

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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*In the News*



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**March 16 -April 2012**



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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## TCC's AMTC Launches Aviation Ground School

### TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 16, 2012) –

**Tallahassee Community College's** Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) has announced it will launch an aviation ground school in April.

The school will consist of ten classroom sessions, all to be held on Friday evenings beginning April 6 and continuing through June 15.

The first class meeting, Introduction to Aviation Science, examines the history, science and vocation of aviation. Students will examine the basis of aerodynamics, aircraft performance, cross county navigation, general weather theory, weather reports and forecasts, federal aviation regulations, flight physiology and safe flying practices.

Throughout the ten sessions, students will be exposed to historical and vocational aspects of the subjects covered. Students will be given an opportunity to experience what they learn in the classroom on a basic aviation training device, better known as a simulator.

After completing the 10-week course, students will take away an increased familiarity with aviation, career opportunities in the field and the knowledge necessary to be a safe pilot. The course can also lead to an opportunity for a student to sit for the private pilot written exam. Though **TCC** does not offer the exam, it can be taken with Eagle Aviation, located at the Tallahassee Regional Airport.

The cost for enrolling in the aviation ground school is \$249. The enrollment deadline is March 30.

For more information on the Aviation Ground School, call (850) 201-9720.

## Come and find a job at TCC's Spring Job Fair

Are you in need of a job or want to get your foot in the door with employers?

Well, on April 4, **Tallahassee Community College** is hosting its Spring Job Fair 2012, which is a free event for job-seekers.

The location of the job fair is **TCC's** Student Union Ballroom, which is located at 444 Appleyard Drive. The job fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event is an opportunity for job-seekers to stand out among a pool of applicants. Also, it allows students to connect with representatives from local businesses who are looking to fill full-time, part-time and seasonal positions, as well as internships.

The job fair is open to **TCC** students, alumni and community members. Job-seekers are strongly encouraged to dress in professional attire and to bring copies of their resumes.

Christy Mantzanas, **TCC's** career placement coordinator, said the event is designed to connect the area's finest employers with local talent.

"We believe professional networking is the key to finding jobs in our economy and to assist our students, alumni and community members. The **TCC** Career Center is excited to host the job fair," Mantzanas said.

More than 600 participants attended **TCC's** Fall 2011 Job Fair, and the Career Center is expecting another large crowd at the April edition.

## Florida House to vote on redistricting maps

### Escambia, Santa Rosa may see representation shift in Legislature

Brandon Larrabee

The Legislature's second shot at drawing new districts for the state Senate is on the cusp of passing the House as early as today, setting up the next stage in the once-a-decade process of crafting Florida's political boundaries.

Republican and Democratic leaders said Monday they would likely go ahead and vote on the new Senate map today, finishing up an extraordinary session called to address a Florida Supreme Court ruling nullifying the plan.

In the revised map, Sen. Greg Evers, R-Baker, will represent District 2, covering Escambia and Santa Rosa counties and north Okaloosa County, except for Crestview. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, will represent District 1, which would no longer include any of Santa Rosa or Escambia counties.

This marks the first year justices reviewed the plans under the anti-gerrymandering Fair Districts amendments, approved by the voters in a November 2010 referendum.

The House, which saw its map initially approved by the court, is expected to defer to the Senate and give the plan the go ahead, at which point the Supreme Court will again review the Senate proposal.

In a likely preview of the floor fight, the plan (SJR 2-B) passed the House Redistricting Committee on a party-line, 13-7 vote Monday. Republicans hailed the plan as a better attempt at following the Fair Districts plan than the upper chamber's last effort.

"The Senate responded to what the court asked and it's time to send this map on to the court," said Rep. Ritch Workman, R-Melbourne.

Democrats were less impressed, saying that the Senate map still seemed to be aimed at protecting incumbents while pretending to comply with the new standards. They pointed out that only two incumbents appeared to be headed for a primary challenge under the Senate plan.

"While it is better, I'm not quite sure if it gets us over the hump at the Supreme Court," said Rep. Evan Jenne, D-Dania Beach.

