

Connection

UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

FALL 2016 | Alumni & Friends Magazine

**UWF
FOOTBALL**
THE VOYAGE STARTS NOW
P. 15



BENSE LEAVES
LEGACY OF
VISIONARY
LEADERSHIP

5

MCMILLAN
FOUNDATION
PROVIDES GIFT
OF HEALTH

13

UWF ALUMNUS
DEDICATED TO
INCLUSION AND
DIVERSITY IN SCIENCE

27

UWF President
DR. JUDITH BENSE

STAFF LIST

University Advancement Staff

DR. BRENDAN KELLY
Vice President, University Advancement
President, UWF Foundation, Inc.

MISSY GRACE '10
Director, Alumni Relations

Editorial

MEGAN GONZALEZ '09, '15
Executive Editor

BRITTANY SWINFORD '11
Copy Editor

Graphics & Photography

POLA YOUNG '02
Creative Director

JENNIFER PECK '08
Art Director

JOHN BLACKIE
Photographer

LAUREN SMITH '08
Photographer

Writers and Editors

Alexa Demski, Christopher Elkins '12, '15,
Missy Grace '10, Amy Minchin, Jenny Pedraza,
Margaret Roberts '12, Matt Rowley,
Ashley Kahn Salley, Brittany Swinford '11,
Julia Thorpe '17, Alyssa Townsend

CONTACT US

Web uwf.edu/alumni

Email alumni@uwf.edu

Phone 800.226.1893

Mail UWF Alumni Association,
11000 University Pkwy., Building 12,
Pensacola, FL 32514

TO GIVE

Online uwf.edu/give

UWF Connection is published semi-annually by the Alumni Relations Department and University Marketing & Communications. The purpose of Connection is to communicate and engage with UWF alumni, donors, friends and others interested in the activities of UWF.

Inside

- 2 SEA CHANGE
- 3 LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT
- NEWS & NOTES
- 5 PRESIDENT JUDITH BENSE
- 9 ATHLETICS
- 11 HISTORIC TRUST INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN
- 13 DR. D.W. MCMILLAN FOUNDATION GIFT
- 15 UWF FOOTBALL
- 22 SNAPSHOTS
- 25 Q&A WITH ALUMNI PRESIDENT
- 26 ALUMNI EVENTS
- 27 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL SUMMERS
- 29 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KIMBERLY KATZENBARGER
- 30 CLASS NOTES
- 34 SAMUEL FRIDAY, UWF STUDENT AMBASSADOR

15

THE VOYAGE STARTS NOW:

The UWF football inaugural season opened at Ave Maria University on Sept. 3 and continued on Sept. 10 as the Argonauts hosted Missouri University of Science and Technology in downtown Pensacola at Blue Wahoos Stadium. Learn about the transformational journey and the impact of the UWF football program.



Sea Change: A Profound Transformation

The University of West Florida is *making waves*. We're leading groundbreaking educational programs, engaging with the larger community, driving economic impact in the region and preparing the next generation to become leaders in their fields.

We're ready to tell our story. The story of *profound transformation*—a *Sea Change*.

A lot has happened since 1967 when the first students stepped foot on campus. In this issue, you'll read about the extraordinary people, programs and progress that have shaped the University into the *world-class institution* it is today.

It's time to showcase the impact the University has on students, the region and the greater good. It's time for a new way of talking about UWF; a way that provides a platform to share the excitement surrounding this University and the unabashed pride in what we've become.

This year, the University will unroll a refreshed brand—a new look and way of highlighting where we've been and where we're going. From the website and social media to football jerseys and this very magazine, our new brand will *make a splash* and provide a way to honor our past while promoting, in a big way, the *innovation*, *collaboration* and *bright optimism* that has become synonymous with UWF.

We see change, and we're ready for it—because we're leading it.

UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA | *sea change*



Letter from the Vice President

DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

Much has changed in the nearly 50 years since UWF welcomed its first students to campus. They were bright and eager just like you—and like the class who recently joined us this fall.

When our newest students arrive to embark upon their collegiate journey each semester, they become part of the dynamic shift we've experienced in the last several years.

It's a true *sea change* that you and the community surely have felt and soon will see, as we launch a refreshed brand platform to offer the institution more visibility and greater articulation of impact.

Our president, Dr. Judith Bense, has been a big driver in stirring change and growth. It just comes naturally to her. For that, this institution will be forever grateful. As she prepares to retire this year, you can read more about President Bense and how UWF has advanced under her leadership, beginning on page 5.

Also in this issue, find out the latest news on UWF's football program and learn more about how our Historic Trust is reimagining our role in downtown Pensacola.

Our history is rich, our present is exhilarating, and the future of UWF will be brilliant.

Thank you, friends, for being part of our story. Thank you, Dr. Bense, for leading us into our next chapter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brendan Kelly
Vice President, University Advancement
President, UWF Foundation, Inc.

News & Notes

BY ALYSSA TOWNSEND

Stay informed with the most recent news from the University of West Florida.



PENSACOLA MUSEUM of ART
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA



Stephen Knapp: Lightpaintings Exhibit.
April 22 – Aug. 27, 2016

Pensacola Museum of Art now part of UWF

The Pensacola Museum of Art was recently gifted to UWF, effective July 1, 2016. The addition complements art education at the University, as it assumes responsibility for nurturing an endowment and maintaining the museum's art collection – including several hundred pieces of 20th and 21st century art on paper, as well as three-dimensional works.

Photo by Rachel Richardson



UWF MARINE BIOLOGY STUDENT Rachel Richardson spent the summer researching coral reefs in Tahiti through the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering Research Experience Away Program.



Public history alumna's efforts result in Palafox Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The Palafox Historic District, spanning from Chase to Zaragoza streets and Spring to Tarragona streets in downtown Pensacola, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places thanks to the organizing efforts of alumna Cynthia Catellier. Catellier began the nomination process for the district in 2011 as a student in the UWF public history master's program. The resulting nomination, a document totaling more than 100 pages, was approved in April 2016.

College of Education and Professional Studies hosts second National Writing Project Summer Invitational Institute

The National Writing Project Summer Invitational Institute returned to UWF from June 6-23, 2016. Eleven elementary and nine middle school teachers participated in a three-week program designed to immerse educators in engaging activities they can share with their own students during the school year.

New program provides funding for Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering students to travel for research

Launched in Summer 2016, the UWF Research Experience Away Program provides select students in the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering with up to \$7,500 each to help offset travel expenses and perform research at other academic institutions around the country. The program helps students increase their competitiveness for post-graduate opportunities and distinguish themselves with valuable research experience.



College of Health partners with Andrews Research and Education Foundation

The UWF College of Health and the Andrews Research and Education Foundation recently entered into a three-year partnership to promote research, education, industry engagement and community outreach in medicine and public health. The collaboration will facilitate the design, recruitment and implementation of innovative programming, projects and activities that emphasize medical- and health-related disciplines.



Center for Cybersecurity recognized for excellence in cybersecurity education

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated UWF as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education through the academic year 2021-22. The designation places UWF in the top 5 percent of higher education institutions in cybersecurity education.



College of Business and Combined Rotary Clubs of Pensacola honor 2016 Ethics in Business Award recipients

The UWF College of Business and the Combined Rotary Clubs of Pensacola named Dr. Judith Bense and Dick Appleyard as the 2016 recipients of the 14th annual Ethics in Business Award, given to recognize those who exemplify the concept of "service above self" and work to build a positive sense of self-worth within both the business community and the broader community as a whole.

For more UWF news, visit news.uwf.edu.



THE MAKING OF A PRESIDENT

FROM FACULTY TO FEARLESS LEADER

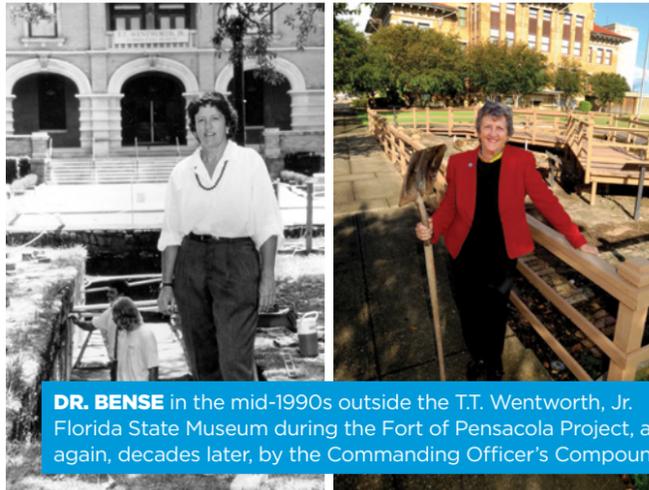
BY ASHLEY KAHN SALLEY

Since becoming president of the University of West Florida, and arguably for the 28 preceding years she spent building its successful archaeology program, Dr. Judith “Judy” Bense has championed the story of this great institution.

