
“We immediately began training calls with Anatomage to learn all of the features of the table,” said Dr. Kelley Henderson, former director of UWF’s Master of Science in Athletic Training program and former associate professor of clinical practice. “It’s astronomical the amount of things that the students can do and see on the tables. It’s a huge honor for our institution to say, ‘look what we’ve have access to.’”

With multi-touch screens, students can learn about the complex systems and structures of the human body. The tables display scanned, high-resolution 3D images of four different, full-size human cadavers and contain 375 case studies. Students can view anatomy from all angles with a rotation tool and a virtual scalpel allows users to dissect the cadaver.

Chris Dake, who teaches a kinesiology undergraduate course and M.S. in Athletic Training program students, was one of the first faculty members to integrate the tables into his curriculum.

“Since the tables can be moved vertically, I put the tables upright and set them up in a presentation mode,” Dake said. “The tables show the depth of muscles and real location of parts of the body — something you can’t see in a book. It helps my students understand the dimensions of body parts better and allows you to move parts around.”

The technology has brought Dake’s M.S. in Athletic Training program students together to collaborate with nursing students on a Traumatic Brain Injury simulation. The simulation, which Dake has been involved in for the last 10 years, now incorporates the use of the Anatomage tables. The students first meet around the tables to educate themselves on parts of the body and then complete the simulation outside. MSAT students stabilize the patient in the simulation and then hand off the report to nursing students.



“We team-teach in nursing,” said Dr. Jill Van Der Like, director of Nursing Skills and Simulation Lab and assistant professor of clinical practice. “Not a lot of nursing students know the specifics of athletic training so by working together, nursing students get to see the specifics of athletic training.”

Dr. Armaghan Mahmoudian, assistant professor of movement sciences and health, said the tables have been a vital part of the anatomy and physiology courses she teaches.

“Students can remove layer by layer of the skin and connective tissue,” Mahmoudian said.

“They can see that on the cadaver without being scared of it. They can also

see the blood flow. These are things I couldn’t show them previously on our Syndaver models.”

Athletic Training graduate student Delaney Trushel said the hands-on aspect of the tables help her grasp her course materials while making it fun to learn.

“The most impressive feature to me is that you can pick exactly what you want to see based on the topics you are discussing in class,” Trushel said. “You get to see it in person, rather than in a book. I have friends who are pursuing the same degree at other schools and I’ve sent them videos and photos of it. They’ve heard about the tables but they don’t have them and they think it’s the coolest thing ever.”



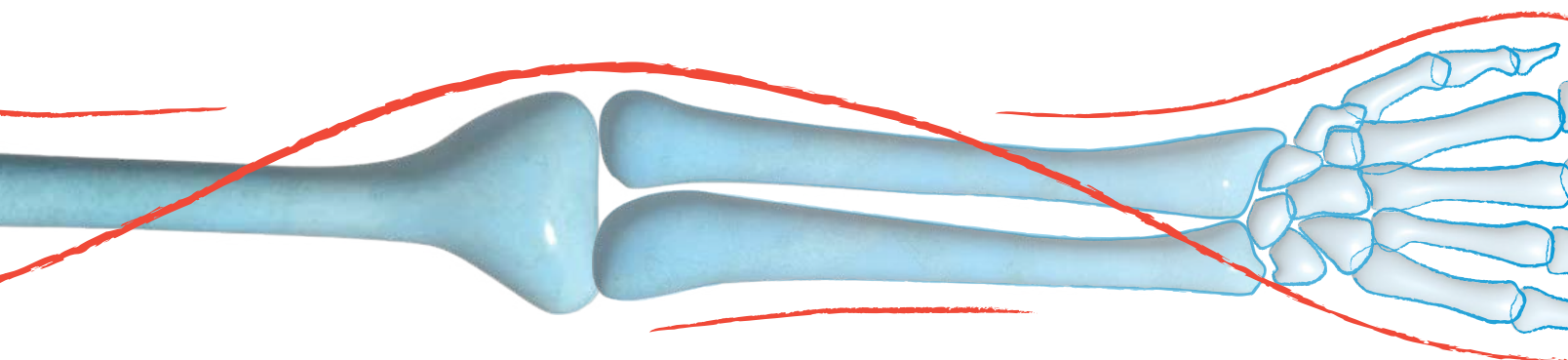
THE ANATOMAGE TABLES allow users to move parts of the body.



TABLES CAN BE POSITIONED horizontally or vertically for ease of use.



THE LARGE VIRTUAL SCREEN allows for small groups of students to gather around the table and learn together.



BRINGING EVERYONE TO THE TABLE

The benefits go beyond educating Usha Kundu, MD College of Health undergraduate and graduate students. The Anatomage tables are attracting faculty and students from all corners of campus. Argos from other disciplines have made their way to Building 54 on UWF's Pensacola campus to leverage learning opportunities afforded by the tables.

Dale Castellucci, art and design adjunct instructor and sculpture lab supervisor, is drawing upon the new state-of-the-art educational tool. Students in her figure drawing course are using the tables to deepen their

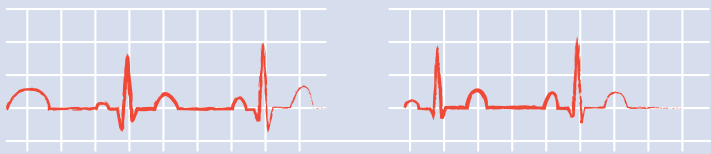
understanding of human anatomy. Viewing and drawing the detailed layers helps them develop a deeper understanding of the human form, ultimately strengthening their figure drawing skills.

"The tables allow students to observe and understand musculoskeletal structures invisible to the naked eye when working with live models," Castellucci said. "They can observe how these invisible layers are affected by movement, which is directly relevant to what they are studying in the drawing studio with live models."

