READY FOR RESEARCH

UWF gives undergraduates a competitive edge with immersive summer program
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President’s Q&A

With new developments on the horizon, we caught up with President Judith Bense to discuss plans for UWF — from physical enhancements to program initiatives.

What developments are planned that will shape the future of UWF?

As an institute for higher education, it is important that the University continues to seek out new opportunities for student growth, whether in the form of buildings or brochure offerings. This summer, we announced an important gift and new partnership with Quint and Bison Studer to create the Center for Entrepreneurship at the College of Business. This Center will serve as a comprehensive resource for students, as well as industry and community partners. In anticipation of the Center’s opening, the College is launching a fully online MBA with a specialization in Entrepreneurship.

UWF continues to evolve academically, as well as physically. How is the campus changing?

We are consistently working on a variety of projects that will enhance academic opportunities or provide a service for the University community. One such project is the Argonaut Village on the East Campus, a partnership with community partners. In anticipation of the Center’s opening, the College is serving as a comprehensive resource for students, as well as industry and community partners. In anticipation of the Center’s opening, the College is launching a fully online MBA with a specialization in Entrepreneurship.

What recent programs highlight UWF’s commitment to providing new opportunities to students?

This summer, UWF launched the first Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) for students in the College of Science and Engineering. The 10-week intensive program was funded almost entirely by private donors and guided by faculty mentors — enabling participants to complete research projects that will change the shape of their academic and professional careers. Learn more about SURP in this issue’s feature story on page 9.

DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

As the University of West Florida looks forward to its 50th anniversary in 2017, I find myself more connected to our story than ever. Our students and alumni are the characters of our story, and their successes serve as the central narrative of a University that continues to grow in size and scope of opportunity.

Take, for example, the story of Chris Bondy, featured in this issue. Today, Chris owns Ace Unlocks in Pensacola, a business he started as a UWF student. His story began on our campus, when a golf teammate locked himself out of his car. From that fateful moment grew a thriving business — and continued service to the University that put him there.

This issue also features artist Patrick Jacobs, class of 1994, who is currently a successful artist living in New York City. Patrick has excelled in his field, traveling the world to display his art exhibitions and working on private commissions, including one for Neil Patrick Harris. For Patrick, and for many of our successful alumni, it all began here at UWF.

We thank Chris, Patrick and all our alumni, for continued support of the University and its programs through your generous gifts. It is our responsibility and privilege to provide unique opportunities to our students and meaningful contributions to this region. Without you, our big ideas might never leave the ground.

Thank you for giving back to the place that gave you your start.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brendan Kelly
Vice President, University Advancement
President, UWF Foundation, Inc.
News & Notes
BY OLIVIA WISE

Stay informed with the most recent news headlines from the University of West Florida by visiting news.uwf.edu.

UWF students study abroad in Japan for hands-on learning

UWF’s College of Education and Professional Studies’ Emerge Program sponsored a group of nine students to participate in a college-wide, interdisciplinary study abroad opportunity in Japan in May 2015. The Japan study abroad program was hosted in collaboration with the Jikei Group and hosted the second class of Emerge Scholars.

Massively Open Online Course on the move at UWF

UWF launched its first massively open online course—an innovative addition to traditional lectures—on May 18, 2015. The six-week, low-impact, free online course entitled “Introduction to Geographic Information Systems” is open to the public via the Internet.

Student from the UWF Department of Music returned to Carnegie Hall

UWF music student James Matthews, returned to Carnegie Hall for an encore performance in New York City on May 23, 2015. The invitation came from the American Protege International Competition, where he received an honorable mention in last year’s competition. Matthews performed “Funeral March” by Franz Liszt.

Matthews will be graduating in the fall of 2015 and is a member of the studio of distinguished university professor, Hedi Salanki.

National Writing Project summer institute for educators hosted by UWF

UWF and Escambia County School District hosted a Summer Invitational Institute for educators on June 8-25, 2015, as part of ongoing efforts to become a National Writing Project site.

Center for Research and Economic Opportunity announced at UWF

UWF recently announced the creation of the Center for Research and Economic Opportunity (CREO) is the result of a merger of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the Office of Economic Development and Engagement.

Dr. Rick Harper, who, until CREO’s creation served as executive director of ODIE and assistant vice president for economic development for the University, will lead the center. Harper’s new position is associate vice president for research and economic opportunity.

UWF and Gulf Islands National Seashore celebrate new partnership

This spring, UWF celebrated a new partnership with Gulf Islands National Seashore to establish the Gulf Islands Research and Education Center. The GIREC enhances and promotes conservation, research and science education by direct research to high-priority resource management issues; promoting greater interaction between students, scientists and resource managers; and providing high-impact STEM educational opportunities for local students.

GIREC joined a network of 19 National Park Service Research Learning Centers that are working cooperatively to address regional and national environmental issues. Each year, the research learning centers, working with partner institutions, involve thousands of scientists and tens of thousands of students in park-based research and educational programs.

News & Notes
Despite far-reaching advances in technology, robots remain a futuristic or fantastical concept for most of us. Images of R2-D2, C-3PO or Wall-E may come to mind, but robots are not purely the work of science fiction.

John Carff (B.S. '07, M.S. '09) knows firsthand that robots are a real and viable solution to contemporary problems.

A research associate with the Pensacola-based Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), Carff and a team of IHMC colleagues placed second in a worldwide robotics competition held this summer in Pomona, California. Known as the DARPA Robotics Challenge Finals, the contest awarded a total of $3.5 million in prize money.