Jenne offered his own plan, then withdrew it before a committee vote but promised to bring it back when the measure hits the House floor. That proposal would

apparently give the GOP a smaller edge in the upper chamber; Gov. Rick Scott would have carried 22 of the 40 Senate districts in 2010 under Jenne's proposal to the 18 won by Democratic CFO Alex Sink, though she would have carried one of the seats by less than 1 percent.

Scott would have won 25 districts to Sink's 15 under the Senate proposal.

Even Jenne admitted that his plan, drawn with the help of [Tallahassee Community College](#) student Ryan Terrell, had little chance of passing the House and was aimed more at showing the Supreme Court another alternative, should justices choose to scrap the second Senate map and draw their own.

"If Republican members were allowed to vote the way they want to vote, I think the Jenne amendment would have an excellent chance of passing," said House Minority Leader Ron Saunders, D-Key West.

## TCC student named a 2012 Coca-Cola Academic Scholar

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Candice Grause, a student at [Tallahassee Community College](#), has been named a 2012 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars, and providing nearly \$187,500 in scholarships annually.

Gold Scholars each receive a \$1,500 scholarship and a special medallion. All Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Scholars will be listed in an April 23rd issue of the USA TODAY newspaper.

Grause, who lives in Crawfordville, Fla., has been a President's List student and carries a 4.0 GPA.

"Through hard work and commitment to excellence, Candice has set herself apart from her peers," said [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh. "Not only has she excelled as a student, but she has re-invested her time and efforts into the College through her work in the Office of Communications and Public Information."

As Digital Media Specialist, Grause has played an instrumental role in enhancing [TCC's](#) presence on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter. She also helped launch a President's Blog, which Murdaugh contributes to on a regular basis.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program and recognizes Coca-Cola Community College scholars during All-State Community College Academic Team Recognition ceremonies held in 38 states. Student scholars also receive local recognition during ceremonies held on campus.

Community college presidents or their designated nominators may submit no more than two nominations per campus for this award. An independent panel of judges considers outstanding academic rigor, grade point average, academic and leadership awards, and engagement in college and community service in the selection process.

"We thank the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for their vote of confidence in community college students by investing in their futures," said Dr. Rod Risley, Executive Director of Phi Theta Kappa. "Their support is especially welcome during this challenging economic climate, as more and more community college students need additional resources to help them complete their degrees."

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said J. Mark Davis, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa and make it possible for deserving students to achieve their educational goals."

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1,280 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, Peru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 135,000 students inducted annually. Grause, who was previously selected to PTK's All-Florida Academic Team, is on track to graduate in April and plans to enroll at Florida State University in the summer and work towards a degree in English.

**Tallahassee Democrat - March 30, 2011**

## Spring forward! It's time for Springtime Tallahassee, y'all

Mark Hinson

9:30 a.m.: [Tallahassee Community College's](#) Capital City Band provides some pre-parade tunes in the reviewing stands.

12:30-3 p.m.: [Tallahassee Community College](#) sets up shop in Ponce De Leon Park with an interactive basketball clinic, a karaoke open mic (1:30 to 3 p.m.), an interactive cheer-leading clinic (2 to 4 p.m.), a Brain Bowl competition (3:30 to 4:30 p.m.), international [TCC](#) students presenting the multilingual "Language Wheel" (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), an interactive science show (noon to 2 p.m.) and more.

## STUDENT VETERAN'S STUDIES EASE TRANSITION FOR OTHERS

DOUG BLACKBURN

After four years with the Marines, including a tour in Iraq, Phil Lennon found Florida State University a bit foreign — especially at first.

Lennon, now president of FSU's Collegiate Veterans Association, hopes to help fellow student veterans enjoy a smoother transition to campus life. A senior sociology major, Lennon is in a class comprised only of veterans who are conducting extensive interviews for a project called "From Soldier to Student."

They presented preliminary findings last week during an undergraduate research symposium held at Strozier library.

It's not surprising that student veterans struggle to fit in, said Lennon, 26. They tend to be older, and in many instances they are more serious about their education than a teenage freshman living away from home for the first time.

