

A Collection of Good Works by the Pensacola Junior College Foundation

# COMPENDIUM

Fall 2006

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Circle of Friends Breakfast  
Leadership Appreciation  
Newest PJC Foundation Fellow  
Spears Building Dedication  
Smart Choice  
Where Are They Now?  
and more!

## PJC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CAROLYN DAVIS  
PJC Foundation President

Traditionally, December is a time for celebrating with family, reflecting on the past year's events, and looking forward to a prosperous new year.

As you enjoy this holiday season, I hope your family will include some PJC events, such as the free holiday concerts and faculty art show. In fact, the college's Lyceum series is a cultural gift to the community throughout the year.

When you reflect on the year's events, I hope you will notice PJC's positive influence. With its highly respected college credit and technical programs, it is likely that you have been helped by PJC alum, whether it is the nurse in your doctor's office, the teacher in your child's classroom, or the mechanic who services your car.

Even more importantly, I hope that you will think of PJC as you plan for a successful and prosperous new year. The Foundation's Annual Fund has reached an all-time high and more students than ever are proudly seeking a better future because of generous scholarship donors.

However, these success stories will continue only with your support. I can't think of a better gift than the gift of education because it benefits not just a person, or a family, but the whole community. While you are contemplating your year-end giving, I hope you will remember what PJC gives to our community all year. And then, give back as you are able.

*The Pensacola Junior College Foundation, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation that has been established to encourage, solicit, receive and administer gifts and bequests of property and funds for benefit of the college and college activities. The PJC Foundation is administered by a board of governors made up of members of the community who have an interest in the college.*

*The PJC Foundation promotes the annual giving program of the college and solicits funds for various projects which the college cannot otherwise fund. In addition, donations are sought for scholarships and other worthwhile projects which assist Pensacola Junior College and its students.*

*As a tax-assisted institution, Pensacola Junior College cannot meet all needs with state and student support. The PJC Foundation assists in obtaining private support to supplement college budgets. The PJC Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax deductible non-profit corporation and a direct support organization chartered by the state of Florida to provide private support to the college.*



## PJC FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

President, Carolyn Davis  
Vice President, Grover Robinson IV  
Secretary, Pam Caddell  
Treasurer, Ted Kirchharr  
Immediate Past President, Tom Owens  
Executive Director, Patrice S. Whitten

### DIRECTORS

Dick Appleyard  
Gerald Morrison  
Sparkie Folkers  
Diane Gup  
John Hutchinson  
Margaret Stopp

Elba Robertson  
Kramer Litvak  
Gwen Snowden

**Ex Officio**  
Tom Delaino  
Carol Carlan

### GOVERNORS AT LARGE

Rhette Anderson  
George Bailey  
David Bear  
Fred Bond  
Robert deVarona  
Kathy Dunagan  
Christian Garman  
Hank Gonzales  
Keith Gregory  
Pam Michelle Grier  
David Hawkins  
Karen Hendrix  
Hal Hudson  
Coy Irvin  
Danyelle Kennedy-Lantz  
Michelle Lee  
Greg Litton  
Lisa McKenzie Dampier  
Julian MacQueen  
Kim MacQueen  
Donnie McMahon III  
Pat Miller  
Jim Mitchell  
Robert Montgomery

Eric Nickelsen  
Betty Gail Peters  
James Reeves  
Gene Rosenbaum  
Ray Russenberger  
Joanne Ryan  
Sandy Sansing  
Charlie Sherrill Jr.  
Warren Tate  
Steve Timberlake  
Joseph Von Bodungen  
Michael Wiggins  
Greg Woodfin  
Ken Woolf  
Steve Ziemann

**Governors Emeriti**  
H. Miller Caldwell Jr.  
Carol Carlan  
Bo Carter  
Jim Hill  
Margie Moore  
Wayne Peacock  
James Stolhanske  
Tommy Tate

## WHAT'S INSIDE

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Circle of Friends Breakfast | 3  |
| Annual Dinner               | 4  |
| Eric Nickelsen              | 5  |
| Scholarship spotlight       | 6  |
| Spears Building Dedication  | 9  |
| Smart Choice                | 10 |
| Wilma Duncans-Burnett       | 11 |
| Alumni Profile              | 12 |
| Where Are They Now          | 12 |
| Anna Society Founders Forum | 14 |
| Auto Program                | 15 |
| PJC Class Notes             | 15 |
| Celebrations                | 16 |
| Dr. Venettozzi Remembered   | 18 |
| President's Circle          | 19 |

On the cover: "Fish" by PJC alum, Victor Bokas  
Read about our featured alumni on page 12  
in "Where are They Now?"

## COMPENDIUM

The award-winning Compendium is published for alumni and friends of Pensacola Junior College.

### NEED INFORMATION? PLEASE CALL!

PJC's College Development & Alumni Affairs and Foundation staff are here to assist you. You may reach us at (850) 484-1560.

**Catherine Ganley**, Donor Relations Manager  
**Liza Hawkins**, Development Manager  
**Lynn Hobbs**, Business Manager  
**Barbara Looney**, Senior Administrative Assistant  
**Rosemary Ropke**, Accounting Specialist  
**Betty Wasson**, Events Coordinator & Development Specialist  
**Patrice Whitten**, Executive Director  
**Meredith Wolf**, Director of College Development & Alumni Affairs

### CONTRIBUTORS:

**Linda Bauer**, Writer/Copy Editor  
**Catherine Ganley**, Managing Editor  
**Allison McCrory**, Writer  
**Robin Mertins**, Art Director/Designer  
**Patrice Whitten**, Executive Editor



## Circle of Friends Breakfast Adds Muscle to Annual Fund

The first PJC Circle of Friends Breakfast held in May nourished the Annual Fund with more than \$332,000 in current and multiple-year pledges.

This record-setting fundraiser boosted the Annual Fund to an all-time high of more than \$444,000, says Patrice Whitten, executive director for the PJC Foundation, College Development and Alumni Affairs.

Adding muscle to the Annual Fund is particularly important because these essential, flexible funds enable the college to meet needs beyond what tuition and taxes can fund.

“Over the last year, the Annual Fund has empowered the college to attract over a million dollars in grants, to award challenge grants to faculty, and to supplement scholarship funds for students among many other priorities,” says Whitten.

Business leader and keynote speaker Carol Carlan illustrated the important role that PJC plays in the overall success of the community.

“When Dr. Delaino asked all PJC alumni to stand, I looked around the room and saw some of the strongest leaders in town standing,” said Carlan who attended PJC on a music scholarship.

“Like some of you, I have no idea where I would be today if someone had not stepped forward and donated scholarship funds for me to attend PJC. To this day, I don’t know who did that, but I am thankful beyond words.”

Calling her success story one of thousands, Carlan says she is confident in PJC’s vision for the future that includes the highest quality hands-on instruction and new centers for learning and she wants to share these opportunities with others.

“I know when I invest in PJC, I’m investing in future leaders,” she said.

Gabrielle Martin, age 5, led the Pledge of Allegiance and treated the audience with her rendition of “Red, White and Blue.” Gabrielle is on PJC’s pre-team in gymnastics.



Diane Appleyard, Tommy Tait and Betty Gail Peters



Diane Gup, Grover Robinson IV, Linda Pallin, Claire Wimberly



Carol Carlan, keynote speaker, and Sandy Sansing, master of ceremonies.



PJC President Tom Delaino and Board of Trustees Chair Dona Usry



Miller Caldwell and Elba Robinson



WE APPRECIATE  
YOUR SUPPORT

### Gold Sponsor

Quint & Rishy Studer  
Charitable Giving

### Bronze Sponsors

Branch Banking & Trust  
The Executive Physical Program  
at the Andrews Institute  
Montgomery Realtors

### Hosts and Volunteers

Diane Appleyard  
George Bailey  
Richard Baker  
Fred Bond  
Ann Brett  
H. Miller Caldwell, Jr.  
Jean Calvert  
Carolyn Davis  
Kat Davis  
Donna Garman  
Dee Green  
Diane Gup  
David Hawkins  
Coy Irvin, Jr.  
Nan James  
Jimmy Jones  
Gerald Morrison  
Robert Montgomery  
Ann Papadelias  
Betty Gail Peters  
James Reeves  
Elba Robertson  
Grover Robinson, IV  
Taris Savell  
Gwen Snowden  
Margaret Stopp  
Warren Tate  
Dona Usry  
Betty Wasson  
Clara Wimberly  
Meredith Wolf  
Gregory Woodfin



## Leadership Appreciation & Annual Dinner Celebrating Foundations of Friendship

Friendship is a rare treasure, according to the Funk & Wagnalls handbook. Better than affection and even love, friendship is always mutual and it has the added benefit of being able to grow.

A year overflowing in friendship, mutual goals and growing success was celebrated at the Foundation's 2006 Board of Governors Leadership Appreciation and Annual Meeting in June.

