

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT... CARL BACKMAN

NOVEMBER 2022

First of all, I wish to express my thanks to all those who have helped bring the UWF REA through the ordeals of the COVID years and back into full activity—to President Martha Saunders and Provost George Ellenberg for their encouragement and expressions of support for the organization, to Vice President Reddy for inviting and welcoming us into the Division of University Advancement, to Mrs. Tori Bennett for her untiring service to the REA, to my colleagues on the REA Board who have hung in there during this period of transition and to the members of the REA—near and far—who support and participate in the activities of the organization. I am truly grateful to all of you.

This issue of the *REA News* highlights some of the activities in which REA members have been engaged since the REA officially became part of the Division of University Advancement, member travels, “remember when” contributions and Connor’s Corner.

With thanks and appreciation to President Saunders and Vice President Reddy, REA members have been invited to several campus- and community-based events. Moving football to campus and this fall’s beautiful weather have combined to bring lots of people to Pen Air Field to watch the awesome Argo team. What better way to prep for the game than to participate in the **President’s Tailgate!** The September 30 match between UWF’s very successful women’s volleyball team and Alabama Huntsville was the setting for the



special recognition of **Dr. Pat Wentz** for her 50 years of service to UWF and her loyal support for UWF Athletics. UWF REA members were guests of the Division of University Advancement at the special performance of *“Their Songs, Their Stories: A Symphony”* held at the Saenger Theatre.

In mid October, Pierre Kaufke opened his home and garden to REA members to view and enjoy his magnificent collection of bonsai.

Coming up on Dec. 5 is the annual **REA Holiday Social**, which will be a luncheon in the UWF Conference Center. The event will include a very brief business meeting to present (and, hopefully adopt) a rewritten UWF REA Charter and Bylaws document reflecting the new relationship of the UWF REA with the Division of University Advancement.

Venturing into new territory, the UWF REA is participating in a campaign to raise funds to establish an endowment

for the Pensacola Camellia Garden which is located on the campus in Pensacola. This nationally recognized garden is a project of the Pensacola Camellia Club and the UWF REA. Prime movers in the establishment of the Garden were Drs. Gordon Eade and Ben Williamson, both of whom were also founding members of the UWF REA. The campaign goal is to raise \$25,000 between the Pensacola Camellia Club and UWF REA to match an anonymous \$25,000 donation to establish the endowment in the UWF Foundation. A copy of the campaign flyer is included with this newsletter.

Spring 2023 events will include dutch treat luncheons, a reprise of last spring’s successful day at the UWF baseball park (April), and the **Annual Business Meeting and Social** (May). At the business meeting, we will elect the officers and board members for 2023-2024 fiscal year. We invite nominations (including self nominations) for service as at-large board members (two positions), vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Your board strives to promote and present opportunities for members to connect and engage at both on- and off-campus venues. We appreciate and invite your comments and suggestions—not only about activities and events, but also about the best ways to maintain communication with you.

With best wishes to all for a happy Thanksgiving and very enjoyable December holidays!

Carl Backman, President
UWF Retired Employees Association

President's tailgate, Oct. 1, 2022

PRESIDENT SAUNDERS INVITED REA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO HER TAILGATE EVENT PRIOR TO THE UWF FOOTBALL GAME AT PEN AIR FIELD.



ANNA LOCHAS, ELLEN TILL, TOMMY HENDERSON



CARL BACKMAN, ANNA SHIPLEE, INGRID BACKMAN



PAT WENTZ, DELMA COTSONIS, VAN COTSONIS



MARTHA SAUNDERS AND JUDY BENSE



JUDY WEAVER, JIM WEAVER, ROHAN HEMASINHA, SUBASH BAGUI, LUSHARON WILEY, SIKHA BAGUI

Bonsai Garden field trip, Oct. 15, 2022



BILL HEALEY, LINDA DYE, PIERRE KAUFKE, RUTH WELK



RUTH WELK, LINDA DYE, CONNIE FLEMING



LINDA DYE, RUTH WELK JACQUI BERGER



UWF REA MEMBERS ENJOYED A VISIT TO THE HOME OF PIERRE KAUFKE TO SEE AND HEAR THE STORIES OF THE BONSAI PLANTS IN HIS INCREDIBLE COLLECTION.



