

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

in the News



June 13 – August 15, 2008

Tallahassee Community College in the News



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Everybody dance now ... and that means everybody

By Mark Hinson
DEMPRAT SENIOR WRITER

Marcus and Jevelle Robinson met on the dance floor.

In the mid-'80s, the future husband and wife were members of the Orchesis Contemporary Dance Theatre at Florida A&M University. They both specialized in traditional African dance.

"I don't think he wanted to dance with me at first," Jevelle said, laughing. "I don't think he thought I was experienced enough to dance with him. ... But he changed his mind."

The Robinsons, who married in 1992, channeled their love of the poly-rhythmic art form into the nonprofit African Caribbean Dance Theatre Inc. That, in turn, led them to create the Florida African Dance Festival, which celebrates its 11th anniversary this weekend at Tallahassee Community College. The festival — which attracts participants and instructors from Africa, Europe, the United States and Florida — will conclude with its traditional grand-finale concert of dancing and drumming on Saturday night in FAMU's Lee Hall Auditorium.

It's hard to believe, but this marks the first year that the Robinsons actually will perform live onstage during the finale.

So what took them so long to perform in their own festival?

"We've never had the time before," said Marcus, who directs the fast-moving concert, which is orchestrated in a matter of hours, not days. "I'm usually backstage trying



The three-day festival is brimming with performances, workshops, kids' activities and more.

to manage everything. But this year, we make our dancing debut."

The pressure is lighter on Marcus thanks to an appearance by the visiting Balafon West African Dance Ensemble. Balafon is a company from Washington, D.C., that has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center and on PBS. It's run by Kadiatou Conte-Forte (aka Mama Kadiatou), a Guinean choreographer and dancer who is making her fifth appearance at the Florida African Dance Festival.

"She has a certain sense of loyalty to us at this point," Jevelle said. "She wanted to give her dancers a chance to participate. I think she wanted her dancers to see the professionalism of the festival, too."

The 10-member Balafon troupe and Kadiatou are the featured guest performers during the second half of the con-

cert. The Robinsons will be joining the African Caribbean Dance Theatre and other guests during the first half.

"I think this takes things to a whole new level," Marcus said. "They (Balafon) are already packaged, they've been rehearsed, it's a done deal. A nice, neat package. We expect it to be an exciting concert. We're ahead of the curve at this point. We do one tech rehearsal and we're ready to roll."

The three-day festival, which began with a meet-and-greet-the-artists reception Thursday night, kicks into high gear at 10 a.m. today at the Tallahassee Community College's Lifetime Sports Complex. The day includes dance-drumming clinics, dance workshops for children, a vendor marketplace, a book fair, and live performances by the Lotus duet, Black on Black Rhyme and the Back Talk Poetry Troupe.

The Saturday schedule is packed, as well, with more intense workshops for adults, a health fair about HIV/AIDS, a "Natural Hair Extravaganza" show, a book fair and free activities for kids. Most of the events are free but the adult-level workshops cost \$10. (See the schedule or visit www.fadf.org.)

Some of this year's visiting dance and drumming instructors include Moustapha Bangoura (Guinea), Mbayero Louvouezo (Congo), Mangue Sylla (Guinea), Jean-Paul Mana Mouyabi (Congo), Fode Bangoura (Guinea) and Mariama Curry from New Orleans.

"She (Curry) is an essential component because she's teaching all of our children's workshops," Marcus said. "She's doing the groundwork by laying the foundation of things. That's how we will continue."

After more than a decade of running a

IF YOU GO

What: The 11th Annual Florida African Dance Festival grand-finale concert with Balafon West African Dance Ensemble, African Caribbean Dance Theatre and various artists

When: 8:15 p.m. Saturday

Where: Lee Hall Auditorium, FAMU campus

Cost: \$10 per person at the door. Box office opens at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: 539-4087 or visit www.fadf.org

THE FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

TODAY:

All events are at TCC Lifetime Sports Complex unless otherwise noted.

■ 9 a.m.-9 p.m.: Vendor marketplace. Free.

■ 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Dance and drum workshops. \$10 per person.

■ Noon-1:30 p.m.: Children's dance workshop for ages 5 and up. Free.

■ 3-4:30 p.m.: Children's dance workshop for ages 5 and up. Free.

■ 6:30-9 p.m.: Variety show with Lotus, Black on Black Rhyme, The Back Talk Poetry Troupe and more. Free.

SATURDAY:

■ 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.: Dance and drum workshops. \$10 per person.

■ 10:30 a.m.: Health forum on HIV/AIDS.

■ 11 a.m.: Health screenings.

■ 2 p.m.: Hairstyles show with Mandisa Ngozi Braiding Gallery.

■ 8:15 p.m.: Grand-finale concert at FAMU's Lee Hall Auditorium. \$10 per person.

■ 10 p.m.: Post-concert reception at Homewood Suites Hotel, 2987 Apalachee Parkway. Free.



Festival founders Marcus and Jevelle Robinson will perform onstage at the grand finale.

nationally recognized dance festival, Jevelle said the hard work is really paying off. This year's dance-and-drum summit got mentions in *Ebony*, *Southern Living* and the annual report published by the National Endowment of the Arts.

"When we first started, we were always having to stop and explain (to potential participants/instructors) where Tallahassee was and how to get here," Marcus said.

TALLAHASSEE.COM

■ See a video and photo gallery from the Florida African Dance Festival

"Now they say 'Tallahassee' and it just rolls off the tongue."

When asked what they've learned after a decade of staging, organizing, directing and hosting a festival of this scale, the Robinsons thought for a moment before speaking.

"We could write two books — make that three books — about everything we've learned," Jevelle said.

"It's the passion that really keeps this going," Marcus added.

Well, it's passion that started it, right?

TCC Fine Art Gallery Open

ABC 27 News

Market: Tallahassee/Thomasville DMA: 108

TV Station: WTXL-TV Affiliation: ABC

Start Time: 06/15/08 06:32:28 PM End Time:
06/15/08 06:33:26 PM

Today the Tallahassee Community College fine art gallery unveiled Operation Photographer: Through Unseen Eyes. The exhibit displays the works of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition's Hope Community residents. The program is designed to instill creativity, self-awareness, leadership and civic responsibility through the visual arts. The residents participated in a series of hands-on creative workshops, completed an intensive eight-week course, learned the art of photography and gained the insight that art is more than just a picture.

Universities need more than good ideas

In a few years, we may not recognize higher education in Florida. The community colleges are newly authorized to offer four-year degrees, for example, a concept that will make a college education more convenient and less expensive for students.



Mary Ann Lindley
Editorial Page Editor

This may help ease the disappointment for some high-school grads who wanted to go to Florida State but were among the roughly 2,000 turned away for this fall. The university is chock-full because of chronic underfunding by the Legislature.

FSU can use the breathing room and won't feel the pain as much as, say, Florida A&M University, which has student space to spare and needs the head count. But the student market FAMU woos — the minority student who would be the first generation in his or her family to earn a college degree — might now find a much better bargain at a community college close to home.

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law opted to not move into the four-year degree-granting world, apart from offering, as TCC has for years, courses from Flagler College and Barry University so students can move from their A.A. at TCC to their B.A. right

"Retaining talent doesn't just affect the classroom."

T.K. Wetherell
President, Florida State University

there on Appleyard Drive.

Florida lawmakers this year didn't really do much more than authorize community colleges to expand their scope, which sounds magnanimous and well-intended in a re-election year. But it is really just a continuation of our state's do-it-on-the-cheap approach to higher education — and most everything else.

Lawmakers didn't upgrade requirements for college faculty who would now be teaching

four-year degree programs, for instance. Nor did they improve myriad standards of excellence that might, on down the road, be noticed by the accreditation czars. Sooner or later accreditation teams will expect community colleges to measure up to universities if they're going to say they're offering an equivalent four-year degree.

The universities won't be operating in the lap of luxury in the foreseeable future, either. On Friday, FSU's trustees met

to adopt a budget that accommodates a punishing \$31 million loss in state funding. FSU started cutting back two years ago, focusing not on growing its student population but on graduating the students it already has in a timely fashion and maintaining its Pathways of Excellence initiative that generates national recognition.

To help minimize the "brain drain" that has meant 62 departures by faculty members since August (27 tenured; 35 tenure-earning), and most for higher-paying positions in other states, President T.K. Wetherell persuaded his trustees to adopt a two-year budget plan instead of the usual one-year-at-a-time approach.

"This will provide a little more comfort level for our faculty," he said, especially those who really don't want to leave FSU and feel OK about this year, but are nervous about what comes next. At least they'll see stable budget figures through 2010 and, as with the rest of the state and nation, hope for the economy to begin rebounding by then.

"Retaining talent doesn't just affect the classroom," Wetherell added — and his words ought to hit home here in this university town of ours. A few hundred job cuts and not creating new faculty positions is estimated to mean as much as \$100 million in

Please see LINDLEY, 6B

LINDLEY

From Page 1B

losses to the local economy and tax rolls for the 2008-09 school year.

Wetherell said that already the university is seeing fewer family visits on campus, and less participation in parents' events and activities — not entirely because of state budget woes but because of gasoline and other escalating travel costs.

This is an arena in which local governments and community organizations can and should step up to the plate and think of ways to make our college town more inviting to families of students

at times other than just football weekends.

Every cutback has a trickle-down effect that, instead of making things better or even just holding the fort, has the potential to make things worse. With 2,000 fewer students, our restaurants, apartment complexes, computer stores and shopping areas feel the pinch; with fewer than the usual 900,000 parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and fans a year coming to town, our hotels, restaurants, gas stations and malls will notice the difference.

For many years, Tallahassee has more or less taken for granted the luxury of having both FSU and FAMU located here. We have been indifferent if not downright stingy



Democrat files

At some point, Tallahassee needs to stop talking about things like Gaines Street and start acting.

toward and competitive with these enormous assets that thousands of communities crave. We haven't really earned our status as a host communi-

ty to universities, though they are such unique economic engines, which actually create knowledge and improve the quality of life in untold ways.

With the consent of Florida taxpayers, we are eroding the value of our universities and, in turn, our own economic well-being. Here in Tallahas-

see we haven't helped make College Avenue an architecturally and environmentally beautiful entranceway to FSU, though it's been discussed for 25 years. We're going on 15 years of "thinking about" making Gaines Street a finer connector between FSU and FAMU and gateway to the city.

We can applaud the prudent spending of the universities because just now they have no other choice. But at some point this university town of ours has to invest in these enormous assets by doing a little bit more than adding a few new bus routes to campus and calling it a day.

Contact Editorial Page Editor Mary Ann Lindley at (850) 599-2178 or mlindley@tallahassee.com.

Talent is part of going green

Chris Hart IV

My View

Buy green. Build green. Live green. Many green actions Floridians are being challenged to take really boil down to numbers.

How many of us recycle? How can we retrofit our homes and businesses to be more energy efficient? What other steps can we take to conserve our energy use?

In a nutshell, how many Floridians will it take to change our energy future?

Before answering this question, we must ponder a crucial factor. Consider: In 2007, more than 500 participants in a series of statewide forums were asked to identify what should be Florida's most competitive asset in today's global economy. This group included CEOs, top-level executives and business owners, among others. The No. 1 answer was talent.

So, I pose another central question regarding the talent factor: How do we ensure that enough Floridians have the skills to help our state meet today's energy needs and transition to its greener energy future?

Gov. Charlie Crist has brought Florida closer to answering that question. June 25-26, the 2008 Serve to Preserve Florida Summit on Global Climate Change will help market Florida to entrepreneurs, renewable and alternative energy companies, and other businesses. Having the work-force talent to keep the power on today and in our energy future is imperative to the success of these businesses. Talent is key in turning green to gold in Florida.

Though some green jobs will support brand-new technologies, tomorrow's green-collar work force looks a lot like today's energy work force. Power transmission workers are critically needed regardless of what fuel source is used to produce energy. The average energy worker in Florida earns \$68,991 annually, compared with a state average of \$38,498 for all industries. The sector has great jobs with family-supporting wages, and they're never sent off shore.

By 2030, our population will top 28 million, and energy demand is expected to rise by 76 percent. Yet Florida electric utilities expect up to 50 percent of their work force to retire within five to 10 years. The pool of energy workers is shrinking, as demand for skilled talent grows.

As the state's business-led work-force policy board, Workforce Florida Inc. is working on multiple fronts to link economic development and talent development in industries that are vital to Florida's future.

In 2006, Workforce Florida helped found the Florida

Energy Workforce Consortium (FEWC) to define energy work force challenges in our state and address current and future needs. Its members include Florida utility companies, utility associations, local work-force boards, organized labor and educational partners. The FEWC has supported Workforce Florida's creation of two Banner Centers — in energy and alternative energy — which unite academic, work-force and industry leaders to develop and increase the availability of training for these high-value industries.

Last year, Workforce Florida launched the Employ Florida Banner Center for Energy at Lake-Sumter Community College in partnership with Indian River Community College. It is working to make line technician skills training more widely available, and to expand training opportunities for in-demand power-plant jobs, such as operators and mechanics.

The Employ Florida Banner Center for Alternative Energy got under way in February at the University of Central Florida's Florida Solar Energy Center. Its initial focus is on solar thermal energy and photovoltaics. and **Tallahassee Community College** is among the partners in this initiative, which will be offering training this fall.

New businesses to Florida and companies already here that are expanding or needing to train their existing employees continue to turn Workforce Florida's Quick Response Training and Incumbent Worker Training grants. These grants, which reimburse businesses for a portion of their training costs, help to refine workers' skills, enhance companies' productivity, and increase employees' value and income potential. Annually, Workforce Florida awards about \$7 million to Florida businesses seeking to upgrade their employees' skills.

If Florida truly is to seize the economic opportunities of a greener economy, then we'll have to continue to develop solutions, through work-force, education, industry and economic-development partnerships that ensure we have skilled talent to respond to marketplace demands for renewable and alternative energy sources.

Workforce Florida, along with our local and state work-force partners, is preparing Floridians for high-skill, well-paying careers by investing in developing such talent.

We have built a foundation designed to hone and increase the world-class talent available in the Sunshine State. As Gov. Crist leads the state's transition to a brighter energy future, Workforce Florida will continue to do its part to keep the power on in Florida.

TCC Fine Art Gallery Open

Posted: 8:11 PM Jun 15, 2008

Last Updated: 8:11 PM Jun 15, 2008

Reporter: Heather Bianca

Email Address: heather.bianca@wctv.tv

A new exhibit at Tallahassee Community College is letting you see through the eyes of some unexpected artists.

Residents of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition's HOPE Community created the artwork and participated in a series of creative workshops that organizers say help build self-esteem.

The TCC Fine Art Gallery unveiled their work in an exhibit titled "Operation Photographer: Through Unseen Eyes," a program designed to promote creativity through visual arts.

"I loved the class and its getting me to want to do more. So I'm going to take another class and possibly work myself into a job," says Donna Marshall.

The Big Bend Homeless Coalition helps homeless families and individuals by providing education, advocacy and the coordination of community services.

The exhibit will be on display at TCC through July 18th.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/19961049.html>

Whose Job Is It?

Florida lawmakers have spent the last several months slashing university budgets, and now they're looking to the state's community colleges for help filling some of the universities' traditional roles.

A handful of Florida community colleges have been offering accredited bachelor's degrees for years, but last week Gov. Charlie Crist officially sanctioned a bold and controversial plan that will expand that practice and change the complexion of higher education in the state.

At a ceremony Thursday, Crist signed a bill that establishes a new college system in Florida, where a population boom has outpaced the growth and funding of the university system. For supporters, the creation of the "Florida College System" is a reasonable step toward stimulating degree production at a lower cost to the state and would-be students. Critics, however, call the idea yet another rushed plan (in a state that has a history of college governance on the fly) that threatens the traditional missions of community colleges and creates competition with their university partners.

Linda Serra Hagedorn, professor and chair of educational administration and policy at the University of Florida, says she's concerned that expanding the missions of community colleges could eventually cause the institutions to drift away from core principles, including open access admissions policies. Hagedorn, who studies community colleges, is also curious about what such an expansion says about the state's priorities.

"Why is it that we feel that we can fund community colleges to do this, but we can't fund the universities to do it? That's another problem that I'm having," said Hagedorn, whose university is undergoing layoffs and program eliminations after a \$47 million budget reduction.

Need for Degrees Not in Dispute

The need to increase the state's bachelor's degree production, in one way or another, has been well documented. In early 2007, a consultant hired by state higher education leaders reported that Florida ranked 43rd in the nation for bachelors degrees awarded per 1,000 residents between the ages of 18 and 44. Given projected population growth — nearly 20 percent by 2014 — the Pappas Consulting Group suggested that the state consider creating a separate category of institutions that would focus solely on undergraduate education.

The Pappas report suggested that community colleges could be a part of a new state college system that focused purely on awarding undergraduate degrees, but the report also cautioned that such moves had the potential to change

the focus of community colleges and dilute their traditional missions.

The report also noted that universities in Florida have increasingly focused on graduate degree production, even amid calls for increased emphasis on undergraduate education. Florida increased bachelor's degree production by 42 percent between 1993 and 2003, according to the Southern Regional Education Board. At the same time, however, Florida's master's degree production went up by 59 percent, and doctorates increased by 56 percent.

Even as community colleges are called upon to do more, leaders of the colleges say they'll stick to their existing missions. Indeed, Florida's new legislation specifically requires the colleges to maintain remedial class offerings and open access admissions. That said, there's no doubt change is afoot. The legislation changes the names of the nine colleges participating in a pilot program, dropping the word "community" in a symbolic shift that has caused some uneasiness.

Miami-Dade College, which already offers eight bachelor's programs, changed its name years ago. Norma Martin Gooden, provost for academic and student affairs at the college, says she's heard little criticism of the change.

"The community feels that we are part of the community," she said. "We are responsive to them, no matter what we're called."

There is no requirement, however, that community colleges change their names if their degree offerings expand as well. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has accredited bachelor's programs at several colleges, and some have opted to keep "community" in their names.

"Those that kept (their names) seemed to be saying philosophically we're very closely tied to the local community and we want to keep that community word in our name to convey that philosophy," said Tom Benberg, chief of staff for SACS' Commission on Colleges.

Ken Walker, president of Edison College, traditionally a two-year institution in Fort Myers, Fla., said he became an advocate for expanding the college's degree offerings after years of hearing hard-luck stories from students.

"It started with the students," he said. "I kept getting comments and questions from our students, saying 'I really wish I could stay at Edison and get a bachelor's degree; I can't afford to go off to a university.'"

"Single moms and working parents who are basically place-bound didn't have a way to go up to a university and pursue a bachelor's degree, but that has become the ticket

to the better paying jobs in this economy.”

Walker laments that universities, which are increasingly competitive, turn away thousands of Florida students each year because of their admissions standards and space limitations. That problem has been exacerbated this year, because universities across the state have frozen enrollments in the face of funding cuts.

Walker says he is aware of concerns about whether community colleges can offer bachelor’s degrees of the same quality provided by universities, but he points to the fact that his programs meet the same accreditation standards as their university counterparts. Changing perceptions about quality, however, will take time, he said.

“It’s like anything else. It takes time when you’re making changes, when you’re adapting,” Walker said. “Perceptions change slowly, but it will happen and it will be a good thing.”