The experiential learning opportunity trickles all the way down to area high schoolers. Emily Romdenne, a graduate student in the biological anthropology track with

an emphasis in forensic anthropology, incorporated the tables into her latest "UWF Explore!" Summer Camp. The program was geared at teaching high school students forensic anthropology. She learned of the tables from Dr. Allysha Winburn, associate professor of anthropology.

"Dr. Winburn told me she had met with faculty in the Department of Movement Sciences and Health and said she was excited to collaborate with them and added that this would be a good resource for campers," Romdenne said. "The students got to essentially run their own virtual dissection and navigate things they were interested in. It was an introduction to what an anatomy course would look like and gave them an



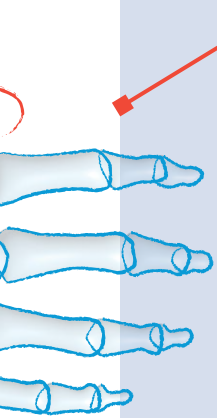
idea of what they want to do with their lives. The fact they got to do this as high schoolers I think really gave them an appreciation for the complexities of the human body. It was a fabulous resource and exciting to see where knowledge crosses disciplines regardless of what department you're in."

An event during Founders Week this past spring invited the campus community to see and use the tables at a grand opening of the new Anatomage Lab and share the campus-wide collaboration.

"We were able to showcase the tables for the University and be in the new space together and have Dale Castellucci show how she used them for drawing, how Chris Dake has used them for his classes, and have leadership there," said Dr. Chris Wirth, Chair of the Department of Movement Sciences and Health. "The support of leadership helped create this accessible and beneficial space for everyone."

"THEY CAN OBSERVE HOW THESE INVISIBLE LAYERS ARE AFFECTED BY MOVEMENT, WHICH IS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO WHAT THEY ARE STUDYING IN THE DRAWING STUDIO WITH LIVE MODELS."

— Dale Castellucci, art and design adjunct instructor and sculpture lab supervisor



DALE CASTELLUCCI, demonstrating for a student in the drawing studio.



SHINING A LIGHT ON ALZHEIMER'S

INNOVATIVE LED GOGGLES

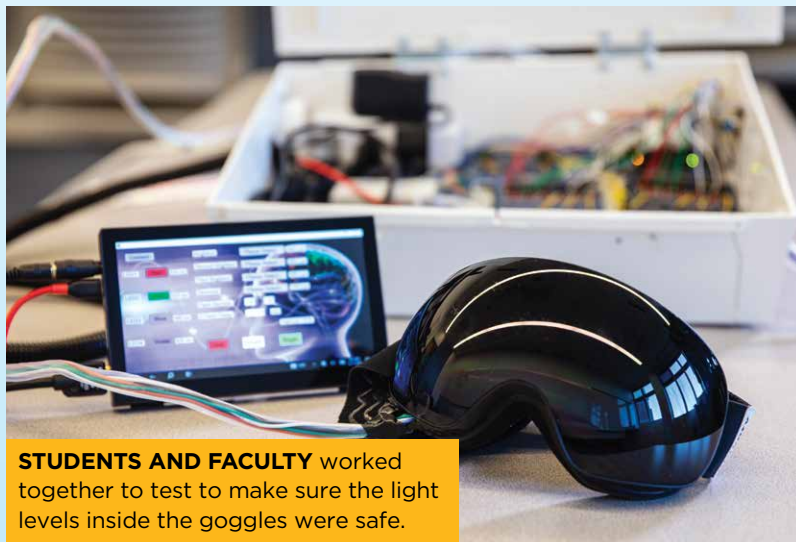
BY BRITTANY SHERWOOD '14

In higher education and the dynamic landscape of academic research, collaboration between faculty and students often yield transformative outcomes that push the boundaries of innovation. At the University of West Florida, this type of collaboration has led to the development of a groundbreaking tool for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease. Through the joint efforts of the Department of Psychology, Department of Physics, and the Dr. Muhammad Harunur Rashid Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Pulsed Medical LED goggles were born.

The idea was first conceived by Dr. James Arruda, a professor of psychology in the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health, who has spent years studying brain-behavior relationships, particularly those related to Alzheimer's dementia and mild cognitive impairment. Recognizing the need for specialized en-

hancements for those who are color-deficient, Arruda embarked on a mission to create goggles that could detect how the brain responds to flashes of light. This innovation holds promise not only for detecting seizure disorders but also for identifying early signs of Alzheimer's dementia.

"It dawned on me that not everyone's visual system is the same, so I wanted to tailor the light to maximally influence the visual receptors in an individual's eyes," Arruda said. "Not everyone has all four types of visual receptors, and if someone is color deficient, that indicates they are missing one type. We are attempting to tailor the physical properties of the light to maximize the response of someone's visual receptors so we can get an appropriate response from the brain."



STUDENTS AND FACULTY worked together to test to make sure the light levels inside the goggles were safe.





A STUDENT controls the goggles with a user interface built by students.

Arruda joined forces with Dr. Mohamed Khabou, dean of the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering and professor in the Dr. Muhammad Harunur Rashid Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Dr. Aaron Wade, associate professor in the Department of Physics. Together, they sought the input and assistance of undergraduate students to refine the goggles' design and usability.

Sierra Kautz '23, who recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, began working on the project as part of her capstone in January 2023. Alongside her colleagues Mark Yepishin, Judy Aquino, and Dustin Tran, Kautz helped build the circuit and designed a user interface to control the goggles.

"We were given LED boards designed by Dr. Wade and had to figure out the best way to wire the circuits to control the LEDs," Kautz explained. "We wrote a lot of code to allow them to have full control over it and adjust different brightness levels."