Her own narrative reads like a novel, full of chance opportunities, yet plenty of hard work. As she prepares to retire in Fall 2016, Bense turns the page, leaving UWF soundly in a new chapter.

THIS IS HER STORY.





DR. BENSE in the mid-1990s outside the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum during the Fort of Pensacola Project, and again, decades later, by the Commanding Officer's Compound.



DR. BENSE greets and congratulates President's Scholarship Recipients Sarah Birdsong and Ryan Colburn.

PLANTING THE SEED

Bense grew up on a dairy farm outside Panama City, Florida. At her rural elementary school, she remembers teachers telling her she had “leadership potential.”

“I was just always that way,” Bense said. “It’s been a blessing and a curse, but mostly a blessing.”

On the farm and on the playground, she learned how to be a leader, a strength she credits largely to her parents—a hard-driving, no-nonsense mother and gentle giant father.

The pair taught their children how to be persistent, while grandmother Frances taught them how to be nice—a simple truth Bense said has saved her many times.

She also had teachers who showed her how to lead, finding early in her professional training that you must “learn not how to do everything yourself, but rather how to get people to do things the way you want them done.”

It’s a skill that has served her well in her rise from faculty member to president—a leap only three percent of presidents of universities and colleges in the United States ever make.

DIGGING DEEPER

From a love of farming and team sports came a passion for archaeology.

“You never do any of these things alone,” Bense said. “You need people.”

She learned how to lead people naturally, and quite out of necessity.

When Bense arrived at UWF, there was no job advertised. There was no archaeology course—let alone a program, department or the Archaeology Institute that exists today. Working at the larger University of Alabama had felt too impersonal. Bense wanted a kinder, gentler place to perform her research, but she couldn’t find one.

She decided to build it.

“I’ve always known what I wanted, but I didn’t know exactly how to get there,” she said.

Bense came to UWF in 1980 with a contract and the money that came with it. Those funds, of course, would run out. To remain on faculty, she had to make mistakes, figure out how to get funding and learn how to build a building. This is how she created the University’s commendable archaeology program—and later, how she approached her presidency.


“THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT A UNIVERSITY IS TO HAVE THE COMMUNITY VALUE A UNIVERSITY.”

“There are two ways to advance in academics,” Bense said. “One way is to try to get better jobs at bigger universities—that’s what 99 percent of academics do. Or you can figure out how to build your program where you are and make it bigger and better.”

BUILDING YOUR OWN LADDER

Archaeology forced Bense to be creative, bringing out persistence and leadership like she says nothing else would.

She likens it to climbing a ladder not yet assembled.

“I’ve always had to figure my way up,” she said. “I built my own career ladder one rung at a time. You could argue it’s harder... or easier.”

When Bense became interim president in 2008, she was shocked to discover how much archaeology had prepared her for the job. Building a department from the ground up, she had learned the value of community relations.

Now, it was just a question of scale.

Bense quickly realized she was unlike most university presidents. She was not aloof, nor was she your typical executive officer. She was too practical for that.

“I tried very hard, and I think I succeeded in just being myself,” she said.

Curious. Inquisitive. Engaging.

These are all words Bense uses to describe her leadership style and certainly words others have used to celebrate it.

MAKING CHANGE

Indeed, it is this style that has led the University to a period of immense change and excitement, as UWF grows larger, more visible and engaged.

When first asked if she would consider becoming a candidate, Bense asked the committee if they had lost their minds. Then, she began to think about the University very carefully.

Bense reflects: “When you’ve been at a place for 28 years, you know what it should have done, what it has done, and also what it needs to do.”

She knew UWF needed better community engagement. All mid-sized public institutions, she believes, are vulnerable to the economy in a way that is very dangerous.

“The best way to protect a university is

to have the community value a university,” Bense said. “The community can save it.”

So she began talking to anyone who would listen—in the grocery store, at Rotary clubs, in churches. She spoke to the politicians, but she also spoke to the people within the community.

One of her first actions as president was to put up billboards displaying University accomplishments. They showed how many people had earned their degrees and still lived and worked and contributed in Northwest Florida. How many astronauts, how many patents, how much research.

The campaign was a great success.

“I knew people really didn’t know much about what we did,” Bense said. “We have a great story to tell.”

She began simply by telling the UWF story. She is still telling it today.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

For as much as Bense has shared the University’s story, so too has she shaped it.

“People thank me all the time for making UWF more visible, for sharing it with the community,” she said. “They now feel part of the University.”

To be asked to serve as president has been the highest compliment of her life.

“They gave me the greatest gift possible,” Bense said. “It has been a privilege. It’s the biggest, most complicated thing I have ever done. I will always think of my years as president in that way.”

For now, she turns her thoughts to rest—and to reconnection with her first love, archaeology. After a yearlong sabbatical, Bense will finish a book representing the pinnacle of her research efforts, while developing public archaeology at the next level and teaching one course a year.

She’s also really looking forward to UWF’s first football season.

Go Argos, and farewell President Bense. We’ll see you in the stands.



DR. BENSE’S love and support of student life inspires a spirit of community on campus. Above, she takes a selfie with student volunteers on Move-In Day. Below, she participates in the UWF football Blue-White Spring Game coin toss at University Park Field.



COMMUNITY LEADERS HONOR BENSE

On her Greatest Achievements

Judy has stressed the importance of meeting the need to provide our students the opportunity to prepare themselves for the workforce and high wage jobs. Her interest in growing our STEM programs will result in meeting the job needs in Northwest Florida.

Lewis Bear, Jr.
The Lewis Bear Company and Bear Family Foundation Chair, UWF Board of Trustees

Dr. Bense has worked tremendously hard to make the University of West Florida’s presence known, not only in Pensacola, but also throughout the state of Florida. The continued valuable support of our community will be crucial in the further advancement of the University.

Collier Merrill
Merrill Land Company Chair, UWF Historic Trust Board of Directors Immediate Past Chair, UWF Board of Trustees

On her Leadership Style

Her unassuming approach has encouraged many to follow suit in making UWF the best University it can be on various levels – student involvement, athletics and community partners, to name a few. Her innate ability to incorporate others while leading is quite notable.

Collier Merrill

She knows her weaker points, and has surrounded herself with exceptionally qualified people. Judy is a great listener and learns from others’ opinions and advice. She never shoots from the hip, but makes decisions in a timely manner.

Lewis Bear, Jr.

Argonaut Athletics

Youthful Swimming and Golf Teams See Success at National Level

BY CHRIS ELKINS

Women's Swimming and Diving

It's been four years since Andrew Hancock accepted the challenge of creating a women's swimming and diving program at the University of West Florida.

He entered an athletic department with a reputation for producing conference champions in all sports and competing for national titles on an annual basis.

After its third year of competition, the Argonaut women's swimming and diving team has earned a similar reputation. UWF finished sixth at the NCAA Championships in March, producing three individual national champions, six individual All-Americans and three All-American relay teams.

"Not once did we look at it and qualify that we were a new program," Hancock said of the team's mindset. "We never said 'that's pretty good for year one or year three.' We said 'that's pretty good.'"

The team's success in the pool is rivaled by its success in the classroom. In June, UWF was named a Scholar All-America team by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America, and eight Argos earned CSCAA Scholar All-America titles.

Sophomore Madeline Pitt, who joined the

program before its second season, was one of them.

"The experiences I've had the past two years have been incredibly rewarding," Pitt said. "I never dreamed of being part of a team that has been so successful in such a short amount of time."

Pitt credits hard work, great leadership and positive reinforcement as factors that led to the team's success.

"The coaches do a great job of ensuring we are focused on getting the hard work done but also making sure that we have a good attitude throughout the entire season," Pitt said.

Positivity, fun and student-athlete satisfaction are key ingredients to the team's recipe for success.

"I get the most joy from seeing the happiness in the student-athletes," Hancock said. "That's what we try and do, provide the student-athletes with a positive experience on a daily basis."

The team is also enthusiastic about returning in the fall.