“I encouraged him to publish his research results, and indeed he published and presented his work at the IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems as a graduate student. I am delighted that he’s having such great success and impact on robotics,” she added.

Other UWF alumni are members of the IHMC team, as well. Doug Stephen (’13), Duncan Calvert (’14) and Travis Craig (’14) represent the rest of the Argo contingent that took part in the DARPA Robotics Challenge. They contributed to the “whole body algorithm” software that helps control the robot, and developed some crucial attachments for the machine.

“We have a great relationship with IHMC,” El-Sheikh said. “Our top students often intern at IHMC or work there after graduation, and several UWF faculty, including myself, have collaborated with IHMC researchers on projects.”

Because of the collaborative nature of DARPA, other research teams have gained access to the software, too, making it a potential game-changer for global robotics work.

Carff credits Dr. Eman El-Sheikh, associate dean, College of Science and Engineering, professor of computer science, and interim director, Center for Cybersecurity, with encouraging him during his time at UWF.

“I encouraged him to publish his research results, and indeed he published and presented his work at the IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems as a graduate student. I am delighted that he’s having such great success and impact on robotics,” she added.

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Last year IHMC founder and CEO Ken Ford was the guest speaker for the inaugural UWF Artificial Intelligence Research Group Seminar, and this year, organizers have invited members of the IHMC robotics team.

As for Carff, with the DARPA Challenge behind him, he’s turning his focus at IHMC to work on other droids.

“One [robots] get a little better, they can be used remotely, such as for nature surveillance or anywhere it is too dangerous for humans to go,” he said.

The future is in good hands – both human and robot.
Partnership with Quint and Rishy Studer to establish the Center for Entrepreneurship

The University of West Florida recently announced a partnership with Quint and Rishy Studer to develop the Center for Entrepreneurship for UWF’s College of Business. The Studer Family Foundation and Rishy Studer have committed $1 million to fund the center, which will be located in downtown Pensacola.

“This is the most excited I have been about any project that Rishy and I have been involved in,” said Quint Studer.

The Center for Entrepreneurship is dedicated to seeding economic growth. The Center encourages and supports educational initiatives related to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking and serves as a comprehensive resource for economic innovation for students, industry and community partners. The Center for Entrepreneurship seeks to serve as a source of support for the complete life cycle of an entrepreneur.

The Center will be housed in the College of Business and host numerous activities and initiatives related to creating a culture of entrepreneurial thinking. Additionally, affiliate units and organizations will create a synergistic support for entrepreneurial efforts and innovation. Studer will serve as the Entrepreneur-in-Residence to the University of West Florida. The Center for Entrepreneurship seeks to be a source of support for the complete life cycle of an entrepreneur.

The Center will be located in downtown Pensacola.

New Fund in Honor of Larry Butler

Recently, the University of West Florida announced a new fund in memory of Pensacola native and celebrated musician and producer Larry Butler.

Gifts made by Butler’s family and friends led to the establishment of the Larry Butler Memorial Music Award. This award will be used to support UWF music students in academic competitions or performance-related travel.

Larry Butler was a great musician, producer and friend to the University of West Florida. “Larry Butler was a great musician, producer and friend to the University of West Florida,” said Dr. Brendan Kelly, vice president for university advancement.

Without English or history, you’re lost in the world. Without English, you can’t communicate and without history, you will continue to make the same mistakes,” said Butler.

Her commitment to supporting students resonates with various departments she views as fundamentally important to the University. "Without English or history, you’re lost in the world. Without English, you can’t communicate and without history, you will continue to make the same mistakes," said Butler.

The English and history scholarships are open to upper division and graduate students in the department who meet enrollment requirements of UWF. If funds allow, more than one scholarship award may be given.

Eligibility for all scholarships is based solely on merit to reward students who continually excel in their discipline. The English, history and theatre department chairs will select the scholarship recipients for their respective areas.
UWF gives undergraduates a competitive edge with immersive summer program

**BY ASHLEY KAHN SALLEY**

Research is at the heart of every great program in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Getting a head start on acquiring the skills necessary to create new scientific knowledge can make a definitive difference in a student’s career, both before and beyond graduation.

In the summer of 2015, students had the opportunity to participate in the inaugural College of Science and Engineering Summer Undergraduate Research Program at UWF. Funded almost entirely by grants, the program was designed to expose participants to advanced research in their field of study.
FROM LECTURE HALL TO LABORATORY

Participants completed a formal application, including identifying a faculty mentor. Selected students spent 20 to 25 hours per week for 10-12 weeks in collaboration with their mentors, culminating either in publications or presentations. However, the program’s most valuable contribution lies in its impact on student development outside the traditional lecture hall.

Dr. Michael Huggins, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, is a proponent of students engaging in hands-on learning experiences in order to be truly competitive in the workforce. In a research environment, students can take the theoretical knowledge they learn in the classroom and apply it to solving real-world problems, which will allow them to be successful in the workplace.

“Sitting in the classroom really doesn’t give them everything they need to be competitive in the workforce. In a research environment, students can take the theoretical knowledge they learn in the classroom and apply it to solving real-world problems, which will allow them to be successful in the workplace.”
—Dr. Michael Huggins

DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“A lot of universities allow their undergraduates to participate in research, but I’m not aware of any that have a formalized program like this, particularly where the students are supported by donor money,” Huggins said. “We have more than 40 students being supported from donations. I’m aware of anybody doing anything on that scale.”