The collaboration didn't stop there. Faculty and students worked diligently to ensure the light levels were safe for anyone using the goggles. This hands-on experience provided students like Kautz with invaluable insights and skills.

The development of the Pulsed Medical LED goggles is still ongoing, with further testing and refinements planned. Future iterations of the project will involve more students from the Department of Psychology, Department of Physics, and the Dr. Muhammad

"WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO TAILOR THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE LIGHT TO MAXIMIZE THE RESPONSE OF SOMEONE'S VISUAL RECEPTORS SO WE CAN GET AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FROM THE BRAIN."

— Dr. James Arruda, professor of psychology

Harunur Rashid Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, ensuring that this interdisciplinary effort continues to evolve.

The innovative goggles are a testament to what can be achieved when diverse fields of study converge on a common goal. They hold the potential to revolutionize early detection of Alzheimer's, offering a glimpse of hope to those at risk and paving the way for timely intervention and treatment. As the project progresses, the team at UWF remains committed to pushing the boundaries of science and engineering to make a real difference in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.



UWF SWIMMER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS

ELITE 90 AWARD

BROOKE DORR EXCELS BOTH IN THE POOL AND THE CLASSROOM

BY WILL KENNEDY '93, '21

“BROOKE WAS AN AMAZING ADDITION TO OUR TEAM AND CULTURE. MOST OF THE TIME WE FOCUS ON ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS, BUT THE UNDERLYING SUCCESS OFTEN IS DUE TO THE PERSON’S CHARACTER. THIS IS TRUE IN THE CASE OF BROOKE.”

— Phil Kraus, UWF Head Swimming and Diving Coach

The young men and women representing the University of West Florida in intercollegiate athletic competitions truly embody what it means to be student-athletes. Argo athletes have garnered numerous awards for athletic prowess, academic excellence and the combination of both. But some honors stand out, even in a sea of successes.

Brooke Dorr, a senior on the UWF swim team, has been honored with the Elite 90 award for the 2024 NCAA Division II Women’s Swimming and Diving Championship. This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding academic and athletic achievements.

“I was shocked to learn that I had won the Elite 90 Award,” Dorr recalls. “It was an exciting moment. Honestly, I have never considered myself to be an elite student-athlete, so winning this award came as a very pleasant surprise.”

Dorr, majoring in exercise science, boasts an impressive 4.0 GPA. She was presented with the award during the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships in March in Geneva, Ohio.

Dorr’s recognition marks a significant achievement for UWF. She is just the third student-athlete from the University to receive the Elite 90 award. She follows in the footsteps of baseball player Zach North, who won in 2011, and men’s golfer Gary Buffington III, who was honored in 2013.

UWF Head Swimming and Diving Coach Phil Kraus says he will always be grateful and feel blessed to have had the opportunity to have Dorr as an Argo.

“Brooke was an amazing addition to our team and culture,” Kraus said. “Most of the time we focus on athletics and academics, but the underlying success often is due to the person’s character. This is true in the case of Brooke.”

The Elite 90 award, established by the NCAA, celebrates the true essence of the student-athlete by recognizing individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level in their sport while maintaining the highest academic standards. The award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest GPA participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA’s championships.

Dorr’s achievement exemplifies the balance of academic excellence and athletic dedication, making her a role model for her peers and a proud representative of UWF.

“She finished her career with two team records, five All-American Honors and four All-American Honorable Mention Awards while also helping our team to win four conference championships,” Kraus said. “If all of those athletic things are not impressive enough, Brooke also was an amazing student. Brooke carried a 4.0 GPA all the way through her eight semesters. She helped us earn Scholar All-American Team honors for all eight of her semesters as well.”

“I have always aimed to give my best effort in everything that I do, and recognition for my efforts is never expected, but always appreciated when received,” Dorr said. “Since I started swimming in sixth grade, balancing athletics and academics has been my way of life. However, succeeding as a collegiate student-athlete has been the most challenging balancing act by far. Throughout my journey, I have been surrounded by a steady support system of family, friends, coaches, professors, and teammates, and I cannot thank them enough for instilling in me the discipline necessary to achieve Elite 90 status.”



BROOKE DORR holds the Elite 90 Award.

HERE FOR GOOD

 THE CAMPAIGN
FOR UWF

...for the good of our community.

At the heart of our University are the people, driven by a desire to impact others and our community. Scholarships are essential to not only advancing opportunities for learning, but also elevating our communities to new heights.

uwf.edu/HereForGood



UWF Alumni Opportunities

The Alumni Association has created events, programming opportunities and resources for our alumni to connect, network, learn and explore. Check out some of the new alumni benefits and exciting events that are available to all alumni below. To access these resources and learn more, head to alumni.uwf.edu.

Travel with UWF Alumni

The UWF Alumni Association is now offering international travel opportunities for alumni. Get your passports ready and head to uwf.edu/alumnitravel to sign up.



Virtual Professional Development Opportunities

All alumni can access free professional development webinars with renowned experts provided by our partners at the Alumni Learning Consortium by visiting uwf.edu/alumni/benefits.

Sustaining Alumni Benefits

While all graduates of the University of West Florida are part of the UWF Alumni Association, Sustaining Alumni receive exclusive benefits for their membership including access to on-campus resources, early information about University news and events, and additional annual perks. Head to uwf.edu/sustainingalumni to learn more and sign up for your membership.



Alumni Business Directory

Support your fellow Argos by using our alumni business directory when looking for certain products or services. The UWF Alumni Association encourages networking and support of alumni-owned businesses.



Homecoming

Homecoming Week 2024 will be held **October 7-12**. Participate in campus-wide celebratory events, an alumni breakfast, our annual tailgate and see our Argos play on PenAir Field.