Based on the initial findings by Lennon and his classmates in associate professor Doug Schrock's class, FSU is planning to offer a separate orientation for student veterans starting this fall.

"We suggested one that provides them with something more specific to being student veterans. It would allow them to acclimate much quicker," Lennon said.

FSU is making a concerted effort to accommodate its growing population of student veterans, who number about 300 this semester. Eric Barron, FSU's president, announced plans last fall for a comprehensive veteran's center on campus that would also be home to the ROTC program and FSU's World War II museum. The university also named Billy Francis its first director of the Student Veterans Center. Francis applauded the work by Lennon and other student veterans.

"The more we know about the challenges that those who have served face in transitioning to the next steps of their lives, the more capable we will be empowering them to achieve their goals," Francis said.

After 9/11, GI Bill benefits were enhanced, leading to increased numbers of veterans taking advantage of the program. Approximately 800,000 veterans used the college-education benefit in 2010, up 40 percent from the year before.

In 2010, there were 7,047 veterans enrolled in Florida's State University System overall, part of a large college-age population of veterans in the state — 127,000 veterans between the ages of 18-34, according to the state's Department of Veteran Affairs. FSU and [Tallahassee Community College](#) are among the seven state colleges and universities that grant veterans priority course registration preference, among the ways the state's higher education system tries to help veterans.

Schrock, also the adviser for Lennon's senior thesis, is overseeing several studies involving student veterans. He is working with a smaller team that is compiling life histories of student veterans at FSU, and he wants to keep monitoring their progress post-graduation.

"Our goal is to interview these veterans lots of times about different parts of their lives," Schrock said. "We want to know everything about them."

"Clearly people in the Veterans Center are interested in our findings. I also think it's important for veterans coming in to FSU to hear the stories about the transition. The more we can share the stories we are gathering, those veterans will have a sense of what it was like and that they're not the only ones."



## Gov. Scott appears before Tallahassee Democrat editorial board this afternoon

Gov. Rick Scott will be interviewed this afternoon by the Tallahassee Democrat editorial board.

The visit by the first-term Republican governor is his second. Last August he made his first appearance before a newspaper editorial board at the Democrat, part of an ongoing makeover to be more accessible and amiable. Scott as a first-time candidate for office proudly skipped any newspaper editorial-board visits during his largely self-funded 2010 campaign and did not seek the endorsement of any of the state's major media outlets.

His efforts to be more available for questions and project a more leisurely image began with an Aug. 1 coffee-and-donut summit with Capitol reporters.

Check in to Tallahassee.com later today for full video and highlights of Scott's interview. You can also follow Politics & Policy Editor Paul Flemming's updates, posted live on Twitter, at his @PaulFlemming account.

More than a year into his tenure, Scott is in the midst of studying and making choices from this year's early legislative session. He's yet to be sent the \$70 billion budget lawmakers passed in early March, but his staff is surely vetting every line. Last year, Scott vetoed a record \$615 million from the state's spending plan.

Of special note to Tallahassee residents would be the fate of a \$3.9 million appropriation for an Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences building and \$4.5 million for a new environmental institute [Tallahassee Community College](#) would build in Wakulla County. Last year Scott vetoed nearly all higher-education building projects.

Scott also has not yet received the bill that would give Florida State University and University of Florida broad autonomy to set tuition at market rates. The governor has made plain his opposition to increased tuition – the budget includes authority for all state universities to seek up to 15 percent tuition hikes – but is set to meet with FSU President Eric Barron and UF President Bernie Machen later this month about the proposal.

Scott also has inserted himself in the ongoing challenges at Florida A&M University, calling for a state investigation of Marching 100 drum major Robert Champion's hazing-related death and recommending FAMU's Board of Trustees place President James Ammons on paid administrative leave until the investigations are concluded. That brought protest from FAMU students and trustees rejected Scott's request.

The governor has also been a part of the swirling scandal in the aftermath of Trayvon Martin's shooting death. He appointed a special prosecutor to investigate the Sanford shooting of the unarmed teen by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Scott also said he would appoint a task force to study the state's stand-your-ground law that provides immunity to those who use deadly force in response to threats of great bodily harm. Critics in the Legislature have said the governor's actions don't go far enough fast enough.

