

Connection

UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

SPRING 2017 | Alumni & Friends Magazine

Heart of Transformation

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UWF Connection is published semi-annually by Alumni Relations 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.

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DR. MARTHA SAUNDERS

became the 6th president of UWF on Jan. 1, 2017. Learn more about her lifelong passion for shaping young lives and her vision for a future shaped by profound transformation—or Sea Change—at UWF.



At the University of West Florida, we see change and rush forward.

Sea Change: A Profound Transformation.

It's how we define the heart and purpose of the University of West Florida: to make waves on campus, in our community and around the world.

Fifty years ago was just the beginning. Here's to the next 50 years of creation, innovation and transformation.

Let's make some waves. Sea Change.



Letter from the Vice President

GREETINGS ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

Over the last half century, the University of West Florida has transformed into a powerhouse of innovation, creativity and distinction—or as we like to call it, Sea Change.

2017 promises to be a defining year as we celebrate the University's 50th Anniversary, whereby we will be honoring our past, while building our future. We're incredibly excited to welcome our new president, Dr. Martha Saunders, as she takes the helm and charts the University's course toward the next 50 years and beyond.

Our 50th Anniversary Campaign, which recently entered the public phase, is creating brighter futures for our students. With a historic fundraising goal of \$50 million, generous contributions by alumni, community leaders and friends are propelling UWF to new heights. With your help, we will continue breaking barriers to educate, engage and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

I hope you enjoy reading about key philanthropic gifts that are enhancing the institution and enriching the student experience at UWF, including \$1 million gifts from Pen Air in support of UWF football and from UWF faculty member Dr. Bob Kimball in support of student scholarships. Please visit our newly enhanced donations webpage at uwf.edu/give to learn more about how you can support your University.

Thank you, friends, for joining us on this incredible journey. Fifty years ago was just the beginning for UWF, and we can't wait to see how far we go from here.

Sincerely,

Meredith N. Brunen

Dr. Meredith N. Brunen
Interim Vice President, University Advancement
Interim President, UWF Foundation, Inc.

News & Notes

BY JULIA THORPE

Recent news from the University of West Florida



Archaeology program discovers third shipwreck from Luna fleet

The UWF archaeology program discovered a third shipwreck from the Spanish fleet linked to Tristán de Luna y Arellano's 16th century expedition to modern-day Pensacola. The third ship, Emanuel Point III, was discovered by UWF archaeologists and students during the Combined Archaeological Field Methods course in Summer 2016.



THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH announces a major gift from Dr. Usha Kundu and Mahadeb Kundu to enhance and name the College in February.



UWF receives national honor for excellence in diversity

For the second consecutive year, the University of West Florida received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity, or HEED, Award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine. UWF was one of 83 institutions selected for this year's award and was featured in the November 2016 issue of INSIGHT into Diversity, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.



Military Times names UWF 2017 Best for Vets college

For the third time, the University received recognition as a "Best for Vets" college by Military Times, a national publication for service members and their families. UWF came in at No. 33 in the 2017 rankings of all four-year schools.

Usha Kundu, MD College of Health

UWF received a gift in excess of \$5 million from Dr. Usha and Mahadeb Kundu to name the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health. Dr. Kundu is a board-certified OB-GYN and opened her current private practice in Pensacola in 1983. The gift will support academic excellence for students, including opportunities for active, engaged and experiential learning as well as equipment and instruction resources for the College.

Historic Trust breaks ground on Museum Plaza

UWF Historic Trust began construction on Museum Plaza, a historic preservation and education project that will help tell the story of Pensacola's rich history. The multi-purpose, cultural activity plaza will serve as a central connection point between the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, Pensacola Children's Museum, Voices of Pensacola Multicultural Center and the Historic Pensacola Village, while doubling as an outdoor classroom that helps the public better understand the historic landscape.



Quint Studer, Rishy Studer, Mallory Studer, Collier Merrill, Dr. Martha Saunders, Dr. Brendan Kelly and Mort O'Sullivan celebrate the groundbreaking of Museum Plaza in January.

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

University Park Center

New University Park facility to foster integration among athletics, academics and community partners

BY BRIAN HUDGINS AND BRITTANY SWINFORD



The University of West Florida is providing a foundation for future growth and collaboration among athletics, academics and community partners through University Park Center, the newest phase of development for University Park to be completed by Spring 2018.

The 32,700-square-foot facility will provide additional space on campus for the UWF Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, as well as office space and meeting rooms for the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health and the Florida State University College of Medicine's Pensacola Regional Medical School Campus.

Located adjacent to Pen Air Field, the first floor will house a state-of-the-art weight room for all UWF student-athletes, as well as a football locker room, equipment room and laundry facilities.

“University Park Center will not only help build a stronger connection between UWF’s health programs and athletics, but also create a space for collaboration in health education, research and hands-on practice between UWF and FSU.”

—Dr. Ermalynn Kiehl

“The connectivity created by the new center translates to all our sports,” said Dave Scott, UWF athletic director. “It enhances what we do overall. This keeps everybody close and working in the same circles.”

The second floor will serve as another point of integration for the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health and the FSU College of Medicine's Pensacola Regional Campus and foster more collaboration through the UWF/FSU Physician Assistant Program. Featuring office suites for both UWF and FSU and a shared multipurpose room, the space will provide a location for campus and community partners to access the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health and a base of operations for the FSU College of Medicine's Pensacola Regional Campus for third- and fourth-year medical students.

“University Park Center will not only help build a stronger connection between UWF’s health programs and athletics, but also create a space for collaboration in health education, research and hands-on practice between UWF and FSU,” said Dr. Ermalynn Kiehl, dean of the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health.

FSU medical students have a longstanding history in Pensacola and Northwest Florida, with more than 200 of the region’s top physicians serving as faculty members in the College of Medicine’s community-based teaching model. A number of UWF graduates have gone on to attend medical school at FSU, as the institution seeks to produce physicians who are responsive to community needs.

Mollie Hill, emeritus director of community clinical relations for the FSU College of Medicine, said it’s been a joy to witness the project grow from concept to construction.

“To have a regional campus college of medicine on a UWF site is a win/win,” she said. “Students get more exposure and opportunity to consider medicine as a career. We have been working on this and have been fortunate to be involved as it has been designed, so we have had that excitement during the process.”

The Usha Kundu, MD College of Health is the largest college on campus with more than 3,000 students. Being able to bring students and faculty from a dozen different health disciplines together and to coordinate these groups from a teaching, research and service standpoint is part of the growth process for the college, Kiehl said.

“We all meet together regularly to align our teaching, research and service,” Kiehl said. “It’s also about making sure we are aware of both our local community and the nation when it comes to health outcomes so we know what we should focus on as we are teaching.”

University Park Center, budgeted at \$6.8 million, marks the second phase of development for University Park. The first phase was completed in February 2016 and included 12 acres of site work, associated utility infrastructure, lighting and construction of a synthetic turf field, which was named Pen Air Field in September.



UWF SCHOOL OF NURSING students and FSU College of Medicine students collaborate and build connections. (Top)

FSU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE student Kelly Hensley works alongside UWF School of Nursing students and her fellow FSU students. (Bottom)

To learn more, visit uwf.edu/universitypark.



RE-CREATION OF TRADER JON'S BAR complete with artifacts from the original bar on display.



1. Lori Hoskins, Pensacola Mayor Ashton Hayward and Capt. Keith Hoskins at the opening of the Trader Jon's exhibit.
2. Trader Jon's daughters Cheri Weissman and Dahl Burke at the opening of the exhibit.
3. Blue Angels flight suits and other memorabilia on display.



PRESERVING A PATCH OF AVIATION HISTORY

Trader Jon's Exhibit shares memories with a new generation

BY ASHLEY KAHN SALLEY



For those nostalgic patrons of Trader Jon's bar in downtown Pensacola, they can now relive the glory days—and even sit in an original booth—at a new exhibit of the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum.

The exhibit was conceived as part of the UWF Historic Trust's Interpretive Master Plan, encouraging Pensacola to embrace its local history while sharing it with audiences outside the region.

"Trader Jon's was known worldwide," said Rob Overton, executive director of the UWF Historic Trust. "What better place for us to recreate than one that was loved by locals, but also by people around the world?"

Martin "Trader" Jon Weissman and his wife opened the iconic watering hole on New Year's Day in 1953. Originally from New York, Weissman was set to serve as a paratrooper during World War II, but was honorably discharged due to injury before he deployed. Fascinated by military aviation, he founded the bar that became a favorite among officers and aviators stationed in Pensacola.