TOTAL UWF ALUMNI

101,846

TOTAL UWF DEGREES CONFERRED

125,246



LinkedIn Group

Connect with the Alumni Association, your fellow classmates and Argo employers who are looking for new talent in their professional network by joining our new LinkedIn Group.

[Alumni.uwf.edu](https://alumni.uwf.edu) |    /UWFAlumni

Neslihan Suhi-Moore

Captain, Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office

'05,
'08

Neslihan Suhi-Moore never aspired to be a police officer, but she discovered her passion for law enforcement during her undergraduate years at UWF.

“Dr. Kathy Johnson was an amazing professor who truly cared about me and my education,” Suhi-Moore said. “She laid the educational groundwork that I still use today. She encouraged me every step of the way and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in law enforcement. Twenty years later, I know I can lean on her for guidance, encouragement and support.”

Suhi-Moore has had an 18-year career with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and was recently promoted to the rank of captain. Despite the daily challenges law enforcement officers face, she says it is a very rewarding job.

“We have the opportunity to make a positive impact on so many people's lives,” Suhi-Moore said. “It is important for individuals entering this career field to have a strong moral compass. The law enforcement field can be demanding. Aim for a solid educational foundation, which will help you develop your skills in problem-solving and critical thinking.”

“She [Dr. Kathy Johnson] encouraged me every step of the way and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in law enforcement.”

— Neslihan Suhi-Moore, '05, '08

An adjunct professor at UWF since 2014, Suhi-Moore educates and inspires the next generation of law enforcement professionals which has brought her career full circle.

“Strong leaders in law enforcement are needed now more than ever,” Suhi-Moore

said. “As a leader, I am always striving to inspire positive change, foster accountability and set the example for new officers.”





'14

Since Daniela Cruz Mejía was a little girl she always enjoyed playing sports, but playing soccer felt different.

“I fell in love with the sport at a young age,” Cruz Mejía said. “In Costa Rica, there was a lot of discrimination against women who played soccer, but by 12 years old, we found a women’s soccer team and from that point on, my life changed forever.”

When she was 19 years old, she left Costa Rica to play at UWF from 2010 to 2014 and in that time was on the Division II Championship winning team.

“My time at UWF played a huge role in the athlete and mostly the person I am now,” Cruz Mejía said. “It was my first experience living overseas and away from my family. The time I had by myself helped me to get to know myself better, shape my personality and become more independent.”

Daniela Cruz Mejía

Professional Soccer Player, Atlas in the LigaMx

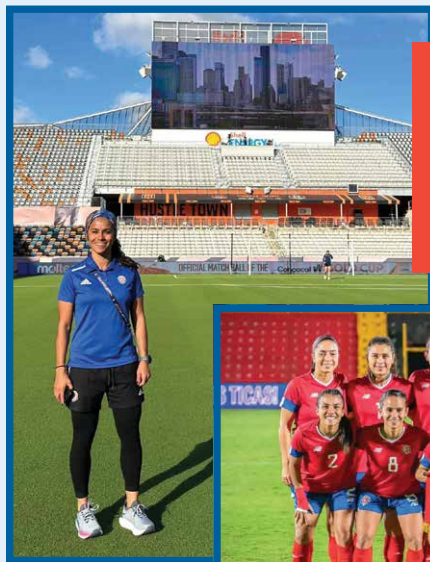


Moving to another country, adapting to another culture, to a different type of training and different way to play the sport will change any person. I’m grateful to UWF for the opportunity to study abroad, represent the University at a college level and for letting me be a champion. The staff and players will always have a special spot in my heart.”

Cruz Mejía currently plays with Atlas Fútbol Club in the Mexican professional soccer league. She is also working on a master’s degree in sport management.

“My time at UWF played a huge role in the athlete and mostly the person I am now.”

— Daniela Cruz Mejía, '14



DANIELA CRUZ MEJÍA, began playing soccer in Costa Rica, continued playing at UWF and her professional soccer career has since taken her to Mexico.



Smile!

Whether we gather at commencement, a banquet, networking event or tailgate, 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.



The Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis and Overholtz Center for Leadership hosted the 2024 Women in Leadership Conference in the University Commons Building in March. The conference offered attendees the opportunity to hear from and connect with prominent women leaders who have achieved both personal and professional success both locally and globally.



University of West Florida graduates celebrated their degree attainment during the UWF Spring Commencement at The Pensacola Bay Center in May.



The University of West Florida hosted its Capital Campaign Launch Gala in the UWF Field House where the Here for Good capital campaign was announced as the university entered the public phase of the campaign. A generous gift in excess of \$9 million was announced from Darrell and Debbie Gooden which will fund the new Darrell Gooden Stadium on campus.



UWF President Martha D. Saunders announced a gift of \$5 million from The Bear Family Foundation to establish the newly named Lewis Bear Jr. College of Business. This is the third college to be named in the University's history.



The UWF Alumni Association hosted Day of Service in conjunction with Founders Week 2024. The beach cleanup event at Fort Pickens included many local alumni and supporters for an afternoon of environmental cleanup.



The UWF Alumni Association hosted a breakfast event on Museum Plaza to celebrate Day of Giving 2024. Alumni could stop by or drive through to pick up a quick breakfast along with their Day of Giving socks and speaker coolers.



UWF students and alumni expanded their professional wardrobes during the annual Argos Suit Up! event at the JCPenney located in the University Town Plaza.



The UWF baseball team won the 2024 Gulf South Conference Baseball Championship, capturing back-to-back tournament titles for the first time in program history.



Staff LEAD hosted a solar eclipse event in honor of the new Stargo telescope they helped the University secure. Stargo is an EVSCOPE 2 immersive smart telescope with enhanced vision technology.