PJC President Tom Delaino noted the importance of the strong friendships formed between the college and community.

"Your development efforts enable us to broaden our horizons. Your partnership empowers us to offer the best in higher education," Delaino said.

Outgoing Foundation President Tom Owens expressed appreciation to the governors, officers, directors and guild for their efforts in reaching several milestones during the past year:

- surpassing \$12.5 million in Foundation assets
- awarding \$390,101 in scholarships to more than 1,100 students
- raising more than \$420,000 for the Annual Fund.

"We are also growing — 44 percent of this year's Annual Fund donors are new to the PJC Foundation," Owens said.

Highlights of the evening included recognizing Eric Nickelsen as a Foundation Fellow (see page 5) and passing the gavel to new Foundation President Carolyn Davis.



ABOVE: Foundation President Tom Owens passes the gavel to incoming President Carolyn Davis



LEFT: Governor Emeritus Tommy Tait pays tribute to Eric Nickelsen



RIGHT: Diane and Alex Gup



BELOW: Dan McMillan and John David Finlay



RIGHT: Ralph and Jan Petersen

BELOW: Howard and Joyce Rein



RIGHT: Mary Hoxeng, Doris Young and Michelle Lee



ABOVE: Ted Kirchharr, Patrice Whitten, Tom Owens and Margaret Stopp

### LEADERSHIP AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Master of ceremonies Mike Wiggins held the pleasant duty of recognizing the many contributions of PJC's Foundation family.

#### Leaderships Awards:

- Tom Owens, President 2004-2006
- Betty Gail Peters, Annual Fund Chair
- Danyelle Kennedy-Lantz, Governor
- Nina Campbell, Governor
- H. Miller Caldwell, Governor Emeritus
- Tommy Tait, Governor Emeritus
- Elba Robinson, Guild Chair
- Connie Crosby, Anna Society Founding Chair
- Ted Kirchharr, Leaders & Legends Awards Co-Chair
- Margaret Stopp, Leaders & Legends Awards Co-Chair
- Greg Woodfin, Big Break Golf Classic Chair
- Jan Peterson, Holiday Grande Celebration Chair
- Karen Hendrix, Holiday Grande Silent Auction Chair
- E.W. Hopkins, Alumni & Friends Honorary Chair
- Gwen Snowden, Alumni & Friends Chair
- Dick Appleyard, Alumni & Friends Communications Chair

#### 2006-07 Officers

- Carolyn Davis, President
- Grover Robinson IV, Vice President
- Pam Caddell, Secretary
- Ted Kirchharr, Treasurer
- Patrice Whitten, Executive Director

#### Incoming Board Members

- Karen Hendrix, Michelle Lee, James Reeves, Gene Rosenbaum and Joseph Von Bodungen

#### Annual Meeting Sponsorship Appreciation

Lewis Bear Company

## Community Leader and Philanthropist Eric Nickelsen Honored as PJC Foundation Fellow

Although Eric Nickelsen's Pensacola roots reach back six generations, his contributions to the community through health care and education will reach dozens of generations into the future.

In recognition of Nickelsen's support of PJC for more than 30 years, the Foundation honored Nickelsen with their Foundation Fellow Award. This is a distinction reserved for those who have made significant contributions to the college and Northwest Florida.

Since the early 1970s Nickelsen has continuously supported the college through the Foundation, giving generously of his time and resources. He served as Foundation president in the 70s and currently serves on the Board of Governors.

Nickelsen's contributions to the college include several ground breaking events.

PJC's first endowed teaching chair came about through Nickelsen's "heart for children, education and health care." In 1997 he established the Margaret Moore Nickelsen Endowed Teaching Chair for Health Sciences in memory of his late wife who had courageously battled cancer for many years.

Nickelsen says the endowed chair was a fitting tribute to Margaret, a former elementary school teacher, because it benefited education in health sciences that might eventually open the doors to a cure for cancer.

When PJC launched its first capital campaign in 1999, Nickelsen played a pivotal role in its overwhelming success. In addition to his personal contributions, he worked tirelessly to generate campaign support from others in the business community.

"PJC received a great response, great involvement from our local civic leaders for the campaign and we went over our goal," Nickelsen noted. "The campaign was well done for good reasons."

Encouraging other business leaders to support PJC was nothing new to Nickelsen. Several years before the capital campaign, he had persuaded local bank leaders to work together in providing PJC scholarships for accounting and finance students.

In fact, Nickelsen's commitment to PJC was born in his early years in the banking industry.

"The old Citizens and Peoples Bank on south Palafox is where I grew up

*"PJC is the fabric of our community. It impacts us in so many ways through education and community service. Through the Foundation, I'm glad to have played a small part in its success."*

— Eric Nickelsen

in my banking career," he said. "I was just out of college and there were people in leadership positions at the bank who were very interested in PJC, very supportive of its mission.

"They had realized early on that the college is an integral part of the community and the Foundation is an integral part of the college. I wanted to be a part of this as well."

Soon Nickelsen was supporting the college both inside and outside the classroom. Although he held a bachelor's degree in

RIGHT: Foundation Fellow Eric Nickelsen and his wife, Peg



BELOW: Eric Nickelsen with wife Peg, daughter Kirsten and son Ric



business administration from St. Bernard College, Nickelsen took additional banking classes and received another degree in a special PJC program endorsed by the American Institute of Bankers. Later, he even taught classes in this program.

Over the years, Nickelsen says he has also enjoyed the college's lighter side, signing up for "7 O'clock Series" classes and attending cultural events on campus.

Besides his support of education, Nickelsen's community involvement is legendary and his list of accolades goes on for pages. He currently holds leadership positions on five community boards, including being the first layperson named as chair of Sacred Heart Health Systems.

Last fall, Nickelsen received the PJC Presidential Leadership Award for his outstanding service to hurricane victims as chair of Rebuild Northwest Florida.

Although his leadership is evident in many community projects, Nickelsen says that establishing "Miracle Camp" for critically ill children and adults is one of his favorites. The 40-acre camping and retreat center was the brainchild of Nickelsen and his wife Peg to provide a "get-away" for those facing a life-threatening illness.

Far-reaching as his community involvement is, Nickelsen's support for PJC has been unwavering for more than three decades.

"PJC is the fabric of our community," Nickelsen says. "It impacts us in so many ways through education and community service. Through the Foundation, I'm glad to have played a small part in its success."

Eric Nickelsen and family enjoy the evening's festivities



## Tragedy and Triumph are Commemorated Through Scholarship for Health Career Students

The tragic loss of her husband and only grandchild and the triumphant recovery of her daughter have inspired Myra C. Forester to honor her loved ones by establishing the Sean Thomas Cannon and Lewis Samuel Forester Jr. Endowed Scholarship for health career students.

"My husband Sam and my grandson Sean were the two most important men in my life," Myra said.

Unfortunately, Sam Forester passed away at age 58 when their grandson Sean was just four months old. Four years later, in July 1996, Sean was killed when a U.S. Air Force jet crashed into his Pensacola home.

The past decade has not dimmed the treasured memories that Myra has of her blond, blue-eyed grandson, who seemed to have boundless energy.

"Sean loved playing with Power Rangers and he loved going to the park, feeding the ducks and fish," Myra reminisced. "He was so outgoing, when he walked in a room, his personality would light up everyone's eyes. He was just a beautiful little boy."

A particularly fond memory, Myra shares, is of Sam quieting a fussy infant Sean while she was preparing dinner one evening.

"Sam and I kept Sean for a while each evening when our daughter, Robbin, worked the night shift at Sacred Heart Hospital," Myra said. "From the kitchen, I could hear Sean start to fuss a little. I went to check on him and found Sean contentedly lying on Sam's chest — they both were fast asleep on the couch."

Sean's mother, Robbin Cannon Beasley, survived the airplane crash but was in the burn unit at the University of South Alabama Medical Center for 31 days.

"When we got her out of the burn unit and back to Sacred Heart, she had the 'cream of the crop' in medical care," Myra recalled. "Robbin is alive today because of the excellent care she received from the doctors, nurses and all who took care of her at Sacred Heart."

By the end of October, Robbin finally was able to go home and the next day attended a special event in Sean's honor. The PACE Center for Girls, housed at PJC, had cleaned and repainted play equipment, planted a magnolia tree, and placed a marble marker in memory of Sean at the park on Tippin Avenue.



Sean Thomas Cannon

A graduate of PJC's nursing program, Robbin also received her B.S.N. from the University of South Alabama. She continues to work at Sacred Heart in the intensive care unit and often oversees PJC students who are there for clinicals.

Myra says a scholarship is a fitting tribute to Sam who graduated from Mississippi State University with honors, including Kappa Mu Epsilon, an honorary mathematics society comprised of the top 5 percent of math students in the United States. He worked as a chemical engineer with Air Products and Chemicals based in Pennsylvania and designed the Air Products Amines Chemical Plants in Pace and in St. Gabriel, La.

