

## Yolanda D. Thomas Endowment Grows With New Gift Of \$20,000

Fred Thomas, a member of the Northwest Florida State College Foundation Board of Directors, established the Yolanda D. Thomas Scholarship Endowment in 2004 in memory of his late wife, and has now added an additional \$20,000 to continue the legacy of an extraordinary woman.

In the seven years since Thomas and many community friends donated funds to start the first scholarships in memory of Yolanda, the endowment through the NWFSC Foundation has grown to more than \$300,000, largely from proceeds of

the annual Yolanda D. Thomas Scholarship Celebrity Golf Tournament, including the most recent gift.

Since 2004, twenty-three women have received the Yolanda D. Thomas Scholarship through the NWFSC Foundation, allowing them opportunities they might not have had otherwise – a fitting tribute to a woman who significantly affected and changed the lives of so many people.

“Yolanda’s passion was to see education made more readily available for less fortunate women,” said Fred Thomas. “She was the kind of person who always wanted to help everyone, to see them do better. That is what we all remember and why these scholarships are the perfect way to honor Yolanda’s drive and determination.”

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Fred Thomas, (center back row) friends and family came together to present an additional \$20,000 check to Dr. Ty Handy and NWF State College in support of the Yolanda D. Thomas Scholarship.



## “McCracken Way” Dedication Honors Founding President



Ruth McCracken (center), widow of OWJC founding president Dr. J.E. “Ed” McCracken, and children Lynne McCracken Vige and Bill McCracken.

The loop road that encircles the Niceville campus of Northwest Florida State College finally has a name. The road was designated as “McCracken Way” at a January 14 ceremony held on what would have been the 89th birthday of the college’s founding president, Dr. J.E. “Ed” McCracken. McCracken was not only the founding president of then Okaloosa-Walton Junior College, but also the college’s longest serving chief administrator – serving from February 1964 through January 1988 – 24 years.

Mrs. Ruth McCracken, widow of the late Dr. McCracken, and two of the couple’s three children, daughter Lynne Vige and son Bill McCracken, along with NWF State College president Dr. Ty Handy, Board of Trustees Chair Sandy Sims, and various retired college faculty and staff, joined in a ceremony to unveil a historical marker and new road signage.

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## Community Service Complex Opens Classroom Wing Named In Honor Of Colonel Bud Day

The grand opening of the Community Services Complex on the Niceville Campus of Northwest Florida State College was marked with a variety of festivities on January 5 including an opening ceremony, a public open house, conference basketball games, and announcement of the naming of a wing in the classroom portion of the facility after Medal of Honor recipient Col. Bud Day.

Sandy Sims, chair of the college’s governing Board of Trustees, noted that the name of the complex, “Really says it all... this is a shared use facility that’s for the community – both the college community and citizens throughout the region who will benefit from what this facility has to offer.”

The 120,000 square foot facility houses Okaloosa County’s year-round 911 Call Center and Emergency Operations Center, a 2,200 seat arena, a college wellness center, facilities for the college’s ROTC program and other instructional spaces. The entire complex is hardened to withstand 190-mile-per-hour winds and is designed for dual-duty, with the arena slated to serve as a public

emergency/hurricane shelter, and the classroom building designed for use by emergency officials if needed.

As a central part of the opening ceremony, the college recognized the naming of the “Col. George E. ‘Bud’ Day Wing” in the classroom building of the complex, which houses the college’s ROTC program. Day and his wife, Doris, attended the ceremony and were honored with a standing ovation by a crowd of more than 300 attendees.

The naming of the classroom wing for Day recognized a scholarship campaign which raised more than \$94,000 from 1,211 individuals to create a permanent scholarship endowment in Col. Day’s name for the college’s ROTC military science program. The vision for the creation of scholarships in Bud Day’s honor, as a way to help build future generations of leaders, was the brainchild of the late Col. Robert Reinlie, US Air Force retired. Reinlie’s widow, Marilynn, and son Dick were recognized at the opening ceremonies as well.

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Col. Bud Day and wife Doris (center) are joined by Sandy Sims, NWFSC Board of Trustees Chair, and Marilynn Reinlie (right), along with Lt. Col. Edward Boegle, Commander of the UWF-NWFSC ROTC Battalion, Major Steve Duckworth, and college president Dr. Ty Handy (left) at the naming of the “Colonel George E. ‘Bud’ Day Wing” of the Community Services Complex.





# New Directors Named To Foundation Board

A volunteer board of 23 members helps lead the Foundation in its mission to support NWFSC.  
Meet six new members of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

**JIM CARDOW** is the Executive Vice President of TYBRIN Corporation. Prior to joining TYBRIN, he was an Air Force officer and instructor of software engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology as well as a staff officer for Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command. He has been published in numerous publications and holds memberships in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and Project Management Institute (PMI). Jim received his BS degree in Computer Science from Texas Tech University and his MS degree in Computer Science from Wright State University. An accomplished marathon runner who runs several marathons each year, including the Boston Marathon, Jim and his wife, Bonnie, are the parents of three children and grandparents of one granddaughter.



Institute for Senior Professionals, serves as Chairman of the Board for Children in Crisis, is involved in various church activities, plays racquetball and is an avid baseball fan. He and his wife, Kay, are the parents of two daughters.