"He was just a character," Overton said. "He was one of those once-in-a-lifetime, larger than life figures who made everyone feel welcome, like you were his best friend."

"Trader created a 'home away from home,' a 'family away from family' for our military. It became almost a right of passage. Once you complet-

ed flight training, you went to Trader Jon's."

Trader earned his name by accepting pieces of military memorabilia as trade for bar tabs. These young men did not have a lot of money, so he would evaluate the worth of their offering as payment for what they drank—a process that came to be known as "Tradernomics."

"Pensacola has always loved Naval Aviation ... the town and the military could come together here to celebrate these hero pilots," Overton said.

Trader became especially enamored with the Blue Angels. Every team from the inception of the bar until he closed his bar came into Trader's. He had pictures made with them, and they signed every one. Trader was deemed an Honorary Blue Angel, flying with the team more than any other civilian. Legend has it, the only people allowed behind the bar were Trader, his staff ... and any Blue Angel.

The Trader Jon's Collection features more than 10,000 items, valued at more than \$2 million—from a tailhook rhinoceros to a saddle gifted by John Wayne, a Bob Hope flight suit to model aircraft, pennants, patches and insignia.

After the bar closed permanently in 2005, the Pensacola Law Firm of Aylstock, Witkin & Sasser purchased the collection and donated it to the National Naval Aviation Museum. It was later transferred to the University of West Florida.

To establish a sense of place, the UWF His-

toric Trust recreated the iconic, large wooden doorway and the façade of the original building at 511 South Palafox Street in downtown Pensacola. As you enter, you can walk to the left or the right to learn different parts of the story. There is an original booth and a few barstools where visitors can sit and reflect.

Overton himself has toured the exhibit with several retired service members, including his own father-in-law, a Vietnam veteran.

"People come in and start searching for some piece of history from their unit, prompting them to share stories they have never shared before—happy moments, memories and excitement," Overton said. "A lot of them have come in because there are so many photos and things they gave Trader. They are going in and finding themselves within the exhibit."

The Trader Jon's replica has been a huge hit for the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum. Visitation is up, people are talking about it and the guest book is filling up with stories. So full, in fact, it will soon have to be traded out.

"This is one that really fit in with the larger goal of us trying to do things to make our historical assets work harder, telling these stories and sharing them with the rest of the world," Overton noted. "It has moved people to share. If we can create something that causes emotion and feeling, I think we have been successful."



"He was one of those once-in-a-lifetime, larger than life figures who made everyone feel welcome, like you were his best friend."

—Rob Overton

ARGONAUT ATHLETICS



THE UWF WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM after winning the NCAA Division II South Region title.



CHANDLER BLANCHET led a standout Fall 2016 season with one tournament win and a 69.33 scoring average.

Argos make history and showcase talent in Fall 2016

BY BRIAN HUDGINS AND BRITTANY SWINFORD

The University of West Florida athletic department recently celebrated the end of another successful fall season, complete with a historic inaugural football season, a women's soccer championship, a No. 1 ranked men's golf team and more.

UWF football started and ended its first ever season strong, securing five victories overall and tying for the most wins by a first-year NCAA Division II program over the last 10 years. The Argos completed the season tied for sixth place in the Gulf South Conference after being picked to finish eighth in the preseason coaches' poll.

"We felt that last season was a great learning experience for our team," said UWF football head coach Pete Shinnick. "We grew tremendously, and we are looking forward to our second season. We have a lot of areas we need to improve upon, but we feel we have created a nice foundation for the future."

Another highlight from Fall 2016 was the women's soccer team capturing both the GSC championship and the South Region title, posting a 19-5 record and completing the 2016 season ranked No. 8 in Division II. Five Argonauts earned All-America awards by the Division II Conference Commissioners

Association. Freshman Marjorie Boilesen, who was the South Region and Gulf South Conference Player of the Year, made the first team; senior Emily Vogler was chosen as a second-teamer; and junior Katelyn Burkhart, senior Sara Helgadottir and senior Kaley Ward were each honorable mention picks.

The UWF men's golf team also had a standout fall season, as the Argonauts finished the fall ranked No. 1 in Division II. The team finished the fall with an emphatic win at the Matlock Collegiate Classic, finishing first in a field that included seven of the top eight teams and 11 of the top 25 teams in the nation. Junior Chandler Blanchet led the team during the fall with one tournament win and a 69.33 scoring average.

The University finished the fall by announcing its 2017 Hall of Fame Class. Inductees included: Dr. Judy Bense, UWF President Emeritus; Brandon Brewer, baseball, 2008-2011; Courtney Jones, women's soccer, 2006-2009; Nolan Intermoia, men's soccer, 2003-2008; Greg Pron, baseball, 2008-2011; WEAR-TV Sports Director Dan Shugart, special achievement; and Pensacola News Journal Senior Writer Bill Vilona, special achievement.

2017 Hall of Fame

The UWF Department of Intercollegiate Athletics inducts Bill Vilona, Dan Shugart, Dr. Judy Bense, Brandon Brewer, Greg Pron, Courtney Jones (not pictured) and Nolan Intermoia as its 2017 Hall of Fame class.



UWF Football Makes Historic Debut

With the changing of the leaves in Fall 2016 came the start of something new for UWF and Pensacola—Argo football.

Excitement and school spirit spread across campus, into the community and made its way downtown, where Blue Wahoos Stadium served as the home of the green and blue from September to November.

Faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University came together to form three sellout crowds, with more than 31,000 attendees total over five home games. With an average game attendance of more than 6,300, UWF football was ranked 19th in attendance in the NCAA Division II.

"Playing at Blue Wahoos Stadium was a great experience for our team," said UWF football head coach Pete Shinnick. "The atmosphere that our crowds created was fantastic. We could not have asked for a better game day experience and atmosphere for our first season."

With the completion of the turf field complex at Pen Air Field and construction underway on University Park Center on the University's Pensacola campus, the football program will continue to build on the solid foundation established during the inaugural Fall 2016 season.





DR. KIMBALL poses with the Spring 2017 Bill and Ellie Kimball Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Award recipients.

Measure of Success

One professor's impact in the classroom and beyond

BY BRITTANY SWINFORD

Successful businessman.
Passionate educator.
Generous philanthropist.

All of these terms, and many more, have been used countless times to describe Dr. Bob Kimball, marketing and economics professor at the University of West Florida. When asked to describe himself, he said he is a firm believer in the impact one person can have on the world.

This mindset shows in his classroom, where he goes above and beyond to provide students not only relevant business knowledge, but also life lessons on setting and achieving goals, managing time and meeting high expectations.

"Dr. Kimball was an incredibly influential professor," said Jennifer McFarren, UWF alumna and community development representative for Gulf Power Company. "His experience in corporate marketing shone through in every lesson, and it was obvious that he loved the material. He was also the toughest professor I had in college. He set the bar high and didn't back down. He didn't sugarcoat what the expectations would be in a corporate environment. He stood out for his professional success and level of expectations for his students, and even more than specific content, he taught me the valuable lesson of always being prepared and caring about what you do."

This mindset also shows across campus, where he has served as faculty advisor for the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity for more than 20 years. Samuel Friday, senior telecommunications and film major and president of Sigma Alpha Mu, said Kimball's passion for impacting others is evident outside the classroom, because he takes time to invest in individual students.

"I had no time management skills, but Dr. Kimball has been instrumental in helping me change that," Friday said. "He plans his days down to the minute, and I have been able to follow his ex-

ample and apply those lessons to my own life. It's made me a better student and person."

Most recently, it shows in his generosity. In January, the University announced a \$1 million gift from Kimball to create the Bill and Ellie Kimball Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Award in memory of his parents. It marked his third large gift to the institution, totaling \$3 million.

"I strongly believe it's essential for every person to have a purpose in their lives, measured by their impact upon others," Kimball said. "I'm pleased to be able to sponsor this scholarship in memory of my mom and dad, who taught me the values of integrity and hard work. 'Honor thy mother and father.' I read that somewhere."

The gift will fund \$2,000 scholarships for 40 UWF sophomores each year, beginning this year. The scholarships will be awarded to students based on merit, at Kimball's request.

"I believe it's essential that we all earn what we get in life, whether that's a nice home, a comfortable life or relationships with the kind of people we want to be around," he said. "I perceive GPA to be a solid and objective measurement of positive productivity."