UWF's Office of Campus Culture and Access, International Affairs and Student Engagement hosted the annual Global Block Party on the Cannon Green. This celebration recognizes the diverse cultures that are represented at UWF.



Professor Carrie Fonder and students in her Fundamentals of Sculpture class created a public sculpture for the From the Ground Up Community Garden in downtown Pensacola using welded and stacked geometric steel cubes with colored acrylic sheets attached to the sides. The colorful acrylic pieces represent cycles and refer to the sun, the moon and growth.



The UWF Alumni Association hosted UWF Alumni Night at the Blue Wahoos game. This sold-out event was popular among local alumni and the Party Deck at Blue Wahoos stadium was full of Argo alumni.

Class Notes

1970s

'75 **James F. Buchli, M.S. Aeronautical Systems;** Buchli was the 49th recipient of the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, presented by Governor Doug Burgum. Buchli is a Marine Corps veteran, NASA astronaut is in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

'75 **Arnold E. Wilkie, MBA;** Wilkie was the recipient of the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry Lifetime Technical Achievement and Lifetime Service Awards.

'78 **Larry R. Bolinger, M.Ed. Educational Leadership;** Bolinger retired after 50 years in Bay County schools in Panama City, Florida.

1980s

'82 **Theresa A. Brunasso, B.S. Physical Electronics;** Brunasso recently retired and closed her consulting company, D&S Microwave.

'82 **Kenneth A. Phillips, B.A. Criminal Justice;** Phillips retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves and the State of Florida.

'83 & '87 **Shigeko H. Honda (Witherill), B.A. & M.A. Interdisciplinary Humanities;** Honda was recognized with the Order of the Rising Sun award. Established by Japan in 1875, this is awarded to individuals in recognition of their services to the Japanese nation or public. Honda led UWF's Japan House for 26 years.

'84 **Jennifer A. Dodrill (Rose), B.A. Communication Arts;** Dodrill published her first novel, a mystery called "Birds Alive!" in February 2024.

'86 & '93 **The Honorable Dwight Keith Leonard, B.A. Interdisciplinary Social Sciences & M.S. Health, Leisure and Exercise Science;** Leonard became superintendent of the Escambia County (FL) School Board.

'86 **Auriette Hahn Lindsey, B.A. Theatre;** Lindsey was elected to the 2024 Board for the West Florida Genealogical Society.

'87 **Capt. William Y. Pike, B.S. System Science;** Pike retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve in April 2024 after over 30 years of service.

'88 **Dr. Wendy Chord Kobler, B.S. Marketing;** Kobler was elected to a three-year term on Indiana Institute of Technology's Board of Trustees.

1990s

'91 **Stephen Daniel Fell, B.S. Health, Leisure and Exercise Science;** Fell, the UWF Men's Golf coach, was named the 2024 Golf Coaches Association of America South Region Coach of the Year.

'91 **Stephen Hester; B.A. International Studies;** Hester founded Regenschirm Training and Consulting, LLC, in January 2024.

'92 **The Honorable Eugene Ford, B.A. Accounting;** Ford was appointed to the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

'92 **Tamela E. Harris, B.A. Accounting;** Harris is the 2024 President-Elect for the Pensacola Association of Realtors.

'96 **Margaret Felina Martin (McConner), BSBA Marketing;** Martin's artwork "Agusta Love" was selected for GA State Representative Lyn Gladney's office at the State of Georgia Capitol.

'96 **Hue T. Reynolds (Tran), B.A. Communication Arts;** Reynolds was appointed to the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

'96 & '05 **Dr. Alexis Clegorne Tibbetts, Ed.S. & Ed.D.;** Tibbetts retired after 51 years in education in Okaloosa and Walton counties (FL).

'97 **Charles D. Morris, BSBA Accounting;** Morris was named city manager of Milton-Freewater, Oregon.

2000s

'00 **Christopher Hall, MBA;** Hall was promoted to chief product officer at Precisely, a software company specializing in data integrity tools.

'00 & '02 **Donna Ash Kimbrough (Forrest), B.A. English & M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction;** Kimbrough was named assistant principal of Crestview High School in Okaloosa County, Florida.

'00 **Amy Woodard Klugh, M.Ed. Educational Leadership;** Klugh was named principal of Shalimar Elementary School in Okaloosa County, Florida.

'02 **The Honorable John Stephens, B.S. Computer Science;** In January, Stephens was appointed to fill the empty seat on the Destin City Council until the November 2024 election.

'03 **Nicholas Domenic Johnson, B.A. Political Science;** Johnson opened the

Pensacola location of Engel & Volkers, a global, luxury real estate firm based in Germany.

'03 & '05 **Nikki Lynn Powell (Anderson), B.A. Communication Arts & MSA Healthcare Administration;** Powell was named human resource director of Escambia County, Florida.

'03 **Sarah Lynn Suarez (Nemser), B.A. Criminal Justice;** Suarez was named assistant director of the Department of Planning and Community Development in Arlington, Massachusetts.

'05 **Nicolle Marie Cestero (Szewczyk), M.A. Industrial-Organizational Psychology;** Cestero was named interim president of American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

'05 **Donald Lee McAllister, MSA Educational Leadership;** McAllister was named principal of Howard Learning Academy in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

'06 **Julie Ann Frusciente (Cleys), B.A. Legal Studies;** Frusciente was named partner at Hishaw & Culbertson LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

'07 **Dr. Patrick Stephen Barber, B.A. Music;** Barber was recognized as a Distinguished College of Science Young Alumnus by University of Nevada, Reno. Barber is an assistant professor of chemistry at UWF.