And, although little Sean's life was cut short before he even began kindergarten, his memory will live on through college students who benefit from the scholarship honoring him and his grandfather.

## Milton Native Invests in Future of Beloved Community

Rufus Whitmire spent most of his years in Santa Rosa County, so donating part of his estate to benefit students attending PJC's Milton campus is a fitting way to give back to his beloved community.

The Rufus Whitmire Endowed Scholarship covers tuition, books and fees for students who attend at least one of their classes at the Milton campus.

"He was born and raised here in Milton," says lifelong friend Wilburn Christian. "We were around each other all of our lives."

With the exception of his years studying chemistry at the University of Alabama and a stint in the U.S. Army during World War II, Mr. Whitmire lived his entire life in Milton, according to Christian. He retired from Naval Air Station Pensacola, where he worked as a chemist.

Mr. Whitmire was active in the First Presbyterian Church of Milton when he was in town on weekends. Often, trips to watch his friend, professional baseball player Jay Bell, took him away.

"He was into golf, football and baseball," Christian says. "If Jay was playing in Chicago or someplace else, he would fly up to watch him play."

His love of sports motivated him to leave a second scholarship — a fund for scholar-athletes at Milton High School.

"He was just a real nice person. He was well-liked," says Christian. "As long as I knew him I never heard anyone speak ill of him. He was just a fine gentleman."



ABOVE: Lewis Samuel Forester Jr.

LEFT: Robbin Cannon Beasley and Sean Thomas Cannon



Rufus Whitmire

## Alfred I. duPont Foundation Generosity Extends to PJC Students

When multi-millionaire, industrialist Alfred duPont and his wife Jessie retired to Florida in 1926, they didn't spend time rocking on the front porch.

Rather, they founded the St. Joe Paper Company, bought thousands of acres of timberland and real estate, and bolstered the Florida National Bank with their own funds during the Great Depression.

After Alfred died, Jessie honored his memory by establishing the Alfred I. duPont Foundation in 1938 to benefit education, health care and the elderly.

"Mr. duPont and his wife were truly visionary. They wanted education to be available to everyone who wanted it," said Robert Nedley, president of the Alfred I. duPont Foundation and retired president and chairman of the original St. Joe Paper Company.

A native of Port St. Joe, Nedley's ties with the paper mill go back to his childhood.

"My dad was an old timer here when the duPonts came to St. Joe. The first president of the company was a customer on my paper route," recalled Nedley. He began working for the St. Joe Paper Company in 1961 after graduating from Florida State University and serving in the U.S. Marines and remained with the company until it was sold in 1996.

"Mr. duPont believed in paying a decent wage so his employees could take care of their families. He believed in education and in helping the less fortunate. We are carrying on that spirit through the work of this Foundation."

Since 1984, the Alfred I. duPont Foundation has regularly provided for PJC scholarships as well as donating \$25,000 for the health sciences programs.

Recently, the foundation added to its scholarship endowment with a gift totaling \$50,000. With state matching funds, that gift will yield a \$100,000 scholarship endowment to benefit PJC students.

"We began contributing to PJC partly due to the influence of Braden Lee Ball who lived in Pensacola and was on our foundation board for many years. His grandson, Braden Kirk Ball Jr., currently serves on the board," Nedley said.

"The Alfred I. duPont Foundation is very happy to support PJC and we plan to continue our relationship with the college," he added.

"Like the duPonts, we are looking to the next generation. Through these scholarships, we want students to benefit from the 'new' as well as the best of the 'old' that Northwest Florida has to offer."



Alfred I. duPont

## Ted Ciano Scholarship Will Fuel Goals for Automotive Students

Students interested in working with today's high-tech automotive engines will get a big boost in moving that dream down the road to reality, thanks to the generosity of long-time Pensacola car dealer Ted Ciano.

Ciano donated \$30,000, which will be matched by state funds, to establish a \$60,000 endowed scholarship that provides tuition and books for two students each year in PJC's Automotive Service Technology program.

Ciano, who began his career as a mechanic in Akron, Ohio, believes that the complexity of today's automobiles requires college training.

Furthermore, he hopes his investment in the future of automotive service and repair will pay off big for the Pensacola community as well as for service technicians in the 21st century.

Skilled technicians can make \$75,000 a year and the industry is desperate for them, according to Ciano who owned Key Ford in Pensacola for 32 years. After a brief retirement, the well-known "Dean of Car City" couldn't shake the car sales bug and now owns Mr. Ted Ciano's Used Car Center.

"There is a need for qualified mechanics in the Pensacola area," says Ciano. "Young people often don't have the financial means to go to college. This scholarship will allow a young person pursuing a career as a mechanic to learn the trade and to live, work and make good money in Pensacola."

The scholarship, which offers eligible students up to \$1,500 each year, bears Ciano's name along with that of the Cantonment Rotary Club, where he has been a member for more than 30 years.

Ed Boywid, executive director of the Cantonment Rotary Club Foundation, says Ciano created the scholarship because he believes the training students receive through PJC's automotive technology program is top-notch and is meeting a crucial need.

"He's a tremendous philanthropist. He's just a fantastic guy," says Boywid, noting that Ciano was instrumental in establishing the club's foundation as a means of funding training for students in a variety of PJC programs.



Ed Boywid, Cantonment Rotary Club Foundation executive director; Patrice Whitten, PJC Foundation executive director; and Ted Ciano, automotive scholarship donor.

*Help students realize  
their educational dreams  
by assisting them with scholarships.  
Call Meredith Wolf at 850-484-2044.*

## Scholarship a Tribute to Fortitude of Bolin's Mother, Grandmother

Pensacola realtor Alexis Bolin's desire to help single parents through education is rooted in her own personal struggles as a single mother working day and night to feed her family, as well as in watching the struggles and successes of her mother and grandmother.



Alexis Bolin

Bolin has established an endowed scholarship, to be awarded to a single parent or the child of a single parent, as a tribute to her mother Sonia Burchett and her grandmother Rachel Barshafsky.

Bolin's grandmother, whose family immigrated to the United States via London to escape the Russian czar, settled in New Jersey. Like many adolescents of her era, Rachel Barshafsky only completed the eighth grade before dropping out of school to help her family make ends meet.

However, the desire for advanced education never died for Mrs. Barshafsky. Widowed in 1928, she became the sole supporter of her three children. After her children were grown, she graduated at the top of her class from the Philadelphia School of Nursing as a licensed practical nurse — at age 58. Mrs. Barshafsky immersed herself in her newfound profession until she retired at age 80.

Bolin's mother, Sonia Burchett, who became a single mother through divorce, was a waitress for many years. Prior to that, she labored at varied jobs, including driving tractor-trailer trucks during World War II. She owned an antique shop in Prestonsburg, Ky., where she repaired clocks, converted sewing machines from pedal-driven to electric and restored antiques. While living in Kentucky, she became an expert marksman and savvy poker shark.

In this photograph, Sonia Barshafsky, later Sonia Burchett, stands with her mother Rachel Barshafsky by a car which transported Sonia, her sister Leona, and neighborhood friends to a historic moment. On May 6, 1937, the group pushed the vehicle around the block so Rachel wouldn't hear the engine start and realize her 13-year-old daughter was making a getaway in the family car. Sonia drove the group to Lakehurst, NJ where they planned to witness the landing of the Hindenburg. Instead, they watched as the largest airship ever built went down in a blaze.



Despite a busy schedule, Mrs. Burchett always found time to feed her quest for knowledge through reading. In fact, one year she read an entire set of encyclopedias. Even in her final years, Mrs. Burchett went to the library each week, returning with a new stock of typically non-fiction books to consume.

"They were a couple of honest, hard working, tough, little old Jewish gals. Education was number one on the list. They could do the New York Times crossword puzzle in five minutes and it would be correct. That's how self-educated they were," Bolin says. "My family just felt it was appropriate that we would do a scholarship to honor them."

Alexis and Michael Bolin donated the scholarship in honor of her mother and grandmother as well as their children, daughter Lisa Mix, son Dennis Mix, his wife Ann, niece Marie Foster, her husband Dean, and grandchildren, Jessica Hall and Samantha Mix.

## New Giving Opportunities

### First Generation Scholarship Fund

Your First Generation Scholarship gift will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the State, instantly doubling the value of your donation. The Foundation must receive your gift by Dec. 31.

### Pension Protection Act of 2006

If you are over age 70, you can make tax-free charitable gifts from an Individual Retirement Account through the Pension Protection Act of 2006 recently passed by Congress.

### Legacy Gifts

Planning your gift now will ensure that your intentions will be met and your promise to PJC students will live on.

For more information on giving opportunities, call Meredith Wolf at 850-484-1560 or click on [www.pjc.edu/foundation](http://www.pjc.edu/foundation).





## Spears Building Dedication Celebrates Pride in Spirited Professor, Value of Good Education



With innovative programs and lively lectures, Mary Ellen Spears left her spirited mark in the classroom from her arrival at PJC in 1972 until her retirement in 1990.