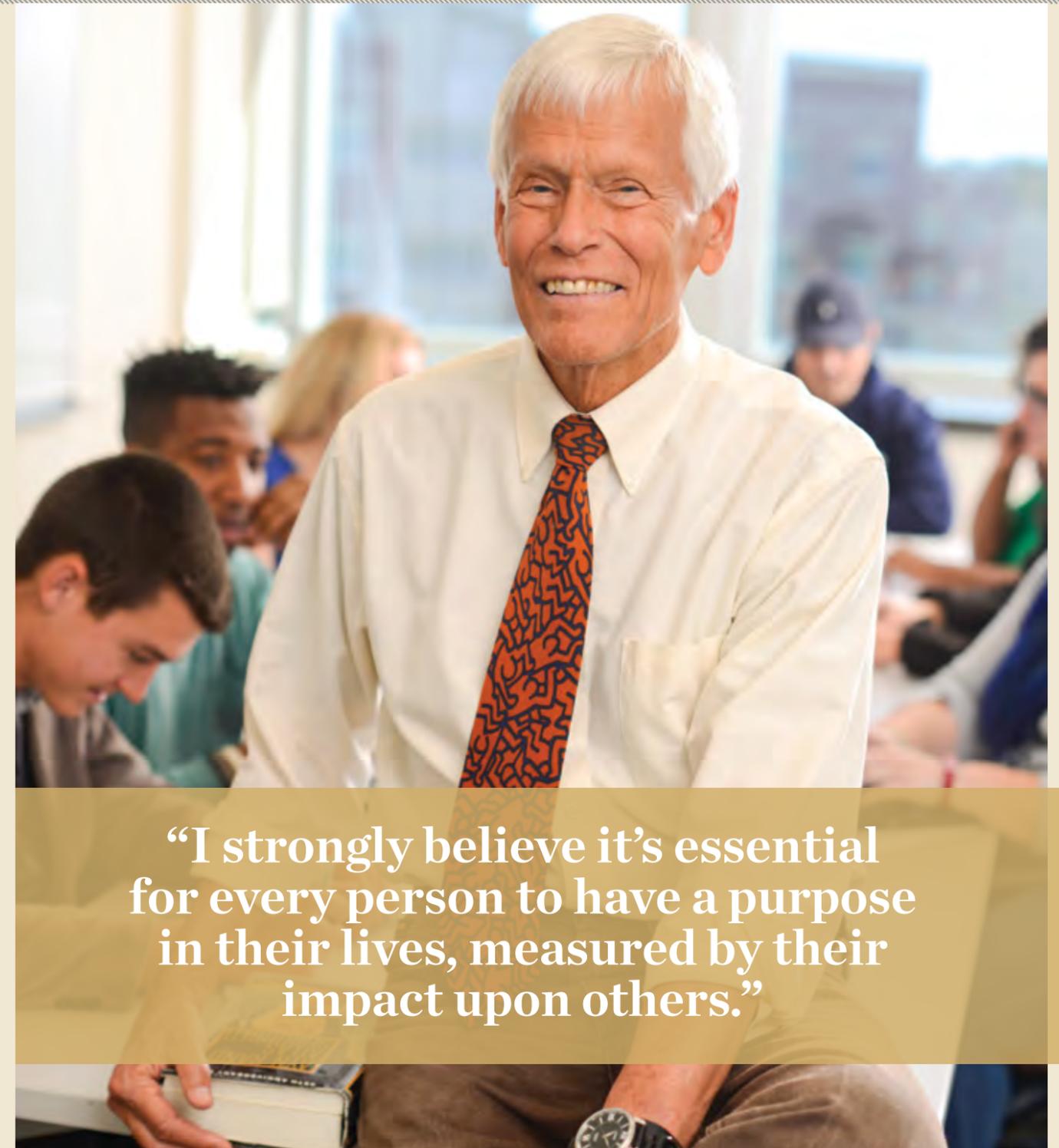
Kimball joined the UWF faculty in 1987 after a successful, 20-plus year career in marketing and sales, having worked at the Coca-Cola Company as well as owning the Kimball Organization, a firm that specialized in sales and management training. His career took an unexpected turn after he decided to pursue a doctorate in marketing at the University of Georgia.

"When I started my doctorate, it was my intention to return to the business environment," Kimball said. "But in my first full quarter, I was a graduate teaching assistant, and I realized then that the audience I wanted to work with was students. I really enjoyed being around them and felt I had a unique opportunity to enhance their business skills and their lives."



"Even more than specific content, he taught me the valuable lesson of always being prepared and caring about what you do."

—Jennifer McFarren '10



"I strongly believe it's essential for every person to have a purpose in their lives, measured by their impact upon others."





DR. ERIC GRESKA, assistant professor of exercise science and community health, examines the SynDaver Anatomy model with Hallie Davis, exercise science major.

A Hands-On, High-Impact Body of Work

New Applied Anatomy and Physiology Lab gives insight to the human body

BY ASHLEY KAHN SALLEY

The University of West Florida's Usha Kundu, MD College of Health continually seeks opportunities for its students to compete with the best and brightest in the world. The new Applied Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory, housed in the Department of Exercise Science and Community Health, was developed as part of that mission to give students firsthand experiences in the world of medicine.

Open since Fall 2016, the lab utilizes SynDaver Anatomy Models to provide students an in-depth knowledge of the human body, as well as the diagnostic testing skills necessary for continued academic and professional success.

"The SynDavers have a greater lifecycle compared to real cadavers, which are limited by laws both for storage and external usage," said Dr. Eric Greska, assistant professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Community Health. "Using the SynDaver allows us to open the lab to the entire UWF community and the region for educational experiences."

For example, last fall, Dr. Steve Ambler used the SynDavers as part of an in-service educational experience for area physical therapists. Looking ahead to Summer 2017, they will be utilized as part of the college's CRASH Camp, bringing local middle- and high-school students on campus to immerse them in "Careers Revolving Around Science and Health."

When the lab is not occupied by a scheduled course, students in the College utilize the space for study and extended hands-on development.

The SynDavers—which are used at prestigious institutions such as Harvard and Oxford University—were acquired through an internal grant. "The Usha Kundu, MD College of Health is determined to demonstrate an enormous return-on-investment for student success relative to the grant," Greska said.

"Research has demonstrated that technology and high-resolution images cannot replace the learned experiences from direct tissue contact when learning human anatomy," he said. "These experiences aid the students in gaining a firm knowledge base, as well as create the scaffolding required for continued success within the college disciplines and their future careers."

Exercise science program coordinator and professor Dr. Ludmila Cosio-Lima said the lab enhances learning, as students interact with one another and discuss human anatomy.

Working with SynDavers allows students to visualize and understand the organization of organs and systems within the body and to learn how and why movements occur and how specific diseases may target a single organ or become systemic.

"Students apply what is learned in theory in the classroom to hands-on experience with the SynDavers," Cosio-Lima said. "It allows students to engage in kinesthetic learning, and most importantly, provides educators with a unique opportunity to enrich the

minds of their students in new and engaging ways."

Dr. John Todorovich, chair of the Department of Exercise Science and Community Health, echoed this sentiment.

"One of the unique opportunities we have here in our department is for students to get their hands dirty, early in their careers," Todorovich said. "A lot of schools get this information through lectures at the undergraduate level, but we actually involve the students in a high-impact manner."

The lab—and the experiences therein—are also great recruiting tools for students and faculty alike.

"People come here and see we have taken the time and invested money in this type of equipment, and they rightfully assume the instruction that goes with it will be innovative," Todorovich explained. "It puts us ahead and sets us apart from most universities in terms of student access and faculty development."

Outcomes are promising, he said. Engagement among students is higher, while faculty members grow by facilitating

student learning beyond lectures.

Starting in Fall 2017, the University will teach two lower-level courses in applied human anatomy and applied human physiology in the lab, to build learning communities within the college.

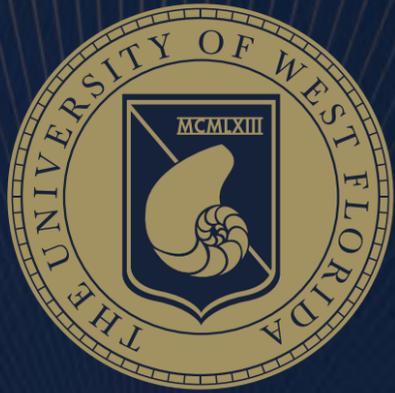
To learn more about the Applied Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory and the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health, visit uwf.edu/coh.