Donor support was critical to the success of the first-time program, with $167,500 awarded to 43 undergraduate students through private gifts. Internal and external research grants in the amount of $42,400 contributed to projects for 11 students. Five students were selected for experiences away from prestigious research facilities. Twenty-eight College faculty mentors—81 percent of total College faculty—worked closely with the undergraduate student participants.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS

In order to participate in this first-time research experience, undergraduates were required to identify a faculty mentor, who would supervise and direct the 10-week studies. The projects that follow are representative of the scope and breadth of research completed by this year’s 54 SURF students, culminating in a research celebration at summer’s end. Each student had different reasons for joining the program, but all will leave with new skills and self-awareness.

### Pilot Study: DNA-Based Gut Content Analysis of Invasive Lionfish

Lionfish (Pterois volitans) were first observed off Pensacola in 2010, but are now the most abundant predator at many sites. This Citrus Science project seeks to develop protocols to allow high school students to conduct DNA-based identification (barcoding) of lionfish prey. Once established, it will provide students with valuable hands-on training in genetics, and the data students generate will be used to better understand the impacts of lionfish on native species, including red snapper and other commercially important fish.

“Students interested in careers in science and engineering will be entering a very competitive market where success is measured by your experience and what you have produced more than what degree you have,” said Dr. Jeff Eble, research coordinator for the newly established Gulf Islands Research and Education Center, a partnership between UWF and Gulf Islands National Seashore. “That is why we encourage all undergraduates in the college to get involved with research—early and often.”

Nicholas Zielinski and Ryan Lavoe have taken notice, each working with Eble on different projects.

### Study of Zinc Oxide Quantum Dot Characteristics in Synthesis, Modification and X-Ray Diffraction

Quantum dots (QDs) are nanoparticles with fluorescent properties, enabling their use in applications such as LEDs and chemical sensors. Most quantum dots are made with biologically toxic materials such as cadmium, however the research team has successfully synthesized non-toxic zinc oxide QDs. The inert properties broaden zinc oxide applications to include biomedical applications, such as medical imaging.

The goal of this project is to increase the length of time of fluorescent QDs, thereby improving the potential applications for cancer imaging or chemical sensors.

Dr. Karen Molek is an assistant professor of chemistry whose research group has been working on this project for almost three years. She took on the mentorship after identifying Aaron Menu as an exceptional research student.

“This experience has given me a better idea of what I would like to pursue in my career, which is a huge step when searching for the right graduate school.”
—Jeff Eble, Nicholas Zielinski + Ryan Lavoe

### Zeliahs find new direction

“I decided to apply because I knew it would give me an opportunity to utilize what I have learned and the ability to focus on a project beyond the classroom,” he said. “This experience has given me a better idea of what I would like to pursue in my career, which is a huge step when searching for the right graduate school.”

Zielinski found new direction.

“Through this program, I was able to gain some experience in many different areas of science at every step of the research process all the way from initial research design and data collection to data analysis,” he said. “I also had to learn to think and work independently, as well as learn to find the most efficient ways to motivate myself.”

Karen Molek + Aaron Menu

#### NAMED SCHOLAR POSITIONS

- Alancy Chemistry Research Scholars
- Ascend Performance Materials Research Scholars
- Burr Undergraduate Research Scholars
- General Dynamics IT Research Scholars
- Manziek Research Scholars
- Seifert Research Scholars
- Webb Electric Research Scholars
- Health Alliance Research Scholars

#### GRANT FUNDING SOURCES

- National Institutes of Health
- American Chemical Society’s Petroleum Research Fund
- Research Corporation’s National Science Foundation Program
Dr. Toby Daly-Engel points out that research experiences such as SURP also help students understand the differences and similarities between STEM in the classroom and STEM as a vocation, giving them a better idea of what to expect and how to be successful in the professional world. Her student, Emily Miller, has learned a lot about being a researcher, such as reading and choosing an appropriate scientific journal, how to properly dictate in a scientific notebook and how to write a CV. This experience has changed the way I feel about my chosen field of study by opening up new doors to what is possible for me,” Miller said. “I always thought I wanted to work in conservation, but since working in the lab, I am enjoying seeing how everything comes together. I like being able to ask a question and gather data to see what possible answers I can get.”

“STEM is competitive,” she said, “and undergraduate research really gives our students a leg up on the competition because it provides the kind of real-world experience that most people don’t get until after they graduate.”

Despite growing concern over the health of the world’s oceans, we know very little about the reproductive strategies of most large, slow-growing marine predators, such as sharks. This study examines the genetics mating system of the Gulf spurdog shark, Squalus of Mitsukurii, using mitochondrial and nuclear DNA analysis. Results will shed light on the natural history and evolution of a poorly known, recently described species, with implications for the management of deep-water fishes throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Toby Daly,Engel, assistant professor of biology, echoes the sentiment expressed by her colleague.

“STEM is competitive,” she said, “and undergraduate research really gives our students a leg up on the competition because it provides the kind of real-world experience that most people don’t get until after they graduate.”

“It is critical that students obtain a basic understanding of research so that they can be conscious consumers of it, rather than passively accepting media sound bites about research findings as the complete truth,” Jordan said. “Actively engaging in the research process helps students to understand both the strengths and the limitations of specific research studies so that they can make the best decisions to guide their lives based on the scientific evidence that we uncover.”

“While obtaining practical experience for my own future career, I am helping to address a critical health issue in our local and national community,” she said.