Some Blame Low University Funding

Stephen Katsinas, director of the University of Alabama’s Education Policy Center, says there’s a good reason Florida’s demand for degrees now so outweighs its ability to offer them. Universities simply haven’t been funded at the levels necessary to prepare for the long-anticipated population growth that’s taking place in the Sunshine State, he said.

“If Florida had made the investments they should have been making in the late ’70s, and especially in the ’80s and ’90s, they would not be in such dire straits,” said Katsinas, a professor of higher education and former Florida resident.

Supporters of expanding the role of Florida’s community colleges point to savings opportunities. The colleges’ faculty members, who are seldom required to do research, work for less than their university counterparts and carry heavier teaching loads. As a result, community colleges can typically offer tuition that’s about 30 percent lower than a public university in Florida, the St. Petersburg Times reported.

It’s little wonder that state officials are now looking for a cheaper way to educate residents, Katsinas said. Florida’s tax structure, often maligned by higher education leaders and politicians alike, hasn’t rewarded population growth. Furthermore, the aging population has put a strain on resources in Florida, where the state has to match about \$1 for every \$3 the federal government provides in Medicaid, Katsinas said.

“I do not know how you can separate this [bachelor’s degree] issue from the long-term funding cycles that have negatively affected Florida, where population growth, plus uncontrolled Medicaid cost increases — over which the state has almost no control — have lowered the discretionary funds available for public higher education at

all levels,” Katsinas said.

Not Opting In

Ken Pruitt, the president of the Florida Senate and a product of Indian River Community College, heralded the legislation creating the college system as “second edition to the G.I. bill.” But some college leaders aren’t quite ready to get on board with the program. *The president of Tallahassee Community College, which sits in close proximity to Florida State and Florida A&M Universities, says Tallahassee has no desire to expand its offerings.* Ditto for colleges near the University of Central Florida, a fast-growing institution in Orlando with 49,000 students.

When other community colleges in Florida started offering bachelor’s degrees several years ago, UCF officials were quick to ensure that didn’t happen in their own backyard. The university has created a formal consortium with four nearby community colleges. Known as “Direct Connect to UCF,” the partnership ensures that graduates of the participating colleges will be automatically admitted to UCF — so long as those colleges stay out of the bachelor’s degree business.

“It just makes sense, at least where we are, to collaborate instead of compete,” said David Harrison, vice provost for UCF’s regional campuses.

According to Central Florida’s most recent tally, there are 18,000 students who have declared an intention to be in the “direct connect” pipeline. This year, the university had more than 4,000 graduates — more than half the graduating class — who had transferred from community colleges.

Florida’s new college system will begin with a pilot program, in which nine of the state’s 28 community colleges will participate. The colleges, most of which already offer bachelor’s degrees, will make recommendations to the Legislature about the approval process for future bachelor’s degrees and a new funding model for the state college system.

In short, Florida has created a task force that will make recommendations for how to put in place a system that has, in essence, already been implemented. Sherman Dorn, an associate professor of education at the University of South Florida, said he’s not surprised to see the state acting first and planning later.

“I’ve been in Florida for 12 years; nothing surprises me,” said Dorn, who heads the university’s faculty union. “No, it’s not rational. Yes, it’s Florida.”

— Jack Stripling

The original story and user comments can be viewed online at <http://insidehighered.com/news/2008/06/16/florida>.

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High Gas Prices Lead to Increase in College Online Enrollment

Posted: 5:41 PM Jun 16, 2008

Last Updated: 11:22 PM Jun 16, 2008

Email Address: angela.salerno@wctv.tv

More students are looking to get their degrees online.

Many people live on a tight budget, and high gas prices are forcing them to plan out their commute by the mile.

The great thing about the internet is, it doesn't run on gas, allowing many students to further their education without a huge impact on their wallet.

It's cheaper to power your computer than your car. It's one of the main reasons why Elizabeth Clark is taking a cyber seat in the classroom and ditching the drive to class.

Elizabeth Clark said, "It's definitely saving me, when I think about how the gas prices used to be, and now what they are now. I can see how this program is saving me money."

Tallahassee Community College has seen an almost 20% spike in online enrollment this summer.

Barbara Sloan is the VP of Academic Affairs at TCC and said, "We have experienced a large increase in our enrollment for this summer and as a result of that we are adding more services and courses this fall."

Many students say by avoiding the drive they can cut their gas bill in half, but they aren't the only ones saving green as the trend of online enrollment increases.

"It does save us needing to add new buildings as we grow and that's across the state" said Sloan.

When looking for a solution to save on gas and commuting time- students say this was a simple equation to solve.

Kaitlin Diluzio takes online courses and said, "With gas prices too, it's already a pain to park at FSU, for me it's easier to take them online then have to fight for a parking spot."

To comply with demand of online enrollment many schools such as TCC are adding training sessions to instruct teachers with online curriculum as well as increasing students services for online classes.

Some schools offer free textbooks online. They are called e-books, you can download them right to your computer.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/19985274.html>

Cyclists lobby for bike-ped positions

Legal filing window kicks off statewide campaigns

By Julian Pecquet
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Walking and cycling advocates on Monday shared their request for the city of Tallahassee and Leon County to hire experts who can help make the community friendlier for people who get around on wheels or on foot.

John Harvey, chairman of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency's Multimodal Advisory Committee, presented a resolution from the committee to the agency's voting body. The resolution, which the agency did not vote on, calls for both governments to hire coordinators within their public works departments.

"We need someone at the implementation level," Harvey said. "Having someone actually with the engineers is key."

Aaron Bauldree, a [Tallahassee Community College](#) student who rides 20 miles a day, showed his support.

"I'm out on those roads riding my bicycle every day," he told the agency, which is made up of elected officials from Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

But commissioners pointed out that hiring more staff would be tough when local governments are facing budget shortfalls. Tallahassee City Commissioner Debbie Lightsey said the city manager is even considering eliminating filled positions.

"As much as I sympathize with the request," she said, "I just don't see how it's possible."

Other commissioners suggested moving staff around, but Harvey said people with experience would be needed to make a difference.

"To do this right requires a skill-set," he said. "I would like to see a nationwide search for top-level talent to fill such a position."

Ex-TCC star makes splash with Braves

By Mark Bowman

MLB.COM

After Brandon Jones lived up to expectations on the minor league level last year, there was some assumption that he'd come to spring training this year and win a major league roster spot.

When the former Tallahassee Community College star didn't, there was reason to wonder if he lacked the enthusiasm needed to take advantage of his potential opportunity.

But since being promoted to the majors this past week, Jones has shown why the Braves have long considered him a top prospect.

The shy 24-year-old outfielder is talking more than he did in spring training and, more importantly, he's also hitting a little more.

"I'm not surprised," said Braves hitting coach Terry Pendleton after watching Jones collect five hits in his first 10 big league at-bats this season. "We knew that he was better than what he showed in spring training.

"To me, he's just showing what he's capable of doing. He's got the talent. There's no doubt about that."

While making his first start of the season in Friday's series opener against the Angels, Jones collected his first RBI and first multi-hit game of the year. Then on Saturday, he trumped that with a three-hit performance that included his first career homer.

Seldom animated and always soft-spoken, Jones managed a smile on Sunday afternoon when he talked about the congratulatory phone call he received from his mother.

Along with expressing her pride, she informed him that approximately 20 family members were in her Wewahitchka home to watch his first home-run trot during Saturday night's game.

"She said she was really proud of me and just wished the best for me," Jones said.

When the Braves promoted Jones on Wednesday, he arrived with less-than-impressive credentials. He had batted .211 (8 for 38) during spring training and had compiled just a .263 batting average with two homers in 54 games for Triple-A Richmond.

"He was semi-struggling at Richmond, doing fine, nothing great," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "He's hitting the



Atlanta Braves' Brandon Jones, back center, is congratulated by his teammates in the dugout after hitting his first career home run on Saturday. (Gus Ruelas/ AP)

ball really nice."

When the Braves promoted Jones on the same day that they sent Josh Anderson back to Richmond, there were some eyebrows raised. Anderson has more speed and is a better defender.

But his left-handed swing certainly doesn't have the same power potential as the one displayed by Jones, whom the Braves project could hit 25-30 homers on a consistent basis.

With the Braves facing right-handed pitchers during the final five days of this road trip, Jones likely will continue to serve as the starting left fielder. At Richmond this season, he hit .211 in 57 at-bats against left-handed hitters and .286 against right-handers.

This opens the possibility that he could be used in a platoon in left field with Greg Norton, who has batted .204 (10 for 49) since being given a chance to at least test his defensive skills in left field on a regular basis. His opportunity came after Matt Diaz was lost on May 27 to a left knee injury.

Havana Northside High Renovation Project

Posted: 6:23 PM Jun 17, 2008

Last Updated: 7:00 PM Jun 17, 2008

Reporter: Roman Lillie

Email Address: Roman.Lillie@wctv.tv

Havana Northside high school has been vacant for 5 years. But county officials want to renovate the school and bring new opportunities to the area.

Commissioner Eugene Lamb Jr says he attended Northside high and has a vested interest in seeing the area succeed. "It's my roots and I feel like we need something in that community to help that community and give hope to the children and the adults," says Lamb.

Tuesday officials from TCC and the Gadsden County school district met to discuss renovating the old school. They say they'd like to see the building used as a multi-purpose center.

"I want our students to have somewhere to go that they can have a meaningful activity, organized, supervised activity that deals with maybe using the computer," says Gadsden County school superintendent Reginald James.

"If kids see TCC as part of their future, they'll end up at TCC. If they're never exposed to going to college it's hard for a lot of kids to maintain that focus," says TCC President Bill Law.

But the center wouldn't just cater to kids. Officials at TCC want to have work force training programs for adults.

"We think that it would be a perfect location for us to have something where people can come after work. But in a short period of time, 6 weeks, 2 months they would gain a

new skill. And that would get them started on a new career or at minimum earn some more money," says Law.

They say with the current shape of the economy, lots of people can benefit from extra job training.

"I think all of us have to keep being creative and enthusiastic about providing new opportunities for people whose jobs are under stress. And we can help people not lose hope and lose faith and get their life back on track," adds Law.

"The most important part is to see it used in a meaningful way," says Law.

Officials from TCC and the Gadsden County school board say they look forward to working on this project together. They say the next step is to gather funding and support for the project.

They hope to jump start that process next week when members from the Governor's office visit Gadsden.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/20101649.html>

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High-school seniors groomed for leadership at Girls State

By Stephanie Haughton
DEMOCRAT WRITER

Girls State is not for sissies. It's a mock legislature, yes, but the pressure is real.

Running for office, writing legislation, lobbying for your bill: For a solid week, these high-school girls from around the state work hard to learn how government operates.

Today is the last day. Thursday, some of the participants talked about what they had learned.

"This program gave me a sense of resiliency," said Madelaine Riley, 17, of Leon High School. "It teaches you to get a backbone if you don't already have one."

"I think girls should know that they are strong women who have

the ability to do what they want, and this program really teaches you that.

"It really teaches you if you're strong enough, you can pursue any career."

That's exactly what the organizers want to hear.

Every summer, more than 300 high-schoolers who've completed their junior year invade the Capitol to take part in this national leadership program, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

"It's just amazing to see the passion that these young ladies have," said Patti May, Girls State government adviser and former Girls State member. "We're so fortunate to

Please see GIRLS 4A



Girls State House Sergeant at Arms Kelly St. Onge practices the *sine die* ceremony, the dropping of a handkerchief to mark the close the legislative session. The girls filled different roles in state government, including lobbyists, legislators and governor.

TALLAHASSEE.COM

■ View photos and video of the Girls State mock legislative session.

GIRLS

From Page 3A

have this program."

Different girls fill different roles: lobbyists, legislators, governor, etc. Once positions are determined, they meet to pass bills and take on the entire government experience.

"The girls who run for office go through a tough questioning period," said May, a Tallahassee Community College political-science instructor. "I mean, these girls really get grilled."

Liz McNeill, 17, proposed a House bill that would have established an Organ and Tissue Donation Day.

"I want to really raise awareness about this problem," said the Chiles High student and aspiring doctor. "Every 12 minutes another name is added to the national organ-transplant waiting list. This is a problem a lot of people face, an issue that I'm really

"The girls who run for office go through a tough questioning period. I mean, these girls really get grilled."

Patti May

Girls State adviser

passionate about."

Her passion is personal. Five years ago her father died while on a waiting list for a kidney. Her mother, Margie, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, said this bill was her daughter's way to open people's eyes.

Next week, Boys State takes place here. Former Girls and Boys State members include Florida CFO Alex Sink, NBA player Michael Jordan and former President Clinton.

"These are the leaders of tomorrow we're training," Margie McNeill said. "We are teaching the future."

■ E-mail stephanie.haughton@gmail.com.



DRIVERS

From Page 3A

bell, who gave a speech Friday about the importance of teen driver safety to the students and the media.

Students who successfully complete the course receive a certificate that can be presented to auto

insurance companies for a premium reduction.

The course is free for any Leon County high-school student with a driver's license. Parents and teens can learn more by contacting their school-resource officer or Sgt. Annalise Wierenga at 921-3602 or wierenga@leoncountyfl.gov.

■ Contact reporter Nic Corbett at (850) 599-2161 or ncorbett@tallahassee.com.

Photos by MIKE EWEN/Democrat

Florida High teenager Caitlyn Coffey buckles up Friday before hitting the obstacle course during the Teen Driver Challenge offered at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. Students got first-hand instruction from deputies in handling emergency situations.

Teens learn to be safe drivers

Officers teach students how to handle emergency situations

By Nic Corbett
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

When 17-year-old Heather Smith got into a fender-bender last Wednesday, her mother became concerned.

"She wanted me to learn how to drive better," said Heather, a rising senior at Leon High School.

She enrolled her daughter in a new program offered by the Florida Sheriff's Association, the Teen Driver Challenge. Heather wasn't thrilled at first.



Teenage drivers show off their certificates from the Teen Driver Challenge. Law-enforcement officers provided four hours of classroom instruction and eight hours of experience behind the wheel.

"It's a lot more fun than I thought it would be," she said. "And I didn't think it would be this hard."

Three law-enforcement officers acted as instructors Friday for 15 Leon County students during the hands-on practice at the driving range

at Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Havana. Heather said she learned to drive in a figure 8. She also had to weave in between cones and then do the same thing in reverse.

The program included four hours of classroom

TALLAHASSEE.COM

■ View a photo gallery of the drivers.

instruction at the Leon County Sheriff's Office, as well as eight hours of behind-the-wheel experience. It is funded across Florida through a federal grant distributed by the state Department of Transportation, said Trenda McPherson, traffic safety specialist for the agency.

Leon County is No. 1 in the state for the most crashes involving teens, she said.

"Safety on the roadway is top priority at the Leon County Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Larry Camp-

Please see DRIVERS, 5A

■ TALLAHASSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Embry-Riddle graduates
eight from Tallahassee**

site: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University held commencement exercises for 116 graduates at Pensacola's National Naval Aviation Museum on June 7. The eight students who graduated from Embry-Riddle's Tallahassee teaching site were Justin Fletcher, Debbie Gray, Ira Hayes, Austin Hofmiester, Roudy Legros, Patrick Ryan, Todd Ward and David Yacht.

TCC hosts summer

academies: Tallahassee Community College's College Reach-Out Program is helping students in Gadsden and Leon counties prepare for a successful high school career. Through a pair of summer education academies, the program will impact dozens of rising eighth-, ninth- and 10th-graders from East Gadsden and West Gadsden high schools and Godby High School, between now and the end of July.



TCC gives Bill Law top marks

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law has received a glowing job evaluation from the board of trustees. His performance was reviewed for the past year by three trustees who made up a subcommittee and reported their findings back to the full board last week.

The most disparaging remark against Law was that the board "needs to continue to stay informed." It was not a remark shared by all board members about the body needing to be better informed. They gave Law high marks for how he has worked during the state's financial crisis.

"Members expressed their affirmation of the work and leadership being provided by Dr. Law as president of Tallahassee Community College," according to the minutes from the evaluation committee. "Particular mention was made of the financial stewardship provided in the past year, allowing important initiatives and projects to move forward despite operating budget reductions."

But what was not discussed was performance pay as a result of a job

LAW

From Page 1A

well done. Board members opted to postpone talk of a merit increase for Law.

"We will revisit his compensation later in the year," trustee chairwoman Kimberle Moon said.

Law received a 7-percent salary increase in June 2007 to boost his \$245,000 a year salary. However, the state's budget crunch has been uppermost on the minds of college administrators.

Last year, faculty, staff and administra-

"Members expressed their affirmation of the work and leadership being provided by Dr. Law..."

from the minutes of the evaluation committee

tors received up to a 4-percent salary increases depending on their evaluations. Adjunct professors received no more than a 3-percent increase. This year, Law reported to trustees that the 2008-2009 budget does not include a pay raise for faculty and staff.

"There are no changes in salaries this year," he said.

FYI Today

Local

■ TALLAHASSEE

TCC gets 1,000th Tech @ Night enrollee

Tallahassee Community College's Tech @ Night program, an information technology training series, reached an enrollment of 1,000 only nine months after it was started when Rebecca Lester walked through the doors of the TCC Capitol Center for her 6 p.m. Photoshop class and was honored Monday evening. Lester, a Tallahassee resident, already has a teacher certification license and will use her Tech @ Night training toward needed credits for her renewal. Classes are held at Quincy House, TCC's Wakulla County and Gadsden County service centers, as well as the main campus and at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy.

TCC President Bill Law explains the college's operational audit

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer

Tallahassee Community College administrators' good deeds for a local nonprofit organization have come back to haunt them.

In a recently released state auditing report, TCC administrators received an audit finding for paying out nearly half a million dollars to the organization known as One Church One Child.

"It's something we haven't seen before," said Ted Sauerbeck, audit director with the Florida Auditor General's office.

TCC provided administrative services for the organization as part of its grants-management program. The college served as a fiscal agent to at least 31 different groups. As fiscal agent, TCC paid for expenses such as travel, rent and office supplies. Services such as hiring and paying employees were also paid by TCC, according to the report. Problem is the grant for One Church One Child did not get funded.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Updated: TCC President Bill Law explains the college's operational audit

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer

Update 12:09 p.m.

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law said the dollars spent to serve as fiscal agent for One Church One Child were taken from the college's grants and contracts budget.

That budget totals about \$50 million and is used as a means to manage the 31 organizations that take part in the grants management program -- a program that makes money for TCC.

Law's explanation comes after TCC was recently cited in a state operational audit for continuing to fund One Church One Child after no grant dollars were received for the organization.

Law said TCC's operating dollars were never used for One Church One Child, an organization responsible for child adoptions and child placement.

Instead, the dollars TCC's Board of Trustees wrote-off last year, due to the organization's inability to pay, came from the grants fund. Normally, the fee for One Church One Child would be paid to TCC from the Department of Children and Families, Law said.

However, grant dollars were not received from DCF.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Update 11 p.m.

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Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Audit shows misuse of grant

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College administrators' good deeds for a nonprofit have come back to haunt them.

In an audit released last week, TCC was cited for paying nearly half a million dollars to One Church One Child, an adoption-and-placement agency that participated in the college's grant-management program.

The audit covered July 1, 2006, through June 20, 2007.

TCC served as fiscal agent, administering a grant from the Department of Children and Families for One Church One Child. The college's trustees approved a write-off of more than half of the \$467,357 that went to the organization.

TCC administrators doled out the funds, thinking that the grant-management program would be reimbursed, but that didn't happen. The write-off caught the attention of auditors.