## If elected, Varn says he would use salary for scholarships

Jeff Burlew

Fred Varn, candidate for the Leon County Commission, said Wednesday he will “work for free” during his first year in office if he’s elected and donate his net commissioner salary to a scholarship fund.

Varn, who served 12 years on the School Board, said it’s one way he and his wife, Lori Varn, can give back to the community.

“We’re not rich,” Varn said during a news conference at the Florida Press Center. “But at the same time, we’ve had a decent life, and we would like to do that.”

Varn, who’s running for the at-large seat held by Commission Chairman Akin Akinyemi, said his wife came up with the idea. County commissioners earn \$72,172 a year. Varn estimated his net salary at around \$50,000, enough, he said, to send 12 to 17 young people to [Tallahassee Community College](#) for a year.

He said he plans to create a committee that will review applications and award the scholarships. He added the criteria will be established later.

“Basically, it’s kids that don’t have a Bright Futures scholarship,” he said. “It’s kids that are maybe just shy of a grade-point average, kids that have not made the perfect ACT or SAT score to get into college. And it provides them an opportunity to get that one year under their belt so that they can move forward after that.”

Varn said he plans to keep his current job as a resource teacher in the guidance department at Rickards High School, where he earns \$52,872 a year.

The move isn’t entirely unprecedented — Gov. Rick Scott declines his \$130,000 annual salary from the state. But it’s the first time in recent history that a local candidate has made such a pledge.

Akinyemi is running for re-election to a second term this year. Bessie Beard, Emily Fritz and Mary Ann Lindley also have filed to run for the seat.

## Hardman recognized for work with dyslexia

On March 14, [Tallahassee Community College](#) hosted the annual Women's History Month ceremony with this year's theme of Women's Education – Women's Empowerment. Dr. Patricia K. Hardman was recognized as one of the honorees for her contribution to the field of dyslexia.

Dr. Jeanne O'Kon, chair of the committee, said, "I would like for people who attend the WHM ceremony to take away the understanding that women are significant, contributing members of our society and that they always have been. I would like for them to realize that women, like our honorees, make huge contributions on a daily basis and still don't get the same recognition, status and pay as do men. And our ceremony is all about embracing these ten community women honorees ... to let them know how much we admire and appreciate them!"

Patricia K. Hardman, PhD, never dreamed when she received her Math degree from the University of South Carolina that she would become involved in the field of dyslexia. In fact, she had never heard of it until her aunt called her in 1971 and said that her cousin had been identified as being dyslexic. "Find out what that means and what we need to do about it," was the family directive.

Not only did she find out how to help her cousin, but his opened an entire new vocation and field of study for her. She was mentored by Dr. Charles Shedd, an early researcher in the area of dyslexia. She developed Saturday schools in Charleston and Tallahassee and then opened full time schools for children with dyslexia and ADHD in Charleston, Orlando, Macon, Albany and Tallahassee.

Hardman has developed an entire curriculum (reading, math, grammar and study skills) designed to teach the students these way they learn.

"Dyslexic learners learn differently; therefore teachers have to change the way they teach to match the neurological difference and way these individuals learn," she said.

Since 1975, Woodland Hall Academy in Tallahassee has been changing the lives of children and adults with Dyslexia and ADHD.

Hardman views herself as a catalyst for change. Not only in the area of education has she changed the way

teachers' view and approach students with dyslexia, but she has helped to change laws in Florida affecting thousands of individuals. Working with Representative Betty Easley in 1985, legislation was crafted and passed that allows students who have dyscalculia (disability in math) to substitute other courses in college for the math requirement allowing them to obtain a college degree in their chosen (non-math) field.