"Research has demonstrated that technology and high-resolution images cannot replace the learned experiences from direct tissue contact when learning human anatomy."

—Dr. Eric Greska



STUDENTS UTILIZE the SynDavers in the new Applied Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory.



Heart of Transformation

NEW UWF PRESIDENT
MARTHA SAUNDERS LEADS
SEA CHANGE ON CAMPUS,
IN COMMUNITY

BY THOMAS ST. MYER AND BRITTANY SWINFORD



AT 4 A.M., THE ALARM SOUNDS, ROUSING DR. MARTHA SAUNDERS FROM HER BED. COFFEE IN HAND, SHE READS NEWSPAPERS ONLINE AND SENDS A FEW EMAILS TO FACULTY AND STAFF BEFORE HEADING OUT FOR A 5-MILE WALK ALONG PENSACOLA BEACH WITH HER HUSBAND, JOE BAILEY. THE DAILY MORNING ROUTINE IS SACRED DOWNTIME IN AN OTHERWISE PACKED SCHEDULE FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA.

Below: As part of her vision for the future of UWF, Saunders said she plans to emphasize the growth and development of programs. Cybersecurity, supply chain logistics and global online are examples of those that show potential to impact the regional economy, gain national visibility, make a positive impact on UWF and more.

Once she arrives on campus, Saunders exudes calmness and self-assurance while handling the high demands that come from leading a University with nearly 13,000 students and more than 2,500 faculty and staff members in a community and region relying on its economic impact and innovation.

“Transform UWF and you transform Northwest Florida,” said Saunders, who assumed the presidency in January 2017 at the beginning of the 50th Anniversary milestone year. “When you think of where the region is, we’re the last part of Florida to be developed. While we’re certainly not in charge of the whole region, we can have a dominant influence on who leads the development.”

Transformative Growth

Sea Change—a profound transformation—is the heart and purpose of the University of West Florida. Saunders entered her new office with a dedication to continue making waves on campus, in the community and around the world.

Growth in enrollment, fundraising and campus structures were hallmarks of her previous leadership at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the University of Southern Mississippi. Saunders envisions similar growth in those areas at UWF by increasing its physical presence in downtown Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach, investing in programs such as global online, cybersecurity and supply chain logistics and visiting local high schools to recruit talented students.

“We foresee a future when anyone arriving in Pensacola will know this is a university town because they can see it, feel it and hear it,” Saunders said.

She said investing in programming and visibility will ensure significant enrollment growth and secure state funding, which the Florida Legislature bases on how universities score in a series of metrics. Identifying programs with the potential to be nationally recognized and ranked inspired Saunders to unveil the “Next Big Thing” initiative, with an emphasis on programs of distinction.

Recognizing the value of faculty and staff input, Saunders issued a call for employee proposals for “Next Big Thing” programs.

“One of her favorite sayings is she knows a good idea when it sits next to her on the bus,” said her husband, who retired from the telecommunications industry in 2005 and shares a passion for the outdoors and traveling with his wife. “Another one of her favorites is ‘I’m never the smartest one in the room.’ I know she’s as smart as anybody in the room, but she won’t say that.”

As part of the “Next Big Thing” initiative, UWF leadership will oversee a rigorous selection process to invest in programs, either new or enhanced, that are designed to move the University forward. Selected programs must demonstrate a clear need for graduates and a real potential to impact the regional economy, develop industry partnerships, earn external funding sources, gain national visibility, attract students and make a positive impact on UWF.

“Through the emergence and development of programs of distinction, we will continue the growth of knowledge clusters that attract and support business and industry,” Saunders said. “We know we cannot be all things to all people, but as programs become ready to move to the next level of growth, we plan to invest in them and take them to the moon.”



Ascending the Ladder

Saunders devoted the early years of her professional life to advertising and public relations. In 1981, she ventured into education and dedicated five years to serving in high school classrooms. Saunders spent the final two of those years at Gulf Breeze High School and weeknights at UWF as an adjunct professor in the Department of Communication Arts.

In 1986, Saunders shattered the glass ceiling when she was hired as coordinator for the public relations program, making her the

first female faculty member in the program. She rose through the ranks at UWF over the next 16 years, serving as director of the University Honors Program and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

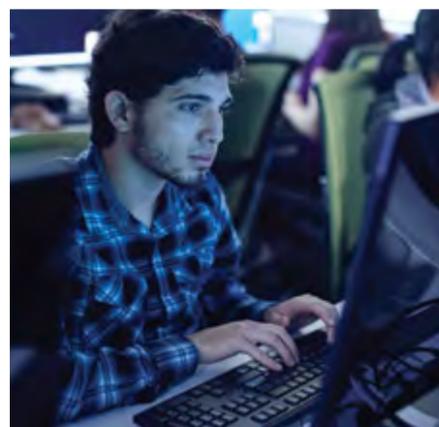
“My career path wasn’t completely traditional or streamlined, but that was common for female professionals at that time,” she said. “You basically took advantage of every opportunity offered to you, gained experience and then moved on to a new position that allowed you to use your skills and learn new ones. It was like a game of Chutes and Ladders—maybe not a direct upward track,

but steady progress that got me where I wanted to be.”

The desire to someday be president at an institution motivated Saunders in 2002 to accept the vice president for academic affairs position at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. She spent three years at Columbus State before becoming chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Saunders put her stamp on the institution by increasing its fundraising component and finalizing projects that totaled close to \$110 million.

“WE FORESEE A FUTURE WHEN ANYONE ARRIVING IN PENSACOLA WILL KNOW THIS IS A UNIVERSITY TOWN BECAUSE THEY CAN SEE IT, FEEL IT AND HEAR IT.”

—Dr. Martha Saunders



| Cybersecurity



| Supply Chain Logistics



| Global Online



“MARTHA IS DETERMINED, ACCOMPLISHED AND SAVVY. SHE’S FAIR TO ALL PEOPLE, BUT SHE TAKES PRIDE IN REWARDING THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL.”

—Mort O’Sullivan



Saunders is dedicated to staying accessible to students during her presidency. She hosts Monday lunches at the Nautilus Market, where she sits with students, asking questions and jotting down notes.

In May 2007, Saunders accepted the presidential post at her alma mater, the University of Southern Mississippi. She inherited a university that was still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, yet in her five years there, the university exceeded records for enrollment and annual gifts. Fundraising increased from \$3 million to \$20 million annually and the university underwent \$255 million in facility improvements with Saunders in charge.

Saunders resigned as Southern Miss president in 2012, and a few months later, accepted the provost position at UWF. In 2014, then-President Judy Bense appointed Saunders as executive vice president, with responsibilities as the chief academic officer, vice president for the Division of Academic Affairs and the chief operating officer with oversight over all University divisions. With Bense and Saunders working together, UWF steadily improved its academic standing and increased its enrollment.

Teacher at Heart

Even after rising through the ranks to become provost and executive vice president at UWF, Saunders always remembered her first love: teaching. In Fall 2015, she could be found in the classroom teaching an Intro to Public Relations course.

“Teaching keeps your finger on the pulse of campus,” Saunders said. “There’s no better place to do that than in a classroom.”

Saunders’ friend and former UWF colleague Dr. Mona Amodeo said it’s what she’s always been.

“In her heart, she is a teacher,” said Amodeo, founder and president of idgroup branding. “A teacher exists to make other people better.”

Her passion for changing young lives continues to show in her daily interactions on

campus and in the community. In a February photoshoot featuring student models, Saunders said she feels out of place as the center of attention, but that interacting with the students is the saving grace. She is thoroughly invested in their lives, asking in-depth questions beyond ‘What is your major?’ or ‘What year are you?’

UWF senior Jacob Hebert, president of the Student Government Association, com-

In September 2016, the Board of Trustees selected Saunders among 83 applicants to be the sixth president in University history.

“We already knew we had the best provost in the state, and now we’re excited to have the best president in the state,” said Mort O’Sullivan, chair of the UWF Board of Trustees. “Martha is determined, accomplished and savvy. She’s fair to all people, but

“IN HER HEART, SHE IS A TEACHER. A TEACHER EXISTS TO MAKE OTHER PEOPLE BETTER.” —Dr. Mona Amodeo

mended Saunders for her accessibility to students, citing her Monday lunches at Nautilus Market, where she sits with a “Meet the President” sign on the table. Saunders routinely asks students questions and jots down notes during the lunches.