TCC is in the process of writing off the remainder of the grant.

"I do not recall seeing this type of finding for an educational entity," said Ted Sauerbeck, audit director with the Florida Auditor General's Office.

The grant dollars paid for travel, rent, office supplies and salaries.

TCC serves as fiscal agent for about 50 entities through the grant-management program, which has a \$50 million budget that is separate from TCC's operating revenues.

The college made more than \$1.9 million for performing fiscal agent services in 2007, Chief Financial Officer Teresa Smith said. Those dollars are available for use in the general operating fund, but they're not counted on as a source of revenue because TCC doesn't know for sure from year to year how much it will make.

Sauerbeck said at least four other community colleges act as fiscal agents: Broward College, Daytona Beach College, Lake-Sumter Community College and Santa Fe College.

TCC President Bill Law said at some point his chief financial officer told him that One Church One Child's spending was on par to exceed its funding. But to help the organization, Law agreed to continue doling out the money.

"They (One Church, One Child) indicated that they were in line for additional funding the next year, that is that the program would continue, and we would be made whole," Law said.

One Church One Child wasn't funded. Law terminated the contract when he realized new grant dollars weren't coming.

"When the contract ran out, we should have pulled the plug on it," Law said.

One Church One Child is still in existence and financially tied to the Department of Children and Families.

Arie Sailor, executive director of One Church One Child, said no money was ever wasted.

"Children should never grow up in foster care," Sailor said. "We can't afford to lose our children."

Law said TCC learned from the situation.

"We let our heart get ahead of our head on this one," he told the TCC Board of Trustees last year.

TCC's operational audit revealed seven other findings ranging from the college not keeping up with property to the improper monitoring of cell phone usage. The purpose of the audit is to determine if a governmental entity's internal controls comply with state laws, rules and regulations.

None of TCC's findings was a violation of state law.

"There is nothing really alarming in the operational audit," Smith said. "This is a part of the process of the Auditor General's Office to assist us."

TCC is Audited



A recent audit found that Tallahassee Community College failed to collect more than two hundred thousand dollars it was owed by a non-profit group.

Financial officers at the college say the audit is accurate. They say they handled the financial affairs for "one church, one child," a group dedicated to facilitating the adoption of underprivileged children. The organization was created by the Florida legislature.

Officers say they made every effort to collect the money.

When the funds...paying the bills. TCC financial officers have now discontinued the college's contract with "one church, one child."

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Need software help? Try Tech@Night

By Rob Chaney

SPECIAL TO BUSINESS MATTERS

Tallahassee Community College has announced the summer offerings for its Tech@Night series of short courses.

The courses are designed to provide computer software training in one evening at a cost not to exceed \$20. The courses are available in Tallahassee, Gadsden County and Wakulla County.

Below is a listing of courses offered.

Registration and more course information is available via e-mail at techatnight@tcc.fl.edu.

Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy

- Monday, June 30, Windows file management; July 7, Internet Explorer 7.0.

TCC Capital Center

- Monday, June 23 and 30 and July 7, Photoshop introduction; July 7, 14, 21, 28 and Aug. 4, Photoshop intermediate.
- Tuesday, June 17 and 24, Access 2003; July 1 and 8, Integrated Applications; July 15 and 22, computer basics; July 29 and Aug. 5, Excel 2003.
- Wednesday, June 25, July 2, 9 and 16, QuickBooks 2008.
- Thursday, June 19, Excel 2007 introduction; July 10 and 17, PowerPoint 2007; July 24 and 31, Access 2007; Aug. 7, Integrated Applications.

TCC Main Campus (Building 38)

- Tuesday, June 17, Word 2003 introduction; June 17, 24, 31 and Aug. 7, SharePoint End Users; June 24 and July 1, Excel 2003 introduction; July 8, Integrated Applications; July 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5, Quickbooks 2008.

Wakulla Campus

- Thursday, June 19, 26 and July 10, Photo Editing.

Quincy House

- Thursday, June 26, E-mail; July 10, 17 and 24, Excel 2003 introduction.

Rob Chaney is Sports Information Director in the Communications Office at Tallahassee Community College.

TCC provides summer learning opportunities to Gadsden County students

Tallahassee Community College's College Reach-Out Program (CROP) is helping students in Gadsden and Leon counties prepare for a successful high school career.

Through a pair of summer education academies, CROP will impact dozens of rising eighth-, ninth- and 10th-graders from East and West Gadsden high schools, as well as Tallahassee's Godby High School, between now and the end of July.

The West Gadsden/Godby Summer

Education Academy began on June 11 and continues through July 1. More than 90 students from West Gadsden and Godby are on TCC's campus from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Each day, the students are prepped in five subjects: English/reading, science, computer technology, mathematics and college/career.

West Gadsden and Godby students received a special treat at 9:30 a.m. June 23 when award-winning educator

and author Chike Akua brought the African Origins on Tour to TCC's Turner Auditorium. Akua authored *A Treasure Within: Stories of Remembrance & Rediscovery*, one of the books students are studying as part of their English/reading class.

The African Origins on Tour is a dynamic, interactive visual presentation on the tremendous contributions that the African people have made to America. The event teaches the African origins of

language and literature, mathematics and medicine and architecture and engineering.

"I think his (Akua's) visit will be a life-rewarding experience," said Victoria Jackson, a rising 10th-grade student at Godby High School. "I will have the opportunity to meet a dynamic and wise man; because of his background, he can relate to students very well."

See TCC on Page 7

From TCC on Page 1

CROP is currently enrolling students for its East Gadsden Summer Education Academy, scheduled for July 14-31. More than 80 students from East Gadsden High School have already enrolled for the academy, according to Amy Gaughf, CROP

Administrator.

Rising eighth-, ninth- and 10th-graders at East Gadsden High School who are interested in enrolling for the East Gadsden Summer Education Academy should contact TCC's CROP office at (850) 201-8315.

Tallahassee campus notes

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Florida State University

FSUPD holds annual golf tournament

The Florida State University Police Department Foundation will hold its third annual William Tanner Golf Tournament July 24 at the Don Veller Seminole Golf Course, 2550 Pottsdamer Road. Tee time will be at 8 a.m., with each of the 32 four-person teams competing for cash prizes and awards. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information on how to register your team or to become a sponsor, contact Sgt. Herb Sweeney, (850) 644-1234, or visit www.police.fsu.edu/.

IACLEA Inc. names next president: Lisa A. Sprague, associate director of Public Safety at Florida State University, will be named the 2008-2009 president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Inc. on July 1 at the organization's 2008 annual conference in Hartford, Conn.

FDLE and Mag Lab invite science teachers to workshop: The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has teamed up with Florida State University's National High Magnetic Field Laboratory to offer science teachers a summer workshop called "Attracting Students to Science." The four-hour workshop being held Monday brings elementary-, middle- and

high-school science teachers to FDLE to learn about the various forensic services offered in the lab, and to provide teachers with teaching materials as well as hands-on experience they can later use in their classrooms.

Top high-school students participate in Young Scholar Program: Forty of Florida's brightest high-school students with a common interest in math, science and computer science are visiting Florida State University to participate in FSU's Young Scholars Program. The students are scheduled to be on the FSU campus through July 26.

Tallahassee Community College

Mentor families needed for visiting students from Egypt: Tallahassee Community College has received funding from the U.S. Department of State for the purpose of bringing four Egyptian students to the college this fall. As part of the Community College Initiative-Egypt, the visiting students are required to have mentor families during their stay in Tallahassee. For more information or to volunteer as a mentor family, contact Betty Jensen by phone at (850) 201-8457, or email her at jensenb@tcc.fl.edu.

Campus notes

■ FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

FSUPD holds annual golf tournament

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pate in FSU's Young Scholars Program. The students are scheduled to be on the FSU campus through July 26.

■ FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

DRS student gets hands-on experience with international affairs: Kenyetta Siplin, 15, a rising junior at Florida A&M University Developmental Research School, attended the International Affairs Summer Enrichment program at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The two-week-long program gives high-school students hands-on experience in regards to the U.S. International Affairs with an emphasis on the African Union, whose members include Nigeria, Botswana and Ethiopia, to name a few. Keith Simmonds, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, led the effort to help Siplin participate in the program. He was aided by DeAnna M. Burney, assistant professor and program director of the graduate psychology program.

Patty Ball Thomas to join Florida Commission on Human Relations: Gov. Charlie Crist has appointed Patty Ball Thomas, assistant professor of reading in the Florida A&M University College of Education, to the Florida Commission on Human Relations. Thomas was appointed for a term ending September 30, 2010.

■ TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mentor families needed for visiting students from Egypt: Tallahassee Community College has received funding from the U.S. Department of State for the purpose of bringing four Egyptian students to the college this fall. As part of the Community College Initiative-Egypt, the visiting students are required to have mentor families during their stay in Tallahassee. For more information or to volunteer as a mentor family, contact Betty Jensen by phone at (850) 201-8457, or email her at jensenb@tcc.fl.edu.

Mary Ann Lindley: Preserving Goodwood — but reinventing it, too

Mary Ann Lindley • Editorial Page Editor

“Thomas Hood turns the silver knob of Goodwood Plantation’s front door and we look right past each other. I am looking in, overwhelmed by three massive English chandeliers illuminating the 45-foot entry hall, and he is looking out, struck by two Japanese magnolias that have finally come into bloom.” — “Loving a heavy burden: the salvation of Goodwood,” Feb. 21, 1984.

I see by our archives that it has been more than 24 years since I first had the pleasure of meeting and writing about Thomas M. Hood. He died in 1990, but he had spent the last 40 years of his life on the historic property, at first renting a cottage on the grounds as a dashing retired Army officer and then, in 1948, as if in a storybook, marrying the widow of state Sen. William Hodges and eighth titleholder of Goodwood, Margaret Hodges.

Surviving her death in 1978, Hood became the steward of Goodwood, which is behind Tallahassee Memorial Hospital off of Miccosukee Road, and which was once the largest plantation in this county, at about 8,000 acres.

By the time I met Hood, he was, 77, not well, living in near-seclusion and using a wheelchair to move about some of the mansion’s 27 rooms, most of which contained furniture shrouded in dusty sheets.

He was cranky, frustrated and overburdened by the expense and effort of maintaining his property, by then 85 acres with seven dilapidated cottages, water tower, abandoned swimming pool, one-time ballroom, aviary housing six squawking macaws, and a carriage house and stables at the rear of the 16 acres surrounding the 1838 house.

All were begging for maintenance, and he badly wanted to sell to the state or historic preservationists or somehow otherwise ensure that the property he had been devoted to for decades would find its proper happy ending.

“I don’t own the house; the house owns me,” he told me morosely, sitting in his small study with its 14-foot ceilings, 12-foot windows and glorious views that still had the power to make his heart sing.

“I get aggravated. I’m aggravated at everything, all the time,” he said. “But I can’t afford to give in.”

The state didn’t end up buying the property, but upon his death, the baton was passed to a new generation of stewards via the Margaret E. Wilson Foundation, which Hood had created in his wife’s memory, and whose board and volunteers still echo Hood’s stubborn vow: “I can’t afford to give in.”

Today, the Goodwood Museum and Gardens board, under the leadership of Walli Beall, capital campaign co-chairman Mary Ann Moore and countless others, is working on a four-year, \$2.7 million fundraising effort to authentically re-create the 1912 carriage house and stables, which were destroyed by Hurricane Kate in 1985.

The project is well on its way to becoming Tallahassee’s newest and much-needed conference center, a charming but rustic 4,200-square-foot event complex that will seat 300, and welcome as many as 425 if outdoor patio and terraces are used.

Modern extras

The center, which will be presented in a Sept. 21 opening with an old-fashioned ice-cream social, has been designed with historic accuracy by Tallahassee architect Rick Barnett. But it has essential contemporary extras such as central heat and air, many public bathrooms, a glamorous “bride’s room,” and a state-of-the-art “warming kitchen” named in honor of popular former restaurant owner and caterer Nella Schomburger, who has influenced its design.

Co-chairman of the capital campaign Blucher Lines, a Quincy attorney, is also determined that there will be an Internet canopy over the property for business and educational conferences. This will likely require the good graces and financial or in-kind contributions of some of our area’s successful computer-systems companies.

Moore said they have about \$1 million yet to raise to pay off a construction bridge loan and bring back to life the historic gardens. This isn’t easy in today’s hard-pressed economy, but undeterred, the board and volunteers know the project will be an extraordinary tourist destination, a wise investment in the property that will bring a return through rental of its facilities. They believe it is already transforming to our community life.

‘Blended Lives’

Gus Mitchell, who works with the John G. Riley Center and Museum of African American History & Culture, is an enthusiastic partner with Goodwood in the “Blended Lives” program, which brings thousands of school-age visitors to both Goodwood and Riley House to see history in new ways.

“Blended Lives,” explains Moore, conveys how the black and white communities here have operated both separately and together over the centuries, in different and ever-changing ways, with business and social and educational circles that overlap at times, and yet in many ways never overlap.

Mitchell, taking a group of high-school students through Goodwood on Wednesday as part of a Tallahassee Community College outreach program, said that Riley House would have its annual gala at the new-old carriage house.

“We want to support our partner,” he said, meaning of course, this old cotton plantation, which has irrefutably found its salvation in the hearts, minds and devotion of a new generation of Floridians.

Tom Hood, if he but knew, would breathe a sigh of relief that his burden has become a blessing, its doors wide open, its grounds at last fully abloom.

Contact Editorial Page Editor Mary Ann Lindley at (850) 599-2178 or mlindley@tallahassee.com.

New Nursing Application

Posted: 12:23 PM Jul 1, 2008

Last Updated: 12:23 PM Jul 1, 2008

Reporter: Stefan Weekes

Email Address: stefan.weekes@wctv.tv

Lois Ewen

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance launched it's new on-line nursing application today.

The new application will give graduates a chance to get their licensure and start their nursing careers in a few days compared to the old six week process.

Tallahassee Community College administrators say the new on line application opens up a world of possibilities.

TCC Dean of Health care Professions Lois Ewen says, "as we all know there's a huge nursing shortage out there, so any thing that we can do to shorten that process and get that student out into the field working is beneficial."

More than five thousand Florida nursing graduates received their license in 2007.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/22764554.html>

Limelight Calendar

THURSDAY

Benefit Concert of Patriotic and American Music: By the Capital City Band of Tallahassee Community College and the TCC Jazz Band. To benefit the Brehon Institute for Family Services, Catholic Charities and the Tallahassee Senior Center. 7:30 p.m. \$5. Senior center auditorium, 1400 N. Monroe St. 891-4000.

Black on Black Rhyme Open Mike Night: Featuring BackTalk! Poetry Troupe. 8 p.m. doors open; 9 p.m. show. Aakhet Center, 812 S. Macomb St. 656-7271.

House of a Hundred Flags: A Victorian party with patriotic re-enactment, music and food. 3-7 p.m. Free. Lapham-Patterson House Museum, 626 N. Dawson St., Thomasville, Ga. (229) 225-4004.

Register for Black Bear Workshop: Event is 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. July 19. Workshop is especially recommended for teachers, but is open to anyone interested in bears. \$5, includes beverages and snacks. Tallahassee Museum, 3945 Museum Drive. 575-8684, ext.144.

Register for "A Lesson on Florida's Snakes": Class is 10 a.m.-noon July 12. Rob Barrett, will discuss both venomous and non-venomous snakes of Florida. Also, animal encounter with a non-venomous snake. \$8; \$5, members. Tallahassee Museum, 3945 Museum Drive. 575-8684 ext. 144.

Tallahassee Democrat • July 2, 2008
Gadsden County Times • July 3, 12, 2008
Wakulla News • July 3, 2008

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Opening doors.
Changing lives.*

In today's economy, many families are concerned about the academic future of loved ones who soon hope to enter college. **TCC IS A PROVEN PATH TO GET THERE.**

Providing Access:

- Thanks to the strong partnership TCC has with FSU, FAMU, Flagler, Barry, Embry-Riddle and Saint Leo, advisers can assist students in developing academic plans that promote success in the transfer process to these, and many other institutions.
- The College provides more than \$20 million in scholarships and financial aid to students each year.
- TCC offers options for busy adults, including Web-based classes and evening classes.

Ensuring Success:

- TCC offers extensive out-of-classroom support for students. The College's Learning Commons opens its doors in August 2008.
- An early-warning system alerts students and advisers when students show the first sign of falling behind.
- Students can develop electronic learning plans that help them identify their goals and map out a course of study to achieve those goals.
- Students who succeed in TCC's College Success program have higher retention rates and higher success rates in their classes.



Register today for Summer and Fall classes.
GoToTCC.com or call (850) 201-TCC1

APPLY NOW FOR FINANCIAL AID!

Senior Center Benefit Concert

Posted: 7:34 AM Jul 3, 2008

Last Updated: 7:34 AM Jul 3, 2008

One group isn't waiting until Friday to kick start its holiday celebrations...

Thursday, the Tallahassee Senior Center is hosting a benefit concert.

The concert will feature patriotic and American music by the capital city band of [Tallahassee Community College](#) and the TCC jazz band.

The concert will begin at seven-thirty pm and will be held in the Tallahassee Senior Center auditorium.

Tickets are on sale for five dollars and can be purchased at the door.

Proceeds will go to the Brehon Institute for Family Services, Catholic Charities and the Tallahassee Senior Center.

Find this article at:

<http://www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/22856109.html>

High gas prices a factor in TCC online-enrollment jump

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer

High gas prices are a factor in an increase in the number of people taking classes online at Tallahassee Community College.

TCC administrators report a 16.8-percent increase in online-class enrollment. This summer, 2,611 people enrolled in Web classes at the college, said Alice Maxwell, spokeswoman for TCC. Last year, 2,235 student enrolled.

Barbara Sloan, vice president of academic affairs, said it's unclear exactly why there's been an increase. But she suspects gas-pump prices are one reason. "Students are concerned about gas prices," she said.

Friday, 12 more online offerings were added, including math, English, history and humanities classes.

Florida State University, meanwhile, hasn't seen the same increase in online enrollment, said registrar Kim Barber. FSU is offering about the same number of online classes this summer as last.

"Our enrollment is down very slightly in a few areas, such as freshmen, but we are attributing that to enrollment restrictions," Barber said.

FSU and other state colleges and universities have limited their freshmen enrollment to save dollars during the state's financial crisis.

"I also believe the fact that we are typically considered a residential campus when compared to USF (the University of South Florida) or FAU (Florida Atlantic University) may also account for a less dramatic increase than those faced by other institutions, since our students generally live on campus or within 10 to 12 miles," she said.

TCC offers more than 100 classes online. It's an opportunity TCC student Brenda Hawkins, 47 has enjoyed. She received her associates degree by taking online classes.

"They're just convenient," she said. "I'm really busy and they are really convenient. Plus it definitely saves you on gas."

Rackleff missed the mark

Bob Kellam
My View

Re: "The Holiday Inn project: how not to lend money" (My View, July 2).

County Commissioner Bob Rackleff's portrayal of the Holiday Inn project is a gross mischaracterization of the conduit-financing process and the history and accomplishments of the Leon County Educational Facilities Authority (EFA).

First, his representation that the county or the EFA is offering a loan for this project is incorrect. The money is being loaned to the project by the institutional customers of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), though the purchase of conduit bonds issued by the EFA.