In the mid 90's she worked with Senator Steve Wise to broaden the accommodations available on the FCAT. Hardman helped Senate President John McKay craft the McKay Scholarship Program and served on the Senate Task Force, at the appointment of Governor Bush, to guide the program through the early years. The McKay Scholarship Program is the first and largest state scholarship program for students with disabilities in the country; allowing over 22,000 children with disabilities access to both public and private programs that fit their needs. Hardman has received the Distinguished Service Award from The Coalition of McKay Scholarship Schools for her contribution to this program.

Hardman shows no signs of slowing down even though she has moved to Port St. Joe for semi-retirement. She does play four or five games of golf every week but also continues to advocated for disability issues; is a partner in a residential construction company; is the president of the Coastal Community Association of South Gulf County; and continues as the CFO of Dyslexia Research Institute.

One last fact, in her journey, Hardman, also discovered she is dyslexic with ADHD.

## Rehwinkel Vasilinda urges governor to sign pre-eminent universities bill

Bill Cotterell

State Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda is urging Gov. Rick Scott to sign legislation allowing Florida State and the University of Florida to raise tuition – beyond what other state campuses charge – as Florida’s “pre-eminent” universities.

The legislator, a law instructor at [Tallahassee Community College](#), wrote Scott a letter saying she shares his concern about pricing higher education out of reach for Florida families. But she also said Florida tuitions are among the lowest anywhere, and that universities are losing top faculty members and researchers for lack of funds.

“If we continue to bleed our universities, we will inevitably lose ground to other states that are more committed to investing in their own pre-eminent universities,” she wrote.

Rehwinkel Vasilinda pitched her argument to Scott’s own favorite topic – job creation. To have a high-tech work force that will attract big companies to Florida, she said, the state is going to have to have nationally known research universities.

She enclosed an article from a recent Forbes magazine, written by former Intel CEO Craig Barrett, titled, “To Stay on Top, the U.S. Must Invest in Research Universities.” Barrett wrote that such universities should be “spinning off smart people, smart ideas and wealth-creating innovations.”

Scott said early this week he has not decided about signing the “pre-eminent universities” legislation (HB 7129) but will meet with FSU President Eric Barron and UF President Bernie Machen next week. Scott said he likes the idea of job-creation curriculum in innovative research fields, but is concerned that costs will become prohibitive for many already-struggling students.

The governor often cites his own experience in getting an education, and being able to afford it, as the first step of his business career.

## Lincoln High School news

VALERIE PEACOCK

Trojans contribute 48,415 minutes to celebrate literacy

Lincoln High School kicked off Celebrate Literacy Week promoted by Just Read! Florida by participating in the Million Minute Marathon; classes of all content areas designated time within the period to read and recorded each student's minutes read. Florida's goal this year was to reach 20 million minutes read within the day, and Lincoln contributed 48,415 minutes. Students read materials of their choice, class literature, articles about literacy skills needed in the jobs of the future, and articles showing the application of their class subject in the real world. The highlight of the week was the assembly featuring Black on Black Rhyme, a spoken word poetry troupe based in Florida. In this interactive showcase, students witnessed first-hand that poetry is very much still alive and thriving in today's world. The troupe's rhythmic recitations had the audience on its feet.

Careers come to life for Lincoln students

Lincoln High Externship class, faculty and administration toured the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. They received a warm welcome from [TCC's](#) Gloria Mitchell, assistant to the dean, a Lincoln alum who incorporated the Lincoln logo onto [TCC's](#) digital welcome sign. Lincoln students, faculty and administration were greeted by Ghazvini Center dean Dr. Alice Nied, along with Dianne P. Douglas, healthcare programs coordinator; Lillian Finn, allied health coordinator for Center for Workforce Development; and Jon Berryman, department chair for the EMS Paramedic Program. Lincoln students received a unique behind-the-scenes tour of various departments including a special tour of the X-ray educational department on campus where students donned heavy X-ray protection gear as part of a simulation. During the tour, students were surprised and amazed as lifelike animatrons moved and reacted to computer and faculty based scenarios in a variety of labs. Students additionally explored the Nursing and EMT Paramedic departments where an exact replica of an ambulance interior is fully embedded into a classroom wall. Center leadership and staff members provided a full overview and personalized tours of the departments of Radiology Technology Program, Respiratory Therapy Care Program, and the Workforce Certificate Programs; CNA, Pharmacology Technician, Homemaker Health Companion, and Medical Billing & Coding. The new facility is located at 1528 Surgeons Drive. For more information, contact [TCC](#) at 558-4500 or the Lincoln Guidance Department at 487-2113.