“She is always 100 percent present in a meeting,” Hebert said. “She has a complete devotion to her current task. You can tell she cares about what you’re saying and the overall project.”

New Beginnings

When Bense announced her retirement as president, faculty, staff, alumni and friends supported Saunders’ decision to apply as her successor.

“A couple of Board of Trustees members called me and asked what I thought about Martha as president,” said Quint Studer, Pensacola entrepreneur, philanthropist and UW-Whitewater alumnus. “I said, ‘You look at what she did at Whitewater; she’s a great No. 1.’”

she takes pride in rewarding those who are willing to take us to the next level.”

Dr. Kim LeDuff, chief diversity officer, associate vice provost and dean of University College at UWF, said she predicts Saunders will transform UWF just as she transformed Southern Miss, which she witnessed firsthand when she spent eight years as an associate professor and associate director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism before joining Saunders at UWF.

“I remember that the campus suddenly looked better and there was an overall shift in the energy,” LeDuff said. “What I didn’t realize at the time was that our new President Martha Saunders was the force behind it all. When I came back to UWF this January with Martha Saunders as president, I felt a similar energy. I tell my staff and colleagues to buckle up. She’s a visionary who will move strategically and quickly, and UWF will be better for it.”



Pen Air Invests in UWF Football

BY AMY MINCHIN

The University of West Florida Argonaut football team officially closed its 2016 inaugural season with one of the best records a first year Division II team ever had, but one of the biggest wins came off the field.

In September 2016, Pen Air Federal Credit Union announced a \$1 million gift to support UWF football. The gift named Pen Air Field, the home of UWF football on the Pensacola campus.

This is the most recent development in a long-standing relationship between the University and Pen Air. Previously, Pen Air has shown its support by partnering with the alumni association, the College of Business and UWF Athletics.

“Supporting programs like UWF Athletics, the alumni association, financial education boot camps and now Pen Air Field are some of the many ways we connect and support our vibrant and growing local University and community,” said Stu Ramsey, president and CEO of Pen Air Federal

Credit Union. “The football program has been a dream for many years and we are proud to be a part of it.”

According to Pam Hatt, director of marketing for Pen Air, the opportunity to contribute to UWF student life and a vibrant campus experience was an important factor in the company’s decision to invest in Pen Air Field. “We are incredibly grateful for Pen Air Federal Credit Union’s belief in the value of higher education and for their dedication to helping our University grow,” said Dr. Judy Bense, UWF President Emeritus.

Just south of Pen Air Field, UWF has broken ground on the \$6.8 million University Park Center, which will house UWF football as well as the UWF Usha Kundu, MD College of Health and the Florida State University College of Medicine Pensacola Regional Campus.

UWF football began spring practices in March, culminating with the Spring Game at Pen Air Field in April.



Brett Berg, Pam Hatt, Pete Shinnick, Stu Ramsey and Dave Scott at Pen Air Field during the University Park Groundbreaking in October 2016.

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.



Argie poses proudly in preparation for Cannon Fest during Homecoming 2016



Fall 2016 graduates at the Pensacola Bay Center



President Martha Saunders and Capt. Antonio Canas celebrate the UWF Military and Veterans Resource Center's 5th anniversary



Gordon and Bette Sprague pose at the UWF Donor Recognition Dinner at the Museum of Commerce on UWF's historic property in downtown Pensacola



UWF Alumni Rachel and Dustin Brenton pose for a photo while cheering on the Argos at a home football game



Dr. Brendan Kelly, Lauren Butler, Quint Studer, Bob Anderson and Dr. Meredith Brunen celebrate a \$50,000 grant from the SunTrust Foundation for the Pensacola Pledge Scholars Fund



UWF celebrates President Emeritus Morris Marx for his career, contributions and retirement at the UWF Japan House



The UWF Alumni Ghost Tours, hosted by the UWF Historic Trust, provide a festive evening for alumni and their families to explore the haunted history of downtown Pensacola



UWF honors benefactors at the Donor Recognition Dinner at the Museum of Commerce



Grammy Award-winning composer Eric Whitacre and the UWF Singers, accompanied by a virtual choir of UWF alumni, perform at UWF's 50th Anniversary Gala



UWF Alumni Jason Crawford, James Hosman and President Martha Saunders enjoy UWF football's inaugural home game



UWF Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Nolan Intermoia and men's soccer coach Bill Elliott.



Alumni attend a UWF networking event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida



Ed Spears, Stephanie Lawrence Yelton, J. Terryl T. Bubba Bechtol Sr., J. Terryl Bechtol Jr. and Brett Berg present the 'T. Bubba Scholarship' with a check presentation for UWF Athletics



Dr. Usha and Mahadeb Kundu celebrate their \$5 million gift to name the Usha Kundu, MD College of Health



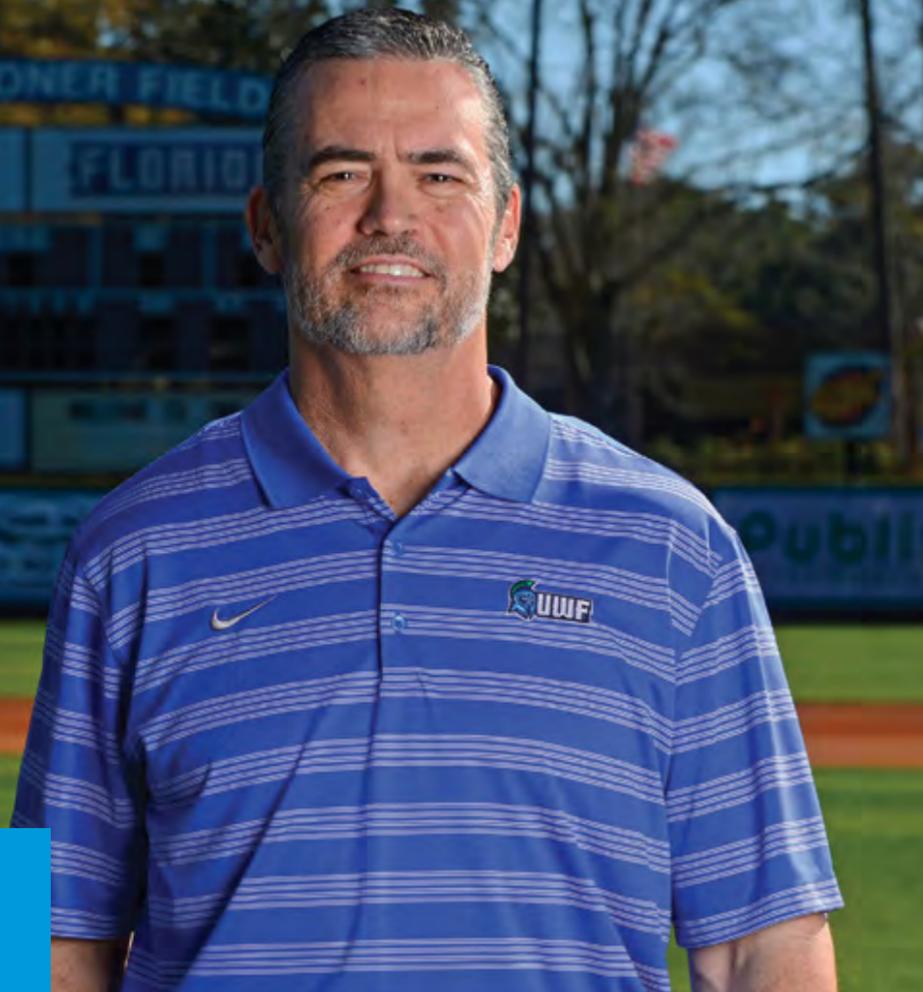
Student ambassadors Frederick Estrada and David Hickman serve at the Donor Recognition Dinner at the Museum of Commerce



UWF President Emeritus Judy Bense recognizes John Appleyard with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters



BRETT BARROW '86
plays baseball at UWF
in 1986.



Q&A

with the UWF National Alumni Association Board President

BY AMY MINCHIN

National Alumni Association Board President Brett Barrow, '87, reflects on the growth of the University in its 50th year.

What has UWF's growth through the years meant to you?

Pensacola is my hometown, so it is rewarding for me to see the University become an increasingly important part of our community. It is also meaningful for me to see UWF become more integrated with local economic efforts to advance our region. Almost half of our 80,000 alumni live in the Florida Panhandle. This is an example of the incredible impact UWF has on our area.