The EMuni Glossary of Municipal Bond Terms defines conduit bonds as "bonds whose repayment is the responsibility of the business (Bethel's Create Inc.) or developer who benefits from the financing, rather than the issuer (EFA) who only collects the taxes, fees or revenues and passes them on to the bondholder."

A few years ago, Leon County issued \$4 million of conduit economic development bonds for the Holy Comforter Episcopal School. Did Mr. Rackleff think he was voting to lend a private religious school \$4 million of Leon County's money when he voted for that bond issue? I doubt it.

The RBC is one of the industry's leaders in financing student housing projects. It has a number of institutional investors that have been buying similar bonds from RBC for several years. The companies that buy these bonds have hundreds of millions in assets; in other words, they are all considered "big boys" when it comes to assuming risk. Rackleff's assertion that this proposal has not received

independent financial analysis is another error. The RBC will be risking \$20 million of its customers' money by making this loan. A team of the bank's financial analysts spent several months scrutinizing the proposal and made a report to the RBC's credit committee. The credit committee looks at the data and analysis with a hard eye toward the interests of the RBC and its customers. After all, it's their money. Why shouldn't they be responsible for the required "due diligence" on this project?

The EFA has a very successful but almost completely unknown history. Space limitations prevent me from describing all but one project, Southgate. Southgate did suffer a default on its bonds in 1993, followed by a restructuring of the original bonds in 1996. After the first three unfortunate years, there were 11 consecutive successful years, nine of which boasted a 100-percent occupancy rate. On July 4, there were nearly 600 college students and music, math and science campers in the building, which normally houses only 512. The Southgate bonds are currently rated by Moody's at Aaa.

Also, the EFA has never received an appropriation, donation or gratuity from the county, yet has donated more than \$300,000 in scholarships equally among Florida A&M, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Florida State. These funds are from the surpluses generated though operating our projects, not from any taxpayer source.

I do join with Commissioner Rackleff in urging you to attend the public hearing today. If you would like to learn more about the EFA and its projects, send me an e-mail and I will notify you of our meetings, which are open to the public.

TCC In Wakulla



Dr. Mary Wolfgang
Director of Ecotourism Institute

ACT prep classes come to the Wakulla Center

During July, 2008, the TCC Wakulla Center is expanding its services to include a six-hour ACT Prep Class. The classes will be on a fee basis of \$100 per week, plus the cost of the text book. Classes will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the weeks of July 8, 15 and 22, 2008. These classes will be most appropriate for those students who have completed the tenth grade and are planning on taking the ACT as they prepare for college admission.

The ACT is a standardized exam used for college admissions. Every year it is administered to approximately one million students. Colleges and universities use the results of this test to evaluate your likelihood of succeeding in college. Additionally, scores on the ACT can help you qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The ACT® test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The

Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.

The national average composite score last year, out of a possible 36 points, was 21.2. The number of questions asked in each area includes: 75 in English, 60 in math, 40 in reading, and 40 in Science, for a total of 215 questions. In the 50 United States, the ACT is administered on five national test dates: in October, December, February, April, and June. In selected states, the ACT is also offered in late September. The basic fee is \$30 and the test takes 4 hours. Students may take the ACT as often as they wish but only once per national test date. Many students take the test twice, once as a junior and again as a senior. The ACT is curriculum-based. The ACT is not an aptitude or an IQ test. Instead, the questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses in English, mathematics, and science. Because the ACT tests are based on what is taught in the high school curriculum, students are generally more comfortable with the ACT than they are with traditional aptitude tests or tests with narrower content.

The ACT is more than a test. The ACT also provides test takers with a unique interest inventory that provides valuable information for career and educational planning and a student profile section that provides a comprehensive profile of a student's work in high school and his or her future plans.

Students who attend the ACT prep class at the TCC Wakulla Center can expect to cover the following topics: general ACT structure; English

questions/content; math questions/content; reading questions/content; science reasoning, ACT scoring; strategies for success and practice activities on paper and on the computer.

Parents and teachers in Wakulla County have suggested that it would be a valuable community service to offer ACT prep classes locally, so this is a response to grass roots requests. There are more extensive and expensive preparation programs in Tallahassee and around the state. Some franchised corporations offer programs for over \$800. As the parent of twins who recently graduated from Wakulla High School and had to take the ACT, I know I would have appreciated a cost saving program which was offered locally.

You can get more details by emailing the instructor at sharonteacher49@yahoo.com. For registration information call the TCC Wakulla Center at 922-6290. ▲▲▲

Operation Filmmaker

Posted: 4:49 PM Jul 9, 2008

Last Updated: 6:35 PM Jul 9, 2008

Reporter: Angela Salerno

Email Address: angela.salerno@wctv.tv

Lights, camera, action!

21 young film makers are setting the scene at Tallahassee Community College.

Nims Middle School and Gadsden County students are learning how to create films using state of the art equipment through Operation Filmmaker.

President/CEO of The Character & Heritage Institute, Gail Rossier said,

"They go in the field, we teach the technicality of the equipment and cameras and they do their own lighting, then they come back and we put them in post."

Educators say the program is an eye opener for the students.

"It's been a great experience we are making movies but it's not just about making movies, there are certain things you have to do", said Nims Middle School student Justin Sims.

The students are involved in the entire process from concept to completion, they chose their topics, conduct interviews and edit the ten minute film.

Nims Middle School student Taylor Ballard said, "There are certain things you might want to do and that you actually have a chance to do like a message to get out, now you can get it out."

Operation Filmmaker isn't just about making a movie.

"They learn values, they learn leadership, honesty, respect and responsibility, they have 6 hallmarks and every time they leave that door, they need to be repeated and instill them on them everyday", said Rossier.

At the end of the four weeks the students will show off their masterpieces on the big screen at a red carpet premiere on August 2 at 6pm in the Turner Auditorium.

"Operation Filmmaker" is entirely free for these students. The program is funded through the TCC Foundation and Student Affairs.

Camp Facilitators include:

Carlos Miranda

Kristin Bass-Petersen

Mike Timm

Gail Rossier

Find this article at:

<http://www.wctv.tv/news/headlines/24271144.html>

Fuel costs drive online classes

At Miami Dade College, enrollment in online classes for the fall is 63 percent greater than last year, according to the executive director of the Virtual College, Ruth Ann Balla.

While tech savvy students feel more comfortable behind a computer, the real culprit is fuel prices. Along with just about everyone else, college students are feeling the pinch at the gas station.

Online enrollment has been steadily growing for years, but college administrators say the spike in gas prices -- to more than \$4 a gallon in most places -- has fueled a surge in students seeking classes without the cost of commuting.

Balla said the college's normal growth rate is 25 to 30 percent. Fuel prices have likely doubled the growth rate at Miami Dade College, she said.

Although most colleges do not track students' reasons for choosing online learning, many administrators cite a clear link with fuel prices.

John Bourne, director of the Sloan Consortium, an organization in Wellesley, Mass., that studies online education, said he expects gas prices to bring about "a blended classroom -- half online, half in class."

Balla said that Miami Dade College has considered the blended classroom but for now the college has hired more adjunct faculty to deal with the increased demand.

At Villanova University, the engineering school has seen a 40 percent increase in online enrollment this summer -- even though summer enrollments typically stay flat.

"We've attributed it to the huge gas prices," said Sean O'Donnell, who runs the engineering school's distance-education program.

In many online classes, students log on at their convenience for coursework, which is done mostly through independent study. Students and professors interact through online chats, message boards and e-mail.

Other classes are more traditional, with a mix of students attending in person and online. The on-campus students can speak to their online classmates using microphones, and the students online can watch lectures on the screen.

Many of the new online students at Villanova live within driving distance of the Philadelphia-area campus. But high gas prices are compelling them to reconsider preconceptions about online learning.

"This has been the catalyst to push people to change their

thinking about their education," he said. "You can now learn anytime, anywhere, on your schedule. They're not degrading the quality of education because of gas prices."

An informal online poll at Victoria College in Victoria, Texas, showed 42 percent of students plan to take online classes because of fuel costs. Administrators do have some concerns, including preventing students from dropping out.

"Retention in online classes is lower," school spokeswoman Kimberly Haschke said, pointing out that students who do not make the drive to campus may abandon their studies before the class term is over.

Karen Stevens, an early childhood education professor at the University of Massachusetts, said increased demand for online classes is forcing instructors to overcome doubts about the system.

"They weren't sure it was good education," she said. "If they had their preference, they would teach live. But because of gas prices, that's not practical."

La'Vern Brinson-Scott, a rehabilitation specialist who works with the blind, used to spend up to \$70 a week on gas for her SUV to drive seven or eight miles to Tallahassee Community College, where she took classes to change her career to creative writing.

Now online classes save money and let her spend more time with her grandchildren.

"It's a tremendous amount," she said. "I'm definitely saving."

Phil Gottlieb also started out taking business classes at a community college. As the father of two college students, he looked for ways to save on his own education while paying the bills for gas used by his children. Then he discovered Jones International University, an entirely online university based in Centennial, Colo., where Gottlieb lives.

"We live in a time when there's not a lot of time to do extra things," he said. "It helps me pay the bills."

This story was compiled with material from Miami Herald reporter Jessica Hopper and the Associated Press.

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Guardian Ad Litem program helps abused and neglected children

Brandi Coverson
Herald News Reporter

The Florida Guardian Ad Litem program is dedicated to children that have been abused and neglected by their families.

Assistant Circuit Director Leigh Merritt is looking for citizens in the Gadsden County community to volunteer and become important assets in these children's lives. Individuals who decide to volunteer will represent children before the court, social service agencies and the community. As volunteers, individuals will become the voice of the children to express their emotions about any problems they may have experienced within their household.

TCC Quincy House entered an official partnership with the Florida Guardian Ad Litem program last week to allow citizens to train and become certified volunteers. "I'm excited that we are making a partnership with this wonderful program. We already have staff members from the TCC Quincy House that are ready and willing to train to become volunteers," said Roger Milton, the manager of the TCC Quincy House and current chairman of the Gadsden County School Board.

Merritt started out as a volunteer eight years ago. "I saw that there was a need to make a difference in those children's lives who have been neglected and abused. I loved being the voice for our youth and have enjoyed being part of the staff for years now," said Merritt.

Volunteers will be trained and supervised by qualified program staff members and attorneys. To become a volunteer you must be at least 19 years of age and complete the 30-hour pre-service training program successfully. Training may consist of reading, conducting interviews,

court observation and practice activities. The training is free.

"It is a way for citizens to give back to the community and to assist children that are at risk," said Merritt. All citizens have to do is dedicate 4-6 hours a month per case which is helping children in the long run. "The volunteers are creating a long-lasting relationship that can make a huge impact on the children's lives," she said.

Volunteers who sign up for training can't have any felony arrests or prior history of child abuse and neglect. There will be a criminal background check to make sure children are in the hands of safe individuals.

Part of this program is to get children back home with their families while their families are doing tasks given by the court. "If children can't be back with their families we try to find a nice placement home for them," said Merritt.

Training days to become volunteers are held at the TCC Quincy House on these days and times:

July 29 - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

July 31 - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Aug. 5 - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Aug. 7 - 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

For additional information regarding the Florida Guardian Ad Litem program, please feel free to contact Leigh Merritt at (850) 606-1200 or email her at Leigh.Merritt@gal.fl.gov. To download applications, go to the website at www.guardianadlitembigben.org.



Roger Milton and Leigh Merritt.

Photo by Brandi Coverson

High Gas Prices Fuel Boom in College Online Classes

By The Associated Press
Boston

Laurel Ranticelli considered driving 40 miles round-trip to take education classes at the University of Massachusetts campus in Amherst. Then she realized she could take the same courses from her computer at home and save on fuel costs.

"It's gotten out of hand, the gas prices," said Ranticelli, 50, who lives in Springfield. "It's \$70 a week. That's pretty close to my groceries."

She joins a growing number of students trying to save gas money by enrolling in online classes. Online enrollment has been steadily growing for years, but college administrators say the spike in gas prices—to more than \$4 a gallon in most places—has fueled a surge in students seeking classes without the cost of commuting.

Although most colleges do not track students' reasons for choosing online learning, many administrators cite a clear link with fuel prices.

John Bourne, director of the Sloan Consortium, an organization in Wellesley that studies online education, said he expects gas prices to bring about "a blended classroom—half online, half in class."

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"We've attributed it to the huge gas prices," said Sean O'Donnell, who runs the engineering school's distance-education program.

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Other classes are more traditional, with a mix of students attending in person and online. The on-campus students can speak to their online classmates using microphones, and the students online can watch lectures through cameras.

Many of the new online students at Villanova live within driving distance of the Philadelphia-area campus. But high gas prices are compelling them to reconsider preconceptions about online learning.

"This has been the catalyst to push people to change their thinking about their education," he said. "You can now

learn anytime, anywhere, on your schedule. They're not degrading the quality of education because of gas prices."

An informal online poll at Victoria College in Texas showed 42 percent of students plan to take online classes because of fuel costs. As a result of the increased interest, the school is preparing to increase online class capacity for this fall and next spring.

Retention in Online Courses

Administrators do have some concerns, including preventing students from dropping out.

"Retention in online classes is lower," school spokeswoman Kimberly Haschke said, pointing out that students who do not make the drive to campus may abandon their studies before the class term is over. "I kind of worry about that."

Karen Stevens, an early childhood education professor at the University of Massachusetts, said increased demand for online classes is forcing instructors to overcome doubts about the system.

"They weren't sure it was good education," she said. "If they had their preference, they would teach live. But because of gas prices, that's not practical."

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"We live in a time when there's not a lot of time to do extra things," he said. "It helps me pay the bills."

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TCC supports state employees with option for tuition-free classes

The upcoming fall semester at Tallahassee Community College will continue to offer state of Florida employees the opportunity to take classes tuition free. Through TCC's existing state employee tuition waiver program, full-time state employees are eligible to take up to six credit hours per semester on a space available basis. The program does not cover the cost for books, lab fees and late application fees. Additionally, some student service fees may not be covered by the program.

Interested participants can begin registering for available classes in any of TCC's fall 2008 sessions at 8 a.m. Aug. 5. Registration will end at 5 p.m. on the second day of class for the specific semester, Main and A session, Aug. 26; B session, Oct. 17; and C session, Sept. 11.

"TCC is proud to offer state employees this opportunity to enhance their skills and job competence for a better future," said TCC spokeswoman Susie Hall.

According to Hall, web-based courses are now eligible under the program. Self-paced instruction, TV and non-credit courses do not qualify; however, web-assisted, web-based and remedial courses are eligible.

All full-time permanent state employees as certified by the agency's supervisor and agency head and by the Bureau of State Payrolls in the Department of Financial Services are eligible to participate in the program. State of Florida employees who are also receiving federal financial aid are eligible to use the TCC state employee tuition waiver. However, state university system employees are not eligible to participate.

First-time participants in the program must first apply for admission to the college by logging on to www.GoToTCC.com. Once admitted, participants can register for classes by logging on to TCC Passport at tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu during the established registration window. After successfully registering for a class, state employees must submit the TCC state tuition waiver form with all of the required signatures. In addition, state departments that handle their own payroll must submit a payroll authorization letter verifying the student's employment status, if applicable.

For more information on the waiver program, contact the Office of Enrollment Services at 201-8555, or log on to www.tcc.fl.edu/stateemployee.

Not Enough Teachers Leads to Shortage of Nurses

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

To help ease a nationwide nursing shortage, local colleges and universities have developed strategies to increase the number of applicants into the nursing programs. Two years ago the FAMU School of Nursing increased its enrollment from 80 students to 100.

The problem has seemed to trickle down. Now there aren't enough teachers to train all the eager students.

The director of nursing at Tallahassee Community College says one problem is salary. "The salaries are not very competitive. Hospitals pay their master's prepared nurses much higher than colleges can afford to. And this becomes a labor of love," said Alice Neid, R.N., the Director of Nursing at Tallahassee Community College.

And the problem will only get worse as baby boomers get older, increasing the demand for health care services. The Joint Commission, a national hospital accrediting agency, has estimated that by 2020 there will be at least 400,000 fewer nurses available to provide care.

"I think we have to be creative as employers to get around the struggles we're going to be experiencing over the next few years related to the nursing shortage," said Portia

Huston, the nurse recruiter for Capital Regional Medical Center.

One adjunct clinical expert says a solution would be to utilize resources and pull educators from the clinical world to teach and nurse.

"I think it's the responsibility of all the nurses in today's world to step up and to educate our future relief, and people that will hopefully take care of us when we get old," said Kathryn Keane, R.N., Capital Regional Medical Center and adjunct professor.

Keane says hospitals, universities and colleges need to work together to get qualified people into the nursing profession.

TCC alum Saunders gets berth to Olympics

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Mike Saunders' passport is about to get yet another serious workout — and he couldn't be happier.

Saunders, a former Tallahassee Community College baseball standout, will play for Canada's baseball team in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Baseball Canada released the 24-man roster on Thursday.

Making the team means Saunders will add China to an impressive list of places that baseball has taken him.

He traveled with the Canadian team to an Olympic qualifier in Cuba in the summer of 2007. A fourth-place finish there advanced the team to another qualifier in Taiwan.

"My dad always brings up the places I've been," Saunders said. "He always talks about me being a world traveler."

Saunders is one of 15 players on the Olympic roster who led Canada to a win in that eight-team qualifier in Taiwan this past March. The roster also includes six players from Canada's 2004 Olympic team that finished fourth in Athens.

"This is a tremendous honor for Mike," TCC coach Mike McLeod said. "Representing your country in the Olympic Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"We always knew he was destined for greatness and this is one of the first steps. We're honored to have played a part in his development as a baseball player and as a person. He'll be a fine ambassador for his country."

Saunders, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, played for McLeod's TCC Eagles in 2005, his only season of



collegiate ball. In 51 games with TCC, Saunders batted .311 with five home runs, 41 RBIs and 14 stolen bases. He then signed a contract with the Seattle Mariners, who selected Saunders in the 11th round of the 2004 First-Year Player Draft.

The powerful 6-foot-5 outfielder was rated as the Mariners' sixth-best prospect and the organization's Best Defensive Outfielder by Baseball America prior to the 2008 season. In 67 games at Double-A West Tennessee, he batted .290 with eight home runs, 30 RBIs and 11 stolen bases. He was immediately promoted to Triple-A Tacoma, where he is batting .275 with two home runs and 12 RBI in 14 games.

FSU to tackle Fla. energy challenges

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

FSU to tackle Fla. energy challenges

With \$8.75 million in legislative funding, Florida State University is bringing together researchers with expertise in a variety of fields to develop new strategies for dealing with Florida's energy challenges. FSU's initiative will be part of the new Florida Energy Systems Consortium, a collaborative effort between the state's 11 public universities to address important issues dealing with energy, climate and the environment, with a particular focus on promoting renewable energy. Gov. Charlie Crist last month signed into law a comprehensive energy bill, HB-7135, that established the consortium and provided \$50 million in funding to be divided among four core institutions: FSU, the University of Central Florida, the University of Florida and the University of South Florida.

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

FAMU general counsel recognized as 'Legal Elite': Florida A&M University's general counsel Avery D. McKnight, was selected out of approximately 61,500 active Florida Bar members to be featured in Florida Trend's Florida Legal Elite. After 18,051 votes cast by attorneys across the state of, McKnight was recognized as one of Florida's Legal Elite as part of the government attorney category.