"I think everyone is very excited about the future," Pitt said. "We know it isn't going to be easy, but we also know that we can accomplish anything we set our minds to."

"The coaches do a great job of ensuring we are focused on getting the hard work done but also making sure that we have a good attitude throughout the entire season." —Madeline Pitt



SWIMMER ALLISON LEHR takes a breath before a strong finish at a swim meet in the UWF Aquatic Center.



GOLFER JACOB HUIZINGA hits out of the trap during the Argonaut Invitational golf tournament at Tiger Pointe Golf Club.

Men's Golf

On the golf course, the storied UWF men's golf program returned to the NCAA Championships in May. The two-time national champion Argonauts advanced to the quarterfinals in their 10th appearance at the championships.

Head Coach Steve Fell is excited about the future of the program that has a wealth of underclassmen. Several UWF golfers won summer tournaments and qualified for national tournaments during the summer break.

"It was very special to be back at the NCAA Championships, especially with a very good, young team that I felt could win a national title," Fell said. "Unfortunately, we had to play the No. 1 ranked team in the nation in the quarterfinals that had three All-American seniors. Overall, I'm proud of the way we performed."



 **2015-16 Season Accolades**

3

Individual Swimming and Diving NCAA National Champions

6

Individual Swimming and Diving NCAA All-Americans

3

Swimming and Diving NCAA All-American Relay Teams

8

Argos Earned a College Swimming Coaches Association of America Scholar All-America Titles

Men's Golf team Advanced to **QUARTER FINALS** at the NCAA Championships



Bringing the Past to Life Through the UWF HISTORIC TRUST INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

BY MARGARET ROBERTS

Collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing: this is how the University of West Florida Historic Trust brings Pensacola's past to life through the execution of its newly launched interpretive master plan.

"This plan helps us preserve our history beyond the physical assets to the stories of who we are, where we came from and what makes us unique," said Jerry Maygarden, former UWF Historic Trust board chair. "We have a plan that allows us to come face to face with the local community, where our

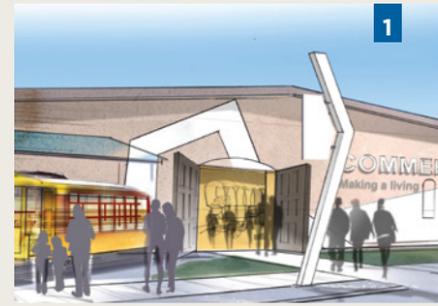
history resides, and the broader community, for people who want to come here, to share our stories from the past, here and now."

The UWF Historic Trust preserves historic and archaeological sites, shares Northwest Florida's heritage and grows resources to fulfill the organization's mission and vision. The interpretive master plan forges a foundation of innovative and sustainable organizational development for the future with intellectual, historical, educational and cultural frameworks.

Creating the plan meant working through a process of gathering pertinent and poten-

tial themes, looking at the forces that have cultivated our history and the uniqueness of the Northwest Florida region. Input was given from the staff, board, stakeholders and key community leaders to provide numerous insights to help shape and form the plan, which was developed with the assistance of Haley Sharpe Design.

"We came together for 10 weeks to work through planning sessions and workshops," said Robert Overton Jr., executive director of the UWF Historic Trust. "We had to ask ourselves what is the history, how are we telling it, where are we telling it and what pieces help



us tell it. We took all of the data and made sure it fit in our matrix to ultimately bring us back to our mission of collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing our history."

The UWF Historic Trust presented the transformational vision for Historic Pensacola to the public in Fall 2015, detailing the plans for the rich historical and archaeological assets of the 8.5-acre, 28-property complex. Boasting relevance and excitement, the plan will provide balance between resource protection, historical education, visitor and recreational use and enjoyment of the site through a series of appropriate and achievable enhancements.

finalized in late 2016 and an updated Commanding Officer's Compound, which was completed in July. This October, a Trader Jon's exhibit will open on the second floor of the museum. The exhibit, which pays tribute to the role the well-known establishment played in Pensacola's history, will open with a re-creation of the front door of Trader Jon's and feature a replica bar.

Other enhancements include new glass doors to create a more inviting entrance at the Museum of Commerce, as well as new graphics and historic images at the Museum of Commerce and the Museum of Industry to better tell the story of Pensacola's history.

"When [tourists] come in to our community, they aren't just here for a day at the beach. They're here to see museums and places of antiquity."

—Jerry Maygarden

"Intellectual tourism provides things that people will travel across the country to do," said Maygarden. "When they come in to our community, they aren't just here for a day at the beach. They're here to see museums and places of antiquity. When they do that, they spend money. They stay in our hotels, they eat at our restaurants, they tip our wait staff, they buy gasoline and they pay taxes—everything that goes into being a good visitor to our community. That's significant."

As part of the master plan, the UWF Historic Trust partnered with Apple Corps Foundation to create the Appleyard Storytelling Cottage, an exhibit featuring Pensacola's premier storyteller, John Appleyard. The exhibit, which opened in June 2016 at the McMillan House in Historic Pensacola Village, features many of Appleyard's stories and celebrates his numerous contributions to the community.

The master plan also features updates to the area behind the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, known as Museum Plaza, including new landscaping plans to be

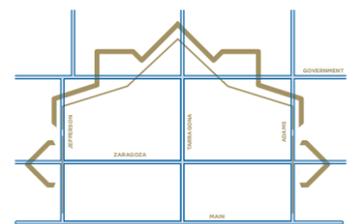
The Walsh Building on Zaragoza Street was also renovated to become a new education center for school groups and special programming starting this fall.

The enhancements benefit the community as a local resource for entertainment and education through engaging experiences that are truly inspirational and serve as an economic engine for cultural heritage tourism. The UWF Historic Trust desires to provide genuine engagements and unique experiences that not only bring back repeat visitors, but newcomers as well.

"To have a historical asset in the intercity of a community with such a rich history becomes a source of pride," said Maygarden. "UWF can boast to the world that they have a historical campus that provides palpable and tangible experiences. Historic Trust is not just a replica or a distant thing that they have to read about; it's uniquely ours, and this plan strengthens that sense of pride even more."

For more information about the UWF Historic Trust, visit historicpensacola.org.

1. Museum of Commerce rendering
2. Appleyard Storytelling Cottage Grand Opening
3. Children's Museum rendering



UWF HISTORIC TRUST
Interpretive Master Plan includes the Pensacola Colonial Archaeological Trail outlining the historic fort.



NURSING STUDENTS gain hands-on experience working in the Nursing Simulation Lab.



SARAH ZAVORAL,
Nursing Student



UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP with Dr. D.W. McMillan and his wife Kathy celebrating the McMillan Foundation \$250,000 endowment to nursing program.

Leaving a Healthy Legacy

D.W. McMillan Foundation gives \$250,000 to support, rename nursing program in memory of late Pensacola physician

BY BRITTANY SWINFORD

Dr. Daniel Walter McMillan dedicated his life to practicing medicine, so it's only fitting that his legacy go toward the growth of health care in the places he called home: Pensacola and Brewton, Alabama. That is the inspiration behind the D.W. McMillan Foundation's continued support of the UWF Department of Nursing, including a recent \$250,000 gift to the undergraduate nursing program, which will be named the Dr. D.W. McMillan BSN Nursing Program.

D.W. McMillan, known by friends and patients as "Dr. Dan," was born in Escambia County, Florida in 1869. He graduated from Tulane Medical College as well as medical colleges in Germany and Austria and completed his surgical training in Chicago and New York City before returning to the South to practice medicine in Pensacola, Birmingham and Brewton. During his lifetime, he set up a trust to provide medical care for his relatives, with any surplus funds dedicated to the poor and needy people of Escambia County, Florida and Escambia County, Alabama.

"The purpose of this gift goes back to Dr. Dan's wishes to provide medical services to those who are less fortunate and financial assistance to future health care professionals so they can pursue a degree and begin their careers helping people in the local community," said Dan McMillan, relative of D.W., managing trustee of the D.W. McMillan Foundation and UWF Foundation board member.

The gift will provide a high-quality experience for BSN students, including enhancement of the classroom environment, enrichment through community and service learning, and recruitment and retention through scholarship support.

"We know one of the largest barriers to education is cost," said Dr. Ermalynn Kiehl, dean of the UWF College of Health. "The impact to students receiving scholarship assistance from this gift is immeasurable. That nurse may save lives, teach others to be a nurse, or conduct research that discovers a better way to treat a disease or do a procedure; that is priceless, and wouldn't have happened without that scholarship."