Wrestling Coach Crowder goes blond

Having promised his team members he would go blond if they won back-to-back regional team titles, LHS Wrestling Coach Mike Crowder kept his promise, as team members had an outstanding weekend. RaSean McArthur and Connor Funderburke both won Individual Titles with Pins in the Finals. Tristan Sommer had a magnificent finals match against the defending state runner-up he lost 2-1 in a heart breaker. Josh Gilmore placed third in an unbelievable style; down by 2 points with 16 seconds to go and the clock stopped. He scored 1 for an escape and 2 for a takedown in under 16 seconds. Jacob Geiger became only the sixth freshman in the history of the school to make the state tournament, placing fourth. All added up to a team Regional Championship, only the second one ever won in Tallahassee (Lincoln won the first last year). It was a new Lincoln record for the most points ever scored at a District Tournament. The Trojans had eight individual champions: RaSean McArthur, Trevor Lopeman, Tristan Sommer, Austin Reese, Connor Funderburke, Josh Gilmore and Trevon Turner. Trojans also had four team members place second: Jacob Geiger, David Edmunds, Omon Mims and Jeffrey Lawrence. Curtis Edwards placed third. All placing wrestlers competed at the state tournament.

— Valerie Peacock,

Special to the Chronicle

## AMTC Launches Aviation Ground School

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For more information on the Aviation Ground School, call (850) 201-9720.

## Riley Center gets major grant

ISSAC MORGAN

The John G. Riley Center and Museum recently was awarded a major grant of \$15,000 from the Florida Humanities Council for a themed lecture series titled, "A Route in Search of Roots: The Power of a Greater Vision."

The museum plans to launch the free lecture series in conjunction with the annual May 20th Emancipation Proclamation Day of Observance.

Five historians will participate in the lectures to help the public develop a comprehensive understanding of how Africans migrated into the Americas and significantly contributed to the foundation of Florida's history from the first and second Spanish periods through the British Occupation of Florida and beyond.

The speakers include: Anthony Dixon, professor/historian/archivist of the Riley Museum Archives at [Tallahassee Community College](#); David Jackson, chair of the Florida A&M University History & Political Science department; Titus Brown, history professor at FAMU; Tameka Hobbs, professor of history at Florida Memorial University; and Jarvis Rosier, sergeant major (Ret.) and lead coordinator of the Florida U.S. Colored Troops 2nd Infantry Regiment Re-enactment Unit. Will Guzman, director of the Office of Black Diaspora Culture at FAMU, will serve as the scholar on the project. The series of lectures will span from March 2012 to August of 2013 in cities throughout the state.

For more information, call 681-7881 or email [imorgan@rileymuseum.org](mailto:imorgan@rileymuseum.org).

## 5 QUESTIONS ABOUT COMEDY: Director of The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 at TCC

Beginning on Thursday, April 5 – and running for two weekends – Theater TCC is staging “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940”, a high-spirited murder-mystery farce that takes a unique approach to a familiar format. In it, a theatrical creative team – helplessly snowed in at a secluded mansion – begins dropping dead at the hands of an unknown “slasher.” Villager spoke with Director Derek Nieves, and asked him about the challenges of staging rapid fire comedy, and this play in particular.

Capital City Villager: How would you sum up the plot? It smacks of “Clue” in that traditional “stuck-in-a-mansion-in-a-storm-without-a-phone-and-with-a-murderer”/Ten Little Indians spoof format.

Nieves: You’ve really nailed the flavor of the piece with your “Clue” example. The play is set in Chappaqua, New York in December of 1940. It is one year before the U.S. enters into World War II. The characters are called together by Elsa Von Grossenknueten, a wealthy theater patron, and an undercover New York City police sergeant for a an “audition” that is really a plot to catch a killer. Naturally they all get more than they bargained for. By the end, we meet actors, dancers, killers, and Nazis.