**JAN MCDONALD** is Chairman of the Board of Fort Walton Machining and owner of Emerald Coast Anesthesia. She received her Associate Degree in Nursing from Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, IA and has 21 years experience as an Operating Room Nurse. She is the National Staffing Manager for Nationwide Anesthesia Services. Jan and her late husband, Tim, are the parents of two daughters and one son. She enjoys spending time with her family and granddaughter, Kalli, traveling and flying.



**SCOTT JACKSON** is employed by Gulf Power Company. His experience with the company is with Marketing, Engineering and Customer Service Operations. Scott is an alumnus of the college, receiving both an Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees from then Okaloosa-Walton Junior College. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the University of West Florida. An active member of the community, Scott has been recognized as the Associate of the Year by the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, received the "Service Above Self" award from the Niceville Rotary Club, and was selected by the Niceville-Valpariso Bay Area Chambers of Commerce as the Volunteer of the Year and the James Campbell Community Spirit Award recipient. Scott and his wife, Wanda, are the parents of two children. His main hobby is being the best possible grandfather.



**ROBIN WILSON** is the Manager of Accounting for Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO). She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Florida State University. She began her accounting career with Deloitte and Touche in Jacksonville and also worked with Carr, Riggs and Ingram in the firm's Destin office. After an extended leave of absence to grow her family, she served as CHELCO's internal auditor prior to assuming her current position.



Robin is a Certified Public Accountant, past treasurer of the Florida Institute of Public Accountants and is a Mentor with Take Stock in Children. Robin and her husband, Brett, are the parents of one son and one daughter.

**DONALD P. LITKE** is a former Command Pilot, retired from the USAF as a Major General. His last Air Force duty assignment was as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, a large, mainly civilian organization responsible for the majority of materiel acquisition and distribution and contract management for the Department of Defense. After retirement, he served as president of Business Development International for more than twenty years. Maj. Gen. Litke received his BS degree in Economics from Colorado State University and an MS degree in International Affairs from George Washington University. In addition he graduated from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Naval War College and the National War College. He has received numerous military awards and decorations, is past chair of the college's



**DEWAYNE YOUNGBLOOD** is Vice President of Regions Bank. He has worked in the banking industry for eleven years, nine of those with Regions Bank. He is a three-time recipient of the Regions Bank Chairman's Club Performance Award. Dewayne received his Associate of Arts degree from Okaloosa-Walton Community College and his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Troy University. He currently serves as a board member of the Walton County Chamber of Commerce, the Okaloosa County Economic Development Council and the Destin Chamber of Commerce Sports Commission. He is also a member of the All Sports Association, is current president of the Walton County Healthcare Advisory Board and is a past president of the Walton County EDC. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, fishing and cooking. He and his wife Kathryn live in Santa Rosa Beach.



## President's Column | Dr. Ty Handy

**G**reetings from the Raider Nation! Let me start by congratulating our Women's Basketball team for their very successful season and their runner-up finish at the State Championship. I also want to congratulate all of the student artists whose work has been displayed in our recent Arnie Hart Juried Student Art Show. What a deep pool of student talent we have at NWFSC!

When a new president comes to a college, changes can be expected. I knew I was coming to an extraordinarily sound college of excellent quality, so I did not feel the unnecessary pressure to develop a predetermined agenda. After four months on the job, I felt I had a good enough handle on the culture of this great learning community to begin the process of evaluating where we will be heading in the coming years. During the Fall semester, a group of about twelve employees, representing a cross section of the college, worked hard to craft a document to guide us into the future. Campus-wide input was sought early on in the process, and it inspired the end result. In February, the Board of Trustees adopted a new mission statement for NWFSC. I am particularly pleased with, and focused on, the first six words of that statement, "Northwest Florida State College improves lives." Embodied in those few words are the core reason we exist as a college, and I am proud to be a part of an institution that improves the lives of its students, its employees, and its community.

**Mission** Northwest Florida State College improves lives. We deliver outstanding educational programs that are relevant, accessible, and engaging for students of all ages and provide exceptional cultural, athletic, and economic development activities for the communities served. We commit to excellence, creativity, integrity, and service.

The Board also endorsed a set of seven core values that will guide our decision-making over the next decade. This is the first time the college has adopted a set of values and the key words

in those statements are: Opportunity, Excellence, Learning, Success, Creativity, Community, and Teamwork. I look forward to the impact that having these key attributes identified will have on the decisions we make as a college.

Finally, we have adopted six key Vision Statements and associated key performance indicators to focus our planning and operations over the next decade. In summary form these Visions

- Values**
- OPPORTUNITY** – meeting each student's educational need at his or her level of ability
  - EXCELLENCE** – achieving the highest standards
  - LEARNING** – acquiring new skills, insights, and ideas
  - SUCCESS** – preparing students for the future
  - CREATIVITY** – finding innovative ways to accomplish our objectives
  - COMMUNITY** – listening and responding to community needs
  - TEAMWORK** – supporting and respecting each other and those we serve

reflect our commitment to NWFSC being a learning-centered community, providing access to opportunity, providing community engagement, fostering institutional growth, practicing sound financial stewardship, and being a great place to work.