'07 **Brett Franklin McCullough, B.S. Sports Management;** McCullough was named head coach for the Tate High School Aggies Baseball team in Pensacola, Florida. McCullough is a Tate graduate and was assistant coach for seven years.

'07 **Hong Dang Potomski (Tran), MBA & M.A. Health Communication Leadership;** Potomski was promoted to Market Leader - Pensacola Region at Florida Blue.

'07 **Nicholas George Whiting, B.A. Communication Arts;** Whiting was named head women's soccer coach for Houston Christian University in Texas.

'07 **Dr. Lusharon Woods Wiley, Ed.D.;** Dr. Wiley was appointed to be the new executive director of the Equity Project Alliance in Escambia County and northwest Florida.

'08 & '18 **Jordan Joel Berry, B.A. History & M.Ed. Educational Leadership;** Berry was named principal of Bluewater Elementary School in Niceville, Florida.

'08 **Autumn Cook McAllister (Grier), B.A. Psychology;** McAllister was named director of emergency services at Lakeview Center in Pensacola, Florida.

'09 **Andy Beauchamp, B.A. Art;** Beauchamp's paintings were showcased at his "Surreal Harmonies: When Art Defies Boundaries" exhibit at the Ali Cultural Arts Center in Pompano Beach,

Florida, from February to April 2024.

'09 Jasmine Ernestine Romaine, B.A. Communication Arts; Romaine was cast in the movie *The Color Purple* (2023) as a background actress.

2010s

'10 Seth Paul Crochet, B.A. Political Science; Crochet was promoted to vice president, general counsel at Radiance Technologies.

'11 Kevin William Boyer, B.A. English; Boyer was named grants and special projects coordinator for the City of Pensacola.

'11 & '14 Dr. Ashley Layne Milner, Ed.S. & Ed.D.; Milner was named dean of the School of Education at University of Mobile in Alabama. She has been on the faculty at UM since 2016.

'11 & '13 Mariana Ortega, B.A. Communication Arts & M.Ed. College Student Personnel Administration; Ortega was named assistant vice president for diversity initiatives at New Mexico State University.

'12 Matthew Lance Aldred, M.S. Health, Leisure and Exercise Science; Aldred was hired as the full-time strength and conditioning coach for the University of Michigan's Men's Basketball team.

'12 Ron L. Cave, M.S. Criminal Justice; Cave graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, in March 2024. He is the assistant sheriff of Leon County, Florida.

'12 David Tatem, B.A. History; Tatem was appointed chief public defender for the Towaliga Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office in Forsyth, Georgia.

'13 Ashley Anderson Saba, B.S. Health Science; Saba joined Florida Blue as the market development manager for Northwest Florida.

'14 Dr. Sarah Lynne Branam, M.S. Software Engineering; Branam was selected as the education research analyst for the Department of Defense Education Activity's Pacific West District, which serves military-connected children in South Korea and Guam.

'14 Dr. John Houk, MPH.; Houk was named chief medical officer of Campbell County Health in Wyoming.

'14 Bobbi Jean Pinkard, B.A. Elementary Education; Pinkard was awarded Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 251 in Pinetta, Florida. She is a kindergarten teacher at Pinetta Elementary School.

'15 James Robert Helms, B.S. Computer Engineering; Helms started a new job at Blue Origin building rocket engines.

'15 Capt. Cindy Ivette Sakalauski (Lopez), B.A. Public Relations;

Sakalauski took command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) in May 2024.

'16 & '18 Alana Black, BSW & MSW; Black was named the new Children's Home Society Community Partnership School Director for Bellview Middle School in Pensacola, Florida.

'17 Jasmine Nicole Holmes, BFA; Holmes partnered with the Colorado Avalanche hockey team to create a jersey displaying Black Excellence in hockey.

'18 Lillian Dubon, M.Ed. Educational Leadership; Dubon was named principal of Msgr. Edward Pace High School in Miami Gardens, Florida.

'18 & '21 Sarah Elizabeth Holloway, BSN & MSN; Holloway joined Baptist Medical Group in Pensacola as a primary care nurse practitioner.

'18 Caitlin Christine Sullivan, B.A. Exceptional Student Education; Sullivan was selected as the Monroe County School District 2024 Teacher of the Year in Key West, Florida.

'19 Michael Beaudry, B.A. Psychology; Beaudry was hired as an assistant football coach at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. He was UWF football's first official signee, playing for the Argos during the 2015-2018 seasons. He spent the 2023 season as an offensive assistant.

'19 Andrew Jose Velasco, B.A. Telecommunications and Film; Velasco was the 2023 winner of the first Julia Gorton Photography Award presented by the 309 Punk Project, earning a \$1,000 scholarship and an exhibition at the 309 Punk House in Pensacola.

2020s

'21 Austin Thomas Reed, B.A. Communication; Reed, a former UWF quarterback, signed with the Chicago Bears. Reed led the Argos to the 2019 Division II National Championship.

'21 Shannon Ramir Showers, B.S. Psychology; Showers was hired as a graduate defensive backs graduate assistant at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. He played defensive back for the Argos during the 2021 and 2022 seasons.

'21 Evan S. Wyllie, M.Ed. Education; Wyllie was hired as head boys basketball coach at Choctawhatchee High in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

'22 Morena Mannucci, M.Ed. Educational Leadership; Mannucci was named assistant principal of Elliott Point Elementary School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

'22 Amy Schroeder Pearson, M.Ed. Educational Leadership; Pearson was named assistant principal of Niceville High School in Niceville, Florida.

'23 Sarah Barker, Ed.S.; Barker was named principal of Gulf Breeze High School in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

'23 Felipe Garcés Garzon, B.A. Psychology; Garzon became the first Ecuadorian golfer to win the South American Amateur Championship and received an invitation to the Kia Open, a PGA Tour event. While at UWF, he finished runner-up in the 2021 NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championships.