"The impact to students receiving scholarship assistance from this gift is immeasurable. That nurse may save lives, teach others to be a nurse, or conduct research that discovers a better way to treat a disease or do a procedure; that is priceless, and wouldn't have happened without that scholarship."

—Dr. Ermalynn Kiehl

The McMillan Foundation has provided more than \$500,000 in program support for the Department of Nursing since 2005. Last year, the foundation contributed to the establishment of the Nursing Skills and Simulation Learning Center Birthing Suite. It has also contributed to two scholarships, one each for undergraduate and graduate nursing students.

"Brewton depends on Pensacola for medical services," McMillan said. "We know the need the local hospitals have for qualified health care professionals, particularly nurses, and increasing opportunities at UWF will help meet that need."

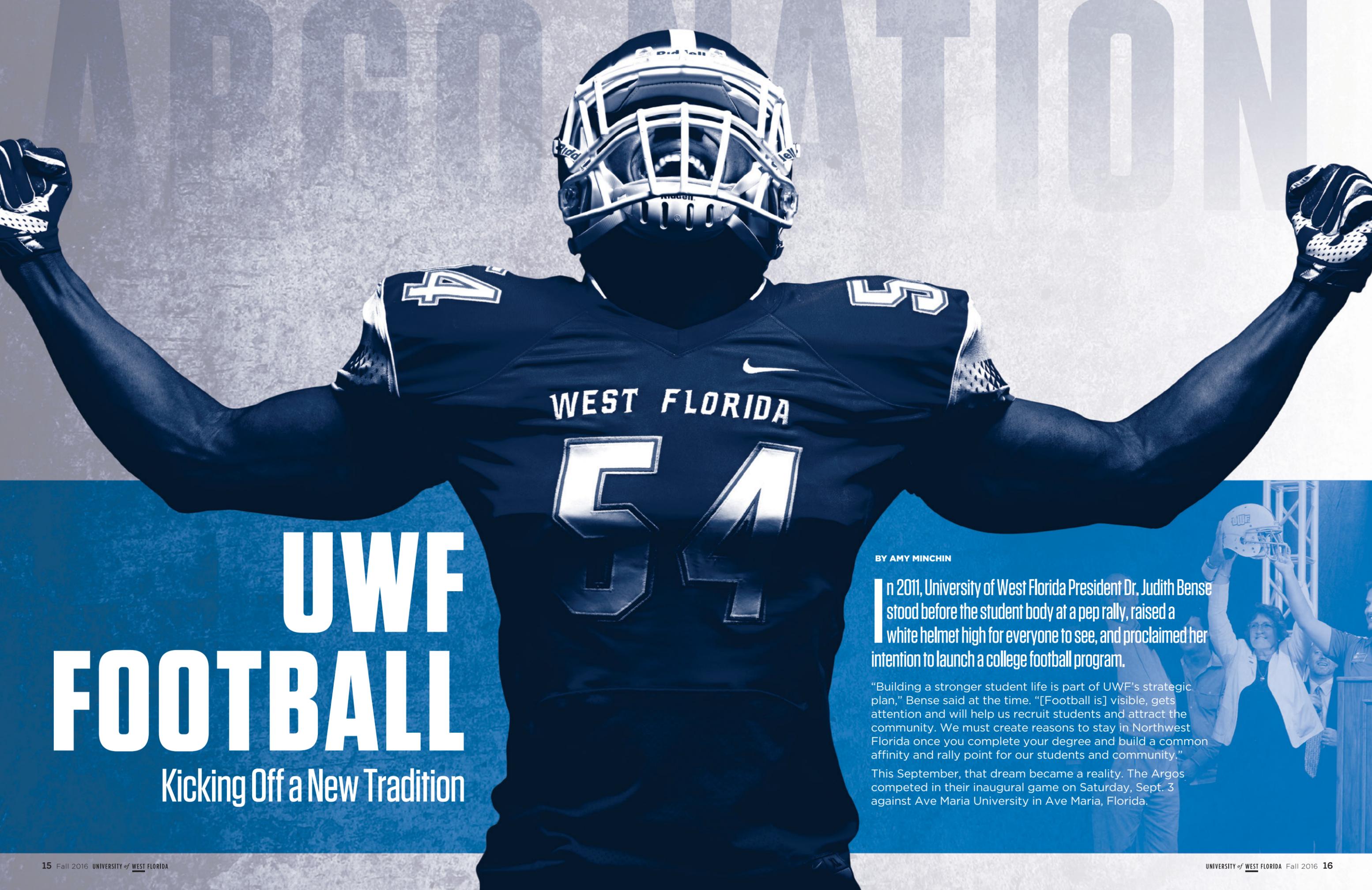
In 2015, UWF announced a second cohort for BSN nursing students to meet the demand of the regional workforce, and the McMillan gift will enhance the educational experience offered through the growing program.

Sarah Zavoral, a senior in the BSN Nursing Program, said she has seen firsthand how much the program has grown in recent years. She said gifts like this one make a significant impact in not only creating more opportunities for students, but also ensuring the University is able to provide space and resources needed to sustain the growth.

"In my time at UWF, I've seen the nursing program grow from accepting 30-40 students one time a year to currently taking in 30-50 students twice a year," Zavoral said. "The instructors have done a great job utilizing the resources they already have, so additional funds to help support the growth of the program will only serve to broaden the impact it's already making on students and the community."

Zavoral said the state-of-the-art facilities and resources offered by the UWF BSN nursing program make it stand apart from other universities.

"The UWF nursing program is amazing," she said. "The instructors are very confident in their abilities and have experience working in the field. It's hard to make the theories that we're tested on correlate with real-world experiences, but UWF's nursing faculty and facilities with simulations and other helpful resources help close the gap."



UWF FOOTBALL

Kicking Off a New Tradition

BY AMY MINCHIN

In 2011, University of West Florida President Dr. Judith Bense stood before the student body at a pep rally, raised a white helmet high for everyone to see, and proclaimed her intention to launch a college football program.

“Building a stronger student life is part of UWF’s strategic plan,” Bense said at the time. “[Football is] visible, gets attention and will help us recruit students and attract the community. We must create reasons to stay in Northwest Florida once you complete your degree and build a common affinity and rally point for our students and community.”

This September, that dream became a reality. The Argos competed in their inaugural game on Saturday, Sept. 3 against Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida.





WIDE RECEIVER Gage Krull after a reception at the 2016 Blue-White Spring game at University Park.

“To watch UWF play football in downtown Pensacola is historic.”

On Sept. 10, the Argos hosted Missouri University of Science and Technology for their first home game at Blue Wahoos Stadium, surrounded by the sense of excitement generated by players, coaches, UWF students, faculty, staff and community members who gathered to witness history in the making.

Bense’s announcement in August 2011 was the culmination of an 18-month process that included recommendations from an athletics visioning team and, later, the UWF football feasibility committee, which gave a positive recommendation for adding football. The UWF Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee endorsed the recommendation in July 2011.

“Athletics is often the front porch of an academic institution. It creates community engagement and is a source of tradition and

pride for the campus,” said UWF Athletic Director Dave Scott. “A lot of work has taken place to bring football to UWF. It’s great to be a part of something new, and it wouldn’t have happened without her vision and a great administration leading the way.”

An implementation plan was put together to develop all aspects of the football program in anticipation of beginning competitive play this fall. The timeline was officially announced in September 2013, and that same month UWF reached an agreement to play its home games at Blue Wahoos Stadium in downtown Pensacola.

Built in 2012, the waterfront stadium is home to the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, a Double-A professional baseball team and minor league affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.

Of the announcement, Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward said, “This is one of the

most exciting times in Pensacola’s history. A multi-use stadium in our community was envisioned all along. With student-resident halls in the Historic Pensacola Village and offices in Belmont-DeVilliers, football is another example of the University establishing a strong presence in our downtown.”

An on-campus stadium is part of the University’s long-term plans, but Blue Wahoos Stadium will be the Argos’ home for the foreseeable future.

“To watch UWF play football in downtown Pensacola is historic. It’s never happened before and we are the hometown team,” Scott said. “It also gives us an opportunity to be a part of the community, engaging in ways we were not able to before and creating awareness for all of our athletic programs.”

Laying the Foundation

Bringing football to UWF required a significant fundraising effort and the right leadership to guide the young program.