Now, her passion for learning and her commitment to students will be marked forever in the building that bears her name along with that of her late husband Bill, a former university professor and statistician.

The William D. & Mary Ellen Spears Behavioral Sciences Building was dedicated on a balmy, picture-perfect April day. More than 100 PJC family and friends, including many of Spear's retired colleagues, gathered on the lawn for the celebration.

PJC President Tom Delaino greeted guests and recalled the many accomplishments of Mary Ellen Spears during her years as behavioral sciences professor, department head and dean at PJC.

Ira Rowe, a long-time friend and financial advisor to Bill and Mary Ellen Spears, shared how the Spears invested in the future of the college. Towards the

end of his life, Bill Spears named PJC as the beneficiary of a charitable remainder trust in his estate.

"Bill wanted to make this bequest because of his pride in all that Mary Ellen had accomplished at PJC and his pride in what PJC does for this community," Rowe said. "Bill also saw the great value of PJC and knew he could expect the most return for his investment."

While it was Bill's bequest that laid the foundation for this trust, it was Mary Ellen's decision to pledge back the trust income that substantially increased its future value, Rowe explained.

"As we give identity to this building, we must think of the future students who will pass through here and look upon the portrait of Bill and Mary Ellen Spears. They will see two very generous people willing to make a substantial investment in the value of PJC," said Rowe, a 1973 PJC alum.

ABOVE: Mary Ellen's longtime friend, Addie June Hall, delivered the invocation



LEFT: Mary Ellen Spears and Tom Delaino



Dona Ustry, PJC Board of Trustees chair, assisted President Delaino with the portrait unveiling



Guests enjoyed a trip down memory lane as Mary Ellen Spears shared recollections from almost two decades at PJC

## Family Treasure Inspires Smart Choice for Academy in Health Science Education

Bill and Mary Smart have a treasure that no amount of money can buy. They wake up each morning knowing that their children are healthy and secure. Their nine grandchildren, scattered from Washington State to Washington, D.C., are thriving.

It's a blessing that Bill Smart realizes is rare considering the size of his family and the complexities of life in the 21st century. He gives his wife of 53 years the credit for a success story that America's fast-paced society rarely recognizes. But Smart says his family's most valuable riches are the outcome of countless contributions Mary Smart made for the benefit of her family.

In her honor, Bill Smart recently donated \$166,675 to the college. With state matching money, that gift totals \$250,000. Along with \$100,000 donated a year ago, the gift is called the Mary Ekdahl Smart Academy in Health Science Education.

These current gifts are in addition to the endowed chair and scholarship fund previously established in Mary's name to benefit PJC's health science division.

"I believe a lot of people think being a mother is rather routine," says Bill Smart. "But mothers deserve recognition which in many instances they don't get. That's the reason I've given in Mary's name... I just have to emphasize how blessed I feel that I've been."

The Smart donation will be used to support five state-of-the-art simulators at PJC's Warrington campus. The human simulators require specialized instruments, laboratory and other support that will be funded by the gift.

"It's an outstanding facility. PJC will be the leader in this," says Bill Smart, whose career was in the health care profession.

Marcia Williams, provost of PJC's Warrington campus, is thrilled with the real-world hands-on learning the Smart donation will support.

"It will certainly be used in the simulation center here to enhance students' learning, getting that much closer to the realness of what they're doing in a hospital," she says.

Among the many improvements the gift will support is a revamping that will include the capacity for students to be videotaped while working with the simulators, giving them instant feedback and critical assessments.

"Then the students can watch what they're doing and see how they performed under certain circumstances," Williams says.

A passion for health care began for Smart when he was a 19-year-old Army medical corps staff sergeant stationed in

Belgium in 1946. His unit oversaw the care of 6,000 German prisoners of war as well as taking sick call for U.S. troops stationed nearby.

When he returned to the United States in 1947, Smart took a job with Abbott Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company headquartered near Chicago. He took a leave of absence from his job at Abbott to attend Northwestern University on a G.I. bill, earning a degree in chemistry.

Smart went on to do graduate work in organic chemistry and also taught at the University of Illinois. While working days at Abbott, he attended school at night at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, earning his M.B.A. degree.

Mary and Bill met at the University of Illinois and two years later were married.

"We started with nothing," says Bill Smart. "When we got married, I had \$300 in the bank and a two-year-old car that was paid for. We did not inherit anything from our parents except an excellent upbringing and their love."

Although Mary Smart began her studies in occupational therapy, the program would have required a fifth year at another location. She opted to finish in social studies and earned straight A's her senior year, graduating in June, 1954.

The following month Bill and Mary's first child, Patricia Smart, was born. The couple had four more children of their own — Rebecca, Robert, William and Deborah. In addition, they raised Mary's niece and nephew Ellen and Eric Uram, from the ages of seven and five, after their parents were killed in a plane crash.

"Debbie, our youngest — born after Ellen and Eric joined our family — can't remember how old she was when she realized Eric and Ellen were her first cousins," Bill Smart says.

While Mary Smart was absorbed in her children's worlds, nurturing them and shuttling them to various activities as they got older, Bill Smart focused on health care as well as education.

He was on the board of trustees for Victory Memorial Hospital in his hometown of Waukegan, Ill., and later at Gulf Breeze Hospital. In addition, he served as president of the school board in Waukegan and chairman of Columbus State Community College in Ohio.



Mary and Bill Smart

"I have a strong belief that if we're going to achieve the concept that all men are created equal, the surest route to that goal is through public education," he says.

"I think that public education — state financed junior colleges, state-financed universities — provide low tuition and scholarships and make education an opportunity for everyone."



The Smart donation supports human simulators that provide real-world experience for PJC students.



# First Mary Ekdahl Smart Endowed Chair Awarded to Wilma Duncans-Burnett

As the first recipient of the Mary Ekdahl Smart Endowed Chair for Health Sciences, Wilma Duncans-Burnett plans to use this prestigious award to increase PJC's positive image in the community.

With 18 years experience in Allied Health on the Warrington campus, Duncans-Burnett will focus on well-rounded health for the college by presenting events that foster better communication and professionalism.

"Every problem deals with communication," says Duncans-Burnett. "Usually there's not enough information or too much information given. Or, when the information is delivered, it comes across with the wrong attitude."

To illustrate more productive ways of communicating, Duncans-Burnett is planning video presentations using PJC theatre students. She hopes to show common, negative workday situations that can be turned into positive situations with good communication skills.

Hand-in-hand with effective communication is the importance of a professional appearance, according to Duncans-Burnett.

"How we look, dress, and present ourselves makes a statement in the classroom and the community; it affects PJC's overall image," says Duncans-Burnett who earned a degree at Bauder Fashion College in Miami before preparing for the medical field.

In addition to the communication seminars, Duncans-Burnett plans to explore easy, affordable options for a professional look, including possibilities for a PIC uniform.

Her creative use of the three-year stipend will be a fitting tribute to Mary Smart for whom the chair is named. Long-time supporter of the college, Bill Smart, established the endowed chair and an endowed scholarship in health sciences to honor his wife for her creative spirit as well as her love, devotion and sacrifice for him and their seven children.

"I feel so honored to be the first one to benefit from the Smart Endowed Chair," Duncans-Burnett said. "I plan to make the most of this opportunity to be a positive role model for the community as well as PJC."

Reaching out to the community is old-hat for Duncans-Burnett. During her years as coordinator for the Human Patient

Simulator program, Duncans-Burnett let "Frankie," the adult HPS, and "Mikey," the child HPS, act as PJC ambassadors for numerous community service projects.

She worked with Dr. Paul McLeod, dean of Florida State University Medical School Pensacola campus, to give local medical interns more hands-on experience using the HPS.

"I actually introduced the HPS to

Dr. McLeod and to Dr. O. Harris, the FSU Medical School Tallahassee campus dean. They had never used an HPS because it was not available on their med school campuses," said Duncans-Burnett, pointing out the high-tech advantages available at PJC.

She also introduced local school children to future medical careers by using Frankie and Mikey at health fairs and the summer health camp on the Warrington campus.

Duncans-Burnett even worked with the WPML-TV15 news team to use Frankie for an emergency room scenario that mimicked a scene from "ER," the popular NBC primetime show.

"We were able to show the television audience more about how an emergency room really works," Duncans-Burnett says. "When the television crew came with their cameras, it was very exciting for our paramedic students to be part of this."

Perhaps her most memorable adventure with Frankie came when she was giving demonstrations for community members who were touring the Warrington campus. Among the participants were the extended family of Bill and Mary Smart.

"I was so impressed by their questions and their interest in our programs," Duncans-Burnett remembered. "One of the family members is a doctor and he even volunteered to do a procedure on the HPS for everyone to see."

As the program director for phlebotomy and as the training center coordinator for CPR, Duncans-Burnett has a packed teaching schedule in addition to her endowed chair activities. However, she also plans to return to the classroom as a student to pursue an additional degree in Health Education at the University of West Florida.