“I always thought I wanted to work in conservation, but since working in the lab, I am enjoying seeing how everything comes together. I like being able to ask a question and gather data to see what possible answers I can get.”

—Emily Miller

—TeAsia Mason
You may be familiar with the economic model of ‘supply and demand,’ but what about demand for a degree to help students manage the supply chain? In response to market demand locally, regionally and beyond, the University of West Florida recently approved a degree program in supply chain logistics management.

The Department of Marketing and Economics has offered coursework in logistics within the College of Business for the past 10 years. As students filled the classes, won national academic competitions and were hired to fill logistics operations and sales positions upon graduation, the University identified the field as an important academic area.

Dean of the College of Business Dr. Timothy O’Keefe confirmed there has been a steadily growing student interest in logistics study over the past several years at UWF, beginning with an introductory course taught by Dr. Scott Keller. Complementary marketing courses then produced a highly successful certificate program, followed by a logistics specialization, which led to the standalone B.S./B.A. degree.

The new degree program will offer high quality and practical courses that produce relevant skills in UWF graduates sought out by industry managers. In addition to analytics fundamentals that logistics professionals require to make decisions in the field, primary coursework will include global logistics, supply chain logistics strategy, transportation management, purchasing and supply management, warehousing and terminal management.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DEGREE
Dr. Scott Keller is largely responsible for the establishment of the new degree offering, a process that can take up to two years. “Businesses recognize the need to hire college graduates with practical and analytical skills in supply chain logistics to reduce cost and improve service and product quality through logistics management,” Keller said. “Ultimately, our students help companies in our region, the State of Florida and the U.S. become more competitive through efficient and effective logistics decisions.”

Keller noted that UWF logistics professors are highly active and connected with industry partners, like the Lewis Bear Company. Indeed, the Bear Family Foundation allocated $300,000 of a $1 million gift to fund an Endowed Professorship in Supply Chain Logistics. Students benefit from such connections through touring working logistics and transportation facilities and interacting first hand with professionals managing operations and sales for various national and international companies – including C.G. Railway in Mobile, Alabama; Crane Worldwide Logistics in Atlanta, Georgia and Houston, Texas; CSX Corporation in Jacksonville, Florida; UPS in Mira Loma, California; and Pensacola’s QMotion, Gulf Power Company and Avalex Technologies.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS
Robyn Duncan, who first became interested in logistics after hearing of growing career opportunities in the field, accepted an offer of employment with Avalex Technologies after graduating from the UWF logistics program.

“It’s amazing to me how much the world is driven by logistics and how we have to have people to manage it,” Duncan said. “Every product that we use or chairs that we sit in, is a part of a complex system of people and communication that got it to you – the customer.”

Duncan now works in Strategic Procurement, dealing with everything from prototypes to inventory in the production of electronics for the aerospace industry. She says she used all the concepts from her core coursework within her first three days of real-world employment.

“Most people don’t realize UWF has built a reputation among the major universities as a competitive and quality logistics program … our certificate alone produced a 99 percent hire rate within the first six months of graduation,” Duncan pointed out. “I can only imagine the success a full B.S./B.A. will give to students as more resources become available to them.”

Mike Juchniewicz is president of the Supply Chain Logistics Association at UWF. He said the industry is still fairly young, with...
many businesses becoming concerned about supply chain strategies only in the last 20 years—after recognizing the effect suppliers and shipment schedules can have on profit margins. “This is the exact reason I am so passionate about the Supply Chain Logistics program, because we all have the opportunity to leave a lasting mark on companies by looking at their business models from a logistics point of view,” said Juchniewicz.

The UWF senior, who will graduate in December with the first class to earn the B.S./B.A. degree program at uwf.edu/logistics.

“Every product that we deal with in everyday life, down to the pens that we use or chairs that we sit in, is a part of a complex system of people and communication that got it to you—the customer.”
—Robyn Duncan, ’15
UWF College of Business Graduate

REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS

For those who think logistics is limited to the pens that we use or chairs that we sit in, is a part of a complex system of people and communication that got it to you—the customer.”
—Robyn Duncan, ’15
UWF College of Business Graduate

SNAPSHOTS

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A Green (and Blue) Thumb
The UWF Community Garden Project

BY AMY MINCHIN

Digging around in a campus garden may not be the first place you’d expect to find college students on a Saturday morning.

At UWF, students taking part in classes like Dr. Gregory Tomso’s Honors seminar course, Politics of Food, have come together with other gardening enthusiasts to cultivate a place of community that promotes the benefits of sustainable agriculture. Begun in 2010, the on-campus Community Garden Project provides a mission worthy of waking up early and sacrificing a little weekend time.

“The Community Garden Project started to raise awareness of healthy eating,” said Tomso, associate director of UWF Kugelman Honors Program. “Students approached me about it. They were upset with fast food culture and the industrialization of food. Starting a garden on campus was an opportunity for students to learn about the time and labor required to produce food, and the students responded astoundingly.”

Saturday workdays are when the bulk of activity occurs, drawing students and other volunteers to the garden located behind the UWF water tower.

“With four raised beds, we grow a wide range of crops, from vegetables to herbs to flowers for pollinators,” said Chasidy Hobbs, environmental science instructor and undergraduate advisor. “We envision having fruit trees and grapes growing on site, too.”