With startup costs projected at \$1.5 million, the UWF Football Founders group began raising money for facilities, uniforms, practice equipment and more. The football program budget is funded year to year by a combination of existing athletic fees, scholarships, private giving, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales. UWF is partnering with the Blue Wahoos organization to co-

WEST FLORIDA FOOTBALL TIMELINE



2009
Athletics Visioning Committee

2010

Athletics Facilities Master Plan
Athletics Fundraising Feasibility Study
Title IX Committee Review



2013
Football Founders Committee



2012
Student Life Implementation Committee



2011
Football Feasibility Committee



2014
Football Head Coach and Coaching Staff Hired
Secured Agreement for Location to Play Home Games



2015
First Football Signing Class and First Year of Practice
Football Practice and Support Facilities Construction Begins

2016
UWF Football First Season





WEST FLORIDA FOOTBALL

2016 Schedule

9 3	AT AVE MARIA	11 AM	10 15	AT DELTA STATE*	2 PM
9 10	MISSOURI S&T	6 PM	10 22	SHORTER* - HOMECOMING	12 PM
9 17	AT CHOWAN	5 PM	10 29	WEST ALABAMA*	12 PM
9 24	AT VALDOSTA STATE*	6 PM	11 5	AT NORTH ALABAMA*	1:30 PM
10 1	FLORIDA TECH* - COASTAL CLASSIC	6 PM	11 12	WEST GEORGIA*	12 PM
10 8	AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE*	2 PM			

All times listed as Central Time | Home events in green | * Gulf South Conference game
All schedules are subject to change | Visit GoArgos.com for broadcast information.



 [instagram.com/UWFFootball](https://www.instagram.com/UWFFootball)
 [facebook.com/UWFFootball](https://www.facebook.com/UWFFootball)
 twitter.com/UWFFootball

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
fans cheer on the West Florida Argos Football team.



ordinate corporate sponsorships, and Blue Wahoos co-owner and PGA Tour star Bubba Watson purchased the first sponsorship for his newly-opened candy store, Bubba's Sweet Spot.

Hiring a coach was an early priority, and in Spring 2014, Bense and Scott introduced Pete Shinnick as the University's first football head coach. A 25-year coaching veteran, Shinnick previously served as a head coach at Azusa Pacific University and University of North Carolina-Pembroke.

"We talk about building champions for life, so it was important for us to select someone that fit into our family here in UWF athletics," Scott said. "We were look-

ing for someone that could build a team and put academics first."

"Any young team has to overcome some amount of depth, but we're ready to compete."

student-athletes can get a phenomenal education, and they get to do it in Pensacola," Shinnick said. "We're opening the eyes of a lot of parents and potential UWF students."

Going into the season, Shinnick spoke positively about the strides the program has made over the last two and a half years. "I feel very good about where we are. Any young team has to overcome some amount of depth, but we're ready to compete. We have a great schedule put together by Dr. Bense and Dave Scott."

Engaging alumni

UWF is in good company among schools that play NCAA football. According to the National Football Foundation, in 2015, the number of colleges and universities now offering football at some level reached an all-time high at 773, with 32 football programs added at NCAA, NAIA or independent institutions between 2011 and 2014.

"More people are interested in and engaged with UWF on all fronts than ever before because of football," said Dr. Brendan Kelly, vice president of university advancement. "Football has gotten people excited about UWF athletics, but also about UWF science and engineering and all of our academic programs. For a lot of people, it's made UWF relevant."

Kelly described an encounter with a UWF alumnus from the class of 1969 at a football scrimmage.

"He said it was the first event he'd attended on campus in 30 years," Kelly said. "He

was proud of his degree and the academics at UWF, but he said he'd been waiting for a reason to come and visit, and a way to love his University."

UWF football began a full season of practices and invited the public to attend four scrimmages on campus during Fall 2015. Another scrimmage at Blue Wahoos Stadium drew 3,000 fans. Earlier this year, the team scrimmaged before 2,000 fans at its University Park artificial turf practice field for its first-ever spring game.

Exciting Students

"Football creates an atmosphere that is enticing for the UWF student experience," said Dr. Kevin Bailey, vice president of student affairs. "We've seen the anticipation building. People in the community are asking about it and student organizations want to get in on it."

One thousand free student tickets are available for each home football game. A points program that rewards students' attendance at other UWF sporting events has been used to determine eligibility for tickets.

"From student tickets, to tailgating, to our first football Homecoming game, there is an excitement to be a part of it," Bailey added. "It allows us to create some new traditions around football. A fight song is forthcoming, but a lot of the traditions will develop organically. For example, we don't have an established rival yet, so we'll have to wait and see."

UWF's first Gulf South Conference game is Sept. 24 at Valdosta State. Homecoming is Oct. 22, when UWF hosts Shorter University.

"The last five years seem like the blink of an eye, but UWF football is finally here," Bailey said. "I give Dr. Bense all the credit. Her drive and her leadership have gotten us to this point."

Smile!

Whether we gather at a grand opening, recognition dinner, network event or Homecoming, our events provide the perfect opportunity to show our appreciation of your continued support. They are also a wonderful chance for you to socialize with fellow alumni, current students, staff, faculty and friends of the University.

Don't miss out! We continue to add new events to the mix. For a look at upcoming events, visit alumni.uwf.edu.



UWF football's Tim Bellinger charges for a touchdown at the first Blue-White Spring Game at University Park Field in April



Pensacola alumni tour the Gulf Coast Brewery



Students meet with UWF longtime supporter Hal Marcus during his tour of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences



Scholars from the women's softball team pose for a photo at the annual Argonaut Athletic Club Donor Dinner



Alumni enjoy a step-by-step painting session at Pensacola's Painting With a Twist



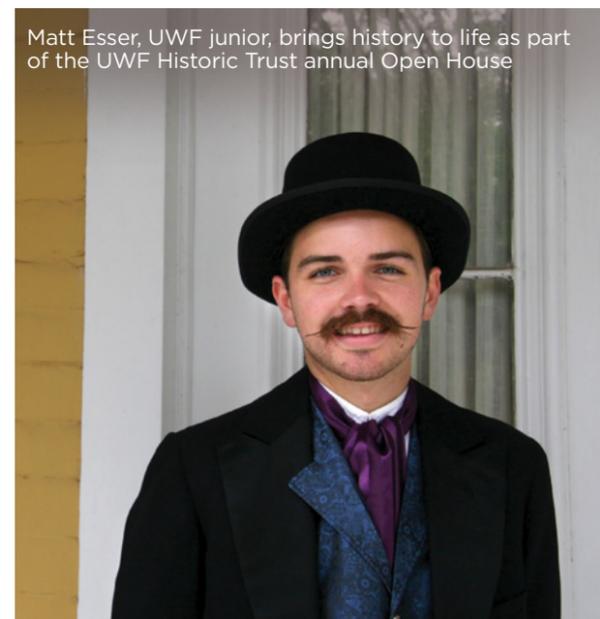
J. Tim Jordan, Terrence Berling and Richard Berg at the UWF Heritage Club Loyalty Luncheon



Brigadier General Michael Ferguson presents a gift to UWF President Judith Bense at the fifth annual Military and Veterans Resource Center Scholarship Luncheon



Dary-L Howard smiles with pride at UWF's Spring 2016 Commencement



Matt Esser, UWF junior, brings history to life as part of the UWF Historic Trust annual Open House



Pensacola Pledge Scholars Haley Anderson and Hanna Humphries with Rishy and Quint Studer.



(Left) UWF National Alumni Association President Brett Barrow meets with alumni in Tallahassee



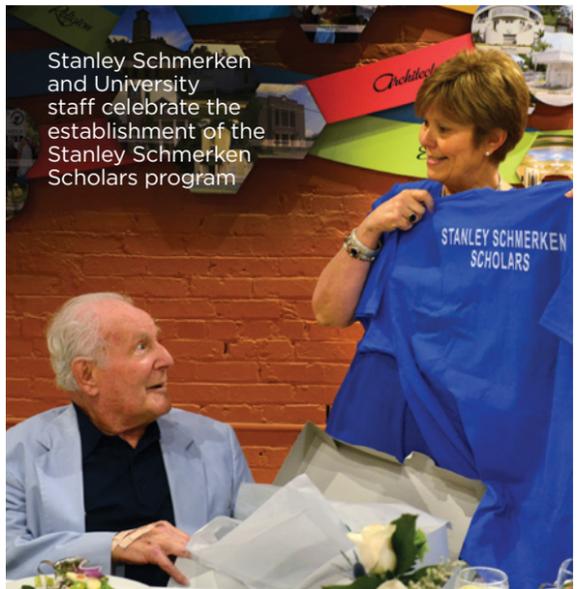
UWF alumni Tonsiaweda and Sanford Hayes at the UWF Heritage Club Loyalty Luncheon



University and Pensacola community members, friends and family gather to celebrate Martha Lee Blodgett's retirement after 32 years of service to UWF



Computer engineering major James Davis helps camper Tyler Penny with his circuit board during the STEM-centered Discovery Camp at UWF



Stanley Schmerken and University staff celebrate the establishment of the Stanley Schmerken Scholars program



University and Pensacola community members officially welcome the Pensacola Museum of Art as part of UWF's downtown presence



Change the way you see everything.