INGRID BACKMAN, BILL HEALEY, CONNIE FLEMING, JACQUI BERGER, PIERRE KAUFKE

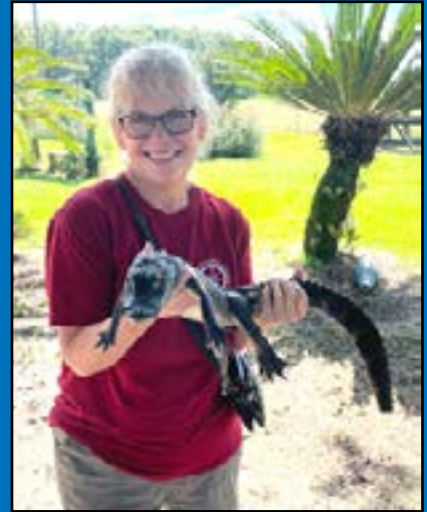
Business Office field trip, Aug. 29, 2022



JOYCE HUGHES



JOY WARD



ELLEN TILL

GAIL MCGRADY AND JOY



What I Did on My Summer Vacation...

Anna Shiplee

When I was a kid, I looked forward to being out of school for the summer and to our family vacations. Of course, I am much removed from being a kid, but this year that feeling of anticipation about going on a vacation returned. In July, I went on a very special family vacation to Napa, Calif., to celebrate my daughter's 40th birthday. Because we were not able to travel during the COVID period, this was a much anticipated trip. So when time came to leave on the trip, I was very excited.

The trip got off to a great start. Our flights went smoothly. There were no flight delays or lost baggage as was heard so much about on the news. The shuttle service in San Francisco was on time and we enjoyed a very scenic drive to Napa about an hour's drive away. Our hotel was located in the heart of Napa. There were many shops, restaurants and points of interest within walking distance of it. We all fell in love with a little French bakery, Le Paris Artisan, just around the corner. We went there almost every morning for the best coffee and the most outstanding pastries. I wish that I could have transported it back to Gulf Breeze.

The food was also one of the highlights of the trip.



Wherever we ate, the food was so delicious not to mention the excellent wines. I was able to enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at California cuisine. I took a cooking class at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa. The experience was amazing; it was like being in one of those cooking show kitchens on television and we enjoyed a delicious meal afterwards. I highly recommend taking a wine/vineyard tour. Even if you are not a wine drinker, you can appreciate the history or the natural beauty of the vineyards and surrounding areas. For example, at the Cakebread winery, we also visited Dolores Cakebread's beautiful garden which she created many years ago and it is still a part of the winery. There is no shortage of vineyards to choose from; just pick what suits your fancy.

It was a wonderful trip and one I would not mind repeating. I would love to go back to this part of California. There were many other places to explore and things to do, just not enough time to do so. The trip definitely rated 5 stars.



What I Did on My Summer Vacation...

Jacqui Berger

This June, while Pensacola was suffering with 100 degree days, I was lucky enough to be enjoying 50s along coastal Norway.

There were so many beautiful scenes and experiences making it very difficult to select favorite photographs.



PORT IN SKJOLDEN, A FJORD VILLAGE.



HJELLE. THIS LITTLE TOWN'S CLAIM TO FAME (OR WORST NIGHTMARE) WAS THAT WHILE ON TOUR, JUSTIN BIEBER CHOSE TO STAY THERE. THE TOWN IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE BY TUNNEL AND THE TRAFFIC BECAME A NIGHTMARE.

I got to London just a few days after the Platinum Celebration. Crowds remained. Spent five hours in the British Museum until my brain could no longer absorb any more. Two weeks on a Princess Cruise ship round trip from Southampton.

Next year, after a motorcoach tour of Newfoundland and one day in Labrador, I am taking the cruise from Quebec City to NYC. Should be nice, although I have been to many of the ports. That will be about 25 summer days.

What We Did on Our Summer Vacation...

Jim and Judy Weaver

EXPLORING THE BRITISH ISLES, June 2022, Jim and Judy Weaver flew to Atlanta, Amsterdam and on to Bergen, Norway, for a 15 day Viking Ocean Cruise of the British Isles and then five additional days in Galway, Ireland. Here you see them first at Urquhart Castle on the Loch Ness in Scotland; onto Belfast, Northern Ireland; later at Westminster in London (Greenwich) and then to Galway, Ireland where Jim gave a talk at the International Linear Algebra Society conference. The last two pictures are at Galway Bay and by the granite fences in Connemara, Ireland. We had a fabulous time in the British Isles.



What I Did on My Vacation...

Peter Young

Peter Young spent several days with a friend in Bryson City, N.C .and environs in late October 2022. Pete and Anne rode the GSMRR up the Nantahala gorge. Our trip was pulled by this 1942 steam locomotive, originally commissioned by the army for service in Europe during WWII but kept in the states and used for training purposes at Ft. Bragg. We stayed at the Folkestone Inn, a very nice B&B just outside Bryson City.



We did some hiking up Deep Creek to Tom Branch Falls as well as taking a spur trail to Juney Whank Falls. in the great Smoky Mountain National Park.,We visited the Ranger Station at Oconaluftee where there is a settlers farmstead moved from its original location elsewhere in the Smokies and saw the herd of Elk that frequents the area to feed in the meadow of the homestead farm.