I am summarizing the result of the college's hard work on our future direction, of course, and hope that over the coming months you will have a chance to see us in action as we sincerely try to "walk the talk" and take this wonderful community asset to the next level. I hope you will take a moment to view the college's entire Vision 2020 outline at [www.nwfsc.edu/mission](http://www.nwfsc.edu/mission).

I value your relationship with NWFSC and look forward to seeing you on campus or in the community – Raider Up!



Kathleen 'Taty' Saunders (l) and Eileen Arpke (r)



(l to r) Brett Wilson, Robin Wilson, Tracy Conerly and Lamar Conerly



Majorie Cox Gray and her son Buck Gray

## Foundation Annual Meeting Celebrates Donor Support

The Northwest Florida State College Foundation recently hosted more than 250 college supporters at its annual meeting to acknowledge the Foundation's benefactors and induct its 2011 officers and board members. Foundation net assets were reported at \$35,532,043 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, up from \$33,914,830 in 2009. In fiscal year 2010, the foundation provided more than \$1.4 million in resource support to the college.

College president, Dr. Ty Handy, recognized donors for their support of student scholarships, endowed teaching chairs, campus enhancements and named facilities. Handy noted that NWFSC Foundation scholarship awards totaled more than \$375,000 in the last academic year – providing needed financial assistance for more than 400 students to attend NWFSC. "The college succeeded financially in spite of continued pressure on state funding," noted Handy, who credited the Foundation's achievements to a generous community of NWF State College supporters as he asked for continued support of the college to help prepare the next generation of community leaders for success.



2011 NWFSC Foundation president Wayne Campbell presents 2010 NWFSC Foundation president Gloria Frazier with a Holzhauser print in honor of her service to the board.



Annual Foundation Dinner



The Mattie Kelly Arts Center Ushers, AmericCorps/NWFSC and college Auxiliary Services staff provided valued assistance with the annual meeting event.

Donors who contributed gifts to the endowed teaching chair program were commended for their vital support of academic programs, instruction and technology. Handy also thanked those donors who provided gifts that support a broad range of college interests, from campus enhancements such as the new interactive sundial on the Niceville campus to symphony concerts made possible through corporate underwriters.

"In addition to the Foundation's traditional support of academics, the Foundation also serves as an umbrella organization for a broad spectrum of programs that not only provide educational enrichment to students, but also enhance the community at large – through the arts, environmental conservation, college athletic programs and more," noted outgoing NWFSC Foundation president, Gloria Frazier of Shalimar, who commended all those who had donated to the college or any college sponsored program or service.

Following the confirmation of the 2011 Foundation directors and officers, Gloria Frazier introduced Wayne Campbell, retired Fort Walton Beach Medical Center CEO as the Foundation's in-coming president for 2011-2012. Lamar Conerly of Conerly, Bowman and Dykes, will serve as the vice president and Fred Thomas of ThomCo Enterprises will serve as treasurer.

Wayne Campbell thanked Frazier for her more than nine years of vital service to the Foundation, as both a member of the board and the Foundation's executive committee, and for her tireless contributions to the foundation, college and community. Campbell also noted the NWFSC Foundation's success, and challenged attendees to continue to support the Foundation in its mission to provide educational aid to the college.

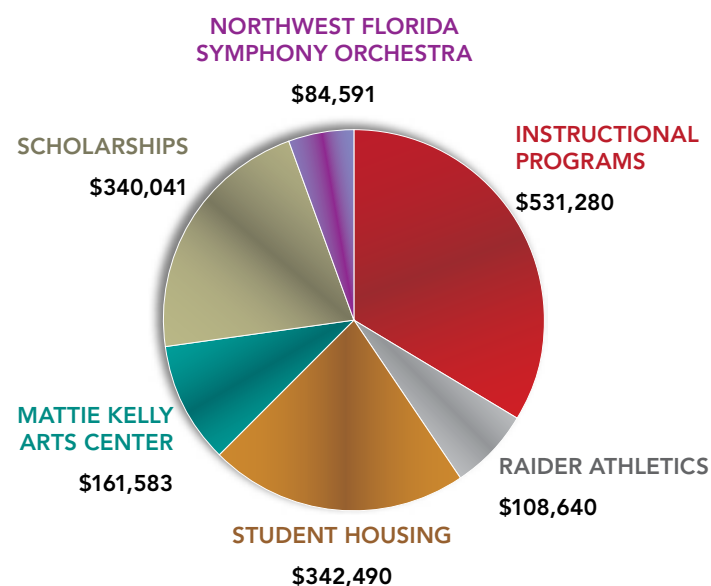
A copy of the annual report is available on the NWFSC Foundation website at [www.nwfscfoundation.org](http://www.nwfscfoundation.org).

### Asset Growth



### Assets at Work

2009-2010



## Panhellenic Scholarship Donation



Billie Chappell, President of the Fort Walton Beach Panhellenic Organization, presents Cristie Kedroski, Executive Director of the NWFSC Foundation, with \$500 for the Women's Educational Resource Center.