Somehow we've come to believe that change is threatening. Truth is, change is exhilarating. Fifty years ago, the University of West Florida was a very different place. So was Northwest Florida. Together, we've grown. A lot. Today, UWF leads groundbreaking research. The kind that changes lives, helps small businesses thrive, and unlocks the power of people. Transformation starts here.

UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA | *sea change*



BRETT BARROW '87
UWF National Alumni
Association President

Q&A with the Alumni Board President

As UWF embarks on a historic year, we explore the role of alumni in the University's transformation with National Alumni Association President Brett Barrow '87.

What is your favorite aspect about UWF today?

For me, it's the beauty of the campus and the opportunity to obtain a top-tier education with access to professors who will know your name. As we travel around to alumni networking events in other markets, we consistently hear these two aspects as alumni favorites.

Also, as a Pensacola native and member of the local business community, it is very meaningful for me to see how UWF contributes to the quality of life and adds value to our community.

What are you looking forward to this fall?

We have many things to be excited about, but football is at the top of my list! I can't wait for the entire game day experience and the opportunities football will create to engage alumni. It is my hope that football will serve as a rallying point for our alumni base to unite in ways greater than we have ever seen before.

As of Spring 2016, UWF has 78,980 alumni. What message would you share with them all?

I would emphasize the message that regardless of when we attended the University or what degree we hold, when UWF is successful, we all benefit because our diplomas and the degrees we hold become more influential. Therefore, be a continuous advocate for the University and get involved. Promote UWF throughout your circle of influence, and support the University with your time, talents and gifts.

Another great point to share is that alumni participation rates at universities across the country are on the decline. However, our alumni participation rate is climbing. Be a part of this momentum by getting involved. Follow us on social media, attend our alumni events and contact us to let us know how you would like to be involved. It's a great time to be an Argo!

Alumni Events

Alumni Events

From gatherings in your own hometown to events on campus, you have the opportunity to engage with UWF. If you have any ideas of suggestions for a great alumni event, email us at alumni@uwf.edu.

For event updates, please visit alumni.uwf.edu.



Sept. 24
Alumni Football
Tailgate for
Valdosta State
Valdosta State
Campus
4-6 p.m.

Oct. 29
Alumni Football
Tailgate for
West Alabama
Pensacola Blue
Wahoos Stadium
9-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 1
Alumni Football
Tailgate for
Florida Tech
Pensacola Blue
Wahoos Stadium
3-5:30 p.m.

Nov. 12
Alumni Football
Tailgate for
West Georgia
Pensacola Blue
Wahoos Stadium
9-11:30 a.m.

Oct. 17-22
UWF Homecoming

Oct. 21
UWF Homecoming
Soccer Game
and Tailgate
Women's Soccer
Game 5 p.m.
Men's Soccer Game
7:30 p.m.
Tailgate 5-7:30 p.m.

Oct. 22
Alumni Football
Tailgate for Shorter
Pensacola Blue
Wahoos Stadium
9-11:30 a.m.

Dec. 10
Commencement
10 a.m.

College of Arts,
Social Sciences and
Humanities,
College of Education
and Professional
Studies

2 p.m.
College of Business,
College of Health,
Hal Marcus College
of Science and
Engineering

Join us at the Pensacola Bay Center as we welcome the newest members of the UWF National Alumni Association. Graduate and undergraduate students will be honored with their respective colleges at two separate ceremonies. The first ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and will feature graduates of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and College of Education and Professional Studies. The second ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. and include graduates of the College of Business, the College of Health and the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering.



Dec. 10
Commencement

Stay Connected with UWF Alumni | Connect.uwf.edu | [/UWFAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/UWFAlumni)

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Michael Summers

Alumnus Elected to National
Academy of Sciences, Works to Keep
Minorities and Women in Science

BY JENNY PEDRAZA



Photos by Marlayna Demond for UMBC

Ask Dr. Michael Summers '80 to describe his experiences with the chemistry faculty at the University of West Florida, and he'll tell you they were committed and supportive of their students, but held them to high standards.

"I remember one day, I showed up to Dr. [Jerome] Gurst's organic chemistry class wearing flip-flops," Summers said. "It wasn't safe—we're in there working with glass and acids. Clearly not one of my better choices, and he promptly threw me out of his lab."

But it was also Gurst, professor emeritus of chemistry, who, on his own time, drove Summers and his classmates to universities in Atlanta and New Orleans to visit some of the top graduate chemistry programs. Summers would ultimately enroll in a doctoral chemistry program at Emory University in Atlanta.

"It was that support and involvement that made an impression on me," Summers said. "The bar was set high—there was no hand-holding. You weren't given a result and asked to interpret it. We had to perform the experiment ourselves—make the samples, collect the data, get the equipment to work, get out the manuals, take things apart. Students would be in the lab all hours of the night, and it got me excited about science and research."

Now the Robert E. Meyerhoff Chair for Excellence in Research and Mentoring and University Distinguished Professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the Universi-

ty of Maryland Baltimore County, Summers is training the next generation of scientists.

A Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator since 1994, Summers involves his students in his research activities, which focus on HIV-1, the retrovirus that causes AIDS. Using an imaging technique called nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Summers' lab has helped to develop new ways of inhibiting the virus, providing insight into how it functions and how new drugs could be developed.

In May, Summers became one of 84 people from 14 countries to be elected to membership in the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Membership is one of the highest honors that a researcher can receive, and Summers' election recognizes his exceptional contributions to the scientific community, along with his leadership in inclusion efforts and the retention of underrepresented populations in science.

"In the last 20 years, there has been a quantitative loss of interest in science," Summers said. "It scares me to know that even more so, large numbers of minorities and women start college intending to study science, but then end up changing majors. Why aren't we retaining them?"

Summers now works with other universities to replicate the inclusion program he helped start at UMBC, helping science programs better engage with underrepresented students and establish structures and programs proven to be effective in retaining diverse populations.

Summers has come back to UWF to meet with Dr. Michael Huggins, chemistry professor and dean of the Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering, and Dr. Karen Molek, associate professor of chemistry, about UWF's inclusion efforts. He also provided initial funding to start an inclusion program at the University, which has taken off since the chemistry department was awarded a \$930,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health that provides support for underrepresented undergraduate students in the sciences.

"What our data show is if students can get into a laboratory and self-identify as a scientist, they will be retained," he said. "We're in the position to convince students they can make it in this field, at a very high level. It's about letting students know you're paying attention to them, and you're there to offer support. That was something I had - it was part of the culture at UWF."



"It's about letting students know you're paying attention to them, and you're there to offer support. That was something I had — it was part of the culture at UWF."

Alumni Spotlight: Kimberly S. Katzenbarger

BY MARGARET ROBERTS



Learn more about alumna Kimberly Katzenbarger '94, '95, an attorney for the Natural Resources Section in the Office of the General Counsel at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Your career requires you to perform as a leader in the industry. How did UWF help prepare you for that role?

UWF prepared me to be a better leader by offering opportunities to take initiative in my studies. Because of the small class sizes and the more intimate educational environment, I had direct access to my professors who allowed me to focus my work and formulate my research around the environmental issues that interested me. I was able to prepare for a future career in the field I wanted to be in, rather than doing abstract studies. That was just one of the many positive qualities of my education at UWF.

You studied history and then public administration/coastal zone management during your time at UWF. Why was it important to you to choose UWF?

My professors were so passionate about what they were teaching that I was excited about subjects I wasn't even sure I was interested in. I actually switched majors to history, an interest I didn't realize I had before attending the classes, because the professors made learning the subject so fun and engaging. Because the University is located on the Gulf Coast, it also provided so many environmental learning opportunities in the areas I was most passionate about. You can't get that anywhere else.

Has attending UWF influenced you outside of your professional career?