CCV: Is it true that comedy is harder than drama? What’s your take?

Nieves: I don’t know that it is harder, but it is definitely different. And this isn’t just a comedy. It is a farce. Farce is difficult because the actors must maintain the truth of their characters as the plot twists more wildly and the pace amps up to break-neck speeds. And though MCM1940 is a farce in the truest sense, it is also a satire of farce. It contains characters who’s back stories are utterly ludicrous. So the difficulty for the actors becomes figuring out how to act truthfully and honestly under ridiculous circumstances. I have to remind them that the scale of this play has to be practically Shakespearean in order to be even slightly believable. They are of course handling it wonderfully!

CCV: What are the hardest challenges in staging the rapid fire comedy genre? It would seem there are so many moving parts, and any one of them could derail the momentum.

Nieves: Again, you’ve really nailed it. The most difficult part is really sewing it all together. I have an incredibly talented cast of students and alumni, and a technical team that is second to none. But the intangible part of the process is the synergy that is created when all of the elements come together for the first time. Whether we are talking about costumes, props, lighting, sound cues or simply navigating a set that has been recently decorated; all these elements, which ostensibly enhance our performance, do have the potential to distract or derail our actors at this point in the process. It is all about maintaining focus until the whole process becomes second nature.

CCV: The beauty or the pain of live theater is the major X-factor -- the audience’s mood at each performance. Do you think that high octane comedy is more dependent on audience response? And what do you do if you get one of those silent crowds that really loves it but doesn’t laugh out loud?

Nieves: Well, I’ll always be grateful for the times when we have a vocal, responsive audience. It builds the actors’ confidence and feeds them energy. But my goal is to have the show at a point where the crowd response helps, but isn’t exactly necessary. The idea is to teach the student actors that the “fuel” for our “rocket” is their intentions, and the stakes for which their characters are playing. Audience response then becomes, as they say in Louisiana, a lagniappe, or “a little something extra.”

CCV: Is there a higher concern in this format that the actors may peak too early? As opposed to, say, a drama?

Nieves: I think that preparing for this this style of theater is like preparing for a marathon. While there are always peaks and valleys in the actors’ energy levels, the next peak is only one day away. Besides, with the amount of new elements that get added during our technical rehearsals, and then in dress rehearsals, it always keeps the actors’ performances fresh for opening night.



## 5 QUESTIONS ABOUT COMEDY: Director of The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 at TCC... *continued*

CCV: Being a period piece, there must be unique challenges in set craft, props, costuming and the rest. How are you and the team approaching the challenge?

Nieves: Tallahassee community College and Theatre TCC! have been especially lucky during the last several years. The technical team led by Ken Frederickson is one of the most creative, innovative, and flexible teams I've ever been privileged enough to work with. With Dan Porten designing our set, Devin Kinch as Lighting Designer, Celeste De St. Aubin as Props Mistress, James Wright on Sound Design, and Crystal Nelson and Melissa Scalzi on Costumes we have a full staff capable of dealing with any issues arising out of doing a period play. It is really a dream as a director to have such a committed team behind me, backing up my vision of the show, as well as contributing ideas I never would have thought of.

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" runs April 5-7 and 12-14 at 8pm at TCC's Turner Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased by calling 850.644.6500, or by visiting [www.tickets.fsu.edu](http://www.tickets.fsu.edu).

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Will also run May 3, 10, 17, 21, 28 in The Havana Herald, The Wakulla News and The Twin City News newspapers.

The Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees would like to commend our faculty for their invaluable service to the College and its students.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS!



### Jon Berryman

*Associate Professor and Program Chair, EMS Healthcare Professions*

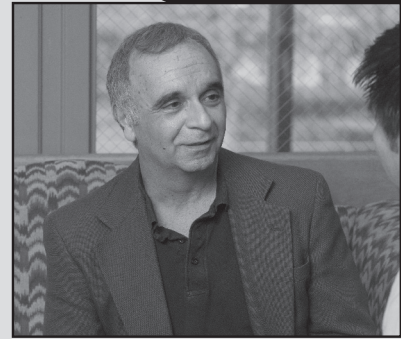
Students come to us with the mindset that they want to succeed. It is my mission to provide students with an outline for success and many paths to choose for how they achieve success. The more confident and enthusiastic I am about what I'm teaching, the more engaged the students become.