“Starting a garden on campus was an opportunity for students to learn about the time and labor required to produce food, and the students responded astoundingly.”
— Dr. Gregory Tomso, associate director of UWF Kugelman Honors Program

Hobbs says funding will determine the garden’s future growth, and community support is invaluable. “The garden is for anyone who wants to donate time, sweat or supplies to help in the mission,” she added. Jordan Yee, a Pensacola architect with STOA Architects, is a Board member and community supporter of the UWF Community Garden Project.

“It has been a pleasure collaborating with students and other Board members on the many design issues that a garden poses—layout, site planning issues, as well as smaller human scale features like the entrance signage,” he said. “And who doesn’t love delicious, organic vegetables?”

Produce harvested from the garden is shared among campus and community members who grow the food. Any surplus is donated.

“In the past we’ve donated to either Mama Food Pantries or Leaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen,” Hobbs said. “We are looking forward to expanding so that we will have more to donate to those in need of healthy food.”

Tomso noted that students, like much of the larger community, have access to food, but they are starving for healthy food.

The Community Garden Project is doing its part to fill that void, while also offering hands-on gardening experience and an opportunity to impact the community.

For more information, please contact Dr. Tomso at gtomso@uwf.edu.
Argos in the Pros

Remember those first steps into the real world following the best years of your life at the University of West Florida?

Equally scary and thrilling. A roller coaster of emotions as you adjust to life opening its next chapters.

Athletes aren’t immune to experiencing those feelings. In fact, their accomplishments and miscues play out before hundreds, sometimes thousands, of strangers every night.

“You’re going to have ups and downs,” Argonauts baseball coach Mike Jeffcoat said. “Everybody does in pro ball.”

One of Jeffcoat’s prized former pupils is a great example.

Former Argos center fielder LeDarious Clark was, arguably, the hottest hitter in all of professional baseball earlier this summer. Then, a few days later, the Spokane Indians leadoff hitter was battling through a four-game hitting slump.

“It was like a beach ball the whole time. Not too many of those nights come around.”

But just as soon as that hot start helped Clark get comfortable in his new surroundings, he endured four hitless games in consecutive nights.

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here,” Clark recalled of those virtually unheard of four-hit explosions. “I felt good at the plate.”

“I’m kind of on my own out here, you know. It’s a job. If you don’t do your job, you get fired.”

—LeDarious Clark, Spokane Indians Baseball Player

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here. I’m kind of on my own out here, you know. It’s a job. If you don’t do your job, you get fired.”

—LeDarious Clark, Spokane Indians Baseball Player

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here,” Clark said in crediting his parents and his time at UWF for molding him. “I’m kind of on my own out here. It’s a job. If you don’t do your job, you get fired.”

“With me, I can get released if I’m not performing. So there is a lot you have to do for yourself while also doing the best I can for the team.”

—Brian Ellington, Miami Marlins Pitcher, Former Argos Pitcher

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here.”

—LeDarious Clark, Spokane Indians Baseball Player

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here. I’m kind of on my own out here, you know. It’s a job. If you don’t do your job, you get fired.”

—LeDarious Clark, Spokane Indians Baseball Player

The biggest thing I took away, and the thing I thank coach Jeffcoat for teaching me, is how not to take any days for granted and make every opportunity count.”

—Brian Ellington, Miami Marlins Pitcher, Former Argos Pitcher

“Things are certainly more intense up here,” said Clark, speaking from one of his team’s unbearable road trips in July. “I’m just trying to go out and perform to the best of my abilities.”

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here,” Clark said in crediting his parents and his time at UWF for molding him. “I’m kind of on my own out here, you know. It’s a job. If you don’t do your job, you get fired.”

“We have to handle the ups and downs because a player is defined.”

“I was already prepared for this moment when I got here,” Clark said in crediting his parents and his time at UWF for molding him. “I’m kind of on my own out here, you know. It’s a job. If you don’t do your job, you get fired.”

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—Brian Ellington, Miami Marlins Pitcher, Former Argos Pitcher

To keep up with Clark, Ellington and many other former UWF student-athletes competing at the next level, visit GoArgos.com.
One year from now the University of West Florida football team will take the field for its first official game. To make sure you’ll be there for the historic inaugural season at Pensacola Bayfront Stadium, follow the steps below.

**Step 1:** Complete the football season ticket interest form at GoArgos.com/FootballTix.

**Step 2:** Join the Argonaut Athletic Club and build your priority points. More information available at GoArgos.com/PriorityPoints.

**Step 3:** Make a season ticket deposit if you choose not to build priority points.

**Step 4:** Continue to track and build priority points through April 1, 2016.

**Step 5:** UWF Athletics will contact you to confirm your requested number of seats and schedule your seat selection time.

**Step 6:** Select your seats in Spring 2016 and purchase your tickets:

- Dugout Club - $250*
- Blue Level - $195
- Green Level - $95
- Silver Level - $70

* Includes dugout access, food and beverages

**Faculty and staff discount prices available**

For more information contact UWF athletic ticketing at 850.474.ARG0 or visit GoArgos.com/FootballTix.

Policies and procedures about UWF football season tickets are subject to change.
Students pose with Argie at the UWF Football Kick-off Event.

Alumni at the Emerald Coast Chapter Event.

UWF Night at the Wahoos Event.

The UWF Alumni Association Golf Classic will be held Sept. 25, 2015 at Scenic Hills Country Club at the University of West Florida. All UWF alumni and friends are invited to join us for a day filled with golf, food and fun! All net tournament proceeds will support the UWF Alumni Association.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Missy Grace at mgrace@uwf.edu, 850.474.3423 or 800.226.1893 for additional information.