The Fort Walton Beach Panhellenic Chapter provided a \$500 contribution to NWF State College's Women's Educational Resource Center (WERC) in December 2010. The Women's Educational Resource Center provides support to students, primarily women, who are returning to school because of a divorce, separation or death of a spouse. The program assists single parents and displaced homemakers with education and training so they can enter the workforce with marketable skills and abilities.

"The Women's Educational Resource Center and its students are grateful for the generous gift from the Fort Walton Beach Panhellenic Chapter," stated Pam Walters, Director of the Women's Resource Center. "This donation is being used to support a textbook loan program that provides financial relief to current and future students faced with the proposition of costly textbook purchases."

The Fort Walton Beach Panhellenic Chapter is made up of women from 20 of the 26 organizations represented by the National Panhellenic Conference. The organization's mission is to assist women who are interested in joining a national collegiate sorority at a college or university they will be attending. Learn more about the Fort Walton Beach Panhellenic Chapter at [www.fwbpanhellenic.org](http://www.fwbpanhellenic.org)

## NWFSC Employees Attend Prestigious Leadership Institute



Northwest Florida State College employees Wanjiku Jackson, Coordinator of Workforce Education and President of The American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) and Patrice A. Williams, Professor of English and Advisor to the NWFSC African American Student Association (AASA) recently attended a training institute -The Kaleidoscope Leadership Institute for Women of Color in Costa Mesa, California. The pair joined 37 other women of

color representing institutions of higher education from across the country in a week filled with informative workshops and cultural activities designed to develop the skills necessary for future leadership roles. The workshops were conducted by women of African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American descent who have served or who now currently serve as college presidents across the country. The Kaleidoscope Leadership Institute has been held annually for the past 20 years.

## Math Professors Present Work At Math Association

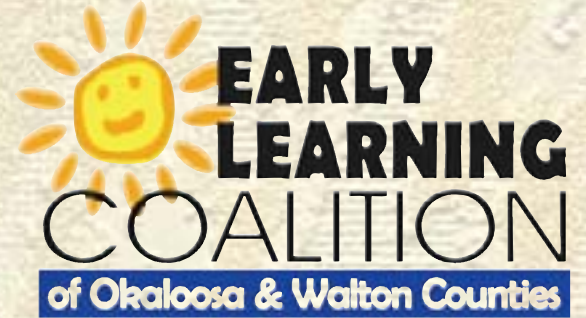
Three professors from the Northwest Florida State College Mathematics Department recently presented at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Florida Chapter Local Meeting held at the University of West Florida. The MAA is "the leading professional association in collegiate mathematics, the preeminent provider of expository mathematics, the primary and best source for professional development programs for faculty, and the number one provider of resources for teaching and learning." Dr. Raju Sriram gave a presentation titled "An Introduction to Vedic Mathematics-Investigation of Faster Algorithms for Multiplication and Division of Polynomials".

Dr. Sasha Jarrell presented on "Two Open Problems in the field of Graph Theory." Professor Chris Mizell presented on "Enhancing Online and Face-to-Face Instructional Delivery Using Tegrity," to demonstrate the lecture-capture system through which professors can record, index, and store lectures to teach Mathematics.



(left to right) Chris Mizell, Dr. Sasha Jarrell and Dr. Raju Sriram

## Funds Support Early Childhood Educators



In late 2010, The Early Learning Coalition provided \$10,000 in scholarships to promote professionalism in the field of early childhood education for practitioners who are actively working with young children in the Coalition's subsidized child care programs. Students enrolled at NWFSC in the Early Education program were selected for this award based on financial assistance and the personal goal of obtaining a degree or credential in Early Childhood Education.

A total of 11 students were awarded scholarships for the fall and/or spring semesters. Congratulations to the recipients (listed below) for their dedication to improving their knowledge of early education and care, as a means of facilitating a quality educational experience for young children.

The Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties (ELC) provides for the coordination, integration, efficiency, and quality of early childhood services in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. The coalition services include early literacy programs, financial assistance for child care, screenings and assessments of children birth to 5 years old, parenting and family support programs, and referral services for finding child care and school readiness programs.

### Early Learning Coalition Scholarship Recipients

- Niceville – Sherri Cadenhead, Amie Parker, Sue Ellen Sorlie
- Fort Walton – Lisa Callamaras, Krisha Salazar, Joan Wilson, Sara Yancey
- Crestview – Janet Fetgatter, Brittany Gray
- Navarre – Graciela Henderson, Priscilla Loper

## Arnie Hart Juried Student Exhibition



Jean Hart (left) is shown with Best in Show winner Jacob Waites (right).

The annual Arnie Hart Juried Student Exhibition recently opened with a reception in the Galleries of the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. The exhibition showcases student works in a variety of two- and three-dimensional media, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, ceramics, computer-generated imagery, and video installation. Jean Hart, wife of the late college art instructor Arnie Hart, provides an annual gift to help fund the cash awards given to the student winners of the prestigious juried event. Arnie Hart, popular and influential for his "cracked pottery" style, taught at the college from 1966 until his untimely death in 1999. His wife Jean and several friends also established the Arnie Hart Art Scholarship Endowment in his memory because of his longtime devotion to his students. The Arnie Hart Juried Student Exhibition in the McIlroy Gallery and the Faculty Exhibition in the Holzhauser Gallery are free of charge, open to the public and will be on display through April 17.