Department of Social Work hosts health workshop: Florida A&M University Department of Social Work is sponsoring Building a Map to a Healthy and Successful Life from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 17 at the Walker Ford Community Center. The event will focus on promoting healthy lifestyles for the individual and families through nutrition, hygiene, etiquette, fitness and safety education. For more information, contact Katisa Donaldson at (850) 599-3456.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Two students earn CPA scholarships: Two students enrolled at Flagler College's Tallahassee program at Tallahassee Community College have been awarded the Florida Institute of CPA's Educational Foundation Scholarship for accounting majors. Jamaal Dickens and Judi Page were recently named recipients of the award. Both students were recognized by the FICPA Educational Foundation for their dedicated pursuit toward a degree in accounting. Dickens and Page will receive their awards at a FICPA meeting this fall.

CHIPOLA COLLEGE

Chipola to hold early registration: Chipola College will hold a special early registration Aug. 6-7 for the college's bachelor's degree programs. To register, students must be admitted to one of Chipola's bachelor's degree programs in math and science education, elementary education, exceptional student education, B.S. in nursing or business. Students applying to the R.N. to B.S. in nursing program must be licensed Registered Nurses. Regular fall registration for all college programs is set for Aug. 18-20. To learn more about Chipola's bachelor's degree programs, call 718-2492 or visit www.chipola.edu.

WTXL • July 15, 2008

WTXL • July 24, 2008



More Students Choosing Online Classes

More students are finding online enrollment more accessible. ABC 27's Kisten McGowan-Sims has more on why students are choosing to be out of the classroom.

This summer Tallahassee Community College has seen its biggest increase for online enrollment. A 16 percent increase that is. Some students chose online enrollment this summer simply to save gas.

"Well you don't have to drive out to campus and fight a thousand people for a parking space and cruise around for an hour and a half to find one, that was mostly my main reason," said Adam Weiland.

Over 2,000 students are currently enrolled in online classes at TCC and campus administrators say they are building support programs to help more students online.

"We really encourage and grown our support systems for online classes. We have counselors who can work with students online. All of our tutoring services are online. This is a natural choice," said Barbara Sloan.

This summer TCC is just one of many colleges around the nation that has experienced this phenomenon.

Members of the administration say the large increase this summer is due to many factors such as technology and the economy.

"A lot of them are working and have other obligations at home, so we're thinking there doing this for convenience cause it fits their schedules better and now more and more are doing it to save money," said Sloan.

Although TCC's philosophy is to serve the students, the school recommends students to take courses in school because online courses tend to be a bit more challenging.

TCC's administration also wants students to know they are welcome to take online classes a couple of days a week to cut back on coming to campus often.

Seminoles suffer dip in ticket sales, Gators still going strong

Andrew Carter
Sentinel Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE

The many people who during the past several months have turned down sales pitches to buy season tickets for Florida State football games usually have given the same reasons, FSU Athletic Director Randy Spetman said recently. They talk about the economic concerns, the rising cost of gas.

They say they wish they could be at Doak Campbell Stadium this fall, but that finances just won't allow.

"That's what we get when we call them," Spetman said. "They say it's so expensive to travel with the gas [prices so high], they're nervous about where [the economy is] going to go and is that where we want to spend our discretionary dollars?"

Season ticket sales at FSU are down 6 percent compared to where they were a year ago at this time, according to university spokesman Elliott Finebloom. The university, Finebloom said, has sold approximately 38,000 season tickets.

The economy, of course, isn't the only thing mired in a slump. The Seminoles in 2007 finished a disappointing 7-6 for the second consecutive season, a fall marred by the emergence of an embarrassing athletic-department-wide academic fraud scandal.

While the decline in ticket sales isn't drastic, it has been concerning enough for Florida State officials to make available for purchase a discounted season ticket package for students at nearby [Tallahassee Community College](#). This fall, a season ticket to FSU's seven home games cost \$312. TCC students can buy one for \$179.

Other schools around the state, meanwhile, haven't experienced the same hardships as Florida State.

Season tickets are sold out at Florida, and have been since 1979, according to Mark Gajda, the assistant athletic director of ticket operations. Given the perilous state of the economy, though, UF lowered from \$13,000 to \$4,200 the mandatory booster contribution to secure a season ticket, which this season costs \$224 for eight games.

"With economy and gas prices, we expected a little bit of a hit," Gajda said. "But it's a credit to our fans . . . there are probably more people giving up seats and less people ordering seats because we're not immune to the state of the economy.

"But it's not to the point where it's hurting us where we can't fill our stadium up."

In Orlando, UCF has sold 451 more season tickets than it had at the same point a year ago. A season ticket for the Knights' six home games cost \$210.

Other schools around the state have experienced an increase in season-ticket sales, too.

Miami Athletic Director Kirby Hocutt recently told Florida Today that the Hurricanes' sales for their first season at Dolphin Stadium are double what they were a year ago for the final season in the Orange Bowl.

And USF, according to football spokesman Chris Freet, already has sold approximately 24,000 season tickets -- about 4,000 more than it sold all of last season.

Part of Florida State's challenge, Spetman said, could be the financial burden of traveling to seven Seminoles home games. Even in good economic times ticket sellers at FSU sometimes faced a difficult task, given the remoteness of Tallahassee and the cost of staying in area hotels, which often mandate a two-night minimum stay and charge inflated rates.

Sentinel reporters Iliana Limon and Jeremy Fowler contributed to this report. Andrew Carter's Chopping Block blog can be read at [OrlandoSentinel.com/choppingblock](#) and he can be reached at acarterb@orlandosentinel.com.

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4-H program brings politics to the youth

By George Harrison
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

It is a political year. There are national, state and local elections, and the engine of democracy is functioning at full throttle. Positions and policies are being debated at length by the pundits and political junkies.

Unfortunately, current trends indicate participation in the political process for young adults is dismal. There are too many distractions, such as the latest singing idol, video games and just getting together with friends and classmates.

The Florida 4-H Program offers young people an opportunity to learn the legislative process from the inside out with Florida 4-H Legislature. They learn how the legislation is developed and carried through to final form.

Florida 4-H Legislature convened June 23-27 with three Leon County 4-H teens among the more than 200 youths "sworn in" to the 4-H House and Senate.

Tallahasseean Katelyn Enzor served as head reporter in the 4-H House. Enzor has just graduated from Florida High School and will attend Tallahassee Community College this fall.

"It's been a great experience to see how our system of government works," said Enzor. "Our government is open to all who want to participate and contribute," she said.

Nefetari Dennard will be a senior at Leon High School and served as 4-H representatives. "I like to know how our laws are made," she said.

John Auber will be a junior at Florida High School, and he too served as a 4-H representatives. Auber, like the other Leon County participants attended Florida 4-H Legislature last year.

"We are lucky to live where we have a representative form of government," he said. "It is important to know how it works and be part of the process."

"The legislature program promotes youth learning in civic engagement and gives them the leadership skills to make community decisions on public policy," said Tracy Tesdall, Leon County 4-H extension agent and one of the adults working with this state-wide event.



The 4-H Legislature program, in its 37th year, brings youth in direct contact with legislators and lobbyists. It is the only 4-H program of its kind in the U.S., according to Tesdall. Legislators, lobbyists and reporters who are members of 4-H learn how government works by debating a variety of issues in the House and Senate chambers.

The 4-H legislators assembled committee meetings before debating the bills. The 4-H legislative bills intentionally were controversial and not all of them related to agriculture. The 4-H legislators and lobbyists discussed a variety of current issues.

"Kids can make a difference," said Tesdall, "activities such as this help youth realize how much we can influence our government's decisions."

Youth play key roles throughout the co-ed, hands-on government experience, helping with registration, running meetings, leading charges to kill or support bills and setting up the hypothetical Green and Gold parties.

According to event leaders, many 4-H legislators take their responsibilities as citizens seriously by voting and pursuing careers in government. The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Last year 4-H worked with more than 218,000 youth ages 5-18 in Florida's 67 counties and five Seminole Tribe reservations.

For information on Leon County 4-H, please call the 4-H office at the University of Florida Leon County Extension Service at (850) 606-5204.

American Classifieds • July 17, 31, 2008
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Operation Photographer

Posted: 4:29 PM Jul 16, 2008

Last Updated: 4:29 PM Jul 16, 2008

Reporter: Angela Salerno

Email Address: angela.salerno@wctv.tv

Residents of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition's HOPE Community created the artwork in an 8-week program.

Organizers say the hands on-experience helps members build self-esteem and self-worth.

Donna Marshall is among the artists and she says she walked away much more than a few photographs.

She received the Outstanding Student Award, and was recently hired at Sears's Portrait Studio.

Donna Marshall said, "Just taking this class in general made me get excited about photography. I wasn't really excited about it until I started taking the class, and the more I got into the more excited I got."

You can see the exhibit at TCC's Fine Art Gallery through this Friday. It is open from noon to 4 p.m.

TCC Release:

Operation Photographer, a program designed to instill creativity and productivity through visual arts, engaged the residents of the Big Bend Homeless Coalition's HOPE Community. The upcoming exhibit will display the works of the HOPE Community residents, who participated in a series of creative workshops that provided an opportunity to build self-esteem and self-worth. Attendees received hands-on experience enabling them to discover the art of photography while learning more about themselves.

Operation Photographer encouraged creativity, self-awareness, leadership and civic responsibility. Each participant completed an intensive eight-week course, learning the art of photography and gaining the insight that art is more than just a picture.

Operation Photographer was funded by the TCC Foundation. Gail Rossier, President & CEO of The Character & Heritage Institute, facilitated the program. Teaching and photographic expertise was provided by Dominick Ghessling, Photographer.

The Fine Art Gallery is open from noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free. The Fine Art Gallery is located in the Fine & Performing Arts Center at Tallahassee Community College.

For more information, contact Julie Baroody by phone, (850) 201-8713, or email baroodyj@tcc.fl.edu.

New Careers for Unemployed

Posted: 5:14 PM Jul 18, 2008

Last Updated: 6:48 PM Jul 18, 2008

Reporter: Roman Lillie

Email Address: Roman.Lillie@wctv.tv

Talk about budget cuts and layoffs has become all too common. But Tallahassee Community College is hoping to help some unemployed workers get a new job.

Florida's June unemployment rate is the second highest in more than 5 years. And many say they don't feel safe.

"People are losing jobs, cuts, counties, state, they city. A lot of people are just afraid for their jobs," says Mary Arnold, a Tallahassee resident.

TCC hopes to give unemployed workers a chance at a new career. They're planning a new line of courses that will train people in a variety of fields in 90 days or less.

They say they're targeting areas where they know people can find jobs. "I-T- and health care are among the top ten fastest growing areas, and we have surveys of local businesses indicating vacancies. The success of this

program is not our trainings, the success of this program is getting people jobs," says John Chapin, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development at TCC.

One local man who doesn't want to be identified says he's an unemployed painter, but he says he'd consider a job change. "I've always been interested in computers and anything technical. I even thought about 10 years ago I was thinking about going into the medical field. Yeah I'd be very interested in something like that."

Officials at TCC are still finalizing the course plans, but they expect to offer training for as many as a dozen careers. They plan to have some of the classes up and running by Labor Day

Jobless rates rise for Big Bend counties

By Will Brown
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER
July 19, 2008

June unemployment rates in Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and Jefferson counties are up 31 percent compared to the same period a year ago, but the collective unemployment rate remains 4.5 percent.

Advertisement

Florida's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in June, a slight dip from May figures but still 28 percent above June 2007, according to statistics released Friday by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Workforce Plus chief executive Kim Moore said it's important for area residents to understand there are employment declines across this region, but there are sectors that are seeing growth, including health care, education, information and financial services.

"I think we still have to be cautious as a region because we don't want to over saturate the market with individuals receiving training when there is not projected growth," Moore said. "We have to use these statistics to share and disseminate with our educational institutions so they are aware of the trends and what the changes are."

In June, the Institute for Economic Competitiveness at the University of Central Florida projected unemployment in the Tallahassee area will not decrease anytime soon. In a statement, institute director Sean Snaith said only unforeseen economic shocks would hinder industries other than housing and manufacturing, which are suffering the most.

"May's 0.5-percentage-point jump was an unusually large one-month movement in the unemployment rate, and we don't anticipate seeing this large of an increase repeat itself," said Snaith, director of the UCF Institute for Economic Competitiveness. "We do expect that unemployment, which is a lagging economic indicator, will continue to drift upward through 2009 before slowly starting to fall in 2010."

By the time Florida's economy recovers — should the institute's projections prove accurate — the state will have the highest percentage of people over 65 in the nation.

More importantly, Moore said the state's aging population may mean additional workforce shortages as future generations enter a more technologically advanced job market. With two universities and [Tallahassee Community College](#) here, there are outlets for people across the Big Bend to become part of growing sectors and industries.

Even though post-secondary institutions and state agencies in town are doing more with less, AWI spokesman Chris Cate said this large block of government employees is what keeps Big Bend unemployment numbers buoyant during economic downturns.

Contact business reporter Will Brown at (850) 599-2312 or wbrown@Tallahassee.com

Tallahassee Democrat • July 20, 23, 25, 26, 2008

Tallahassee Democrat • August 9, 13, 15, 2008

Gadsden County Times • July 26, 31, 2008

Havana Herald • July 24, 31, 2008

Havana Herald • August 14, 2008

Wakulla News • July 26, 2008

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Campus notes

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT
July 20, 2008

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Seminoles recognized for nanotechnology work

Students, researchers and faculty members at the High-Performance Materials Institute at Florida State University were recently recognized in the fourth annual Nanotech Briefs Nano 50 Awards for their work with an innovative material called buckypaper. "We are excited that the Nanotech Briefs judges of nanotechnology and micro-electro-mechanical systems experts recognized the great potential of buckypaper and gave Florida State University and the High-Performance Materials Institute this prestigious award," said Director of HPMI Ben Wang, a professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering and assistant vice president for Research at FSU.

FSU names new director of schools: Lynn Wicker has been named the new director of the Florida State University schools. Wicker has an extensive background in education, having served as a teacher and principal at the elementary level, an assistant principal at the middle school level, a clinical associate professor in educational leadership at Florida State University and most recently an associate dean for FSU's College of Education. She succeeds interim director William E. "Bill" Johnson. Wicker received a doctorate in educational leadership/administration from Florida State University, a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of West Florida and a bachelor's in elementary education from Troy State University.

FSU Law graduates recognized: Twenty-three 2007 Florida State University College of Law graduates have been inducted into the Florida State Chapter of The Order of the Coif, the only national legal honor society in the United States. The only inductee from Tallahassee was Benjamin A. Webster.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student awarded scholarship from Coca-Cola: Jamie Gajos, a rising second-year student at Tallahassee Community College from Inverness, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Gajos, an aspiring FBI profiler, plans to attend Florida State University upon completion of her studies at TCC, where she will pursue a doctorate in psychology.

TCC financial audit released: The State of Florida Auditor General has released Tallahassee Community College's Financial Audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2007, and the 36-page report confirmed the college's financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial positions of the college.

TCC Supports State Employees with Tuition-Free Classes

Posted: 9:39 AM Jul 21, 2008

Last Updated: 9:39 AM Jul 21, 2008

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 21, 2008) – The upcoming fall semester at Tallahassee Community College will continue to offer State of Florida employees the opportunity to take classes tuition free. Through TCC's existing State Employee Tuition Waiver Program, full-time state employees are eligible to take up to six (6) credit hours per semester on a space available basis. The program does not cover the cost for books, lab fees and late application fees. Additionally, some student services fees may not be covered by the program.

Interested participants can begin registering for available classes in any of TCC's Fall 2008 sessions at 8 a.m., August 5. Registration will end at 5 p.m. on the second day of class for the specific semester – Main & A session, August 26; B Session, October 17; C Session, September 11.

"TCC is proud to offer state employees this opportunity to enhance their skills and job competence for a better future," said TCC spokeswoman Susie Hall.

According to Hall, web-based courses are now eligible under the program. Self-paced instruction, TV and non-credit courses do not qualify; however, web-assisted, web-based and remedial courses are eligible.

All full-time permanent state employees as certified by the agency's supervisor and agency head and by the Bureau of State Payrolls in the Department of Financial Services are eligible to participate in the program. State of Florida

employees who are also receiving federal financial aid are eligible to use the TCC State Employee Tuition Waiver. However, State University System employees are not eligible to participate.

First-time participants in the program must first apply for admission to the College by logging on to www.GoToTCC.com. Once admitted, participants can register for classes by logging on to TCC Passport at tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu during the established registration window. After successfully registering for a class, state employees must submit the TCC State Tuition Waiver Form with all of the required signatures. In addition, state departments that handle their own payroll must submit a payroll authorization letter verifying the student's employment status, if applicable.

For more information on TCC's State Tuition Waiver Program, contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (850) 201-8555, or log on to www.tcc.fl.edu/stateemployee.

State of Florida Full Time Employees Eligible for Tuition Waiver



If you work for the State of Florida listen up. You could take college classes for free. Tallahassee Community College is continuing its tuition-waiver program for state employees and extending the privileges to on-line classes.

TCC administrators say all state employees will be eligible again this year to take six credit hours per semester tuition-free on a space-available basis. They say they're also opening up on-line classes to state employees for the first time in order to make it more convenient for them to continue their studies.

Registration begins at 8 am August 5th.

Many times the state employees are trying to finish up a degree. To take advantage of the tuition-waiver program, log onto the www.tcc.cc.fl.us website. All full-time state employees are eligible.

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TCC Works to Make Purchasing Textbooks More Affordable

Posted: 4:35 PM Jul 24, 2008

Last Updated: 4:35 PM Jul 24, 2008

Reporter: TCC Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (July 24, 2008) - In a time when college students' budgets are tighter than ever, the Florida Legislature has provided some relief. During Florida's 2008 Legislative Session, members of Florida's House and Senate each passed a bill addressing the need for affordable textbooks at Florida's colleges and universities.

House Bill 603/Senate Bill 2350 calls for schools to work towards minimizing the cost of textbooks while practicing more open communications on required texts.

Schools are now required to post on their website a list of required texts within 30 days of the start of each term. As a result, Tallahassee Community College has worked closely with the Follett Corporation, who manages the TCC Bookstore, and its academic divisions to ensure that all requirements of the bills have been met.

Beginning July 25, the TCC Bookstore's website will include all required texts, as well as the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), one of the requirements listed in HB603. Visit the TCC Bookstore online at www.tcc.fl.edu/bookstore.

The bills also prohibit community college or state university employees from demanding or receiving payment or anything of value in exchange for requiring a student to purchase a specific text book for coursework and instruction. TCC has long supported preventing this conflict of interest and already has policies in place that address this requirement.

"TCC supports the intent of the legislation," said Dr. Barbara Sloan, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "We want to give our students the opportunity to purchase textbooks at the most reasonable cost possible."

"TCC is aware of today's current economic situation, which has prompted the students' needs to be more conservative in spending," continued Sloan. "We are here to assist students in finding ways to relieve the costs associated with higher education."

The College is proactively informing current students of TCC's compliance with the new legislation so that they can immediately benefit from the intent of the law.

TCC also offers a number of scholarships that can assist students in curtailing some of the costs associated with purchasing textbooks and other course materials. For more information on scholarships, log on to www.tcc.fl.edu/fa.

Students & Engineering Camp

Posted: 6:23 PM Jul 25, 2008

Last Updated: 6:23 PM Jul 25, 2008

Reporter: Heather Biance

Email Address: heather.biance@wctv.tv

Gadsden and Leon County students had a chance to zip up their lab coats, put on their safety goggles and build something from nothing.