What are you most excited about as the University continues to grow?

It is exciting to see the focus on improving student life and making the campus a destination attraction. The UWF football program is providing opportunities to engage with alumni in ways greater than ever before. Record-breaking donor gifts are advancing our educational programs, attracting new talent and resulting in recognition that will take our University to new heights. There has never been a better time to be an Argo!

With UWF's 50th Anniversary this year, what can alumni look forward to?

Our alumni network events in various cities outside the Florida Panhandle continue to grow, and these will carry a special focus on the 50th Anniversary this year. Our alumni can also look forward to special engagement opportunities at various sporting events and UWF Homecoming, Oct. 9-14, 2017. The 50th Anniversary is another reason to connect, support, participate and join us in the celebration. Go Argos!

Alumni Events

Once an Argo, always an Argo. From gatherings in your own town to campus and community events, there are a variety of ways to keep up with other alumni and the University after graduation. If you have any suggestions for fun and engaging alumni events, please email us at alumni@uwf.edu.

For event updates, visit alumni.uwf.edu.

Commencement

May 6 Pensacola Bay Center

10 a.m.—College of Business; Usha Kundu, MD College of Health; Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering
2 p.m.—College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities; College of Education and Professional Studies

Upcoming Alumni Network Events

May 3 Houston

The Union Kitchen-Ella
3452 Ella Blvd.
Houston, Texas
6-7:30 p.m.

May 17 Jacksonville

Maggiano's Little Italy
10367 Midtown Pkwy.
Jacksonville, Florida
6-7:30 p.m.

May 18 Tallahassee

Madison Social
705 S Woodward Ave.
St. 101
Tallahassee, Florida
6-7:30 p.m.

June 14 Orlando

Ceviche Orlando
125 W Church St.
Orlando Florida
6-7:30 p.m.

June 15 Tampa

Maggiano's Little Italy
203 Westshore Plaza
Tampa, Florida
6-7:30 p.m.

Spirit of UWF and Alumni Awards

The University of West Florida is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Spirit of UWF Awards and Alumni Awards.

The Spirit of UWF Awards celebrate and strengthen collaboration between the University and the larger communities it serves.

The Alumni Awards are for those who make a difference to the Alumni Association, the University and/or their respective communities.

Nominations are open from April 10 to July 7, 2017. To review the nomination categories, learn more or to submit a nomination, visit uwf.edu/alumniandspirit.

uwf.edu/alumniandspirit

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

Alumni Spotlight: Anthony Dill

Army colonel's 31 years of service began with ROTC at UWF

BY JENNY PEDRAZA



ANTHONY DILL poses on the airfield as the inspector general for the State of Georgia.

One night in December 1978, 12-year-old Anthony Dill '88 and his family landed at Tehran International Airport in northern Iran, unknowingly finding themselves in the middle of the Iranian Revolution, the overthrow of U.S.-backed Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi and the Islamic republic's rise to power.

After 20 years of service as a pilot in the Army, Dill's father retired and accepted a government contract position with Bell Helicopters, rebuilding American "hueys" for the Shah in Tehran. A week after they arrived in Iran, the Shah was thrown from power.

"We saw the city go from everyone wearing blue jeans to the women in full black veils," Dill said. "My mom would send me out for food, and I'd have extremists sticking guns in my face. Our school was burnt to the ground. My dad was making contingency plans to get us out, but we were trapped. Finally, we learned that the State Department had coordinated a noncombatant evacuation operation and secured three 747s from Pan Am. We were on the last flight out."

Arriving back in the U.S., Dill said he recalls "not being in the same place" as his peers in eighth grade. The trivial things his friends cared about lacked relevance to him. It was during this time that Dill decided to

follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in military service. He wanted to protect his family and his country. He never wanted to feel like a victim again.

Dill's family eventually settled in Pensacola, where he graduated from Pensacola Catholic High School. He enrolled at the University of West Florida and immediately joined the ROTC program.

"I remember we'd be in these field training exercises, wading waist-deep in the swampy waters near campus, learning how to navigate, read a map and work together as a team," he said.

It was his experiences in ROTC that Dill credits with giving him the mental fortitude and training to do well in the Army's advance camp and later, in ranger school.

Dill's military career led him to become a Green Beret in the U.S. Army Special Forces. During his 29 years of active duty, Dill served 81 months in hostile fire zones, trav-

Photos courtesy of Anthony Dill



"I think a key to success is surrounding yourself with good people and giving them the ability to do well. When there's an emergency or war, I've been fortunate enough to be part of the apparatus that responds to make things better."

eling to battlegrounds around the world, including Panama, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dill also served as the commander of the Golden Knights U.S. Army parachute demonstration team from 2007 to 2010. One of the highlights from this time was coordinating former President George H.W. Bush's parachute jump in celebration of his 83rd birthday.

In June 2016, Dill was among 326 military leaders selected from the more than 650,000 ROTC graduates nationwide to be inducted to the U.S. Army Cadet Command's ROTC Hall of Fame. Other inductees include former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and George Marshall, the U.S.

Army chief of staff during World War II.

Now the inspector general for the Georgia Department of Defense, Dill serves as "the eyes, ears and conscience of the commander," ensuring the department is ready for the next emergency or war situation.

As he prepares to retire from military service as a colonel in Summer 2017, Dill said he feels like the time flew by.

"I've always tried to get into the hardest units with the most rewarding missions," he said. "I think a key to success is surrounding yourself with good people and giving them the ability to do well. When there's an emergency or war, I've been fortunate enough to be part of the apparatus that responds to make things better."



DILL'S FATHER in Vietnam 1966, flying for 5th Special Forces Group.

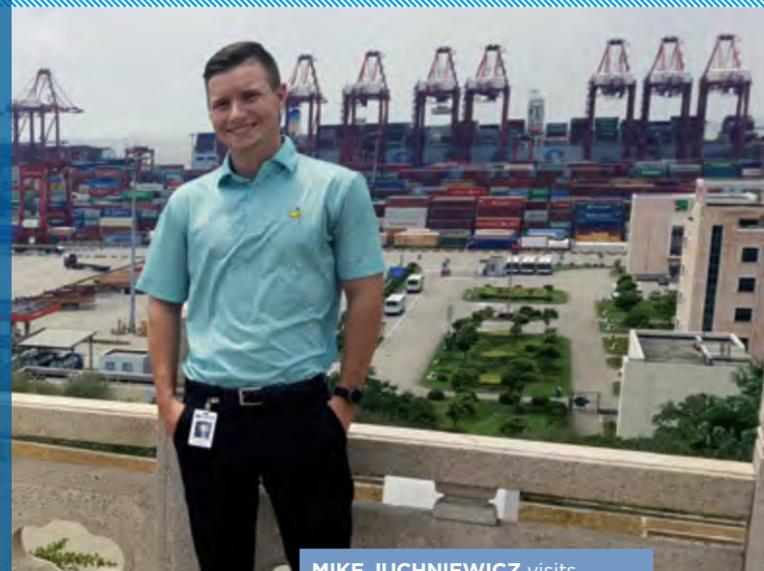


DILL AND FELLOW SOLDIER in Deh Chopan, Afghanistan.

Alumni Spotlight: Mike Juchniewicz

Alumnus enters the high-demand field of supply chain logistics management

BY AMY MINCHIN



MIKE JUCHNIEWICZ visits the Yangshan port, the busiest container port in the world.



The UWF College of Business considers Mike Juchniewicz '15 one of its first graduates to earn a bachelor's degree in supply chain logistics management. If Juchniewicz's success is any indication, students who follow him in the growing program should be excited about the future.

The Panama City native is one of only five trainees selected for this year's Leadership Development Program at Crane Worldwide Logistics, a full-service air, ocean, trucking, customs brokerage and logistics company with 115 offices around the globe.

Since joining Crane Worldwide as part of its leadership development program last summer, Juchniewicz has traveled to China, Chicago and Atlanta with additional plans to visit Houston and Los Angeles, spending 10 weeks in each location learning all facets of the company's operations.

"You get to put your hands in a little bit of everything," Juchniewicz said. "They are setting us up for success. It is a fast track to

a management role, and I am excited about the opportunity to join a growing office to drive the business forward."