## NWF State College Nursing Graduates Honored At Pinning Ceremony



The Nursing program at Northwest Florida State College held a pinning ceremony December 15 to recognize 5 students who completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and 18 students who completed the Associate of Science in Nursing degree during the Fall term. Recognized at the ceremony with special awards were

Kristie Miller-Cadiente of Niceville with the "Clinical Excellence in Nursing Award" and Michelle Layton of DeFuniak Springs with the "Academic Achievement in Nursing Award." The NWF State College nursing faculty expressed special thanks to Fort Walton Beach Medical Center for donating the nursing pins for the ceremony.

## South Walton Center Partners With Cultural Arts Association For Exhibits By Local Artists



South Walton High School (SWHC) Art Instructor Jerry Pilcher (center) recently led a field trip of his art students to view an exhibit at the NWFSC South Walton Center. Pictured (L to R) are Kit Starbuck, Brandon Travis, Dustin Eubanks, Austin Smith, Tyler Wehrle, Jerry Pilcher, Ariel Smith, Robert Meyers, Kayla Dixon and Charlie Mareello, SWHS Assistant Principal.

The Cultural Arts Association (CAA) has joined with the college's South Walton Center to provide the community with a new venue for exhibiting art works by local artists. Beginning in January 2011, and continuing throughout the year, the walls of the new South Walton Center of Northwest Florida State College will be filled with landscapes, photography, fiber art, and figurative art presented in four distinct exhibits in addition to a juried art show.

Julie Terrell, NWFSC South Walton Center Director, noted that the college was pleased to partner with the Cultural Arts Association and that the college's center, located off Highway

331 South, also features permanent displays of various artwork donated to the college.

The exhibitions are generally open during regular college hours, Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional hours and artist receptions will be held. All exhibitions are free and open to the public. A juried art show, "Top of the Class" will be exhibited March to May 4. Other exhibitions currently scheduled include "Shutter Works" in Summer 2011, "Contemporary Fiber Art" in Fall 2011, and "Approaching the Figure" in Winter 2011-2012.

## College Staff Receive Distinguished Statewide Awards

The Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) and the Florida Community Colleges Activity Association (FCCAA) recently honored two longtime NWFSC employees with prestigious awards in recognition of years of dedication, service and leadership.

**Mickey Englett**, NWFSC District Dean of Student Services and Director of Athletics, was awarded the FCCAA Distinguished Service Award which is given to deserving individuals who have provided significant leadership and service to the organization's Executive Committee and its many activities. Presented to Englett during the FCCAA Eighteenth Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies held at the annual convention of the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) in Jacksonville, FL, the award is the most prestigious award presented by the association. Englett was recognized for serving eight terms (16 years) as the FCCAA Commissioner for Women's Athletics and National Junior College Athletic Association Region 8 Director for Women's Athletics;

Chair of the FCCAA Council for Athletic Affairs, nine terms on the FCCAA Executive Committee, as well as numerous state and regional service accolades, including past service on the State Board of Community Colleges' Gender Equity in Athletics Committee, induction as a member of the FCCAA Hall of Fame, the FCCAA Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and more.

Also at the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) annual convention's general opening session, **Dianne Kostelny**, NWFSC Communications and Reading professor, was awarded the FACC Honorary Life Membership Award. This award is the highest honor that the Florida Association of Community Colleges can bestow on an individual and recognizes long-term dedication to the Association. Kostelny's 22 years of active service and leadership with FACC at both the state and chapter levels include: Vice-President for Regions and Chapters, statewide awards for Outstanding Board Member and Distinguished Service; Chair of the statewide Planning

## New Academic Vice President Named



Dr. Sasha Jarrell

Dr. Sasha Jarrell has been named as the new vice president of academic affairs at Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC). Chosen from a field of more than 80 nationwide candidates, Jarrell was one of the three internal applicants for the position selected to be among six finalists who underwent a rigorous interview and presentation process. Dr. Jarrell succeeds Dr. Jill White who retired after serving for 13 years as the college's chief academic officer.

"The selection by the committee of an internal candidate re-affirms the superb talent at this college," noted Dr. Ty Handy, NWFSC president.

Dr. Jarrell is currently Chair of the Department of Mathematics at the college. She previously served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Coastal Carolina University. Jarrell earned a Ph.D. in Applied Discrete Mathematics from Auburn University, an M.S. in Applied Discrete Mathematics from Auburn University and a B.A.S. in Secondary Math Education from Auburn University.

As the college's chief academic officer, Dr. Jarrell will provide leadership and administrative oversight for all instructional programs and services of the college, as well as the hiring of all full-time and part-time faculty. The post also has administrative oversight for educational grants; institutional research, outcomes and assessment; strategic academic planning; and monitoring legislative, regulatory, and accreditation related issues and changes for impact and action at the college level. Dr. Jarrell will also have overall responsibility for ensuring the upmost course and program quality and curriculum integrity at the college as well as coordinating a faculty and staff professional development plan.



Dianne Kostelny with her FACC Honorary Life Membership Award

and Development Committee and the state Nominating Committee; Region 1 Director (twice); leadership of the Occupational Education Commission; President-Elect and President (twice) of the college's local chapter of FACC; and much more.