Date: Friday, Sept. 25, 2015
Time: 11 a.m. Registration/Lunch 12 p.m. Shotgun start
Location: Scenic Hills Country Club 8881 Burning Tree Road Pensacola, FL
Fees: $325–Foursome $85–Individual
Register online at alumni.uwf.edu/programs. Registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 14, 2015.
Meet the Alumni Board
University of West Florida Alumni Association Board of Directors

Congratulations to the 2015-16 University of West Florida Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The Alumni Board of Directors represents UWF’s alumni population and helps us stay connected with the interests of alumni. Board members support the mission of the association, create engagement opportunities for alumni and share their expertise to further the association, university projects and programs. Learn more about your board at alumni.uwf.edu.

Joel Balistreri ’98
Residence: Gulf Breeze, Florida
Major: BS HLES-Leisure Studies
Employment: Workforce Development Specialist, Shermco Industries

Kristie Kelley ’98 & ’99
Residence: Cantonment, Florida
Major: BS Biology & MEd, Educational Leadership
Employment: County Supervisor of Elections, Administration, Escambia County Supervisor of Elections

Stephen Hester ’91
Residence: Lewisville, Texas
Major: BA International Studies
Employment: Senior Training Specialist, Shermco Industries

Kirstie Kelley ’89 & ’99
Residence: Cantonment, Florida
Major: BS Biology & MEd, Educational Leadership
Employment: Workforce Development Coordinator, Gulf Power Company

Paul Protofortito ’81
Officer: Treasurer
Residence: Pensacola, Florida
Major: BS Accounting
Employment: Customer Ops Analyst, Gulf Power Company

Luke van Blaricom ’02 & ’03
Officer: Past President
Residence: Orlando, Florida
Major: BS, Biology & MS, Biology-Education
Employment: Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Central Florida

Jay Windham ’01
Residence: Pensacola, Florida
Major: BS Business
Employment: Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

Harriett Wyer ’92
Officer: Vice President
Residence: Pensacola, Florida
Major: BS Marketing
Employment: Oncology Sales Specialist, AstraZeneca

Brett Barrow ’87
Officer: President
Residence: Pensacola, Florida
Major: BS Management
Employment: Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking, Regions Bank

Lee Bedenbaugh ’92 & ’02
Residence: Tallahassee, Florida
Major: BA Accounting & MBA
Employment: Director-Analitics, Healthcare Economics, Florida Blue

Sonya Daniel ’14
Officer: Secretary
Residence: Cantonment, Florida
Major: MA Strategic Communication & Leadership
Employment: Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Administration, Escambia County Supervisor of Elections

Jennifer Hammond ’93 & ’95
Residence: Washington, DC
Major: BA, Legal Administration & MPA
Employment: Radio Talks Show Host & Relator, Sirius/XM & TTR Sotheby’s

Alumni Spotlight: Chris Roney

BY AMY MINCHIN

CHRIS RONEY holding a 1997 issue of the UWF student newspaper, featuring his business.

Chris Roney (’97) is the owner of Ace Unlocks in Pensacola, a business he started as a UWF student. He is a donor and supporter of UWF Athletics, including the men’s and women’s golf teams.

Q. Why did you choose UWF?
A. I was offered a full scholarship as a member of the golf team.

Q. You started Ace Unlocks while you were in college. Why a locksmith business?
A. A buddy and I wanted to be entrepreneurs. We had looked into some business ideas that didn’t pan out. One night, a golf teammate was locked out of his car and called a locksmith. It cost him $55. My friend, who had experience working in a towing business, said “I could have done that if I’d had my tools.” So we saw the opportunity. We started out offering our services on campus for $20. We ran the business out of a 1989 Forerunner and a 1988 Mustang. To this day, we charge $20 to unlock a car at UWF as long as the person has a student or faculty ID.

Q. What is the business like today?
A. We serve Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties with a fleet of eight vehicles and 14 employees. We’re the sole AAA affiliate in the area. We’re open 24/7, like Waffle House. During and after Hurricane Ivan, we never closed. It’s been quite a ride.

Q. What advice would you give to current students with entrepreneurial interests?
A. Make a plan. You can change it as you go, but without a vision or goal, you’ll fail. Also, when choosing a business, look at its long-term viability. We all want to do something we love, but sometimes a career finds us. Don’t limit your options. Lastly, I’d tell them to get involved in a business that asks for $1 from one million people vs. one that asks for $1 million from one person. There is stability in having more customers.

A. Learning things like how to create a business plan and forecasting was helpful when we started, but it wasn’t one particular class. It’s really the overall experience of having to graduate, which took discipline. You need discipline when you’re called to unlock a vehicle at 3 a.m.

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Alumni Events

Alumni Events
From gatherings in their own hometown to events on campus, UWF alumni have plenty of opportunities to engage with UWF and meet, work and play together. If you have ideas and suggestions for a great alumni event, email us at alumni@uwf.edu. For event updates visit alumni.uwf.edu.

September 8
Whiskey Tasting, Old Hickory Whiskey Bar

OCT 19-24
Homecoming

SEPT 25
Golf Tournament, Scenic Hills Golf Club

OCT 23
Homecoming Tailgate

October 17/24
Football Scrimmages
10/17 Pensacola Bayfront Stadium
10/24 UWF Pensacola Campus

October 24
Wine and Spirits Alumni Event

DECEMBER 12
Fall Commencement

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In the spring of 2015, Patrick Jacobs (BFA ’94) returned to the University of West Florida for his solo-exhibition Pink Autumn. This was the first time Jacobs had spent an extended period of time at his alma mater since his time as a student. During his visit to UWF, Jacobs did more than simply share his dreamy and imaginative dioramas with the community; he engaged with students who are currently at the same point in their academic careers that he was in nearly 20 years ago.