Although he does not know where he will be assigned after the training program ends, Juchniewicz said the prospect of moving to a bigger city appealed to him when he chose the supply chain logistics management major at UWF. The availability of jobs and competitive salaries in the growing field were attractive, too. At UWF, he found mentors in Dr. Scott Keller, Dr. Stephen LeMay and Dr. Peter Ralston, faculty members in the Department of Marketing and Economics. He said their guidance, along with meaningful internships and experiences, prepared him

for the work he is doing today.

"We recruit from the top supply chain and business schools around the U.S., and none of them has placed as many students with us as UWF," said John Magee, president and CEO of Crane Worldwide Logistics. "It is a tribute to Dr. Keller, as well as the rest of the staff at the University."

Juchniewicz recently returned to campus to speak to supply chain logistics management classes, and he said he remains busy learning his new job, sampling the cuisine in China, celebrating a historic World Series victory with Chicago Cubs fans and making the most of each experience wherever he goes.

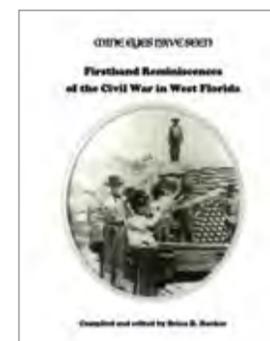
"You get to put your hands in a little bit of everything. They are setting us up for success. It is a fast track to a management role, and I am excited about the opportunity to join a growing office to drive the business forward."



Class Notes

1960s

'69 Sam McCall, BA Accounting; has been chosen to receive the 2016 Outstanding CPA in Government Career Contributions Award. The award recognizes certified public accountants who have made significant professional contributions to the CPA community through government service at the local, state or federal level over their entire career.



'69 Sandy Sansing, BA Accounting; has been nominated for the 2017 TIME Dealer of the Year Award. The award is one of the automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors. Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers who also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service.

1970s

'71 Brenda Luke, BA Communication Arts; has been renamed to the board of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants. NAHT works with the federal government to represent the interests of residents in HUD buildings nationwide.

'78 Donald Snyder, BS Physical Electronics; was inducted as an Air Force Research Laboratory Fellow at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The AFRL Fellow program recognizes the most outstanding



Air Force scientists and engineers and is awarded only to the top 0.2 percent of AFRL professionals.

'79 Timothy McGriff Snyder, BS Systems Science; has moved into a newly created

position at Windstar with a wealth of experience in seagoing and logistics. His extensive vessel management background will assist Windstar with shipyard projects, such as retrofits and new builds, as well as other technical operations managed from his shore-based position.

1980s

'80 Meghan Jones, BA Theatre; was one of the standout performers in the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center production of "Ragtime."



'83 & '85 Brian Rucker, BA History & MA History; gave a fresh look into the Civil War era and how the war impacted so many lives in his latest book, "Mine Eyes Have Seen: Firsthand Reminiscences of the Civil War in West Florida."

'84 & '87 Elizabeth Walters, BA Political Science & MA Political Science; was elected as the Florida Board of Bar Examiners vice chair. The board is an administrative agency of the Supreme Court of Florida charged with enforcing the court's rules relating to admissions to the bar, including the administration and grading of the Florida Bar Examination.

'85 Rhonda Feldman, BS Sports Science; has been named the program director for Franklin College's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.



'88 Jonathan Walker, BA Political Science; was one of five people appointed to the Judges of Compensation Claims, who handle disputes over workers' compensation.

1990s

'90 Kelly Strickland, BA Accounting; has been named the City of Sarasota's new finance director, becoming the first woman to hold the position.



'90 James David, BA Legal Administration; was honored with two Emmy Awards and recognized for his film on Desert Foothills Land Trust conservation. The award-winning film was a collaborative effort with his wife and business partner, Susan David, who served as producer and co-writer. The Academy recognized Jim David Photography with Emmy Awards for Photographer-Short Form and Environment-Program Feature/Segment.

'92 Stephen Gonterman, BA Communication Arts; has chosen Pensacola as the location for his company, NumNum's headquarters. Gonterman started the company with his wife four years ago in Atlanta.

'94 William Wirth, BA Communication Arts; has been promoted by United Way of Escambia County to retired and senior volunteer program manager and is responsible for recruiting and engaging individuals who are 55-years and older to volunteer with local agencies.

'96 Edwin Howard, BA Political Science; has been elected president of the Panhandle Tiger Bay Club. The Panhandle Tiger Bay Club is located in Pensacola and brings together local professionals and community leaders to hear nationally and internationally-recognized figures speak about political, economic, social and scientific issues.

'96 & '99 **David Shamma**, BS Computer Science & MS Computer Science; has been named as one of the 45 Distinguished Members 2016 in the subcategory "Distinguished Engineers" by the Association for Computing Machinery.

'97 **John Irving**, MS Sports Science; has been selected by Baptist Medical Group to serve as Baptist Urgent Care and Occupational Health Program developer.

'98 **Coleen Beal**, BA Legal Administration; received the 2016 Janney Values Award. Janney gives this award to one

employee who annually exceeds expectations, keeps people at the center, delivers with integrity and is results driven. She is the first branch office employee to be recognized with this award.

'98 **Jeff Strumeyer**, BA Elementary Education; was named as one of Santa Rosa County's Teachers of the Year for 2016.

Florida's Innovation Institute in downtown Pensacola. Garman has been hired to co-manage the Story Lab at the institute.



'01 **Kristen Miller**, BA Communication Arts; has been recognized by Marriott International as Direct Sales Leader of the Year for Towne Place Suites brand of Marriott hotels at the CFRST Awards Celebration held in Bethesda, Maryland during July 2016.

'03 **Christopher Hammons**, BS Health Leisure and Exercise Science; has been hired as a new general manager for Homewood Suites by Hilton Miami-Airport/Blue Lagoon.

'03 **Kerra Smith**, BA Legal Studies; investiture to the Escambia County bench, Division 2.

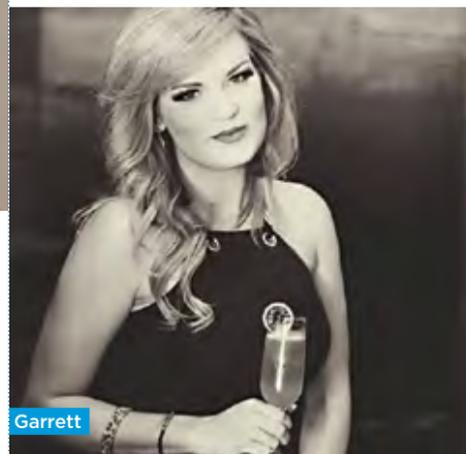
'06 **Clayton Romano**, BS Business Administration; was recently selected to serve as the corporate director of facilities management at Baptist Health Care.



'07, '09 & '15 **Reginald Todd**, MEd, Curriculum and Instruction, EdS Curriculum and Instruction & EdD; accepted a tenure track faculty position in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction in Texas Southern University's College of Education.

'07, '10 & '12 **Tanya Gallagher**, BS Environmental Studies & MS Environmental Studies; has a new album titled "Virginia" that is set to be released Sept. 30 via iTunes and all major digital outlets.

'08 **James Henderson**, MS, Applied Science, Technology and Administration; has been appointed as the next president of the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors.



'08 & '10 **Katie Garrett**, BA History & MA History; was awarded Micro-Business Entrepreneur of the year for Old Hickory Whiskey Bar.

'09 **Luther McDonald**, BS Chemistry; was named one of Forbes' "30

Under 30" in science. He, along with academics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard and NASA's Langley Research Center, among others, was named one of this year's outstanding young scientists and scientific entrepreneurs in fields from mathematics to neuroscience and genetics. McDonald was the only researcher from Utah named.

'09 **Matthew Algarin**, BA Communication Arts; was hired as the new managing editor of Emerald Coast Magazine.

'10 **Nicole Craig**, BS Marine Biology; participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions Global Field Program in Australia. She studied coral reef ecology and the conservation of marine systems along the Great Barrier Reef.

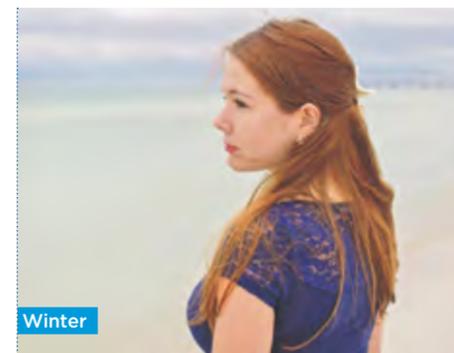


'10 **Jennifer McFarren**, BA Communication Arts; and her husband **Brandon McFarren** '09, BS Business Administration; welcomed their son, Brooks, on Oct. 18, 2016. Brooks is a future Argol!