The college's Graphic Services staff were also recognized at the FACC convention with annual awards presented by the Communications & Marketing Commission, as part of an annual competition among the 28 community and state colleges. Among the first place accolades received by college staff include 1st Place, newsletter (for the Inspire newsletter), **Tara Sikes** graphic designer; 1st Place, Catalog, **Rhonda Moronez**, graphic designer; Student's Choice award for the Collegiate High School annual viewbook/brochure (Tara Sikes, designer); and various 2nd place awards for Best Bang for the Buck (Factbook), Direct Mail Piece/Campaign, Viewbook/Recruitment Piece (CHS brochure) and Website (Arts Center).



## Community Service Complex Opens... (continued)

"Certainly there is no finer model for our ROTC cadets to emulate than Col. Bud Day... to date more than 30 students have been awarded full or partial scholarships from the earnings of the endowment and students for years to come will benefit from this scholarship fund," noted NWF State College vice president Dr. David Goetsch.

"It is fitting that retired veterans from across the nation chose to establish ROTC scholarships and to make possible the naming of a portion of this community facility in Col. Day's honor," said Goetsch, who noted that the college has a tradition of naming certain facilities or portions of facilities to recognize special gifts to the college which help underwrite programs or scholarships.

At the opening ceremony for the Community Services Complex, college president Dr. Ty Handy recognized college trustee Brian Pennington, Chair of the Facilities and Programs Committee, as well as Sam Marshall Architects of Pensacola and Speegle Construction of Niceville for their work to plan, design and construct the facility. He noted that more than 50 expert subcontractors worked on the \$30.1 million facility, employing nearly 325 persons during the two-year construction process. Handy also recognized the vision of prior college leadership and staff who "left their mark on this campus .... and the great body of work that has been accomplished here since 1963."

In the NWF State College portion of facility, the new 74,500 square foot Raider Arena dominates and is adjacent to a 20,100 square foot classroom building.

The Okaloosa County portion of Community Services Complex is 25,400 square feet and includes Public Safety Administration Offices, the county's 911 Dispatch Center (in



Sandy Sims (front, center right), chair of the Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees and James Campbell (front, center left), chair of the Okaloosa County Commission, cut the ribbon at the opening the Community Services Complex. They are joined by Paul Foster and Col. Bud Day (front) along with (Back, left to right), David Goetsch, Doris Day, Dick Reinlie, Marilyn Reinlie, Ty Handy, Alexis Tibbetts, Rachel Gillis, Lt. Col. Edward Boegle, Dino Villani, Maj. Steve Duckworth, Jim Curry, Helen Hunt Rigdon, Troy Speegle, Brian Pennington, David Alsop, and Esteena Wells.

operation 24/7), the Emergency Operations Center, and more. The facility features a system of geothermal wells which provide for a portion of the facility's heating and cooling, emergency generators,

redundant water supply and sewage disposal systems, a crank up antenna, a roof top antenna farm, a state-of-the-art audio /visual system in the EOC, road lighting with LED technology and more.

## College Dedicates "McCracken Way"... (continued)

Dr. Ty Handy presented the dedication remarks, noting that he had a bit of a dilemma on how to compress McCracken's 40 years of dedicated service to education and nearly 25 years of vital leadership to the college into a brief dedication speech.

Handy noted that Dr. McCracken came from a family of educators. "His father, Dr. C. C. McCracken, began teaching in a one room school at age 16 and worked his way through Harvard to earn a Ph.D and eventually become president of what is now the University of Connecticut. It was that background that shaped his son, Dr. Ed McCracken, and the philosophy of service by which our founding president lived and served," said Handy.

In his professional life, founding OWJC president Dr. Ed McCracken served as resident counselor at the University of Florida; a professor of education and psychology at the University of Mississippi; dean of students at Millsaps College; director of research and development at Pensacola Junior College; and then served for 24 years as founding president of Okaloosa-Walton Junior College.

At the ceremony, Dr. Handy noted that McCracken's extended family played key roles in the early days of the college. "For example, Dr. Janet McCracken, sister, gave many unpaid hours of consultation to the development of the college during

its early years," said Handy. "Also, the college's motto - still reflected in the official college seal - was the suggestion of Dr. McCracken's mother, the late Frances C. McCracken. It was her suggestion that the college seal reflect a touch of the classics with the Latin: 'Education Optima' or 'optimum education'. And, Mary Ruth McCracken, a sister and noted artist, designed the original college seal - a central college symbol for more than 40 years, embossed on countless diplomas of OWJC, OWCC and OWC graduates."

In his 24 years at the helm of the college Dr. McCracken envisioned, developed and prepared the college for growth in students, faculty, programs and facilities and he built many of the programs and services that still thrive today - including a 2 + 2 program with the University of West Florida, building the joint campus in Fort Walton Beach and the Chautauqua Center in DeFuniak Springs, educational opportunities for military personnel on both Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, a Dual Enrollment program for high school students, the college's first intercollegiate athletics programs, and more.

Handy noted "the college is reaping the fruits of Dr. McCracken's vision, now serving more than 17,000 students annually, we can do no better than to continue to live out that model of service and commitment which he so well established."