I truly loved UWF so much that I convinced my sister to move to Florida and pursue a master's degree at UWF. She ended up staying in Pensacola for 10 years teaching at a local school. We are now both graduates, and I believe that speaks volumes to the impact UWF can really have.

Class Notes

1970s

'70 **Phillip Russ**, BA Elementary Education, was promoted to presiding elder of the Pensacola-Panama City District African Methodist Episcopal Church.

'73 **William McGinnis**, MS Public Administration, has been reappointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Educational Facilities Authority.

1980s

'80 & '13 **Michael Summers**, BS Chemistry & Honorary Doctorate, has been elected to membership in the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. Summers is one of only 84 new members and 21 foreign associates from 14 countries elected this year.



Summers

'80 **James Creamer**, BA Accounting, was elected as St. Johns County property appraiser.

'82 & '88 **Ruby Raley**, BS & MS Systems Science, was invited to join the Board of Advisers for Synthium Health, a technology company in Supply Chain Management SAAS.

'84 **Richard Jernigan**, BA Music, was part of the Emerald Coast Trio that performed at the Albany Museum of Art at the end of February. The performance was a part of the Albany Symphony Orchestra's "Symphony @ the Museum" Sunday afternoon concert series.

'84 **Rodney Whiting**, BA Communication Arts, joined Trident Health as vice president of public relations and communications for Trident Medical Center, Summerville Medical Center, Moncks Corner Medical Center and Centre Point Emergency.

'85 **William Marshall**, BA Accounting, was recently named as director of community relations for the Alabama Family Trust, in addition to being chief financial officer.

'87 **Josephine Marsh**, MA Reading, received the Faculty Achievement Service Award for her service work to Arizona State University Preparatory Academy-Phoenix, contributing to the field of literacy education.

'87 **James Mitchell**, BA Accounting, was named as the new director of public finance for Florida Community Bank Financial Holdings Inc.

'88 **Jonathan Walker**, BA Political Science, received an AV Preeminent rating by the Martindale-Hubbell ratings company for lawyers.

'88 **Anthony Dill**, BA Interdisciplinary Humanities, was inducted into the U.S. Army ROTC Hall of Fame. Colonel Dill's remarkable career is memorialized with this induction, a highly coveted and honored achievement. He is among the first ever to be inducted across the nation, as well as from the University.

1990s

'90 & '96 **Jacqueline Brown**, BA Education & M.Ed., installed as president of the Board of Directors for Pensacola Sports for 2016. She is the first female president in the organization's 62-year history.

'90 **Michael Long**, BS Environmental Science, relieved Capt. Shannon Gilreath as commander of Sector Honolulu during a change of command ceremony at Coast Guard Base Honolulu in July 2016.

'91 **Daniel Flynn**, MBA, will be confirmed by the Pensacola City Council as the director of the Pensacola International Airport after two years as interim director.

'91 **Shana Peck**, BA Spanish, took command of Fort Bliss' storied 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade on June 22. She is the first woman to ever command the 11th Brigade, which traces its history back to before World War I. The 11th Brigade has had a presence at Fort Bliss since 1971.

'92 **Eugene Ford**, BA Accounting, was appointed as the interim sheriff of Bay County, after the sudden retirement announcement of Sheriff Frank McKeithen. The interim term ends in January, when Ford already had been scheduled to be sworn in as sheriff.

'92 **Julie Gaither**, BA Criminal Justice, transferred from the Florida Keys in March as the new circuit administrator for the Florida Department of Corrections Probation and Parole for Circuit 1.

'92 **Betty Kabel**, BS Technological Vocational Studies, was installed as the American Dental Hygienists' Association's 2016-17 president at the 93rd Annual Session.

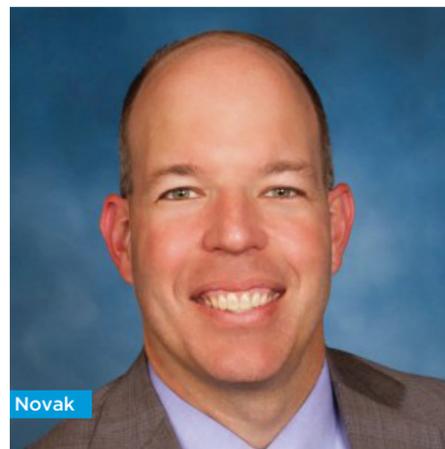


Dill



'94 & '97 **Stephen Gampher**, BS Cell & Molecular Biology & BS Medical Technology, was appointed vice president of ancillary services at Sacred Heart Hospital.

'94 & '96 **Matthew Novak**, BA Communication Arts, was named as president of St. Joseph's Hospital-South by BayCare Health System.



Novak

'94 & '96 **Wendy Simon**, BS Business Administration & MBA, joined Barnes Insurance and Financial Services in Pensacola, Florida, as a Financial Advisor.



Simon

'95 **Mary Williams**, BA Interdisciplinary Humanities, has been appointed as a member of the Depository Library Council. DLC members advise the director on policy matters relating to the Federal Depository Library Program.

'96 **Karen Thrower**, BA History, joined Beck Partners as a new corporate accountant.

'98 **Kathy Adkison**, BS Business Administration, was named Dragonfly Gallery "Artist of the Month" in Milton, Florida.

'98 **Mary Scovel**, M.Ed. was announced as the 2015-16 Spalding® NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball "Coach of the Year" by the NJCAA DI

Women's Basketball Committee and became the new athletic director of Gulf Coast State College.

'99 & '01 **Jerry Fogle**, BS Leisure Studies & MS Sports Medicine, was hired as Sarasota's first parks and recreation director in at least a quarter-century in an effort to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

2000s

'01 & '04 **Rachel Godwin**, BS Business Administration & Master of Accountancy, was announced as a Shareholder at Hartmann, Blackmon & Kilgore, P.C.



Godwin

'02 **Steven Clark**, BS Biology, was one of six agents selected to join Century 21 Blue Marlin firm.

'03 **Benjamin Hefty**, BS Engineering Technology, joined Environmental Pest Service, one of the fastest-growing pest control companies in the nation, as a training specialist in turf and ornamentals.

'04 **Allyce Heflin**, BA Social Work, joined lobbying firm Southern Strategy Group after serving as budget chief for the Florida House of Representatives' Education Appropriations Subcommittee.



Scovel

'06 **Erin Del Castillo**, MSA, was appointed as the new principal of Venice Elementary School.



Schickel

'08 & '10 **Steve Schickel**, BS Business Administration & Master of Accountancy, was announced as a new shareholder of Bloomer, Geri and Company.

2010s

'10 **Carmela Cook**, BA Communication Arts, was selected by Baptist Health Care to serve as the service line marketing manager.

'10 **Chelsea Pitvorec**, BA Communication Arts, was named as assistant communications director for the University of New Mexico Lobos.

'10 **Rebecca Rouse**, BA Exceptional Student Education, was "Educator of the Year" finalist for Manatee County School District's Excellence in Education Awards.

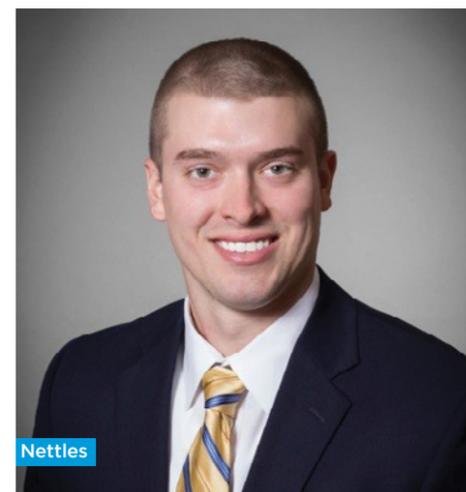


'11 **Molly Hodges**, BM Music Performance, was part of the Emerald Coast Trio that performed at the Albany Museum of Art at the end of February. The performance was a part of the Albany Symphony Orchestra's "Symphony @ the Museum" Sunday afternoon concert series.

'11 **Christopher Alonzo**, BS Chemistry, graduated from Auburn University's James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy.

'11 & '13 **Rebekah Bydlak**, BA Political Science & MA Political Science, was endorsed by former presidential candidate and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul for Congress. If successful in the Aug. 30 Republican primary, Bydlak would make history as the first female to represent Florida's 1st District and youngest woman ever elected to Congress.

'12 **Matthew Nettles**, BS Business Administration, was promoted to senior accountant in Audit and Assurance Services with VMR Marketing Agency, one of the Gulf Coast's leading CPA and business consulting firms.