This was the second week, middle and high school students were engaged in the hands-on engineering camp.

Throughout the week-long camp, students learned how to build a skateboard from scratch, starting with the fiberglass mold and ending Friday with adding wheels.

"Anytime you can put your hands on to transfer the information, it definitely plants seeds and helps them in the future say 'it's a can do situation, I've done this, I've watched it happen' and if I can learn and grow and do more in that field its a wonderful thing," says Beth Mann Pace, TCC Manufacturing Technology Manager.

After assembling their skateboards, students had a chance Friday afternoon to test their creations at a nearby Tallahassee skateboard park.

College Textbook Help

Posted: 3:42 PM Jul 25, 2008

Last Updated: 5:39 PM Jul 25, 2008

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

Carrie Graves is about to send her daughter off to college. As a single parent she has prepared herself for all of the costs, but one thing she hadn't really thought of was the hefty price of textbooks. "It's gonna be hard but I'm going to struggle through it. I work, my daughters working, we're trying to do the best we can to pay for the tuition and the books and so yeah, I'm a little worried, but I think we'll struggle through it, I guess we have to," said Graves.

And Graves is not alone. Every semester students leave bookstores, spending hundreds and hundreds of dollars.

But that cost could be going down. Thanks to a new law passed by the Florida legislature this year, all colleges and universities have to post all of the text books required for a course a month before classes start....giving students time to shop around.

"They're really struggling. And we've had to raise tuition some and we're trying to keep tuition down but the textbook costs keep going up faster than tuition and it's become a real concern," said Barbara Sloan, the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

TCC also offers textbook scholarships to help with the burden of the costly necessity. "You are already paying for tuition and trying to live on your own and stuff, it's definitely a struggle," said Ian Morrow, a TCC student.

TCC says they are also looking into using online materials in the future instead of textbooks.

Campus notes

■ FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Former USMC Guantanamo prosecutor to speak at FSU

U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Stuart Couch, a former military prosecutor who refused to bring charges against a Guantanamo Bay detainee linked to Sept. 11 because he thought the evidence had been tainted by torture, will speak at Florida State University at noon Thursday. His speech will be held at the FSU College of Law Rotunda, 425 W. Jefferson St. Couch will discuss what he has called the toughest decision of his military career — his refusal to prosecute Mohamedou Ould Slahi. Slahi is a suspected al-Qaeda operative who allegedly assembled the so-called Hamburg cell, which included the hijacker who piloted United 175 into the South Tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. Couch concluded that Slahi's incriminating statements, the core of the government's case, were obtained through torture, rendering them inadmissible under U.S. and international law.

■ FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

FAMU announces med school-bound students:

Sixteen FAMU graduates will be enrolling at medical schools this fall. They include Sean Johnson, Howard University School of Medicine and Meharry School of Medicine; Jacquelyn Massey, Howard University School of Medicine; Ryan Brooks, Ohio School of Osteopathic Medicine; Candace Owens, Life University School of Chiropractic Medicine; Erica Harper, Life University School of Chiropractic Medicine; Barbara Browne, Life University School of Chiropractic Medicine; John Adams, St. James School of Medicine; Cheryl George, BioMedical Program (PCOM); Jarrod Carrol, Meharry School of Medicine and Howard University School of Medicine; Cleo Stafford, Howard University School of Medicine; Chyealla Salvage, University of Illinois School of Medicine; David Mosley, Vanderbilt School of Medicine; Stephen Greene, Howard School of Dentistry; Melissa Sterling, Health Science, NOVA School of Dentistry; Cherise Charles, Animal Science Department, St. George's University, Veterinary Medicine; Sherise Simms, Penn State, MD/Ph.D.

■ TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TCC continues tuition-free classes for state employees:

In the upcoming fall semester, Tallahassee Community College will continue to offer state of Florida employees the opportunity to take classes tuition free. Through TCC's existing State Employee Tuition Waiver Program, full-time state employees are eligible to take up to six credit hours per semester on a space-available basis. The program does not cover the cost for books, lab fees and late application fees. Additionally, some student services fees may not be covered by the program. Interested participants can begin registering at 8 a.m. Aug 5. Registration will end at 5 p.m. on the second day of class for the specific semester — Main and A session, Aug. 26; B Session, Oct. 17; C Session, Sept. 11. For more information on TCC's State Tuition Waiver Program, contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (850) 201-8555, or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/stateemployee.

Tallahassee Fire Academy grads raise money for charity:

Members of the Tallahassee Fire Academy's third class will put their education to good use prior to Tuesday's graduation ceremony. Under the leadership of Fire Academy Director Melvin Stone, students are required to carry out a class project in which they raise money to pres-

ent to specific charities in the community. As a result, Tallahassee Fire Academy Class 003 will present checks to the Children's Burn Camp of North Florida and the American Red Cross, as well as the Tallahassee Community College Foundation. The presentation will take place at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Tallahassee Fire Department Training Division, located at the corner of Pensacola Street and Appleyard Drive. Fire Academy Class 003 officers are David Gillette, president; Alli Baggett, secretary/treasurer; and Manuel Weiss, sergeant at arms.

■ CHIPOLA COLLEGE

Chipola hosts dinner and dance Aug. 23: The Chipola Appreciation Club will host the "Endless Summer" dinner and dance Aug. 23. The Ivey Brothers band will provide the musical backdrop for the occasion. A regional favorite since 1965, the group's versatile repertoire became well known in the club scene in the 70s and 80s. The Iveys will be joined by The Villagers, another popular Chipola band from the 1960s. Kermit Davis, head basketball coach at Middle Tennessee State, is the special guest for the event. Tickets are \$50 per person with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Tables of eight are available for \$400. For ticket information, call Lillie Hamil at 850-718-2375.

■ Democrat staff reports

TCC works to make purchasing books more affordable

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer
July 28, 2008

The Florida Legislature has provided some relief in tough financial times by passing a bill addressing the need for affordable textbooks at Florida's colleges and universities.

TCC has taken the first step in minimizing student costs by posting required textbooks on the bookstore's web site.

"TCC supports the intent of the legislation," said Barbara Sloan, vice president for academic affairs. "We want to give our students the opportunity to purchase textbooks at the most reasonable cost possible."

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

Fire Academy Graduates Give Back

Posted: 11:16 PM Jul 28, 2008

Last Updated: 11:16 PM Jul 28, 2008

Reporter: Heather Bianca

Email Address: heather.bianca@wctv.tv

Members of the Tallahassee Fire Academy's third class put their education to good use before their official graduation Tuesday.

The students from Class three and class two who graduated in February, presented checks to three area charities.

Organizers say the two classes raised around \$4,000 dollars for the Children's Burn Camp of North Florida, The American Red Cross and the [Tallahassee Community College Foundation](#).

"It's just great to be able to give back to the community, its what we are here for, its part of the job, a big part of the job, its the best part of the job so it's great to be able to do it," says Class 2 Fire Academy Graduate, Tess Anderson.

The Academy selects two charities and allows the class to select the third.

Class three will graduate Tuesday night at 7 PM at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Dining Commons.

Former TCC standout playing baseball for Canada in Olympics

By Bob Ferrante

DEMOCRAT CORRESPONDENT

July 30, 2008

Mike McLeod remembers sitting on the bench, assisting the U.S. 18-and-under baseball team in 2003.

The U.S. team was loaded with young prospects who would become top college players and future first-round draft picks.

But the kid who caught the attention of the Tallahassee Community College coach was Mike Saunders, a first baseman/outfielder for Team Canada.

“He was a young kid,” McLeod said of Saunders. “I kept watching Canada and I kept seeing this 16-year old that I was very impressed with.

“He had a great swing and a great arm.”

McLeod decided not to talk with Saunders during the U.S.-Canada series, but he later contacted him through Team Canada. After a few conversations over the next year, a visit was set up. Not for Mike — who was playing for a traveling baseball team — but with his parents.

Saunders had been to Orlando a few times for baseball tournaments, liked the concept of going to school in Florida and, since his parents were traveling through the Sunshine

State, he asked his folks to see the campus and give him their opinion.

“My parents said I would really enjoy it,” Saunders said. “I just trusted their judgment.”

Saunders has trusted his judgment every step of the way. The Victoria, British Columbia, native decided to give up a promising junior hockey career at 17, where he was a

physical, goal-scoring center, to focus solely on baseball.

Four years later the former TCC standout is headed for the 2008 Olympic Games as a member of Team Canada.

“To represent your country, to play in the Olympics is a pretty special experience,” Saunders said.

Saunders’ baseball career has given him plenty of frequent-flyer miles and passport stamps. After being drafted in the 11th round by his favorite team, the Seattle Mariners, Saunders moved more than 3,000 miles to Tallahassee to play for the Eagles.

Saunders said the Mariners dangled a good offer, but he felt that he needed a year of college ball before he was ready for the pros.

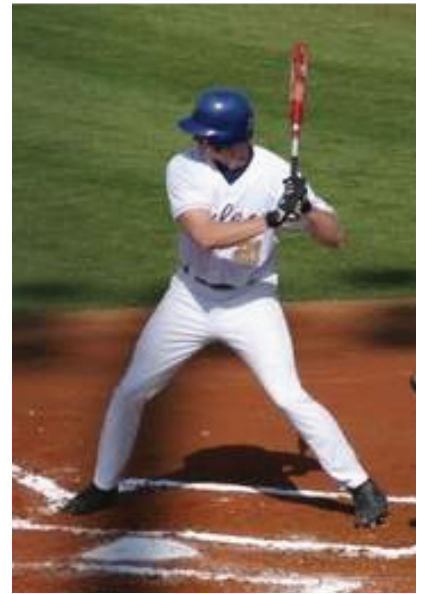
The decision proved to be a solid one. The left-handed hitting Saunders hit .311 with five home runs, 41 RBIs and 14 stolen bases as a freshman at TCC in 2005 before signing with the Mariners as a draft-and-follow prospect.

“I got everything that I wanted from TCC,” Saunders said. “The Panhandle Conference has a lot of talent. And leaving home and going so far away really forced me to grow up. It prepared me for the lifestyle of a minor-league player.”

In the minors, Saunders gradually climbed the ladder in the Mariners’ farm system and has now settled in at Triple-A Tacoma, where he is hitting .239 with three home runs and 16 RBIs.

“Michael is having a nice year,” Mariners Director of Player Development Greg Hunter said. “He runs well, is an excellent baserunner and one of the best bunters in our system.”

He’s also been recognized for his glove: Baseball America



named him the top defensive outfielder in the Mariners' system.

"He can cover a lot of ground in the outfield," Hunter said.

Saunders' passport has also gotten quite a workout. At 16, he traveled with a Canadian team that played in Cuba.

"I had never been to a third-world country," Saunders said. "It was really an experience that you have to see for yourself. It really made me appreciate what we had here."

He was also in Taiwan in March, helping Canada secure one of eight spots in the Beijing Games by winning an Olympic qualifying tournament.

Now, it's on to China, where the Canadians face a loaded eight-team field that includes medal favorites Cuba, Japan and the United States.

While his team may be a long shot, Saunders says the Canadians shouldn't be counted out.

"We've put together quite a diverse group," he said. "We have some up-and-coming talent. Everybody knows that we can play, but nobody expects us to play with the likes of Cuba and Japan."

PJC hires new baseball assistant coach

Bill Vilona
Pensacola News Journal
bvilona@pnj.com
July 30, 2008

A former pupil is returning to help his coach.

Keith Little, a Pine Forest High graduate and former Pensacola Junior College baseball player and assistant coach, is rejoining head coach Bill Hamilton as the Pirates' top assistant.

"He's coming home," Hamilton said. "He's got quite a resume, he's a homegrown boy and he's a Pirate through and through." Little was part of Hamilton's staff when PJC won the state junior college baseball title in 2004. Since then, he's been an assistant coach at the University of Richmond, and the past two years at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Little earned his undergraduate degree at Florida State, then received his master's degree at the University of West Florida.

"He'll be our day to day operations manager," Hamilton said. "He'll handle scheduling practice, academic progress, a lot of the things I can't do with everything else going on."

As Hamilton arranges his new staff for next season, he's also helping oversee the softball program's transition from the PJC-Milton campus to the main campus. The softball team will eventually play at its newly constructed field, located behind the right field fence of PJC's baseball stadium.

Tallahassee Senior Center shows its colors

By Rosetta Stone Land
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE
July 30, 2008

The Tallahassee Senior Center showed its colors in red, white and blue during the month of July.

A storm damaged the center's flagpole in 2005, and while the facility displayed an indoor flag, no flag furlled outside. That's all changed thanks to until Woodmen of the World Lodge #2, which installed a new flagpole and presented the center with a new flag.

On July 3, officials gathered for the dedication of the flagpole and Woodmen of the World flag presentation. Later that same day, The Capital City Band and the Tallahassee Community College Jazz Band, under direction of Omar Allen , provided patriotic and American music as a benefit concert and prelude to the city's Fourth of July celebration. The Senior Center shared the benefit with Catholic Charities and Brehon Institute for Family Services, Inc.

His home and native land

TCC alum Mike Saunders now an Olympian for Team Canada

By Bob Ferrante 7/31/08
DEMOCRAT CORRESPONDENT

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Former TCC standout Mike Saunders, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, is headed to the 2008 Olympic Games as a representative of the Canadian national baseball team. Saunders is also currently a Triple-A prospect in the Seattle Mariners' farm system.

and liked the concept of going to school in Florida and, since his parents were traveling through the Sunshine State, he asked his folks to see the campus and give him their opinion.

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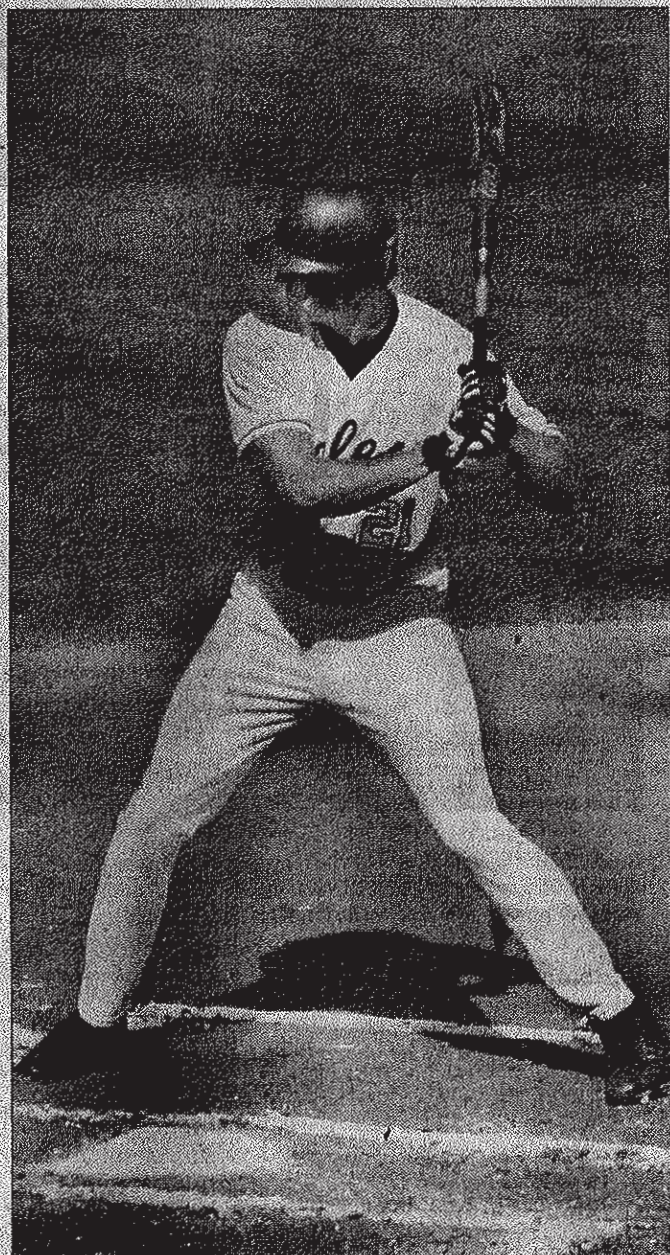
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Please see SAUNDERS, 2C



TCC Sports Information
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SAUNDERS

From Page 1C

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Tax crunch will hurt local businesses

By J.T. BAREFIELD

My View

July 31, 2008

As a longtime property owner and taxpayer of Leon County, I do not in any way support the County Commission's preliminary vote to raise the millage rate on Leon County property owners. I am not a business owner, but I applaud and support the northeast business owners concerning stopping this increase.

Advertisement

Thank you, Commissioner Ed DePuy, for voting against it.

As an adjunct economics professor, I want to state what many people/families know: We are in tough economic times. Everything is really going up in price, and people have even lost their homes to foreclosures. Many banks are in trouble. The state workers (the backbone of Leon County's work force) have not had an across-the-board salary increase in three years.

The commissioners want to take additional taxes from Leon County property owners (some who are struggling) with part of the money going to give a 3.9-percent raise to county employees. Many local businesses are having problems meeting minimum-wage requirements, let alone giving raises at this time. It appears that no one on the commission has really looked at the closed businesses in town or looked at merchants who have closed their doors in the Tallahassee Mall.

I believe the county commissioners have lost touch with reality! Property owners, when times are as bad as they are now, should be getting the full benefit of Amendment 1. But instead the county commissioners are scheming ways around it and promoting all the services they are providing. What services can be provided even at a reduced rate are certainly adequate for Leon County until economic times improve.

I say "no" to any millage increase. I live four-tenths of a mile from where the county proposes to construct a new branch library. I say "no" to any tax increase to support this. I also say "no" to tax increases for county health care and the giving of taxpayers money to support the cultural community.

Also, I surely say "no" to spending approximately \$75,000 of taxpayers money for a shower/changing room at the courthouse.

At a fast-food restaurant on the evening of July 22, I spoke to a woman who had been fired after 33 years of service to the state. Her husband was fired from another state agency six months later. Both are job hunting and stated they needed jobs to pay their bills. They own a home and both did not know what they were going to do to survive the economic crunch.

If the county commissioners continue on the path of a millage increase to raise taxes, citizens who do not support any increase in millage/property taxes must form coalitions and alliances, pool resources and eventually vote out county commissioners who support the proposed millage increase.

J.T. Barefield is an adjunct professor teaching business and economics at Tallahassee Community College. He can be contacted by e-mail at barefield44@yahoo.com.

Relax...

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a coin. The coin has a wolf's face printed on it. The word "Relax..." is written in a curved font above the hand.

...at **TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
you can pay your educational expenses in affordable,
interest-free installments using TCC's **Tuition Pay Plan.**

For more information call 800-635-0120
or visit tuitionpayenroll.com/tcc

The logo of Tallahassee Community College, featuring a stylized 'T' and 'C' inside a circular border with the text "TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE" and "Founded 1966".

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Founded 1966

TCC In Wakulla



Dr. Mary Wolfgang
Director of Ecotourism Institute

"TCC Working on Workforce in Economic Downturn"

With both Florida and the United States facing a sodden economy, job losses and higher gas prices, Tallahassee Community College is developing a workforce that can rise to the occasion.

The College is responding on every front, from increased distance learning to Tech@Night – three-hour computer workshops that served 1,000 students in its first year – to community partnerships tailored to train the workers that local businesses need.