'23 Byron Crump Jarrett, B.A. Communication; "Peewee" Jarrett signed as an undrafted free agent with the New York Jets. He played for UWF during the 2022 and 2023 seasons, becoming the first quarterback to throw for 5,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in a career.

In Memoriam

Alumni

'69 & '82 Deanna S. Dyess (Hicks), B.A. & M.A. Elementary Education

'69 & '91 Olivia Hammack Haines, B.A. & M.A. Elementary Education

'69 Allison E. Kirksey, B.A. Political Science

'69 Rev. Gladys F. McCurtain (Robinson), B.A. Political Science

'69 Robert L. Sanders, B.A. Accounting

'70 David Charles Beard, M.S. Aeronautical Systems

'70 Sandra Blackmon (West), B.A. Elementary Education

'70 Terrel Joan Medlock, B.A. Elementary Education

'70 Kenneth C. Ward, B.A. Mathematics

'71 Mary J. Alt (Foley), B.A. Psychology

'71 Diane M. Meyers (Cruttenden), B.A. History

'72 Emily N. Baird (Blackwood), M.A. Psychology

'73 Sarah N. Arnold (Nelson), B.A. Elementary Education

'73 Edward R. Fiebig, B.S. Management

'73 Roy W. Harvey, B.A. Accounting

'74 Billy C. Stewart, B.A. Psychology

'75 & '76 David L. Goetsch, B.S. Vocational Studies & M.Ed. Educational Leadership

'75 **Martha E. Fisher (Howell)**,
B.A. Elementary Education

'75 & '78 **Cmdr. William G. Harker**, B.A.
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences & MPA

'75 **Maxine A. Hines (Anderson)**,
B.A. Social Work

'75 **Wendy M. Perry (Davis)**,
B.A. Social Work

'75 **Jeffery W. Stokey**,
B.S. Management

'76 & '89 **Sandra G. Fairchild**, B.S. Health
Leisure and Sports & M.S.
Health Education

'76 **Elspeth Andrus Lloyd**,
M.Ed. Educational Leadership

'76 **Donna M. Shipes (Prescott)**,
B.A. Elementary Education

'76 & '79 **Cathy Watson**, B.S. Health
Leisure and Sports & M.S.
Sports Science

'77 **Billy G. Hudson**,
B.S. Vocational Studies

'77 **Dale A. Padgett**,
B.S. Vocational Studies

'77 **Barbara Ann Roe (Shepard)**,
B.A. Special Education

'78 **Robert L. Beveridge**, B.A. History

'78 **Thomas A. Rhodes**,
B.A. Accounting

'78 **Nancy G. Urban (Hashberger)**,
B.A. Social Work

'79 & '81 **Robert John Bromert**,
B.S. Physical Education & M.Ed.
Educational Leadership

'79 **Lillian M. Kinnebrew (Hofues)**, MBA

'80 **Phuong A. Cong Tang**,
B.A. Accounting

'80 **Paul J. Hirsch**, B.A. Interdisciplinary
Social Sciences

'80 **Karen M. Metzger (Scanland)**,
B.A. Political Science

'81 **Diane M. Day-Welty**,
B.A. Elementary Education

'81 **Paul Andrew Parker**, B.S. Marketing

'82 **Stephen A. Derr**, B.A. Accounting

'82 **Jonathan W. Laird**,
B.S. Sports Science

'83 **Mark C. Anderson**,
B.S. Industrial Technology

'83 **Peggy A. Tucker (Wayrynen)**, M.Ed.
Educational Leadership

'84 **Beth M. Vaughters (Miljenovic)**, BSN

'85 **John R. Dewey**, M.Ed.
Educational Leadership

'85 **Pamela M. Gamwell**,
B.A. Elementary Education

'85 **Barbara Fay Irwin (Andrews)**, M.Ed.

Educational Leadership

'86 **Joseph J. Dirks**, MBA

'87 **Coleman R. Carpenter**, M.Ed.
Educational Leadership

'87 & '91 **James S. McAtee**, B.A.
Economics & MBA

'88 **James L. Hughes**, B.A. Music

'88 & '90 **Gary Edward Kase**, B.S. Systems
Science & M.S. Computer Science

'88 **Vickie M. Williams**,
B.S. Management

'89 **Jennifer L. Beall (Bransford)**, B.S.
Health Education

'89 & '94 **Toni D. Lassiter**, B.A. Special
Education & B.A. Social Work

'90 **Emma J. Edmondson**, B.S.
Environmental Management

'92 **Ronald S. Hollenbeck**, MBA

'94 **Thomas E. Bradley**, B.A. Middle
School Math/Science

'94 **Theron C. Jones**,
B.S. Computer Science

'95 **Kimberley S. Dailey**,
B.S. General Biology

'95 **Mary K. Noll Welborn**,
B.A. Legal Administration

'99 **Brooks Ann Singley**,
B.A. Elementary Education



Pack Your Bags, Argos!

The UWF Alumni Association has partnered with Collette travel to provide multiple travel opportunities for our alumni, fans and friends. From Costa Rica and Italy to Iceland and Wales, our alumni have been around the world experiencing new and exciting cultures and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

We invite you to learn more about our upcoming trips by visiting

uwf.edu/alumnitravel

'01 Robert A. Benz, M.A. History

'01 Joshua James Kirby,
B.A. Criminal Justice

'06 & '10 Amy Rogers Wolfenden,
B.S. Sport Management & M.S.
Physical Education

'11 Christopher David Mallick, B.S.
Instructional Information Technology

'15 Anne Marie Howard,
MSA Public Administration

'21 Rachel Brooke Hudson, BSN

'21 Christopher Alexander Pursley,
B.S. Network Systems Operations

Individuals

Dr. Ann Theresa Agnew, professor and chair of the education department. In 2003, she was elected to the UWF Distinguished Teacher Hall of Fame. When Ann retired in 2008, UWF endowed a scholarship in her name.