"I am so thankful that the Smart Endowed Chair will enable me to also work on this degree. That is something I've wanted to do for a long time," she said.

*"I plan to make the most of this opportunity to be a positive role model for the community as well as PJC."*

— Wilma Duncans-Burnett



Wilma Duncans-Burnett  
Professor  
Allied Health Department

#### Education:

Pensacola Junior College – A.A., A.S.,  
C.R.T.T., R.R.T.  
Normandale Community College – A.A.  
Bauder Fashion College – A.A.

#### Family:

Husband – Elder Melvin Burnett, pastor  
at Obedience in Faith Ministry  
Daughter – Melinee, age 16, student at  
West Florida Technical High School

#### Community Involvement:

Florida African American  
Student Association – Co-sponsor,  
Warrington campus  
American Heart Association –  
Community Board  
American Lung Association –  
Community Board  
Obedience in Faith Ministry – Youth  
Ministry director, Sunday School  
teacher, Praise Team vocalist



## ALUMNI PROFILE



VICTOR BOKAS

### EDUCATION:

Pensacola Junior College 1981  
University of Florida 1983

### OCCUPATION:

Freelance art director for Tupperware;  
artist/painter

### FAMILY:

Single

### AWARDS & HONORS:

- Solo Exhibition – Valencia Community College Orlando, 2003
- Orlando International Airport mosaic floor public art project, 1999
- Solo Exhibition – Harris House of Atlantic Center for the Arts, 1997
- Individual Artist Recognition Grant Award, Central Florida, 1996
- Solo Exhibition – Mount Dora Center for the Arts, 1996
- Solo Exhibition – Maitland Art Center, 1995
- Orlando Biennial Show – Orlando Museum of Art, 1992
- Two-Person Exhibition – Pensacola Junior College, 1991

### CURRENT & PAST AFFILIATIONS:

Greek Orthodox Church member  
Maitland Art Center  
Valencia Community College  
Creative Club of Orlando

### COMMUNITY SERVICE:

After Hurricane Katrina, Bokas and a friend organized "ART TO THE RESCUE." This fundraiser generated more than \$14,000 with 100 percent of the proceeds earmarked for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The funds were divided between Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross and the Southern Arts Federation Emergency Relief Fund.

### PJC EXPERIENCE:

"Over 25 years later, I still keep in touch with several of my PJC professors. They are amazing instructors and became good friends."

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

# Fateful Bike Ride Wins Artist Ticket to Life's Work

When 12-year-old Victor Bokas hopped on his bicycle to take a lazy weekend ride 33 years ago, he never guessed it was a ride to destiny. He headed to the only entertainment happening close-by — a weekend art festival in the parking lot of Gulf Breeze High School.

The Gulf Breeze native didn't know that when he bought a one-dollar raffle ticket he was buying a ticket that would seal his future.

"I spent all day viewing the art and talking to each artist," says Bokas, whose fateful ticket won him a collaborative painting created by 12 West Florida artists.

"I bought the winning ticket and came home with the painting. I was so excited, that evening I asked my parents if I could start taking painting lessons."

The next week, Bokas attended his first painting lesson and his deal with destiny was sealed. Over the years Paula Dow, Evelyn Neal and Betty Shea taught him the techniques to express the innate talent that was finally finding expression on the canvas.

In high school, Diane Currington became his motivator, elevating his skills and awareness of the vast world of art to a new dimension.

"Diane taught me painting techniques, color theory and composition. We would go to galleries and paint on location. She was a true mentor," says Bokas.

After graduating from Gulf Breeze High School, Bokas enrolled at PJC, taking every art class offered. For the first time, attending school and completing assignments became a passion rather than a chore.

Bokas loved PJC's small classes and challenging projects. The energy he poured into his art resulted in numerous awards.

While at PJC, Bokas discovered that he savored design as well as painting and

decided to pursue further education and ultimately a career in graphic design.

Although he knew his chances for admittance were slim, Bokas applied to the University of Florida's graphic design program — a program that, at the time, took only 30 students each year. Thanks to his standout talent and a strong portfolio, Bokas was admitted.

"I came to the University of Florida with a great understanding and appreciation of

art, design, color theory and art history. PJC was a great foundation, and I felt I had a head start above some of the other students," Bokas recalled.

After graduating from UF, Bokas returned to his roots, taking a job at Armour and Griffith Advertising in Pensacola.

In 1987, with three years of experience under his belt, Bokas headed to Orlando where he worked for an agency specializing in hotel advertising.

Within a year, he took the art directorship at Sea World, designing brochures and creatively publicizing the parks' latest attractions — an endeavor that lasted for eight years. Then Bokas launched into freelancing a decade ago when he began designing projects for Tupperware.

In addition, he's become a mentor as he teaches art students in the evenings at Orlando's Valencia Community College, using many of the same strategies his instructors at PJC used a quarter of a century earlier.

In 1996, he tapped into his Mediterranean heritage when he illustrated menus for Olive Garden

Restaurants during a one-year contract.

The energy and inspiration Bokas derives from his roots are still the impetus for his life's work.

"The Gulf Coast with its backdrop of sunbathing tourists, palm trees, fish and other tropical images is frequently

*"PJC was a great foundation for my art. The classes helped me prepare a great portfolio, which got me accepted into the University of Florida design program."*

— Victor Bokas



Domestic Comfort

incorporated into my paintings, as is my Greek heritage," says Bokas, who replenishes his creative well-spring by traveling to new sites as well as challenging himself artistically.

"I set a goal in 1994 to complete 100 paintings within the year. Individually, these abstract oil on paper paintings contain images that are by turn whimsical, emotional, colorful, spiritual or minimal. They form a personal journey through the year. Joined together, the series is 62 yards long."

His colleague, Maitland Art Center Executive Director Gerry Shepp, says Bokas' methodical approach to completing the project is a window into his commitment to his work.

"He lined them on the wall. He would work on three at a time and when he went to sheet number four, he no longer allowed himself to work on sheet number one. He still worked on two and three. And, when he went to five, then he could go back to three and four but he couldn't touch one and two," says Shepp, noting that Bokas was so determined to keep his vow to himself to complete the project in 365 days that he completed the hundredth painting on New Year's Eve.

Shepp says the Maitland Art Center had an unprecedented challenge when they featured the exhibit in 1995.

"We started in one gallery and we just wrapped around doorways, over windows, the whole thing and we came back to the beginning. We had to put arrows so the viewers could follow the paintings," Shepp remembered.

Five years later, Bokas took on another monumental project.

"In 1999, I worked on a series to document the millennium. I completed one pen and ink drawing every day for the entire year. Each drawing is the size of a CD jewel case and reflects a personal diary of the year," says Bokas.

These days, Bokas says his art is becoming more abstract, drawing much inspiration from nature. When he's not working, he enjoys traveling as well as collecting art, snow domes, Florida kitsch and furniture from the '50s and '60s.

Shepp notes that Bokas' whimsy is personified in Biff, an alter-ego dog brought to life through art. Biff lives anything but a dog's life.



ABOVE: *Vacation*



BELOW: *Fish*



ABOVE: Victor Bokas created this floor mosaic for Orlando International Airport.

Bokas says his art reflects inspiration from nature, his Gulf Coast roots and his Greek heritage.

## MILESTONES

Congratulations to **Betty Wasson**, Foundation development specialist, who recently received the Paul Harris Fellow award from the Suburban West Rotary Club for her distinguished service.

The Foundation welcomes its newest staff member, **Catherine Ganley**, donor relations manager.

Congratulations to **Barbara Looney** who was promoted to senior administrative assistant, PJC Foundation, College Development and Alumni Affairs.

Board of Governors member **Gwen Snowden** was selected as Foundation Guild Chair for the fiscal year. Vice chair is **Jan Peterson**.

PJC Foundation Executive Director **Patrice Whitten** attended the Council of Resource Development conference in Salt Lake City. Whitten is serving as director of CRD for this fiscal year.

Welcome to **Krist Lien**, Visual Arts department head and **Ron Whatley**, Theatre director.

"Biff does all the things that Victor can't get around to doing or might be a little too shy to do," says Shepp. "Biff has traveled around the world, built houses on tops of pyramids and on tops of columns. Biff can do anything. He's a wonder dog."

Biff's escapades will be on exhibit at the Maitland Art Center in 2008.

From his vivid paintings to his super-dog alter-ego, Bokas daily nurtures the creative wellspring that found expression thanks to a winning raffle ticket.

# Anna Society Founders Forum Wine, Cheese and a Physician's View of Art



RIGHT: Jack and Cookie Kichler

Pensacola physician Jack Kichler intrigued patrons at the inaugural Anna Society Founders Forum in late August with a presentation of forensic sculpture and an analysis of medical nuances in ancient artwork.