### Raska Patel

*Associate Professor, Developmental Math Academic Support Programs*

I believe that each and every one of my students has a dormant love for mathematics. My goal is to awaken that love. When my students leave my classroom, I want them to feel a confidence that will remind them that they can do anything that they set their minds to.



### Richard Murgio

*Professor and Program Chair, Political Science History Social Science*

My job is to give students the opportunity to learn politics and be able to use it to benefit their everyday lives. This is accomplished by building one of the strongest relationships—the student-teacher relationship. I may make a positive change in the lives of my students, who hopefully will go on to make the world a slightly better place.



### Anthony Jones

*Associate Professor, Biology Science and Math*

One of my chief objectives is to teach the content of my course in a way that allows students to responsibly apply it in solving problems, making decisions, and becoming informed and productive citizens in their communities.



### Jeanne Barker

*Associate Professor and Program Chair Early Childhood Development Technology Professional Programs*

I believe that every student has a gift, and it is up to me to provide an opportunity to use that gift. Watching students receive their credential or degree and work in their chosen profession assures me I did something right.



### Lisa Beckley-Roberts

*Associate Professor, Humanities and Music Communities, Humanities*

My students constantly inspire and challenge me to learn more about the subjects that I teach. I have learned that if I am open to hearing them, allowing them to grow and challenging them, they will never cease to amaze me.

*Thank you for your exceptional leadership in and out of the classroom.*



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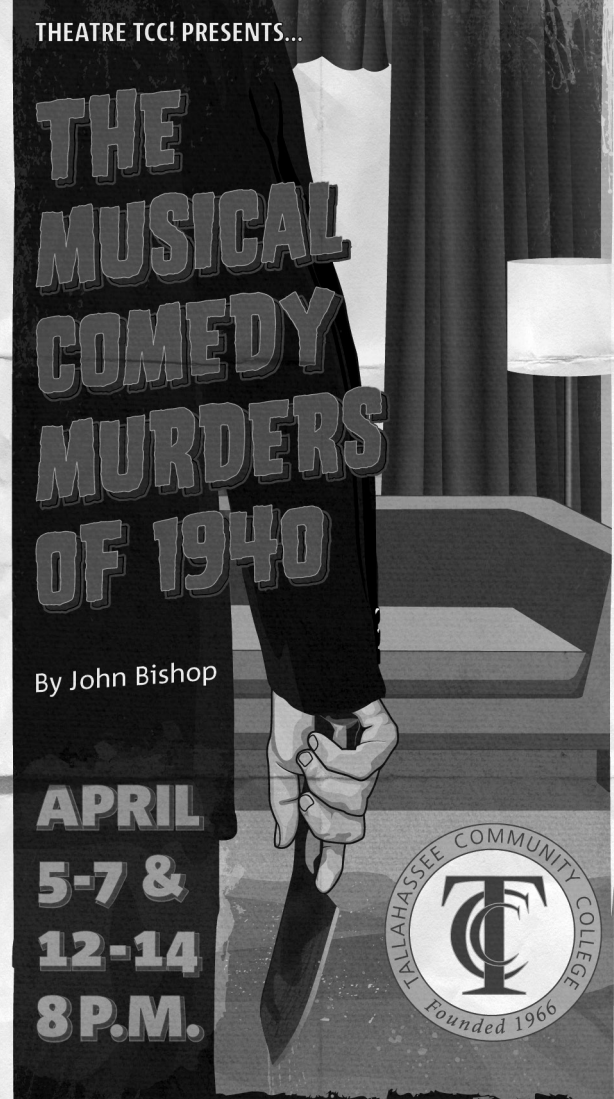
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By John Bishop

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*This production is funded in part by student activity fees and the SGA. The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.*



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