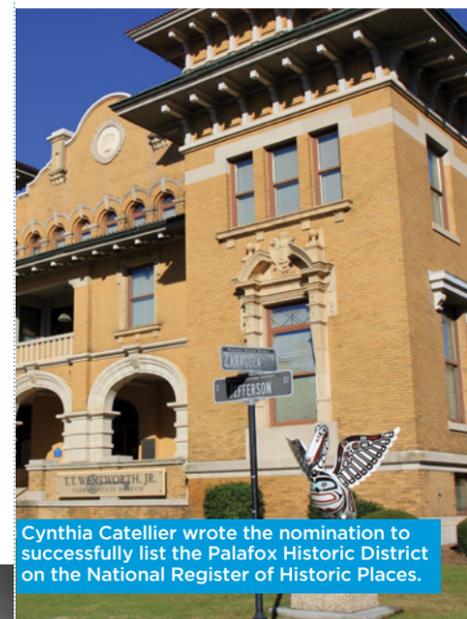


Nettles

'12 **Michael Stallings**, BA Legal Studies, was awarded runner-up for "Best Advocate" and runner-up for "Outstanding Defense" on the Phi Alpha Delta national mock trial competition team.

'12 **Cynthia Catellier**, MA Public History, organized the effort, provided the research and wrote the nomination to successfully list the Palafox Historic District, spanning from Chase to Zaragoza streets and Spring to Tarragona streets in downtown Pensacola, on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places, administered through the National Park Service, is the official list of historic places in the United States deemed worthy of preservation.

Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, it is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic and archaeological resources.



Cynthia Catellier wrote the nomination to successfully list the Palafox Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

'14 **Bryan Daniel**, BS Health Science, helped developed a web-based registry that manages the Our Lady of Angels St. Joseph Medical clinic's approximately 170 patients who have Type 2 diabetes and related disorders.

'15 **Michael Storey**, BS Business Administration, earned a position with 30A Local Properties.

'15 **Katherine Taylor**, BS Sport Management, co-owner of Infinity Bicycles, is opening a second store location in Daphne, Alabama.

In Memoriam

'69 **Carl Cox**, BA Psychology, died April 25, 2016

'69 **Betty Dial**, BA Elementary Education, died March 19, 2016

'69 **Lyman Harris**, BA Psychology, died Feb. 9, 2016

'69 & '71, **Lola Lewis**, BA & MA Elementary Education, died July 12, 2016

'69 **Paul Steverson**, BA Accounting, died June 29, 2016

'70 **William Blalock**, BA Communication Arts, died Dec. 17, 2015

'70 **Claude Hinson**, BS Industrial Technology, died June 5, 2016

'70 **James McKenzie**, BA Philosophy, died April 8, 2016

'70 **Wayne Stephenson**, BA Accounting, died July 10, 2016

'71 **Dorothy Belser**, BA Sociology, died April 13, 2016

'71 **Ed Davis**, BS Management, died Jan. 26, 2016

'71 **Stan Dean**, BA Theatre, died July 19, 2016

'71 **Robert Dewald**, BA Elementary Education, died March 5, 2016

'71 & '72 **Winston Fontaine**, BA Accounting & MBA, died Feb. 29, 2016

'71 **James Tarwater**, MBA, died May 25, 2016

'72 **Danette Prescott**, BS Business Teacher Education, died Feb. 12, 2016

'72 **Bernard Villar**, BA Accounting, died May 25, 2016

'73 **Thomas Diloreto**, BA Social Work, died April 14, 2016

'73 **John Marshall**, MS Aeronautical Systems, died March 28, 2016

'73 **William Plackett**, BS Technological Vocational Studies, died March 4, 2016

'74 **Gwinn Harris**, M.Ed., died March 5, 2016

'74 **Kent Hollingsworth**, M.Ed., died Feb. 6, 2016

'74 **Ellen Lopez**, BA Elementary Education, died March 1, 2016

'74 **Peggy Qualls Jr.**, BA Special Education, died July 27, 2016

'75, '76 & '77 **George Brezina**, BS Marketing, BA Latin American Area Study & MBA, died July 1, 2016

'75 **Glee Langston**, MA Early Childhood, died June 15, 2016

'75 **Gregory Waters**, BA Social Work, died Feb. 13, 2016

'76 **Patrick Fauchaux**, BA English, died July 9, 2016

'77 **Herman Bassett**, BA Communication Arts, died July 21, 2016

'77 **Barbara Belcher**, BA Social Science, died May 5, 2016

'77 **Phyllis Mueller**, MBA, died June 28, 2016

'79 **Henry Birchmore**, BA Management, died June 10, 2016

'79 **Cheryl Cleveland**, BA Spanish Education, June 18, 2016

'79 **David Sampson**, BS Technological Vocational Studies, died June 4, 2016

'80 **Mary Hennick**, BS Nursing, died March 21, 2016

'81 **Terri Grant-Post**, BA Social Science, died March 27, 2016

'82 **Robert Williamson**, MS Systems Analysis, died April 26, 2016

'82 **Frances Yeo**, BS Marketing, died June 12, 2016

'84 **Gail Bickling**, M.Ed. Educational Leadership, died March 22, 2016

'84 **Annette Hauck**, BS Marketing, died May 6, 2016

'84 **Georgann McDonald**, MA Elementary Education, died May 6, 2016

'86 **Mary Krueger**, BA Communication Arts, died March 22, 2016

'86 **Gary Reichard**, BS Systems Science, died March 28, 2016

'87 **Dianne Curtis**, BA Social Work, died March 11, 2016

'90, '92, '99 & '15 **Karen Ball**, BA Elementary Education, MA Clinical Teaching, Specialist in Education & Ed.D., died April 13, 2016

'90 **Robin Wilson**, BA Economics, died Dec. 13, 2015

'92 **Catherine Hunt**, MA History, died Feb. 18, 2016

'93 **Joseph Falco**, BA Criminal Justice, died March 20, 2016

'93 **Geoffrey Magie**, BA History, died June 19, 2016

'96 **Jennifer West**, BA Social Work, died Feb. 18, 2016

'99 **Brian Shoemaker**, BA Anthropology, died May 27, 2016

'99 **Carol Wilkins**, BA Music, died March 18, 2016

'01 **Patsy Sadler**, BS Business Administration, died Feb. 8, 2016

'02 **Melanie Branch**, BA Elementary Education, died May 14, 2016

'03 **Paul Grover**, BS Physical Education, died June 22, 2016

Geoffrey La Forte, UWF Employee, died Feb. 22, 2016



Meet Samuel Friday

Following a Road Paved by UWF

BY ALYSSA TOWNSEND

With his first visit to campus, UWF senior Samuel Friday was enamored with the University's plans for growth and expansion. "There was so much change happening at UWF," he said. "It seemed like the place for me to jump in and make a difference."

Samuel, a telecommunications major with a concentration in sports management, grew up overseas and calls the Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany home. In high school, he relocated to the United States, and when the time came to explore colleges, his neighbor encouraged him to consider UWF.

As he progressed through UWF, Samuel branched out into everything he could find. From Greek life and the Student Government Association to Orientation and Argo Camp, his newfound passion for leadership, student involvement and higher education flourished. "The University paved the road for me, and I followed it," he said.

Currently serving as the Student Ambassador Coordinator, Sam said the program has helped him establish and refine his communication, facilitation, networking and leadership skills. His favorite part has been meeting people—particularly UWF alumni and community members who have helped shape the University's history.

"Hearing everyone's unique story, I think it's awesome," he said. "It's cool to see where people come from and where they are now. It's inspiring."

As he reflects on his UWF legacy, Sam said he hopes he will leave the University better than he found it. In his final lap, he has two goals: "Just enjoying my senior year and helping to prepare the next generation of UWF students to take over."



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

9

Languages

5

Countries

23

Majors

Representing
All 5 UWF
Colleges

Connection

University of West Florida
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514
uwf.edu/alumni

Ride with #ARGOPRIDE



Show your support of UWF and showcase the new UWF license plate! With each license plate purchased, an investment is made in academic scholarships for first generation UWF students. Tweet a photo of your new UWF license plate to @UWFAumni, and we'll send you a UWF car magnet!

  @UWFAumni

How to Purchase

Purchase a UWF license plate at a local tag agency or by mail. Just add \$25 to the cost of your Florida Vehicle registration.

Be sure to renew your tag every year at your local tag agency, by mail, or online. For more information about the UWF license plate, please visit uwf.edu/licenseplate.