The wine and cheese event kicked off this year's exhibition season at the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts. It also served to thank and inform Anna Society members, who support the art center financially.

"These forums are one of the many educational opportunities available to our Anna members," says Switzer Gallery director Vivian Spencer. "Since this is a premium of membership, we are proud to host such events for our supporters.

"Dr. Kichler's power point presentation gave us a unique view into how a physician sees beyond the aesthetic surface of a work of art and into the medical realm of what is present. His interpretations were interesting and insightful."

Kichler began with an examination of forensic sculpture, giving viewers a window into the work of reconstructing likenesses based on limited evidence. In addition, he outlined the effects of aging that scientists take into account when reconstructing facial features in sculpture.

Secondly, Kichler used slides of artwork found on locations such as Grecian urns, pages from abbey books, and ancient instructional pictures to show how medicine has been portrayed through art for centuries.

The forum was the first of three scheduled for this academic year. On Jan. 19, Switzer Endowed Chair recipient Bill Clover will offer a gallery tour of works created during his 2003 to 2006 tenure. Then, on March 15, James Butler, renowned landscape painter and 2007 Switzer Distinguished Artist, will present a slide show of his works during a dinner for Anna Society Founders.



ABOVE: Gwen Snowden and Allan Peterson



RIGHT: Vivian Spencer and Jan Peterson



LEFT: Sherry Halford and Don Posey



LEFT: Helen Ihns and Dona Usry

BELOW: Chris Gilmore, Gene Rosenbaum and Michael Boles



BELOW: Constance Crosby, Jeanne Meyers, Clark Rook and Bill Clancy





# Automotive Dealers Take a Spin Through Newly-Accredited Auto Program Facility

Representatives from local automotive dealerships and service departments toured PJC's high-tech facilities for its newly-accredited Automotive Service Management program and enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the PJC Foundation.

The June event gave the business leaders a chance to socialize with each other as well as see for themselves the program that received accreditation from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.

Earning accreditation is a benchmark that PJC's Automotive Service Technology department can be proud of, says Sue Halfhill, assistant provost for the Pensacola campus.



LEFT: Debbie Beckford of Orville Beckford Ford

A checklist of standards including specified training for faculty, state-of-the-art equipment and rigorous curriculum are among the requirements PJC was expected to meet before acquiring the coveted certification.

Students in the program can take day or night classes and can choose from two paths of study. One path leads to a vocational certificate and the other path adds a management element and leads to an associate of applied science degree.



Auto dealers and service department managers toured PJC's high-tech facilities.

LEFT: PJC Pensacola campus provost Jeff Cantor and Ernie Forester

## PJC CLASS NOTES

To reconnect with former classmates and long-lost PJC friends, check out the college's online community at [alumni.pjc.edu](http://alumni.pjc.edu).

### 1953

**Emmanuel J. Villar II** fondly recalls Professor Owens who taught physical science, physics and trigonometry. He enjoyed playing basketball under Coach Lou Ross with a team that ranked 10th in the nation. Registrar Jesse Barfield helped Emmanuel plan a custom curriculum to prepare him to become a navy pilot. In fact, Villar was the first PJC graduate to complete the Naval Aviation Cadet program. He graduated from the Navy Post Graduate School in 1966 with a B.S. in Naval Science. Villar was in the Navy for 22 years, served in Viet Nam, and retired as Lieutenant Commander in 1975. He received teacher certifications in sciences and math from UWF and taught in local schools, plus junior college classes as well as the Department of Defense School in Germany. A former Gulf Breeze Rotarian, Villar is currently involved in the Association of Naval Aviation, the Retired Military Officers Association, the Tailhook Association, and the Flyers Club. A cancer survivor of 11 years, Emmanuel and his wife, Shelby Jean Nobles Villar, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

### 1954

**Marvin Beck** was selected as PJC's King of the Christmas Dance in 1954. Under Coach Lou Ross, Beck became a nationally recognized basketball player and received a full scholarship to the University of Southern Mississippi. Upon

graduation, Beck taught biology at Pensacola High School from 1956 to 1966 and during that time won two state championships as coach of the PHS basketball team. Amidst an active career in education, Beck served as District 5 County Commissioner for seven years, and retired from the school system in 1995. Marvin and his wife Laura Stabler Garretty live in Pensacola. They have five children and twelve grandchildren including two sets of twins.

### 1956

**Sylvia Grant Timberlake** remembers taking as many classes as she could from Professor Nick Pchelkin who taught psychology. She went on to major in psychology and minor in education at San Jose State University in 1958. In 1982, Timberlake received a master's degree in education from the University of West Florida. She taught for several years at PJC in College Prep Reading. For more than 30 years, she has been a volunteer in 4-H and a certified Lay Speaker for the United Methodist Church who enjoys teaching Bible classes and Sunday School classes. Sylvia and her husband, Retired Navy Captain Dave Timberlake, reside in Pensacola. They have two children and five grandchildren.

### 1957

**Robert Leidner** played basketball under Coach Lou Ross until he enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1958. His education at PJC served as a strong foundation for a

successful career. Leidner worked for a mortgage company and also in sales before settling at Dean Witter as a stockbroker. He served there for 30 years until he retired in 2003 as the senior vice president. Leidner, a former PJC Guild member, was named the 57th De Luna last year and is currently a member of the Pensacola Fire Pension Board and the Pensacola Historical Financial Advisory Committee. He and his wife Pat live in Pensacola. They have two children and five grandchildren.

### 1973

Ira Rowe remembers all the business classes he took at PJC, especially accounting, which served him well in building his insurance business. An active member of the Military Veterans Club, Rowe played a role in getting the physical education requirement dropped for veterans. Rowe has been an agent with Equitable Life for 31 years. He was a founding board member of the Pensacola Beach Charter School and past PTA president. He and his wife Darby reside on Pensacola Beach. They have one daughter, one son and one granddaughter.

### 1979

**Gus P. Silivos** was thankful that PJC offered a flexible class schedule because he was working at his family's restaurant and also at PJC in the biology department while taking a full course load. After PJC, Silivos got a bachelor's degree in business management at UWF in 1980 and an

A.O.S. in Culinary Arts at the Culinary Institute of America in New York in 1982. He's a past president of the Culinary Association, a former board member of Five Flags Rotary and a member of the Culinary Advisory Board at PJC. He's currently the chef/owner of Skopelo's on the Bay and Scenic 90 Café. In that role, he's partnered with United Cerebral Palsy, WSRE-TV, and PJC Foundation, among other groups, to benefit the community through fundraising events and activities. He and his wife, Nancy Kelly Silivos, have three children and reside in Pensacola.

### 1985

**Robert A. DeSantis, M.D.** majored in pre-medicine and played baseball under Coach Buddy Kisner. DeSantis received a B.A. in biology and an M.D. from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He trained at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu from 1991-95 and remained on active duty in the Army for 8 years. Since 1998, DeSantis has been in private practice as an OB/GYN in Laurel, Miss. But, he will join the Women's Pavilion of South Mississippi in Hattiesburg, in January 2007. Married 17 years to Mandy Cupit DeSantis, Robert and his wife have four children. "I will always cherish the two years I spent at PJC both on the baseball field and in the classroom. They both prepared me for important decisions I have had to make in life."

## The Welcome Mat's Out



The welcome is just as warm but the mat is in a different place. Recently the PJC Foundation offices relocated to the Baroco Center for Science and Technology, East Wing. The newly renovated quarters provide ample space for the Foundation to grow and serve the college. Stop by for a visit, the Baroco Center faces Airport Boulevard. Phone numbers for the Foundation staff remain the same.

## Strike Up the Band



The spotlight was on Bob Snowden as he led the Pensacola Civic Band in "Stars and Stripes," a lively favorite by John Phillip Sousa. Snowden won the conductor's duty for the Seville Square performance with his winning bid at the Foundation's Holiday Grande silent auction.

## Indomitable Spirit Wins National Recognition

Catherine Gallagher, PJC Adult High alum, received the 2006 National Spirit of Women Award at ceremonies in Dallas. She is the first Pensacola Spirit recipient to get the national award. After overcoming many hardships in her youth, Gallagher became a founder of Gulf Coast Kid's House and has championed the adoption of older, harder-to-place foster children.

## Molding Clay, Inspiring Students for 40 Years



Since August 1966 when his PJC teaching career began, Bill Clover has shared his knowledge of the arts, his kind and caring spirit, and his passion for teaching with literally thousands of students.

PJC staff, students and community members packed the Switzer Gallery to surprise Clover with a reception and trip down memory lane.

As the current Switzer Chair recipient, Clover will be showing his digital artwork at the Switzer Gallery from Jan. 15 through Feb. 9, 2007. His popular, signature mugs will only be available during the Faculty Art Show with proceeds benefiting PJC scholarships.

## Thanks for the Memories

Local historian John Appleyard has chronicled PJC's first 58 years in his latest book, *Recollections: The Story of Pensacola Junior College*.