“Returning to UWF was a both wonderful and strange experience. In a way, it was very much like returning home to visit your family after being away for a long time,” Jacobs said. “You’re reminded of who you are and where you come from. I was suddenly aware of the passage of time and the personal growth that has occurred since being a student.”

During his visit, Jacobs led a gallery talk in which he described the technical process of his work. He often draws on whatever materials, processes or means necessary to achieve the right effect. “More seasoned professors often championed a formal approach to artistic disciplines and their respective processes, while a younger generation espoused an interdisciplinary crossing over between media,” Jacobs said. “I emerged from UWF with both points of view: a respect for and delight in traditional craftsmanship and simultaneously a need to break the rules in order to say something new. The two approaches sound at odds, but they go hand-in-hand.”

Jacobs constructs three-dimensional dioramas that are viewed through lenses and embedded in a gallery’s walls. The dioramas depict both interior and exterior landscapes that captivate viewers as they explore new realities. Jacobs also creates copper plate etchings, a printmaking process that dates back to the early Renaissance. Both encapsulate his synthesis of modern and traditional artistic styles.

Today, Jacobs lives in Brooklyn, New York. He has been included in “Otherworldly: Optical Delusions and Small Realities” at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City. Currently, he is working on a few private commissions, including one for Neil Patrick Harris and a highrise hotel in Manhattan.

“Art doesn’t have to be made with precious materials or using a complicated process; if you can get the viewer to make the leap from something mundane or unexpected to another imaginative reality, it is very exciting.” — Patrick Jacobs, BFA ’94

FLY AGRIC #9 by Patrick Jacobs

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97 & 12 John Love, BS HLES Physical Education & MA Educational Leadership, is the new Walker Elementary assistant principal of Crestview, Florida.

98 Jason Hill, BS HLES Physical Education, was named the new women’s basketball coach of Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

98 Wendy Peel, BA PR & Advertising, is the new vice president of sales and marketing for Reverse Vision, Inc. — a leading software and technology provider for the reverse mortgage industry.

99 Jean Gillion, BS Business Administration, will join the Pensacola Chamber Foundation Leadership class of 2016.

04 & 13 Brandon Koger, BA Education & M Ed. Educational Leadership, is the new assistant principal for the Woodlawn Beach Middle School in Santa Rosa, Florida.

05 Cleita Jones, BS Biology, has been hired as the new head coach for women's basketball at Pensacola State College.

05 Kyle Newsom, MS Administration/ Educational Leadership, is the new principal at Chipley High School.

06 Broward Peoples, BA Social Work, is the new assistant principal at Chipley High School.

06 Hong Tran, MBA, is the new operations services director at Baptist Heart and Vascular Institute.

07 Nicholson Whiting, BA PR & Advertising, joined the women’s soccer coaching staff at the University of Louisiana.

07 Sophia Young, BA Social Work, joined the Pensacola Young Professionals as the operations director.

07 Marco Matteucci, BS HLES Exercise Science, joined the women’s tennis coaching staff at the University of Arizona.

08 Maegan Leonard, BA Journalism, will join the Pensacola Chamber Foundation Leadership class of 2016.

08 Matthew Williams, BA Psychology, accepted a position as an assistant coach with the men’s soccer program at the University of Memphis.

08 James Henderson, MS Business Administration, has been named the new chairman of the UWCF College of Business Advisory Council.

08 Nicholas Whiting, MS Business Administration, is the new command chief for the 88th Special Operations Wing at Kirtland.

08 Danielle Cruz, BS HLES Exercise Science, competed for Costa Rica during the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup.

14 Mark Nisbett, BS Business Administration, will join the Pensacola Chamber Foundation Leadership class of 2016.

14 Daniela Cruz, BS HLES Exercise Science, competed for Costa Rica during the 2015 FIFA Women’s World Cup.

17 Randy Blake, BA Communication Studies, died July 10, 2015.

17 Walter Howard, MA History; died May 7, 2015.


17 Lewis Kieffer, MA Psychology; died March 30, 2015.

79 & 87 Doris Massey, BA Special Education; MA Clinical Teaching; died Feb. 15, 2015.