Another highlight was visiting the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee.



What We Did on Our Vacation...

Carl and Ingrid Backman

If “leaf looking” wasn’t already reason enough to visit Vermont in October, checking out our where our daughter Linda and part of her family (daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter) have moved (from Florida) is an even better reason. Linda and Jessie have moved to the Rutland area and bought an older house (original section built in 1820s) on a hundred acres replete with cornfield, wooded hillside, barn converted to garage and storage shed for wood. Looking up to the hill above the house, the blue sky and white clouds set of the vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows of the trees. At sunset, looking to the east from the hill behind the house, the forest on the eastern ridge across the valley appears to be on fire.

No visit to Vermont is complete without at least one covered bridge. (The one in the picture is in Arlington near the Norman Rockwell III Retreat.) And, almost every town has a white steepled church. (Pictured is Manchester.) In spring, the ski run mountains are green; in winter, they are white; in fall, the palette is intense red, orange and yellow. In autumn, the lakes and ponds mirror the intensity of the colorful foliage. (Pictured are lakes near Ludlow.)

And the best reason of all to visit Vermont is to experience the sheer joy and wonder of your great granddaughter pondering her very own pumpkin! No ordinary orange pumpkin for this little one!



What We Did on Our Summer Vacation...

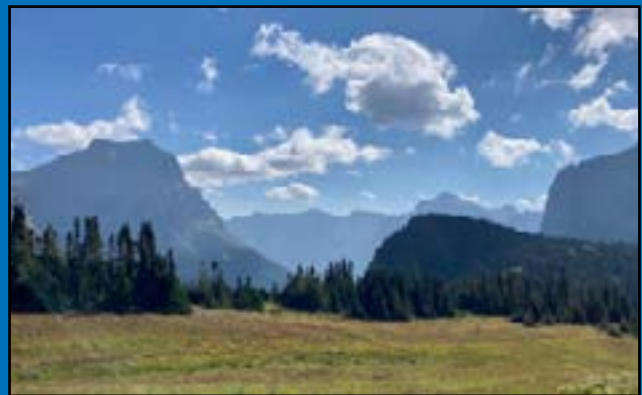
Eileen and Craig Perrigo

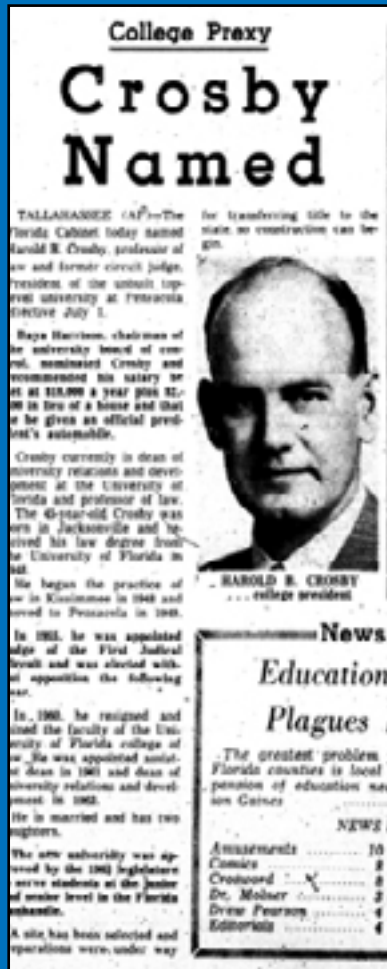
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Craig and I love to travel. All we could think about during Covid was going to Montana to hike the many trails in Glacier National Park (GNP) and to experience the mountains, lakes and glacier-carved valleys. Due to global warming, the glaciers are disappearing. In 1910, there were approximately 150. About 26 glaciers remain. We discovered Montana about 10 years ago. This was our fourth trip. We stayed in Whitefish in northwest Montana, about 20 minutes from the western entrance to GNP and about 30 minutes from the Canadian border. The resort town is filled with art galleries, music and phenomenal restaurants.

The highlight of our September trip was taking the Red Bus Tour over the "Going-to-the-Sun" road. It is about 50 miles of pure natural bliss with 360 degrees of mountains, streams and wildlife. We crossed the Continental Divide through Logan Pass at an elevation of 6,646 feet which is the highest point on the road. Overlooking the snow-capped mountains and glaciers was a sight to behold. Bears, bison, moose and elk were scattered throughout the park.