From the college's humble beginnings in an old boarding house to its high-tech facilities that cover three sprawling campuses and a dynamic Downtown Center, Appleyard has gathered facts, figures, memories and interviews to portray the college's influence along the Gulf Coast.

Loaded with 300 photos, the 265-page book illustrates almost six decades of change in the college's programs, architecture and personnel — not to mention fashions and hairstyles! *Recollections* will be available at the PJC Foundation Office or you can order online at [www.alumni.pjc.edu](http://www.alumni.pjc.edu).

## Wachovia Supports Workforce Development

Wachovia Foundation donated \$2000 to the PJC Foundation in support of PJC's Workforce and Economic Development program.

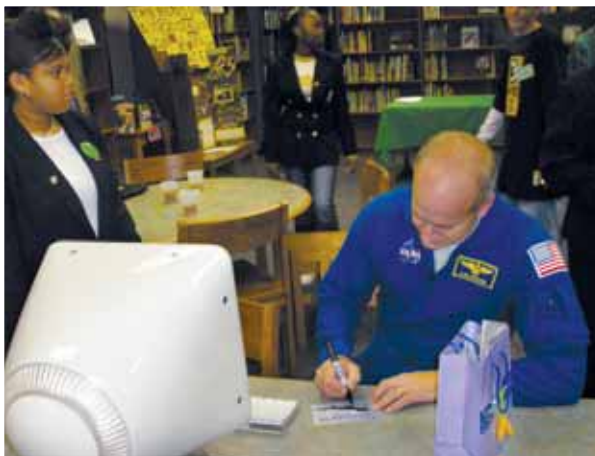
"The workforce program not only provides cost-effective training for fellow Pensacola residents but also keeps on giving as PJC graduates live and work in the area," said Carol Carlan, a PJC alum and market president for Wachovia.



## PJC Grad a High-Flying Success

NASA astronaut and PJC alum, Alan Poindexter, has been named to pilot the STS-122 space shuttle mission scheduled for October 2007. It will deliver the European Space Agency's Columbus Laboratory to the International Space Station.

Earlier this year, Poindexter visited Warrington Middle School for the dedication of their NASA Explorer School program. As a co-sponsor with NASA for the Warrington Explorer School, the Escambia Amateur Astronomer's Association, housed at PJC, presented the school with a refractor scope equipped for safe solar viewing.



## VOLUNTEER CORNER



GERALD MORRISON

I first became familiar with PJC through my wife, Audrey, who is an accounting professor and has worked at the college for more than 25 years. I observed how she had the opportunity to actually change people's lives for the better and I wanted to do what I could to help.

I believe most people have the need and desire to be part of something greater than themselves, something that has the potential to impact society. I view PJC as one of those entities that can accomplish those lofty goals.

PJC has the capability to be the turning point in people's lives. I also believe PJC can provide education and training in this community in order to attract new industry and jobs. PJC can help to drive the economic engine for our community.

## Remembering a Beloved Librarian



As her portrait was unveiled at the Pensacola campus Learning Resources Center, PJC family and friends fondly recalled the life of Dr. Lois Zaragoza-Goode and her 37 years of service as a college librarian.

Dr. Zaragoza-Goode began her distinguished career at Booker T. Washington Junior College and became part of PJC when the two institutions merged in 1965. She was known for always helping students and campaigning for funding for books and equipment.

When Hurricane Ivan roared through her Grande Lagoon home, Dr. Zaragoza-Goode died as she and her husband Horace Goode tried to escape. A memorial fund in her honor was established through the Foundation to replace LRC books and materials that were lost due to Hurricane Ivan and to continually update the LRC collection.

Contributions to the Dr. Lois Zaragoza-Goode Memorial Library Fund can be made by calling the Foundation Office at 484-1560.

## Health Occupations Student, Advisor Receive National Awards

Quentin Baker, a recent PJC graduate, received Florida's first Health Occupations Students of America Outstanding Alumni Award presented at the 2006 state convention and went on to win the National Outstanding HOSA Alumni Award at ceremonies in Anaheim, Calif.

Baker helped charter PJC's HOSA chapter and is now finishing his bachelor's degree in health and exercise science at the University of West Florida. Last summer he interned at PJC's Warrington campus with the Summer Health Camps and Junior Medical Explorer Camp.

Jennifer Ponson, coordinator for student and program outreach on the Warrington campus, was named National Outstanding HOSA Advisor at the California convention.

## National Honor Society Celebrates 50 Years at PJC



Matt Worden, president and Yonit Shames, PR

PJC students and alumni of the esteemed national honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala dinner and retrospective slide show. The college's Theta Chi Chapter of PTK is the third oldest chapter in Florida and 15th oldest chapter in the nation.

"As witnessed by the paths taken by those alumni returning to celebrate with us, clearly our students are well prepared for their academic and life's pursuits upon graduating from PJC," says Jeff Cantor, Pensacola campus provost.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Remembering 'Mr. PJC' — Dr. John T. Venettozzi

When Dr. John T. Venettozzi died in March at age 92, the PJC family lost a dynamic leader who had served as an unabashed, unwavering cheerleader for the college for more than half a century.

From his arrival in 1954 to serve as the first chair of the Division of Fine Arts and Humanities, until his retirement in 1979 as the founder and first provost of the Warrington campus, Dr. Venettozzi orchestrated many "firsts" at PJC.

During his 25-year tenure, Dr. Venettozzi was PJC's first music director, first evening college counselor, first assistant dean, first assistant to the president and first PJC provost. He even penned the college's first alma mater.

Today's popular Lyceum series was Dr. Venettozzi's brainchild in 1958. He helped secure top names such as astronaut Scott Carpenter, renowned scientists Jonas Salk and Werner von Braun, and actor Vincent Price. In the early days, Lyceum guests often were entertained in the Venettozzi home.

Full of energy and vision, Dr. Venettozzi regularly took on projects not listed in his "job description." He organized PJC's 25th anniversary, commissioning original sculpture and an original play for the event. For more than 20 years he also directed the Honors Day and graduation ceremonies, often performing the musical selections himself.

A common thread through Dr. Venettozzi's accomplishments was his mastery of the piano. As a composer, conductor and performer, he delighted audiences at the college and throughout the community, well into his retirement years.

In 1996, the college recognized Dr. Venettozzi's many contributions by naming the Warrington Arts and Sciences building in his honor.

Those who knew him best agree that Dr. Venettozzi's devotion to PJC was surpassed only by his devotion to his family. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 62 years, Leona, and is survived by his four children Gina, David, Tina and Mark and their families.



Above: Dr. Venettozzi



Left: In 1977, Dr. Venettozzi was honored as Supervisor of the Year. Joyce Massey pins boutonniere on Dr. Venettozzi.

### FOND MEMORIES:

"Dr. Venettozzi absolutely believed that everyone could improve his life through education. The Warrington campus is a testimony to his efforts to provide the best in health care training as well as liberal arts courses. He was also the best friend you could have."

— Dianne Burkhead, administrative assistant to Dr. Venettozzi

"Dr. V, as we all called him, loved the Warrington campus and called us once a month just to check on us, or set a date for lunch. He visited the campus often and was especially proud to participate in the ground breaking and the dedication of the Atwell Health Sciences complex. He was an inspiration and will always be remembered warmly."

— Marcia Williams, Warrington provost

"My dad was brilliant. There was hardly anything he didn't know or couldn't do, from building houses to playing piano to quoting Shakespeare. He worked three jobs at once when we were growing up so he could support us and ensure each of us received a great education. He deeply loved mom all 62 years of their marriage — family was always his first priority. His talents and honors are only now coming to light for us as his personal papers and photos are being organized. We miss his boundless energy, incredibly sharp sense of humor and love of life."

— Tina Venettozzi Tuttle

"Dr. Venettozzi was always encouraging, in things large and small. When I was a PJC student, Senator Howard Baker visited the campus on Honors Day and several of us were photographed with him. Later, Dr. V sent a congratulatory letter and a copy of the photo to each of us. It was such a thoughtful gesture, something he didn't have to do, but it meant so much to me. I still have the letter and photo."

— Patrice Whitten, PJC Foundation executive director

"Dr. Venettozzi worked closely with my dad to support the educational factor of the Interstate Fair. The closest thing to Dr. Venettozzi's heart was education and the best way to honor him was to set up a scholarship in his name. He is irreplaceable but we are carrying on his legacy with every student who receives this scholarship."

— Don Frenkel, former student of Dr. Venettozzi, and Pensacola Interstate Fair general manager

Donations to the Pensacola Interstate Fair/Venettozzi Endowed Scholarship fund can be made by calling 484-1560 or e-mailing [foundation@pjc.edu](mailto:foundation@pjc.edu).



Dr. Venettozzi and his wife Leona with their children (from left) Gina Jogan, David Venettozzi, Mark Venettozzi and Tina Tuttle



## President's Circle

# More Than a Good Donation, It's a Great Investment!

Education is an investment in the future. Today's education provides tomorrow's bankers, teachers, electricians, artists, musicians, carpenters, nurses, doctors, lawyers, writers, and the list goes on.