"We see our greatest chance to contribute to the community now," said TCC President Bill Law. "We want our region's economy working at full capacity."

In Wakulla County, the College's training partners range from florists to realtors to banks. The TCC Wakulla Center offers classes in Internet Marketing and Better Business Writing. The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce hosts businesses and non-profits in the TCC/ED2GO online classes. Eric Sharkey, senior vice president of Residential Elevators, serves on TCC's

Manufacturing Advisory Committee, and St. Marks' key management members provide input on regional training programs.

"New career opportunities not only mean better-paying jobs," says John Chapin, the College's Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development (EWD). "It also means long-term strategy for bringing companies to the region and diversifying the economy."

Workforce Plus conducted a survey to identify gaps in job skills, according to Chapin, and EWD is rolling out a new, open-enrollment program for fall called Quick Jobs. High-demand entry jobs in health care, information technology and manufacturing will be its focus.

Chapin also says the new and popular Tech@Night series has expanded to the TCC Wakulla Center, Gadsden County's Quincy House and the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. It's been a hit with state workers at the TCC Capital Center in downtown Tallahassee, offering the chance to learn a new computer skill in one evening for \$25.

The College has established a manufacturing education program that Law calls "transformational." It will prepare students to meet the rapidly evolving needs of the manufacturing and industrial sectors. Thanks to Congressman Allen Boyd, with key support from U.S. Senators Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson, the U.S. Department of Defense awarded TCC \$1 million to establish the Manufacturing Technology Training Center on campus.

The Center will house TCC's new Engineering Technology courses, work-



ing with local firms to meet their training needs. For instance, the first training program will be in Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining, a method of making highly precise machine parts required by local firms like Danfoss Turbocor. Other programs, both credit and non-credit, will be developed to meet the needs of local businesses and others thinking of relocating to the Big Bend region. Also planned: a high-end computer lab, which will provide incubator space for manufacturing and other technology-based businesses.

Chapin credits the fine instructors for TCC's success.

"Many factors impact our workforce and the shifts seen in our economy," says Workforce Plus CEO Kimberly Moore. "Life-long learning and re-tooling efforts that provide increased skills for employees is always a recommended strategy and a win-win situation for all involved."



PBCC President Named To College Task Force

Palm Beach Community College President Dr. Dennis Gallon has been named to the Florida College System Task Force by Florida Commissioner of Education Eric Smith. Gallon will join ten college presidents, chancellors and advisors on the task force, which is charged with issuing recommendations regarding the transition of community colleges to baccalaureate-degree-granting colleges and the criteria for establishing and funding state colleges, as well as with monitoring the implementation of the State College Pilot Project.

PBCC will offer its first four-year degree program, the bachelor of applied science (BAS) in supervision and management, beginning in August 2009.

The other members of the task force are Broward College President David Armstrong, Central Florida Community College President Charles Dassance, Pasco-Hernando Community College President Katherine Johnson, Tallahassee Community College President William Law, Florida Community College at Jacksonville President Steve Wallace, Seminole Community College President Ann McGee, University of South Florida President Judy Genshaft, St. Leo's College President Arthur Kirk, Keiser University Chancellor Art Keiser and Dean Colson, special education advisor to Gov. Charlie Crist.

The first meeting of the Florida College System Task Force will be on Sept. 4 in Tampa.

Palm Beach Community College, Florida's first public community college, is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2008. The largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, PBCC serves more than 45,000 students annually. The college offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

For more information, visit www.pbcc.cc.fl.us.

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news@gotowncrier.com

New law regarding textbook sales is hard to enforce

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer

Students looking to a new Florida law to save money on university textbooks shouldn't get their hopes up.

The law, which went in effect July 1, requires universities and community colleges to post textbook lists online from each faculty member 30 days before the first day of classes on Aug. 25.

That 30-day deadline was July 25. The intent behind the law was to create a market of used textbooks so that students can save money during a time when college books have increased at twice the rate of inflation.

"It's a good goal," said Robert Bradley, Florida State University's vice president of academic affairs.

But the law, sponsored by state Sen. Jeff Atwater, R-North Palm Beach, has loopholes that prevent students from taking full advantage of a bigger selection of used books, Bradley said.

Different definitions of a textbook or required reading for classes plague universities. Plus, the law went into effect without a firm hard rule or penalty approved by the Board of Governors.

According to the law, "By March 1, 2009, the state board of education and the Board of Governors each shall adopt policies, procedures and guidelines for implementation by community colleges and state universities ... to minimize the cost of textbooks for students."

Bradley said that rule was needed to help different institutions prepare for the "data kinks." One such problem is a bookstore that has a database filled with last semester's books when you're planning for the fall, he said.

"Like most good ideas, the devil is in the details," Bradley said.

Johnny Lee, general manager from Bill's Bookstore, said even if the law were complete it's unclear if it would offer the savings needed for students. Lee said the average biology textbook has increased over the past 10 years from \$89 to \$190. He said stronger laws are needed to bring down the prices.

"There's a definite problem," he said. "Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to get a bill passed with more meat. The publisher dictates the price of a textbook."

FSU senior Jacob Bedell has felt that rate hike in the prices of books every semester. Bedell, 22, said he has paid as much as \$400 a semester for books during the time he's studied international business.

"A lot of times I am surprised by how expensive (books) are," Bedell said.

But to help students financially, most faculty members at FSU, Florida A&M and [Tallahassee Community College](#) have turned in their textbook lists to respective bookstores, managers said.

Florida A&M's bookstore is owned by Barnes & Noble. Angela Williams, bookstore manager, confirmed the majority of FAMU's professors have complied with the law. She said faculty members are largely using the same texts from the spring.

"Most of the (faculty from) lecture, lab and discussion courses have complied with the law," Bradley said as he illustrated the types of FSU courses that require a textbook.

But there are 4,000 other dissertation, internships and clinic courses that don't appear to be included in the wording of the law, he said. [Barbara Sloan, TCC's vice president for academic affairs, said the community college supports the intent of the legislation.](#)

["We want to give our students the opportunity to purchase textbooks at the most reasonable cost possible," she said in a news release.](#)

The Follett Higher Education Group manages the bookstores at FSU and [TCC](#). Elio DiStaola, director for public and campus relations for Follett, said that when students return text books in a timely manner, it increases inventory for others who need them.

"Used books save students money, and from our perspective still represents the single best way for students to save money on their course materials," DiStaola said.

Contact Angeline J. Taylor at 850-599-2382 or e-mail at ajtaylor@tallahassee.com.

For House 8: Williams tops strong field of Dems

If you want an assurance that your state representative will be a tireless advocate for his or her district, and is a person who has worked comfortably in many arenas with a wide variety of people, an excellent choice for Democratic voters in House District 8 is Alan Williams.

Mr. Williams is one of seven candidates for this district seat held by Curtis Richardson, who is term-limited out of office. This primary race is distinctive because it can be decided by a very small percentage of voters in Florida's winner-take-all, no-runoff party primary system. The winner will face Robert Maddox, a no-party candidate, on the November ballot.

Competition is stiff

It is a strong field of candidates, with two particularly impressive newcomers in attorneys Sean Shaw, who is articulate and poised, and Hubert Brown, who has an auditor's eye for policy thoroughness. Former Gadsden County Commissioner Carolyn Roberson brings local-government insights and deep knowledge of her county; [TCC professor Anthony Viegbesie has a compelling personal history and great passion](#); and controversial former Leon County Commissioner Rudy Maloy campaigns with sincerity, saying "through my experiences I have gained strength." Democrat Rodney Moore is running an almost invisible campaign.

Of this slate, Mr. Williams has no doubt worked hardest and for quite some time to get to know and really listen to the people in this district, which includes much of western and southern Leon County and portions of eastern Gadsden.

It is a significant show of Mr. Williams' generous leadership style already that he tells audiences that as much as he wants them to vote for him in the Aug. 26 primary, he considers it more important that Gadsden voters support the local-option health-care tax to reopen Gadsden Community Hospital.

Mr. Williams has grown as a community leader, most recently demonstrating his touch for people, issues and organization as chairman of Leadership Tallahassee, where he is known as the collegial voice of reason. He has been an aide to Mayor John Marks, was president of the local chapter of FAMU's National Alumni Association, and in 2003 he was saluted nationally by Ebony magazine as one of "Twenty Future Leaders Under 30."

In campaigning, he said, he has gotten to know the farmworkers of Quincy, the natives of Woodville, the state hospital community in Chattahoochee, and the antiques shopkeepers of Havana. But he grew up in Tallahassee, attending south side's Wesson, Hartsfield, Fairview and Rickards schools. He puts education high on his list of priorities, but is aware of the very real differences between Leon and Gadsden counties in terms of poverty levels, health-care needs and educational achievement.

"The needs sometime seem overwhelming," he said. "In this district we have great resources, but we also have great needs."

Distinguishing characteristics

Given the current economic challenges facing our state, and therefore the incoming Legislature, Mr. Williams' proven ability to be both a "worker bee" and a leader would be valuable assets as a freshman ready to go to work. Issues he sees as critical to this region — economic and job development, with better treatment of state employees; a fresh look at educational testing; the tax structure; and water-resource management — unquestionably will require tireless energy and collegial effort.

These are the strong suits that Mr. Williams brings to this race, and make him well deserving of his party's nomination for House District 8.

Law to help with textbook costs may help very little

Loopholes make it difficult for students to take advantage of law

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

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TCC car crash survivor pieces life back together

By **Stephanie Haughton**
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The 4 a.m. darkness surrounded Julie Nguyen as she awakened outside in confusion, panic and pain.



Nguyen

Blood dripped down her face from a gash in her forehead. Though it was hot outside, she felt colder than she'd ever been. She tried to scream, but there was no sound. She frantically looked around, but couldn't see anything.

All she could hear were the words of a stranger: "Don't go to sleep — you might not wake up."

NINA GILBERT MEMORIAL SERVICE

What: Memorial service for Nina Gilbert. Sponsored by School of Journalism and Graphic Communication, Office of Student Activities, FAMU Chicago Club and FAMU's Bowling Team.

When: 6 p.m. today.

Where: At the eternal flame on FAMU's campus.

Soon she could see the car she and three friends had been riding in. It was sitting on its roof beside Interstate 10.

Nguyen, 20, a Tallahassee Community College student, suffered brain trauma and other inju-

Please see SURVIVOR, 2A

SURVIVOR

From Page 1A

ries in the July 20 crash that killed Florida A&M student Nina Gilbert, 21, of Chicago. Also in the car were TCC students Camela Blanca Griffin, 19, of Lakeland, and Latoya Denan Barnes, 21, of Alexandria, Va.

Tonight on FAMU's campus, they'll attend a memorial service for the senior broadcast student.

Neither Barnes nor Griffin wanted to comment for this story. But Nguyen agreed to talk about how her life has changed. She mostly spends her days limping from couch to couch, trying to sleep, wondering when she can resume her studies and thinking about her friend.

The night before

The women had driven to Gainesville for a "girls' night out" at the "Blue and White Weekend" sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

"I remember me and Nina laughing at how short our dresses were," Nguyen said, smiling. "We just had a good time. No drinks, no boys, just girls having fun. Cami

had to work in the morning, so we got on the road around 3:30 a.m."

She and Barnes were in the back seat. Gilbert was in front. Griffin drove.

"I removed my seat belt to go to sleep on Toya's lap," Nguyen said. "The last thing I remember hearing was Toya asking Cami if she's sure she can (drive). Cami said she was OK. Then Toya said, 'When you get tired, wake me up.'"

The wreck

Around 4:55 they were jolted awake. Here's how Lt. Patrick Riordan of the Florida Highway Patrol in Lake City described it:

Griffin was headed west when she lost control of the 2008 Dodge and drove into the median. When she tried to return to the road, the car spun counterclockwise and overturned several times, coming to rest on its roof.

Griffin, the only one wearing a seat belt, had minor injuries. All three passengers were ejected. Barnes had minor injuries. Nguyen's forehead was split from eyebrow to eyebrow, and the skin from her left leg had peeled off all the way from her calf to her backside.

Highway Patrol Lt.

Mark Boatright said the investigation is continuing and charges are pending.

At the hospital

Nguyen wound up at Shands Hospital, listed in serious condition. She had emergency surgery to stop the bleeding and was diagnosed with severe brain trauma. Doctors told her to take it very easy and to report to the hospital at any hint of dizziness or vomiting. In another precautionary measure she has been told to stay out of the sun until her scars heal. Because of her scars, she declined to have her photo taken for this story.

Her college career is on hold. She said her doctor told her she might need to wait two years, to give her brain time to heal.

Her doctor couldn't be reached for comment. But Dr. Marcus Willett, co-medical director of Bixler Emergency Center at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, said that — although he isn't familiar with this case — recovery can take years, depending on the severity of the crash.

"There could be tissue damage, internal bleeding, permanent loss of function," he said. "Something as simple as a concussion, like post-concussion syndrome,

can cause an extended period of head confusion. Patients sometimes feel like they're in a fog."

Her nights are restless, she said, because of the fear of not waking up. She has no appetite. It hurts to move. But the worst pain is from lost friendship.

Remembering

"If I could, I would tell Nina that I'm thankful she's been a part of my life. And I also want to thank her for those giant Blow Pops she gave us that night," she said, laughing as tears rolled.

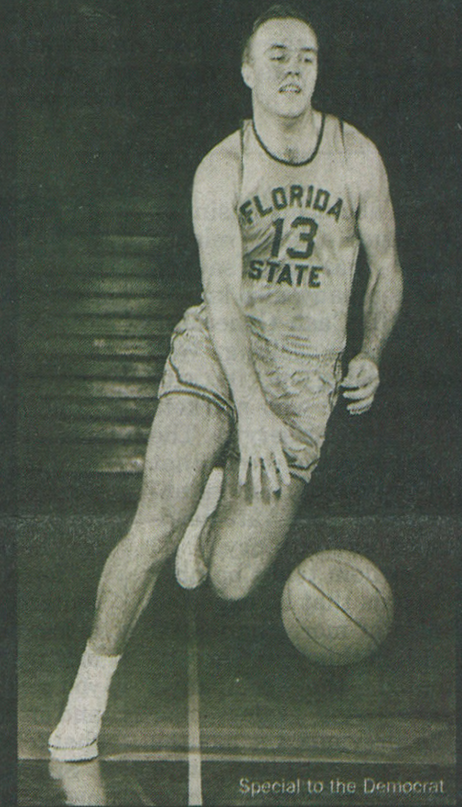
"She's just an awesome girl, you know. Very silly, always smiling, always having fun and always had something positive to say."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 5,500 lives could be saved per year if U.S. safety-belt use increased to 90 percent. Said Nguyen:

"I just want to tell other people, especially students who take these road trips regularly: You never know what's going to happen. Please wear your seat belts. Also, appreciate what you have now 'cause you never know when it's going to be taken from you."

■ E-mail stephanie.haughton@gmail.com.

Sports: Their business gateway



Special to the Democrat

Larry Strom scored 10.1 points per game as a forward at Florida State in the late 1950s. He now owns Champion Chevrolet and co-owns a car dealership in Key West with former FSU baseball player Jack Niles. Strom said his roles in business relationships help him give to other people in a way similar to the way in which people once assisted him.

Athletics experience provided these locals springboard to success

By Will Brown
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Eddie Zaremba loves the TV commercials that remind people "there are 380,000 NCAA student-athletes, and just about all of them will be going pro in something other than sports."

Zaremba, a former all-conference third baseman at Tallahassee Community College, used his degree from the University of Southern Mississippi to develop an Orlando-based software company. He is not the only former local sports star who has had

KEEP TALKING

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business success, and like many he attributes it to the foundation that athletics provided.

Other notables include former FSU basketball player and NBA veteran Bob Sura, part-owner of a local car dealership, and Zaremba's former high-school teammate Todd Harrell, who with family members owns area facilities that provide elder care.

Larry Strom, who owns Champion Chevrolet, was a basketball player at Florida State University in the late 1950s.

"Someone doesn't have to be an athlete to be successful, but it certainly helps," Strom said. "You realize that hard work and dedi-

cation does help. I think it helped me and it gave me that drive."

Henry Lawrence is a Florida A&M University football legend who was drafted in the first round by the Oakland Raiders in 1974 and moved on to own a successful data-systems business.

Zaremba is a relative youngster in the group. Since his career at TCC concluded in the early 1990s, he has been active with the baseball program and was inducted into the college's athletic Hall-of-Fame in 2003.

"Being at TCC, especially under Mike McLeod, brought out not

Please see GATEWAY, 2A

GATEWAY

From Page 1A

only the best in my game, but the best in me," Zaremba said. "The winning and the competitive spirit taught me a lot, but the losing taught me as well.

"You're going to lose contracts. You're going to lose deals. Losing bids really hurts — but you pick yourself up and go. I owe a lot of that to coach McLeod."

Strom said both business and athletics have the risk of failure, but it's how one recovers from such setbacks that makes champions — on the court, or in his case, the automobile business.

"I took a chance and it paid off, so sometimes you have to be willing to take a risk," Strom said about his 49 years in the industry. "I named it 'Champion' because

it means first among competitors. I wanted to be a competitor and do a good job for the manufacturer and us."

While the Big Bend has been home to other prominent athletes — think Major League Baseball All-Star J.D. Drew or three-time NBA champion Sam Cassell — the gridiron has produced the most. In the past decade more than 65 football players with Tallahassee ties, including 58 from FSU, have been drafted into the NFL.

Dana Hammonds, who directs the Financial Programs and Advisor Administration for the NFL Players Association, urges high school and college athletes to leverage their notoriety.

"If you are an NFL hopeful, I would truly encourage individuals to take advantage of those ties of short-lived celebrity to launch a career," she said.

Tallahassee Senior Center proudly shows its colors

By Rosetta Stone Land
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE
August 6, 2008

The Tallahassee Senior Center showed its colors in red, white and blue during the month of July.
Advertisement

A storm damaged the center's flagpole in 2005, and while the facility displayed an indoor flag, no flag furlled outside. That's all changed thanks to until Woodmen of the World Lodge #2, which installed a new flagpole and presented the center with a new flag.

On July 3, officials gathered for the dedication of the flagpole and Woodmen of the World flag presentation. Later that same day, The Capital City Band and the [Tallahassee Community College Jazz Band](#), under direction of Omar Allen, provided patriotic and American music as a benefit concert and prelude to the city's Fourth of July celebration. The Senior Center shared the benefit with Catholic Charities and Brehon Institute for Family Services, Inc.



Roundtable tackles energy development

Alternative energy a force in rapid North Florida growth

By Steve Liner

BUSINESS MATTERS EDITOR

August 6, 2008

The production, distribution and use of alternative energy is far more prevalent than most realize and the subject of rapid growth in North Florida, those attending the inaugural Alternative Energy Roundtable of the Tallahassee/Leon County Economic Development Council heard Tuesday.

"This is a new area of economic development coming to our country, our region and our community," said Kim Williams, CEO of Marpan Recycling, chairman of the roundtable and presumptive chairman of the board of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce for 2009-10.

Williams' comments were followed by remarks from Sonya Negley of Florida's Great Northwest (FGNW), a nonprofit corporation formed a decade ago to promote economic development in the Panhandle; David Byrne, director of energy services for the city of Tallahassee; [Rick Frazier, representing Tallahassee Community College's Center for Economic and Workforce Development](#); and Steve Urse of Sustainable Tallahassee.