79 Nelson Bowers, BS Technological Vocational Studies; died March 18, 2015.

79 Bette Kessinger, BS Business Administration; died March 22, 2015.

87 Deborah Bhandari, BA Music Education; died April 5, 2015.

87 James McAdams, BS Systems Science/Business; died March 15, 2015.

76 Harry Mahlers, BS Cell & Molecular Biology; died June 3, 2015.

92 Micheal Snoddy, BA Communication Arts; died May 19, 2015.

92 Lillie Fuller, MA Reading Masters; died Feb. 27, 2015.


92 Sheila Barfield, BSBA Management; died May 12, 2015.

92 Robert Murphy, BSBA Accounting; died March 26, 2015.


93 Robert Dickerson, BA Interdisciplinary Social Science & BA Psychology; died June 30, 2015.

93 Patricia Dodson, BSBA Management; died March 15, 2015.

93 Andrea Gaume, BA Social Work; died March 25, 2015.


93 Robert Hultink, BSBA Accounting; died March 7, 2015.

93 Anthony Prell, MA Education; died March 4, 2015.

93 Donald Scholfield, BSBA Management; died June 7, 2015.

94 Kevin Kenney, BSBA Accounting; died April 25, 2015.

94 Frances Tolar, BA Communication Arts; died June 1, 2015.

94 Judith Bonifay, BA Elementary Education; died March 7, 2015.

94 Horace Harrison, BA Political Science; died May 3, 2015.

94 Alice Hughes, BSBA International; Died May 10, 2015.


94 Charles Aplin, MEd Educational Leadership; died March 4, 2015.

94 Patricia Dodson, BSBA Management; died March 15, 2015.

94 Andrea Gaume, BS HLES Teacher Education; died April 2, 2015.

95 Gary Houghton, MEd Educational Leadership; died April 11, 2015.

95 Richard Spitz, BSBA Accounting; died Feb. 25, 2015.

95 & 79 Hazel Hunsucker, BA Psychology & MEd. Educational Leadership; died May 6, 2015.

95 Jerry Brooks, BA Interdisciplinary Social Science & BS Biology; died July 1, 2015.

96 Thomas E. Knowles, MBA; died Feb. 19, 2015.

96 Dolly Partidge, MA Education; died March 5, 2015.

96 Mark Bullock, BA History; died March 7, 2015.

96 Marge P. Bailey, BA Elementary Education; died Feb. 5, 2015.


96 Donald Scholfield, BSBA Management; died June 7, 2015.

1990s

90 & 98 Della Scott-Iron, BA Anthropology & MA History, received the 2015 Senator Bob Williams Award at the annual Florida Heritage Awards ceremony for her contribution to exceptional historic preservation in Florida.

92 Harriett Wyer, BSBA Marketing, will join the Pensacola Chamber Foundation Leadership class of 2016.

93 Edith Franklin, BSBA Accounting, has joined the New Horizons Credit Union, as the general manager.

96 Stacey Ramos, BS Business Administration, will join the Pensacola Chamber Foundation Leadership class of 2016.

97 Christi Hanks, BA Political Science Pre-Law, has been named the next Pensacola Camellia Club President.

97 Robert Gillander, BA Public Relations, started working at the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles as a senior customer service analyst in May 2015.
Jesse Earle Bowden, 1928–2015
Jesse Earle Bowden, former chairman of the University of West Florida Historic Trust, passed away on Feb. 4, 2015. As a guardian of Pensacola’s legacy, Bowden was active in the formation and success of several preservation efforts in Pensacola. His efforts directly led to the establishment of the Pensacola Historical Preservation and Restoration Commission signed into law by Gov. Claude Kirk in 1967. He served as a founding Board member, vice chairman and chairman until September 1969. In November 1981, Bowden received a gubernatorial appointment to the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees. He served as vice chairman until February 1982, when he was elected chairman, an office he faithfully served until the board was dissolved in 2001 to form West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc., a direct support organization of UWF. Now known as UWF Historic Trust, the Board benefitted from Bowden’s dedication and passion for more than 30 years. He resigned in 2012 to serve as chairman of UWF Historic Trust’s Board of Governors, a group created to serve as advocates and advisors to the Historic Trust Board of Directors. The University of West Florida recognizes Bowden with great admiration and appreciation for his contributions, devotion, knowledge and compassion.

Meet Janine Velez Vazquez
Janine Velez Vazquez embodies ambition. A senior at the University of West Florida, the Puerto Rico native has benefited from extensive involvement during her time in college. She is a full-time student, majoring in international studies – with a focus in international business – and biological anthropology, with a minor in art history. She is a member of three honor societies.

In addition to her academic commitment, Janine devotes her time to UWF as a third-year resident assistant and a student ambassador. For the last two years, she has been a trip leader for Alternative Spring and a volunteer with UWF Homecoming. Serving as a student ambassador has allowed Janine to have interactions that strengthened her communication skills.

“From working graduation to leading tours on campus, I have had the chance to meet a diverse community and refine my ability to express myself and my ideas to others. Being a student ambassador has helped me shape and achieve my goals,” she said.

Janine credits UWF for this opportunity to challenge herself beyond her comfort zone. She hopes her time at the University inspires others with a mindset of progress and encourages students to eagerly serve as student ambassadors.

“Being a student ambassador helps you learn more about yourself by revealing your potential and providing you with professional development opportunities,” she said. “I have learned how to apply classroom concepts in real life, network and understand the bigger picture at hand.”

She links her desire to be a positive role model to her strong family ties, citing her mother as the catalyst for her drive to pursue higher education. “Due to the unwavering support from various University departments, Janine feels fully capable to embark on her career. After graduation, she hopes to join the Peace Corp, then pursue her doctoral degree. She has accomplished many goals in a short time span, but her president thus far have been being selected to participate in Vanderbilt University’s bioarchaeology project in Peru and receiving a National Science Foundation grant to colead research.

Janine Velez Vazquez, Vanderbilt University, Bio-Archaeology Project, Peru

Janine Velez Vazquez, Vanderbilt University, Bio-Archaeology Project, Peru
Whether it’s cheering on your Argos at the homecoming soccer game, making a groundbreaking discovery with your favorite professor, or maybe even rubbing the cannon for good luck before that tough exam, #UWFMemories are timeless. Join the conversation with past and present Argos and share what made your UWF experience memorable.

Use #UWFMemories and tag UWF Alumni for a chance to win a new UWF car magnet to show your Argo pride!