## Yolanda D. Thomas Endowment Grows... (continued)

Thomas noted that this year's celebrity golf tourney is scheduled for June 24 and that golfers and teams are welcome to participate. Registration and information is posted at [www.yolandadthomas.org](http://www.yolandadthomas.org).

A graduate of Niceville High School, Yolanda was a firm believer in the value of higher education and earned her BS degree in Human Resource Development from Southern Illinois University as well as her Masters from Troy State University. She was diligently working towards her Ph.D through Nova University when she passed away in July of 2002.

Yolanda served in the United States Air Force from 1986-1988. Upon completion of her duty in the military, she worked in the Human Resource Department while living in Guam and Dallas. She also worked for the Private Industry Council in Fort Walton Beach before moving onto work in the Quality Control / Strategic Planning Department for Eglin Air Force Base.

Together she and her husband, Fred, built their own construction company, Thomco Enterprises, based in Fort Walton Beach where she served as Vice President. Yolanda was an active member of Beulah Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She had a deep love for children and felt a profound joy working with the NAACP Youth Counsel.

Family and friends describe Yolanda as a person who loved life and believed in making the most of every blessing and opportunity. The Yolanda D. Thomas Scholarship Endowment Fund was established to honor Yolanda's spirit and to support her belief in education.



NWF State College president Dr. Ty Handy (center) visits with retired OWJC administrators and faculty (left to right) Dr. Jim Durham (of Valparaiso), Ray Rudolph (of Valparaiso), and Rocky Heckroth (of Shalimar) at the naming ceremony for "McCracken Way".

**If you find...**  
that your name, address or other contact information is incorrect, please let us know!  
Call the Foundation office at **(850) 729-5357** or drop us an email at **[nwfscfoundation@nwfsc.edu](mailto:nwfscfoundation@nwfsc.edu)**.

## Women's Basketball Enjoys Breakthrough Season

In June of 2010, head women's basketball coach Patrick Harrington was hired to take over a program that had just endured one of the most frustrating seasons in recent memory and expectations for his 2010-11 team were nothing but a question mark. With just five returning players with little playing experience at his disposal, Harrington quickly assembled a team that would go on to produce one of the finest seasons in the college's history. The Raiders compiled a record of 24-7, finished runner-up in the Panhandle Conference, and went all the way in the championship game in the FCSAA State Tournament. It was the first time since 2002-03 NWF State earned a runner-up finish in the conference, and it was the most wins for the program in eight years.

Once the regular season began, it was evident right from the start that the Raiders were unbelievably tough on defense. Their trademark matchup zone wrecked havoc on the opposition, with opponents only scoring 54 points per game against NWF State. It was a terrific luxury for Coach Harrington to rely on his defense because it gave his team time to find their rhythm on the offensive end. By the time the Panhandle Conference season began in January, the Raiders were firing on all cylinders and the other teams in the league quickly took notice.

On their way to a runner-up finish in the conference, a few stars emerged for the Raiders. The most consistent offensive weapon all season for NWF State was JoAnna Harden (*shown at right*), a redshirt freshman from Pompano Beach, FL. Harden earned 1st-team All-Conference and All-State honors and she was selected as the Panhandle Conference Freshman of the Year thanks to averaging 11 points and 5 assists per game. Additionally, sophomores Melisa Mendes and Quortni Fambro were equally impressive, as both players averaged 10 points per game and found themselves on the 1st-team All-Conference list. Also, freshmen Brandi Wingate-Holland and Tierra Prothro were major contributors to the Raiders success this season.

When the final buzzer sounded in the state championship game, the Raiders finally had time to step back and reflect on what they accomplished. Expectations were wildly surpassed in Coach Harrington's first season at NWF State. More importantly, however, is the amount of momentum the program has going into 2011-12. The bar has now been raised and with another great recruiting class set to arrive on campus in August, there's no limit to where the Raiders can go next season!



Photo by Jeff Gammons



Members of the Raider softball and basketball programs proudly welcome original Doolittle Raider Lt. Col. Richard Cole who recently visited the campus. Cole was co-pilot to Jimmy Doolittle in crew #1 during the famous WWII raid on Tokyo following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Basketball team members Jiya Dorcas Eya (#31), Tanija Beasley (#21), and Daronte Clark (#3) show Lt. Col. Cole a print depicting the Doolittle raid that is part of college memorabilia. The print, which is signed by surviving crew members, was donated to the college by Lt. Gen. (ret.) Kelly Burke and may become part of a large display honoring the original Raiders that the college hopes to showcase in the future at the Raider Arena.

## RAIDERS Meet Original Doolittle Raider

What's in a nickname? Plenty if you know the history behind the NWFSC school mascot – "Raiders." It began more than 65 years ago in a secrecy-shrouded mission on an isolated airfield in the Florida panhandle. It would culminate when a band of daring fliers dubbed "Doolittle's Raiders" soared off the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet and bombed Japan for the first time in World War II.

The little-known airstrip was Eglin Field, now Eglin Air Force Base. The leader of the Raiders was then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, who led the squadron of B-25s on the daring raid – a feat for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The significance of the mission, many believe, was a turning point in the war. The raid was an unprecedented feat requiring extraordinary courage and airmanship.