'12 **Bridget Robinson**, BA Communication Arts; was selected as the new VISTA Leader with United Way, serving as the leader of the VISTA ALIGNS project.

'12 **Amy Tuck Farrington**, MSA Public Administration; University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee established an Office of Community Engagement and has appointed Farrington as administrator of the office.

'13 & '15 **Melanie Winter**, BA Criminal Justice & MS Criminal Justice; has been hired by the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations through the Palace Acquire Program. Office of Special Investigations is the Air Force's federal law enforcement



agency that investigates a broad spectrum of crimes including terrorism, cyber-crime, espionage, crimes against persons and drug crimes.

'13 **Stephanie Poole**, MA Anthropology; was hired as the Castle's new programs and volunteer coordinator. The Castle Preservation Society, a non-profit founded in 2006, is dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing the buildings and landscape of Castle in the Clouds as a cultural resource for the benefit of the public.

'14 **Patricia Gleich**, EdD; authored a book chapter, "Gender Equality in the U.S. Military: A target not yet clearly in view," based on her dissertation. The chapter was published in "Overcoming Challenges to Gender Equality in the Workplace."

'14 **Leonardo Ambrosi**, BS Oceanography; joined the Horizon Marine team as a Business Development Specialist.

'14 **Alex Pickrell**, BA History; has been named the first women's soccer coach in Albany State University's history.

'15 **Kristopher Bracewell**, MEd, Educational Leadership; was welcomed as the new assistant principal for Lafayette High School.

'15 **Tara Calhoun**, BS Business Administration; was selected as the junior civilians of quarter by the Naval Education and Training Command.

In Memoriam

'68 **Walter Dodson**, BA Management; died Sept. 23, 2016

'68 & '75 **Neta Roush**; BS Management & MA Psychology; died Oct. 16, 2016

'69 **James Fal**, MS Aeronautical Systems; died Sept. 7, 2016

'69 **Elizabeth Pippin**, BA Elementary Education; died Oct. 24, 2016

'69 **Stanley Griffis**, BA History; died Jan. 1, 2017

'70 **Richard Layman**, BA Accounting; died Sept. 25, 2016

'70 **Linda Liles**, BA Elementary Education; died Dec. 28, 2016

'70 & '73 **Robert Campbell**, BS Industrial Technology & MBA; died Nov. 19, 2016

'71 **Peter Bouth**, BS Management; died Oct. 13, 2016

'71 **John Foster**, BA History Education; died Oct. 12, 2016

'71 & '89 **Marietta Clark**, BA History and MA History; died Nov. 24, 2016

'71 **Jodie Munden**, BA Philosophy; died Nov. 18, 2016

'72 **William McDaniel**, MBA; died Sept. 5, 2016

'72 **James Ripley**, MBA; died Oct. 8, 2016

'72 **Kerby Thompson**, BA Special Education; died Nov. 2, 2016

'72 **Marvin Woodruff**, BA Psychology; died Dec. 6, 2016

'72 **Peggy Doyal**, BA Elementary Education; died Jan. 9, 2017

'73 **Marilyn Moore**, MA Elementary Education; died Oct. 21, 2016

'73 **John Dean**, BS Systems Science; died Dec. 26, 2016

'73 **Paul Young**, BS Management; died Dec. 28, 2016

'74, '75 & '77 **Roger Dapson**, BS Systems Science, MA Economics, MBA; died Aug. 9, 2016

'74 **Fred Meade**, BA Communication Arts; died Oct. 24, 2016

'74 **James Harper**, BS Cell and Molecular Biology; died Oct. 6, 2015

'74 **Gaylord Hall**, BA Elementary Education; died Dec. 8, 2016

'74 **Dixie Dinsmore**, BA International Social Science; died Dec. 15, 2016

'75 **Michael Carrancejje**, BS Management; died Jan. 11, 2017

'76 **Mary Stitt**, BA Social Work; died Aug. 21, 2016

'76 **Richard White**, BA Criminal Justice; died Aug. 20, 2016

'76 & '78, **Raymond Wishart**, BS Technology & MEd, Educational Leadership; died Aug. 22, 2016

'76 & '88, **Debra Buckley**, BA Accounting & MBA; died Nov. 20, 2016

'76 **Ira Monroe**, BS Technology; died Jan. 12, 2017

'77 **Harold Brumage**, MBA; died Sept. 3, 2016

2000s



'98 & '00 **Stephanie Chapman**, BA Accounting & MA Accounting; has been promoted to the position of Principal of the Firm and has been with BLS for more than seven years.

'00 **Christian Garman**, BA Communication Arts; accepted a position at the University of West



'04 **Alexis Leader**, BA Art Studio; recently launched a fine art advisory firm based in Pensacola.

2010s

'06 & '13 **Robert Burr**, BS Computer Science & MS Computer Science; has been promoted by Baptist Health Care to serve as their web development manager. In this new role, Burr will serve as chief web developer to ensure effective websites as related to marketing, growth and accessibility initiatives.

'77 **John Starkey**, BA Communication Arts; died Sept. 13, 2016

'77 **Robert Werner**, BA Psychology; died Nov. 22, 2016

'80 **Lee Waltrip**, MBA; died Jan. 12, 2017

'80 **Cliff Blanchard**, BS Marketing; died Sept. 5, 2016

'80 **Jody Simmons**, BA International Studies; died Sept. 29, 2016

'82 **Deborah Dahlin**, BS Chemistry; died Dec. 28, 2016

'83 **Roy Isakson**, BS Technology; died Oct. 8, 2016

'83 **Raymond Addison**, BS Systems Science; died Oct. 23, 2016

'83 **Richard Solomon**, BS Systems Science; died Dec. 1, 2016

'83 & '85 **John Lewis**, BS Management & MBA; died Dec. 6, 2016

'84 **Sandra Ward**, BS Systems Science; died Aug. 22, 2016

'84 **Debra Mellor**, BA Elementary Education; died Dec. 1, 2016

'85 **Richard Pierce**, BS Cell & Molecular Biology; died Nov. 21, 2016

'85 **Gordon Guimond**, BS Systems Science; died Jan. 5, 2017

'88 **Jonathan Robbins**, BS Systems Science; died Dec. 26, 2016

'89 **Michael Karkowski**, BA Accounting; died Sept. 2, 2016

'91 **Hilda Twiss**, BA Social Science; died Aug. 22, 2016

'92 **Marie McFetridge**, MS Computer Science; died July 20, 2016

'93 **M. D. Dowis**, MBA; died Aug. 29, 2016

'93 & '96 **Justina Knight**, BS Health Leisure and Exercise Science & MS Health Leisure and Exercise Science; died Sept. 1, 2016

'93 **James Glantz**, BA Education; died Sept. 13, 2016

'95 **Joyce Waite**, BA Education; died Nov. 2, 2016

'95 **Lois Harrison**, BS Health Education; died Sept. 21, 2016

'98 **Kenneth Meadows**, BA Music Education; died Oct. 24, 2016

'99 **Rita Collins**, MA Psychology; died Oct. 2, 2016

'04 **John Glass**, BS Engineering Technology; died Aug. 4, 2016

'09 **Charles Mccown**, MS Computer Science; died Sept. 16, 2016

'09 **Forrest Edgar**, BS Engineering Technology; died Oct. 15, 2016

'15 **Peggy King**, BA Psychology; died Oct. 31, 2016

'16 **Allison Hobbs**, BA Social Work; died Sept. 29, 2016

Charles Summers, UWF employee; died Oct. 26, 2016



I see a way to represent my University...

and don the hallmark green blazer. Since 1987, UWF's student ambassadors serve as the official hosts and hostesses for the University. Ambassador and criminal justice major Kari McWhirter has given campus tours to student-athletes, greeted alumni at the University's 50th Anniversary gala, volunteered at commencement and astutely answered hundreds of even the most obscure UWF-related questions.

It's just one way McWhirter has gained leadership experience on campus, and it's been her chance to give back to UWF for what it has given her: a college experience like no other.

Let's make some waves. Sea Change.

Kari McWhirter
UWF Student
Ambassador



The UWF Student Ambassadors serve as the official hosts and hostesses of the University of West Florida. Famous for their green jackets, the Ambassadors are called upon to assist at important University events and are a premier campus leadership organization.



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