We salute our President's Circle members. Their gifts to the Annual Fund are a great investment.

### President's Circle Honor Roll of Donors

#### PINNACLE

Diane P. Appleyard  
H. Miller Caldwell Jr.  
Carol and Charles Carlan  
Chadbourne Foundation  
Alfred I. DuPont Foundation  
Tom and Sparkie Folkers  
Bill and Ann Hunt  
The Kugelman Foundation  
James J. Marks Foundation, Inc.  
Eric J. and Peg Nickelsen  
Jill and Grover Robinson IV  
Ray Russenberger  
Sandy Sansing

#### PILLAR

Cox Communications  
D.W. McMillan Trust

#### PATRON

Kenneth H. Woolf  
Gregg Beck  
Paul Griswold

#### PACESETTER

Armstrong World Industries, Inc.  
Steve Bannow  
Julie M. Baroco  
Alan Brock  
Warren T. Brown  
Phil and Pam Caddell  
Dave Cleveland  
Bernard E. Crooke  
Keith and Linda Gregory  
Diane and Alex Gup  
Health First Network  
John E. Hodges  
David F. Hoxeng  
Coy Irvin  
Danyelle and Tyler Lantz  
Susan and John O'Connor,  
McDonald's  
McMahon Hadder Insurance, Inc.  
M.J. Menge  
Robert Montgomery  
Donald Moore  
Edward Moore  
Margie and Alan Moore  
O'Sullivan Creel, LLP  
Ashley D. Pace

Denny and Betty Gail Peters  
H. Lamar Sikes  
Bob and Gwen Snowden  
Joseph P. Von Bodungen  
Dr. and Mrs. Gregory K. Woodfin

#### PARTNER

Gerald W. Adcox  
Gwen M. Appelquist  
Capt. and Mrs. George T. Bailey  
Dick Baker  
Thomas "Bo" Carter,  
Bank of Pensacola  
Richard and Bonnie Bedics  
Jami Benton  
Donna M. Bloomer  
Bogan Supply Company, Inc.  
Carolyn Boline  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bond  
Julie Booth-Moran  
Larry Bracken  
Branch Banking & Trust  
Capt. and Mrs. John H. Brick  
Warren T. Brown  
Jean T. Calvert  
Campbell & Trammell Family  
& Cosmetic Dentistry  
Sylvia and Ed Campbell  
Canterbury Trust Company  
Mr. and Mrs. John S. Carr  
J. L. Carter  
Dick Cloutier  
Connie Crosby  
Dona K. Cotton  
Blair S. Crooke  
Lisa McKenzie Dampier,  
McKenzie Motor Company  
Nix and Linnea Daniel  
Carolyn Davis  
Kat and Robin Davis  
Tom Delaino and Frances Carroll  
F. Brian DeMaria  
Lewis A. Doman  
Deborah L. Douma  
Kathy D. Dunagan  
Elaine K. Elledge  
Ralph and Evon Emerson  
First Gulf Bank  
Courtney Garner  
Dolores P. Green

Martin Gonzalez  
Lane Harper  
Susan W. Harrell  
Robin and Wendy Herr  
Sharon Hess-Herrick, Hess  
Financial & Realty Services  
Elizabeth Hewey  
Jim and Fran Hill, RGH  
Alternative Health Stores, Inc.  
Kenda Hilleke  
Andrew C. Hinton  
Linda A. Hoffman  
Bruce A. Holliday  
Thomas L. Hoyt  
Harold R. Hudson  
John Hufford  
John L. Hutchinson  
Christine D. Isham  
Nan and Fleet James  
Jimmy E. Jones  
Robert Jones  
Dale Jordan  
K & J Supply Company, Inc.  
Robert H. Kahn Jr.  
Family Foundation  
Sharon Kerrigan  
Tom Kilgore  
Summer S. King  
Ted Kirchharr  
Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 706  
Michelle Lee  
Jeffrey E. Lewis  
David Lister  
Kramer A. Litvak  
Barbara and Victor Looney  
Richard J. Mandes  
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Martin  
L.A. Maygarden,  
Consumer Credit Counseling  
Service of West Florida, Inc.  
McAlpin Group  
Peter McDavid  
Ellen McKnight  
K.L. (Chip) Merritt Jr.  
and Faye Merritt  
Benita Mikulas  
Ron and Jan Miller  
Patricia Miller, Merrill Lynch  
H. Edward Moore  
Nancy K. Morris

Audrey and Gerald Morrison  
Robert W. Moulton  
Walter Mullins  
Roger and Ann Barrineau Murray  
Celeste G. Norris  
Norwood N. Norris  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Owens  
Dennis C. Paedae  
Sherrod S. Pair  
John Peacock  
Jan and Ralph Peterson  
John T. Porter  
Carol W. Powell  
James J. Reeves  
Howard E. and Joyce P. Rein Jr.  
Charles and Suzanne Riley  
Buzz and Debbie Ritchie  
Elba Robertson  
Clay Roesch  
Patrick and Michelle Rooney  
Ira Rowe, AXA Foundation  
Sam Marshall Architects  
Dr. and Mrs. David Sam  
Sharon E. Santurri  
Edward Schnacke  
Claire Sciuto  
Julie L. Sheppard  
Mary M. Shontz  
Gus P. Silivos  
H. L. Simpson  
Kenneth C. Sims  
Bill and Mary Smart  
Paul R. Snider  
Corinne Speer  
Tom R. St. Clair  
James G. Stolhanske  
Margaret and Harry Stopp  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Tait  
Warren E. Tate  
John Tice, Bullock-Tice Associates  
Steve Timberlake, AmSouth Bank  
Kenneth M. Trump  
Dona and Milton Usry  
Roger Vinson  
Wachovia Foundation  
Educational Matching Gifts  
Program  
William J. Waters  
Roger W. Webb / Wendy's  
Keith A. Wells  
Celeste Whisenant  
Larry and Patrice Whitten  
Mike Wiggins  
Clara S. Wimberly  
Denise M. Windham  
Gregory K. Woodfin  
Meredith Jones Wolf  
Jarl T. Young  
Stephen F. Ziemann  
Danny Zimmern

## Join Our Circle... A gift at the President's Circle level entitles you to a variety of benefits.

Partner (\$250-\$999) Donors receive:

- Lapel pin
- Compendium newsletter
- Invitations to special presentations and events
- Recognition in the Honor Roll of Donors

Pacesetter (\$1,000-\$4,900) All the above, plus:

- Invitation to the annual President's Circle event
- Special acknowledgement in Foundation publications
- PJC Passport—a campus parking pass and comprehensive guide to taking advantage of all things PJC

Call Liza Hawkins at 850-484-1560.

Patron (\$5,000-\$9,900) All the above, plus:

- Free admission to PJC Athletics events
- Two season passes to PJC's Lyceum cultural series (pending availability)
- One hour consultation with PJC Foundation's estate planning professional

Pillar (\$10,000) All of the above, plus:

- Special naming opportunity
- Lunch or dinner with PJC's president

Pinnacle All of the above, plus:

- Lifetime status in President's Circle



*From the desk of*  
PATRICE WHITTEN



As we enjoy the holiday season and give thanks for the blessings we have received, we are mindful of opportunities for sharing with others through charitable gifts. Thinking carefully about how and when to give can increase the impact of our gifts.

I am pleased to announce the First Generation Scholarship, a dollar-for-dollar matched scholarship program designed to benefit students whose parents did not earn baccalaureate degrees. We have an incredible opportunity to see the state match all First Generation Scholarship gifts received by PJC Foundation by Dec. 31.

There are many ways to open doors to a brighter future for students of today and tomorrow. Individuals who are over age 70 may give from an Individual Retirement Account, as Congress has recently made it possible to make tax-free charitable gifts from an IRA under the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

Leaving a legacy through estate planning is another option. Planning your gift now ensures that your intentions will be met and your promise to PJC students will live on.

As you may know, all gifts mailed or otherwise delivered to the PJC Foundation by Dec. 31 qualify as a tax deduction for 2006, and gifts of cash, check or credit card are the most popular methods. As this year draws to close, I encourage you to make your plans for the future and reflect on accomplishing your charitable goals today.



THE  
**BIG  
BREAK**  
Golf Classic

Coming in March



*First Generation Scholarship*

gifts will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the State.  
The Foundation must receive your gift by Dec. 31.

For more information on giving opportunities,  
call Meredith Wolf at 850-484-1560  
or click on [www.pjc.edu/foundation](http://www.pjc.edu/foundation).

*Please remember PJC in your will.*



**PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE**

College Development/Alumni Affairs — 74  
1000 College Boulevard  
Pensacola, Florida 32504-8998  
[www.pjc.edu](http://www.pjc.edu)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 88  
Pensacola, FL