Dr. John J. Alford, former professor

Ann F. Belleau (Scott), board of trustees member 1985-1993, foundation president 1988-1990, Foundation Fellow 1994, has/had endowments with UWF

Dr. Theodore Frederick Elbert, former professor and chairman of the Department of Computer Sciences, member of Retired Employees Association

Gene T. Feicht, Heritage Club Member, has tribute gift in her name

Edna Deanne Harmon, former OPS staff member

Patricia Howes Fell Knowles, Chambered Nautilus Society member, established Knowles Music Scholars

Cynthia Murray Merritt, retired secretary, member of Retired Employees Association

Paul Gaston White, consistent giver since the 80s

George Woodward, consistent giver since the 80s

Jerry R. Yares, retired accounting professor

2024 Inweekly Rising Stars

The following alumni were recognized on the 2024 Rising Stars by Inweekly Magazine:

'09 Hunter James Hendrix

'12 Kristy Ann Craig (Coleman)

'13 Ashley Anderson Saba

'13 Eniko Ujj

'14 Erica Lynn Evans

'14 Robert Paul Goodspeed

'14 & '15 Raven Lashwan Taylor (Lee)

'15 Sydney M'Kay Robinson

'16 & '20 Derek Ryan Benson

'16 Andrea Nicole Gibson

'16 Markeitta D. Graham

'16 & '19 Tyler A. Griffis

'16 Rubi Fournier-De Jesus

'16 & '19 Anna J. Lochas

'17 & '19 Lauren Elaine Clark (Meadors)

'17 Emily Sara Lalas

'18 & '22 Brandon Christopher Ballard

'18 Lakeila D. Robertson

'19 Cailin Feagles

'19 Cameron Zachary Peters

'20 Faithe Arrielle Franklin

'21 & '23 Kierra Anelise Potts

'22 Raylene Torio Solis

'23 Sydney Elizabeth Bercier

'23 Valeria Martinez

2024 Inweekly Power List

The following alumni were recognized on the 2024 Power List by Inweekly Magazine:

'69 Sandy C. Sansing

'70 Dr. Richard M. Fountain

'84 Dr. Kenneth M. Ford

'92 & '94 Allison Hill (Spencer)

'93 Jarl T. Young, MBA

'97 Mark L. Kimberl

'01 Kimberly Renee Adams (Lambert)

'02 Kristen Jane Longley

'02 Grace Resendez McCaffery

'04 Ryan Nobles Wiggins

'07 Hong Dang Potomski (Tran)

'07 Dr. Lusharon Woods Wiley

'08 Lawrence Jackson Kuhn

'08 Rafael Ward Simpson

'10 & '16 Willis Franklin Condon

'10 & '14 Joshua Daniel Newby

'14, '17 & '20 Dr. Lauren Marie Anzaldo

'17 Devin Blake Cole

'17 & '18 Hale Morrisette

'18 & '22 Brandon Christopher Ballard

'23 Tyler Vonche Hardeman

2025 Teachers of the Year

Escambia County Finalists

'76 Scott M. Wright

'94 Juanita Lynch Bordelon

'95 & '99 Mark Charles Goolsby

'96 Angelyn Louise Baggett

'96 & '98 Yaneickia Shawaynia Hayes

'96 Gearlene McCorvey

'98 & '00 Mary Joan Holley-Lewis

'00 Angela Ruth Rose

'00 Lisa Marie Torres (Kenyon)

'01 Tammy Bridget Creel

'01 Hollie Anne Frazee (Fleener)

'01 Stephen Daniel Hall

'01 Christine Mahler Mills

'01 Naomi Bernice Stewart (Chestnut)

'02 & '06 Whitney Baudin Meadows

'02 Dana Rene Milton

'05 Charisse Chevon Tarter (Dorman)

'06 & '19 Megan Brooke Carroll

'06 Miranda Lynn Freauff (Bell)

'07, '09 & '13 Candice Rachel Blackburn (Knowles)

'08 & '13 Tammy Jo Dublin (Pope)

'08 Alicia Amber Hassell

'08 Terri Lynette Herrington

'08 Tara Lynn Papillion

'14 Emerald Amethyst Barton

'16 Ariana J. Helvie

'16 Spencer Mullet

'17 Rebecca Leigh Calloway

Santa Rosa County Finalists

'91 & '94 Regina S. Clapper (Holland)

'93 Gail L. Froemming

'96 Tami A. McConnell

'96 Carla Eggart Rials

'98 Bethany Ann Holley (Brock)

'98 Rhonda M. Waters (Jackson)

'05 Rhett Alexander Rowell

'08, '09, '12, '15 & '20 Dr. Theresa Marie Guy

'12 George Travis Starkie

'14 Vincent Anthony Armand

'16 Christal Cortez Bennett (Gibson)

'17 Katherine Sarah Martha Carnley

Find a full list of UWF alumni news, accomplishments and obituaries by visiting uwf.edu/classnotes.

Connection

University of West Florida

11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514
uwf.edu/alumni

“When I first visited UWF, it immediately felt like my home away from home. I love that UWF has great academic programs and so many opportunities for student involvement.”

Cooper Littlefield
Exercise Science, '27

Grow in
ways you
never thought
possible.

FIND EVERYTHING YOU
WANT AND ALL OF WHAT
YOU NEED AT UWF.

At the University of West Florida, our spirited learners are exploring limitless possibilities and finding real value in everything we have to offer. Find a campus community, new friends and an unparalleled education — all at UWF.