The capacity crowd at the Governor's Club heard that alternative energy is a focal topic for area economic and workforce development. Negley said it is one of four prime areas identified by FGNW, and Frazier pointed to specialized workforce training already under way by TCC. More is anticipated following initiation of a joint effort with the University of Central Florida.

After the reports were concluded, conversation turned to the impact on area jobs.

"The more we can develop a green-collar workforce, the more we benefit as a city," Byrne said.

Among those attending the roundtable was Manny Joanos, who manages energy conservation planning and programs for Leon County Schools. He described the school system's effort to find alternative fuels for its bus fleet, including compressed natural gas. Securing such a facility is costly for a single entity, but Byrne said the city wants to hear from fleet operators who are looking into the use of compressed natural gas.

"It's not renewable, but it really cuts the emissions," Joanos said.

Contact Business Matters Editor Steve Liner at (850) 599-2238 or sliner@Tallahassee.com.

Five set their sights on District 4 School Board seat

By TaMaryn Waters
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

District 4 has the most candidates of all the School Board races, and they've taken on such issues as a depleted education budget, disappointing graduation rates and a need for more career preparation beyond high school.

Some parents say they want a candidate who won't be afraid to make unpopular choices, such as closing schools.

The five candidates in the race are Jon Conley, Jose Lorenzo Jr., Rosa Lovett, Dee Dee Rasmussen and Floyd Self. The seat was held by Fred Varn before he resigned to pursue a state House of Representatives seat.

Asked to list their biggest concerns, candidates couldn't ignore the Leon County Schools budget, which was hit with a \$12 million cut during the 2007-08 school year.

"To ensure we can adequately fund the activities in the classroom," Conley said, "we will need to thoroughly look at all areas of our county budget."

Others said now is the time for making partnerships, along with reaching out to legislators making education decisions.

"I would investigate possible corporate initiatives to set up partnerships with the district and specific schools," Lorenzo said. "The School Board does not legislate money.

TALLAHASSEE.COM



■ Top issues in this race include educational funding, schools struggling to meet adequate yearly progress and having "intelligent classrooms" throughout the district, which would allow each class to have modern technology. The *Tallahassee Democrat* asked each candidate: "If elected, how would you address each issue?" Check out Tallahassee.com/elections for their answers.

They receive money. We have to work with what we are provided."

Michelle Eubanks, a parent with two daughters at Leon High School, said the budget has forced the district to "trim the fat," and more needs to be done for the good of all schools.

"I'm looking for a candidate who is going to be

responsive to the schools' immediate and future needs. If that means closing schools that are struggling with enrollment, then do it," Eubanks said. "It's not going to be the popular choice, but we need someone to make the tough but right decisions."

Other parents are concerned that principals are

spending too much time meeting district demands instead of the demands of their own schools.

"When they have to deal with issues from the district, that means there's less time being a supervisor and a principal," said Ken Hawkins, chairman of the School Advisory Committee at Canopy Oaks Elementary School.

While candidates agreed the district excels in certain areas, they all thought more needed to be done.

Self said the district's 79-percent graduation rate for the 2006-07 school year was "stunning."

"I'm embarrassed to know that everyone is not graduating," he said. "Everyone needs to grad-

uate, and that's not happening."

Lovett said early intervention is key to improving how children perform.

"You look at the whole child and meet the needs of the whole child," she said. "I believe in pushing until we get the right thing done."

Rasmussen said there needs to be more preparation for students after high school, including more vocational training.

"I see places where we can strengthen a K-20 vision," Rasmussen said. "We need to be helping our graduates transition for college and the workforce."

■ Contact Reporter TaMaryn Waters at (850) 599-2162 or twaters@tallahassee.com.

CANDIDATE: Rosa Lovett

Age: 53
E-Mail: rolov5@yahoo.com

WebSite: None at this time.

Family: Married with three children.

Education: I am a product of Leon county schools, graduated from Leon High School, former higher education from Miami Dade Jr. College and Florida A&M. I am a returning student to higher education, graduate from TCC summer 2008, continuing education at one of our Fl.State or Florida A&M.

Occupation: ESE instructional Assistant / paraprofessional at Hawks Rise



Elementary School. Community Service: Chairman for Fairbanks Ferry/Sunnyhill Road

Community Involvement Committee, community outreach co-ordinator from Hawks Rise into the Fairbanks Ferry community, Leon County School ESE Advisory Board, Leon County Roads Dept., SAC Committee for Hawks Rise Elementary and Board of Elders at Restoration Life Church and outreach center.

TCC rolls out red carpet for Operation Filmmaker

Students from Tallahassee's Nims Middle School and the Gadsden County Boys & Girls Club received the Hollywood treatment from Tallahassee Community College Aug. 2, as TCC rolled out the red carpet for its season finale of "Operation Filmmaker."

The project, a joint effort between the TCC Foundation and the Character & Heritage

Institute, is an educational outreach program focusing on character education through the art of filmmaking.

The four-week summer camp provides participants with hands-on experience in the art of creating documentary films. For many of the students, it's their first exposure to a college campus and according to Robin Johnston, Executive Director of

the TCC Foundation, it's the first step towards ensuring that college is in the students' future.

As part of Operation Filmmaker, Gail Rossier, CEO of the Character & Heritage Institute, emphasizes six "hallmarks" – honesty, leadership, integrity, responsibility, respect and perseverance.

Egyptian Students Arrive in Tallahassee

Posted: 11:21 PM Aug 9, 2008

Last Updated: 11:22 PM Aug 9, 2008

Reporter: Krystin Goodwin

Email Address: Krystin.goodwin@wctv.tv

TCC was one of three community colleges in Florida selected by the Community College for International Development to receive grants for International students to continue their education at the college.

On Saturday, three new students were greeted by their host families with whom they will live and study for the next year.

"This is the first time for me to visit America and I am just excited really," says student, Mervat Ayed.

The Community College Initiative for Egypt brings 170 students to the U.S.

A fourth student will be arriving next week.

All four students have already received their bachelors degrees.

Tallahassee Democrat • August 10, 13, 15, 2008
American Classifieds • August 14, 2008

JOIN THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

– providing affordable sustainable energy!

TCC is offering training for contractors, plumbers, electricians, HVAC and engineers or those looking to learn more about alternative energy.

Intro to Thermal Solar Hot Water Heating – 32-hours.

*Aug. 25 – Sept. 11 and repeated Sept. 16-30
from 6 -10 p.m. on Mon., Tues. & Thur.*

\$109, includes materials.

Intro to PhotoVoltaic – 48-hours.

*Aug. 25 – Sept. 15 from 6 -10 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thur.*

\$159, includes materials.



To register

call

(850) 201-8337

or e-mail

trades@tcc.fl.edu

Parents Now Attend Their Own Orientation at TCC

Posted: 5:32 PM Aug 11, 2008

Last Updated: 5:32 PM Aug 11, 2008

Reporter: Angela Salerno

Email Address: angela.salerno@wctv.tv

TCC Offers Parent Orientation

Susan Griffin is sending her first child off to college this year.

"It's a new experience for me, her coming to college and her being all by herself", said Susan Griffin.

Tallahassee Community College is easing those fears through its first ever parent orientation.

Janita Patrick is an Academic Adviser at TCC and said, "Up to this point the parents were sitting in the orientation with the student and we noticed a lot of times the student didn't want Mom or Dad to ask questions."

So TCC started the parent orientation, where faculty and staff answer questions about policies and financial issues. The three hour course also provides parents with information on student services and safety and security.

Tom Adams is sending his youngest to TCC and said, "It's good I have a better understanding of what we are up against for school. I am happy with the police activity here. It looks like safety and security is important"

Janita Patrick says parents play one of the most important roles in a child's success.

"Students are aware of the services but mom or dad or a family member say well you know you should visit this place, and that's a little extra nudge the student needs", said Patrick.

A survey showed 85% of parents felt more comfortable sending their students to school after attending this orientation.

"She's very happy we came with her", said Adams.

Griffin said, "I am very comfortable at this point."

Griffin says the orientation helped answer all her questions and she's now ready to let her child fly the coop.

Orientation ends this Wednesday at TCC.

TCC, FSU and FAMU students begin classes on Monday August 25th.

Former TCC star Thornton continuing basketball career overseas

By Corey Clark
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER
August 12, 2008

It's the type of pain that will probably never go away completely.

Decades from now, when his playing days are all but a distant memory, Bootsy Thornton will likely still think about how he never really got his shot at the NBA.

It was a dream he had been holding on to since he first picked up a basketball in his hometown of Baltimore, since he scored all those points for powerhouse Dunbar High, since he became arguably the best player in Tallahassee Community College history and since he became a national headline when he scored 40 points for St. John's against Mike Krzyzewski's Duke Blue Devils in 1999.

But it never happened, and he's spent the last eight years playing professional basketball in Europe.

"Truthfully, I was frustrated at the whole situation for about a year or so (after St. John's)," said Thornton, 31, who lives in Tallahassee with his wife and three children in the offseason. "You would see some guys you played with get drafted that you felt like you were better than. You'd see them get their chance in the NBA and you never really got your chance. So I'll always be a little bit bitter I think.

"But what I understand now is it's all about timing."

Later this month, Thornton — who played six years in Italy and two in Spain — will leave Tallahassee to begin playing his first full season in Turkey. It might not be the same as taking the court at the Boston Garden or at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, but it's still professional basketball.

The 6-foot-4 guard still makes a very good living — players overseas routinely get paid well into six figures — doing something he loves doing.

"I've done well," Thornton said. "So I can't complain. Otherwise I wouldn't keep going back. I really can't complain about anything. I feel like I've been blessed."



Former TCC standout Bootsy Thornton works out Wednesday at the Eagledome. Thornton will be leaving in about a month to play basketball for Efes Pilsen, a pro basketball team in Istanbul, Turkey. (PHIL SEARS/Democrat)

Eight years ago, though, he felt a bit cursed.

He had been an All-Big East performer. One of the top scorers in a very tough conference. And he wasn't drafted.

"The ultimate goal, for anyone growing up in the United States, is to play in the NBA," Thornton said. "Nobody grows up wanting to go play overseas."

But he didn't really have many other options when he agreed to cross the ocean back in 2000.

"I had no choice," he said with a laugh. "It was what I wanted to do with my life. The NBA didn't work out, so I had to go elsewhere."

And he's still going.

During his limited time back in Tallahassee each year, Thornton works out six days a week at TCC with trainer Jonathan Jones and some current Eagle players.

Though he's in his 30s, he has no problem keeping up with the younger workout partners in their 20s.

"When he comes in the summertime, an excitement kind of builds up around him," Jones said. "All of the other guys look up to him. They see how hard he works, how he surrenders himself to it every year wholeheartedly just to get better."

According to Jones, one of his workout partners recently asked Thornton how much longer he plans to play.

“As long as they let me do it,” Thornton replied. “As long as my body holds up and I can train hard, I’ll do it as long as I can. I feel like I’m just starting to get good at this thing.”

Said Jones: “His attitude is like, ‘Sure, the NBA didn’t pan out the way it should have. But this is my career and I’ve made a good living. So why not keep doing it?’ That’s exactly what his attitude is like.”

Unlike many American players overseas, Thornton doesn’t live alone during the season.

He brings his family — he’s married to former local basketball star Aquenda Clark, who starred at Leon High and also played at TCC and Florida A&M — with him for most, if not all, of the season.

“I want to raise my children,” he said. “That’s important to me.”

Providing for them is, too. That’s why he’s working out everyday with college kids. That’s why he’s willing to live in countries where he doesn’t speak the language and isn’t familiar with the culture.

That’s why he didn’t even think about quitting — and doesn’t plan on doing so anytime in the near future — even when his NBA dream was shattered.

“Yeah, that’s true,” Thornton said. “Some people look at the situation, and if they’re not going to the NBA they give up and stop playing. I didn’t see it that way.

“I just kept going.”

TCC Adds Alternative Energy Training Courses

Posted: 5:00 PM Aug 13, 2008

Last Updated: 5:00 PM Aug 13, 2008

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (August 13, 2008) – Tallahassee Community College is offering courses in alternative energy technology for contractors, electricians, plumbers and engineers – and those looking to learn a construction trade – starting Monday, Aug. 25.

The City of Tallahassee, which has greatly increased its green initiatives, is partnering with the College to offer classes in solar and photovoltaic training to residents of the Big Bend and Panhandle. So are the Florida Solar Energy Center at the University of Central Florida and the Employ Florida Alternative Energy Banner Center.

“Cutting-edge contractors need to come see what’s happening here,” said Tom McHaffie, an electrical contractor and TCC instructor. “This technology is fascinating. Imagine, creating electrical current from the sun! It sounds like a fantasy, but it’s a reliable, sustainable and renewable alternative energy source whose day has arrived.”

“The number of people doing this work is mushrooming,” said Tom Gillman, Solar Coordinator for the City of Tallahassee and also a TCC instructor.

TCC will offer Thermal Solar Hot Water Heating as a 32-hour, two-week course meeting from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The cost is \$109, including materials. Introduction to Photovoltaic is a 48-hour, three-week course, meeting from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; the \$159 cost includes materials.

Both courses begin on Monday, Aug. 25. Thermal Solar runs through Sept. 11, while Photovoltaic runs through Sept. 16. A second course in Thermal Solar runs Sept. 16 through Sept. 30.

Since Gov. Charlie Crist announced initiatives to reduce global warming last year, many Floridians have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprints. Also in 2007, TCC invested \$2,673,092 to upgrade its control, lighting and water systems, an outlay which it expects to recoup in roughly seven years.

And local residents want to have very high energy efficiency, said David Byrne, Director of Energy Services for the City of Tallahassee.

“They want us to increase the efficiency of how they use their electric and gas,” Byrne said. “And of course, they want lower prices. And the way we’ve envisioned doing that is by finding ways to incent and encourage people to use less energy.”

Energy efficiency is not only good for the environment, said Byrne, but allows the City’s utility system to operate at lower cost – thereby passing the savings on to consumers.

To register for TCC’s alternative energy courses, please call (850) 201-8337 or e-mail Trades@tcc.fl.edu.

From preschool to grad school

by Angeline Taylor
August 13, 2008

Growing up in Tallahassee in the 1980s, I had no idea of the educational opportunities that surrounded me.
Advertisement

My parents wanted us to be exposed to as many academic and extra-curricular opportunities as possible. My brother and sister attended what was then the new high school — Lincoln.

I was the tag-along little sister who went to track meets, basketball and football games with my brother. With my sister, I went to after-school newspaper meetings which, unbeknownst to us at the time, ignited a flame in me that continues to burn to this day.

It was a wonderfully exciting time. Back then, Tallahassee had four public high schools and the number of elementary and middle schools could be counted on two hands.

[Tallahassee Community College](#) was growing. Florida State University was gaining international fame with its winning football team. And Florida A&M University's band, the Marching 100, was beginning to receive invitations to perform around the country and overseas.

I attended Lincoln where I took part in the wildly popular dual-enrollment program in which students could take college classes for free at TCC. I graduated from high school in 1989. I was offered a full scholarship to attend University of Florida in Gainesville. I turned it down.

I attended Florida A&M and graduated in 1993. I feel blessed to have gotten 16 years of a quality education in my hometown.

The number of educational opportunities for Tallahassee's 34,000 elementary, middle- and high-school students continues to increase. Tallahassee now has 50 public schools including charter schools and today boasts five high schools.

The dual-enrollment program throughout the city's schools continues to be popular with nearly 1,000 high school students getting a head start on college before graduating from high school. And their eyes aren't focused on TCC alone. High-school students attending FSU and FAMU at no cost may catapult into the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, FSU's award-winning public-administration program or FAMU's College of Pharmacy.

Today, FSU enrolls 41,000 and FAMU has about 11,000 students. TCC has an ever-growing student population of more than 12,000 students.

These power-house institutions create a one-of-a-kind atmosphere. No other Florida city has two public universities. In the end, the Tallahassee student becomes the winner — much like I did.

Angeline Taylor grew up in Tallahassee and attended Florida A&M University where she earned a bachelor's degree in journalism. She returned to Tallahassee in 2007 to become a reporter for the Tallahassee Democrat and covers higher education for the newspaper.

Ex-TCC star Saunders clubs home run at Olympics

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

August 13, 2008

BEIJING — Former Tallahassee Community College baseball standout Mike Saunders hit a home run in his Olympic debut, helping Canada to a convincing 10-0, eight-inning victory over China in its opener at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Advertisement

The home run was part of a 2-for-5 afternoon for Saunders, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, who played for Coach Mike McLeod's Eagles in 2005. He also scored twice.

The game, not televised in the United States, ended in the wee hours of Wednesday morning following an 11:30 p.m. first pitch Tuesday evening (11:30 a.m. Wednesday in Beijing).

Saunders' two-out solo blast capped a four-run eighth inning for the Canadians. With his team comfortably ahead, Saunders sent China's Li Weiliang's 1-2 pitch over the right field wall.

The homer put Canada in front of the host country, 10-0, enabling them to end the game a half inning later via the mercy rule.

Saunders was also in the middle of Canada's first score. He singled in the fourth inning and later scored on former Atlanta Braves' first baseman Scott Thorman's three-run homer that broke a scoreless tie.

Canada continues preliminary round action on Thursday when it faces Cuba.

First pitch is scheduled for 6 a.m. EDT (6 p.m. local time in Beijing). The game is not scheduled to be televised locally but can be watched live by logging on to www.nbcolympics.com.

Annual Women in Business Expo is Saturday at TCC

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

August 14, 2008

The Second Annual Women in Business Expo is Saturday at the Economic & Workforce Development Building at Tallahassee Community College.

Advertisement

The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be exhibits by various firms, door prizes, and a series of free seminars on various business topics.

Women entrepreneurs, business professionals, opportunity seekers and women re-entering the workforce are urged to attend.

Event sponsors include Kekeli Essentials, American Concrete Decor LLC, The Uniform Treasury, and You Can Women Inc.

For information, contact Katina Amoah at (850) 980-3638 or by e-mail at youcan413@embarqmail.com.

Ex-TCC player's HR can't help Canada

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

August 15, 2008

BEIJING — Former Tallahassee Community College baseball standout Mike Saunders hit his second home run in as many days, but it wasn't enough as Canada dropped a 7-6 decision to Cuba in Thursday action at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

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Saunders' home run, a two-run shot to right field, came in the top of the third inning off Cuban lefty Adiel Palma. Saunders finished the game 1 for 4 and is now batting .333 (3 for 9) with two home runs, three RBIs and three runs scored through two games in Beijing.

Saunders, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, played for Coach Mike McLeod's TCC Eagles in 2005.

Canada, now 1-1 in preliminary round action, returns to the field at 6 a.m. EST today (6 p.m. local time in Beijing) to play South Korea.

The game is not scheduled to be televised locally, but can be watched live by logging on to www.nbcolympics.com.

FSU's Scott misses finals in shot put

Former Florida State shot-putter Dorian Scott finished eighth in his heat of the men's shot put and missed the final.



Canada's Mike Saunders, right, celebrates his third-inning home run Thursday against Cuba. (KATHY WILLENS/The Associated Press)

Scott, competing for Jamaica, posted a mark of 19.94 meters (65-5), missing the final qualifying spot by 31/4 inches.

Former FSU athletes Tom Lancashire and Barbara Parker, both competing for Great Britain compete this morning. Lancashire runs in the first round of the 1,500 metres. Parker runs in the 3,000 steeplechase semifinals.