In the college's first year of operation in 1964, then Okaloosa-Walton Junior College set about to choose a school mascot. Numerous names were suggested by students and staff, but many of these had already been chosen by opposing teams in the Florida Junior College system or were the mascots of local high schools. One day, Lanny Heath, OWJC charter faculty member, was driving by a monument to Gen. Doolittle in Valparaiso, Florida. He decided to suggest that the college use the name "Raiders" in honor of the heroic airmen who trained at Eglin for their famous World War II raid on Tokyo. The college at that time was located in Valparaiso. The student body chose the name "Raiders." OWJC students voted on the mascot names and the ballots were collected in a shoebox.

A proud name and a proud tradition. Northwest Florida State College is honored to use the name Raiders and pay tribute to the heroes of the past who have shaped our future today. Students and student athletes were thus thrilled with a recent visit to campus by original Doolittle Raider Lt. Col. Dick Dole, who was co-pilot to Jimmy Doolittle in crew #1 of the famous raid.



Lt. Col. Cole and Mickey Englett in the Raider Arena.



## Walt Turner, PRIME Time Founder Remembered

During the fall of 1993, Walt Turner, a member of the college's Institute for Senior Professionals, wanted to create a program for senior citizens to take non-credit classes and be more active with the college community. With his vision, dedication and hard work the PRIME Time (Positive Retirement Through Imaginative Education) program began.

With the help of several outside organizations and college employees, Dr. Turner's vision came true in the spring of 1994, with 45 students enrolled in seven classes. Today, PRIME Time offers more than 50 classes in Fall and Spring terms and enrolls more than 500 participants each term in personal enrichment classes geared toward adults of all ages, offering everything from fitness classes, to history discussions groups, computer classes, and popular lunch and learns seminars.

In addition to the PRIME Time program, Turner also encouraged local retirees to volunteer at the college and participate in supporting the arts. That vision was realized as more than 150 volunteers now participate.

Dr. Turner passed away last year at his home in Oregon. True to his vision in shaping vital programs for the college, friends and family donated funds to the PRIME Time program in his name. With the help of these generous contributions, the PRIME Time program recently purchased computer software for the computer classes offered through the program and will continue to use the funds to enhance the program.

Continuing Education Coordinator Amanda Barker noted, "Without Dr. Turner's devotion for continued education for students of all ages, PRIME Time would never have evolved. NWF State College is grateful for his insight and will continue to expand on his vision."

## Collegiate High Top In Florida Founding Director Retires, New Director Named

The Collegiate High School at Northwest Florida State College is the top scoring "A" school in the state of Florida for the second time in the school's ten year history. The innovative charter school placed first in the state among 470 high schools graded by the Florida Department of Education (DOE). The school has consistently scored in the top one-half of one percent each year, previously earning recognition as the top scoring school in the state in the 2003-'04 academic year. The DOE calculates points based on multiple criteria relative to FCAT performance and whole school performance – including graduation rate, learning gains, postsecondary readiness in reading and math and at-risk student graduation rate are all part of the annual grade.

"Obviously, we're thrilled that the fine work of our students and teachers is so evident by this score," noted Charla Cotton, founding director of the Collegiate High School. "The Collegiate High earned high marks for its successes in learning gains for its lowest scoring 25% of students, for its acceleration opportunities, rigor of courses, and for its exemplary graduation rate."

Cotton retired February 28 following ten years at the Collegiate High School and almost three years at the college, where she formerly served as coordinator of Dual Enrollment before helping the college found the Collegiate High School, and 30 total years in local education leadership, including service as a member of the Okaloosa County School Board.

"The tremendous success of this school and the expanded opportunities it affords local students to achieve an accelerated education are due in large measure to the extraordinary



Anthony Boyer



Charla Cotton

leadership of Charla Cotton," noted Dr. Ty Handy, NWFSC President.

The school, originally chartered in 2000 with an enrollment of 125 students, has had over 600 graduates in the ten years since it opened and currently provides 276 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades the opportunity to earn their two-year Associate of Arts college degree simultaneously with their high school diploma.

Cotton noted that students, faculty and parents are most proud of, "... the way Collegiate holds all of its students responsible to a rigorous academic standard" and cited this strong academic atmosphere and the school's small environment, which allows for personalized attention at all levels, as the factors largely responsible for the school's successes.

Following a search process which garnered more than 30 highly qualified applicants, Anthony Boyer was named to succeed Cotton and assumed his duties as the school's new director March 1.

Boyer has been the Coordinator of Programs and Services for the Collegiate High School since 2005 and previously served for three years as the Coordinator of the college's Public Safety Division and Criminal Justice Training Center. He holds an Ed.S degree in Educational Leadership from the University of West Florida and is currently working on a PhD in Educational Leadership. He also earned his baccalaureate and master's degrees from Troy State University, in Resource Management and Public Administration, respectively, and a Certified Public Manager credential from Florida State University.

For information see the school's website at [www.nwfcollegiatehigh.org](http://www.nwfcollegiatehigh.org) or contact the school at (850) 729-4949.



Collegiate High School students and staff gather to informally celebrate the announcement that the school ranked tops in Florida.

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