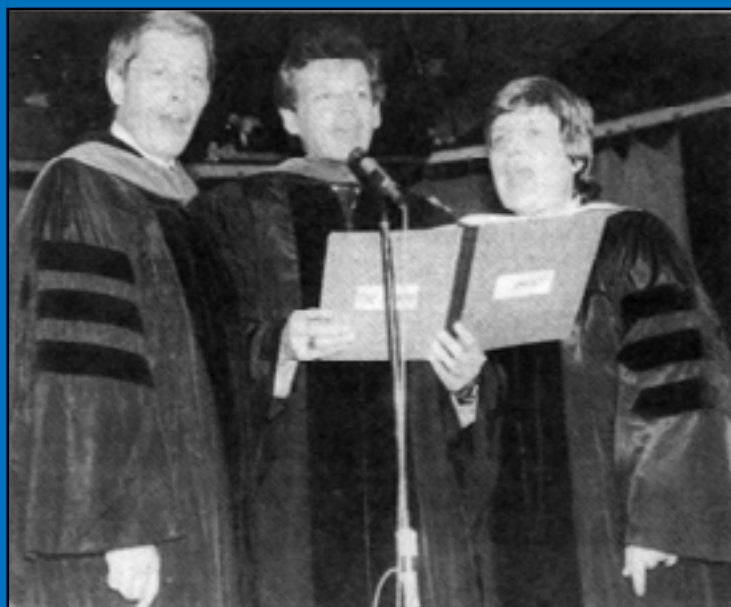
If you want to experience nature in its purest form, go to Glacier National Park. You will be glad you did.





Remember when?

1964:
Judge Crosby named first UWF President.



1986: We three deans of UWF sang a Christmas carol turned lament and the annual Career Service Christmas Party. The trio made humorous requests for more OCO funds, adjunct instructors and a new car. Portraying the deans of the three colleges were Parks Dimsdale (standing in for Richard Einbecker, Business; Carl Backman (Education) and Mary Rogers (Arts and Sciences.)



I have a little brag, that I'd like to share with you. It made my person very proud, and it made me feel proud, too.

I took a little test that proved I know how to be real sweet, And how to show "I love you, too"

to all the folks I meet.

So now I have official proof that I'm a special guy, And if you don't believe it, just ask my person "why?"

As I look up at her and smile, she'll look down and smile at me. 'Cause we both know the love is there for everyone to see.

So at Nursing homes or Airports, or with anyone I meet, I try to prove to everyone – Canine love just can't be beat!

—Connor and Connor Fleming, November 2022



Make Note!

The 2022 UWF REA Holiday Social and luncheon will be held on Monday, Dec. 5, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, in the UWF Conference Center, Rooms A & B.



The UWF Argonauts earned a share of the Gulf South Conference Football Championship with a 32-31 overtime victory over Valdosta State on Nov. 5. The win puts the Argos in line to host a Region 2 playoff game at Pen Air Field. The team is now ranked 7th in NCAA Division II.



Thank you to Judy Weaver for serving so conscientiously as the chair of the REA Sunshine Committee. If you know of any of our members to whom we should send a caring note or card, please send that information to Judy at jweaver@uwf.edu.

Please send articles and pictures for the next REA News to Connie Marse at bluemoon6749@bellsouth.net.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed.” ~Maya Angelou

Gordon Eugene Eade, Aug. 1, 2022

**James “Jim” Marsh, Physics,
July 21, 2022**

Richard Berg, Athletics, Oct. 9, 2022

Dot Terry, President’s Office, Oct. 26, 2022

SPOUSE:

**Mrs. Lynn Momberger, wife of Phil Momberger,
July 24, 2022**





Camellia Garden Endowment

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

The UWF Camellia Garden has been a labor of love shared by the UWF Retired Employees Association, the Pensacola Camellia Club and the University of West Florida. Originally established in commemoration of UWF's 40th anniversary, the garden underwent significant enhancements in 2017 as part of UWF's 50th anniversary celebration. In February 2020, an anonymous donor made a \$25,000 gift to establish an endowment. Our goal is to match that gift. Our endowment would ultimately be \$50,000, which would provide maintenance for the garden in perpetuity.

To support the Camellia Garden and leave a legacy on the University of West Florida campus, garden supporters can now purchase a named paver.

Giving Options

8x8 Named Paver

\$500

One smaller paver placed in UWF Camellia Garden.

12x12 Named Paver

\$1,000

One larger paver placed in UWF Camellia Garden

General Giving

Gifts of all sizes

All gifts to the Camellia Garden Endowment are used for ongoing maintenance

To take part in the initiative, contact **Skip Vogelsang** at **850.776.7951** or by **emailing lbv3rd@gmail.com**. Make checks payable to the Pensacola Camellia Club Foundation or UWF Foundation Inc. Denote Camellia Garden Endowment on the memo line.



UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA