

A Collection of Good Works by the Pensacola Junior College Foundation

COMPENDIUM

Fall 2008



PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE

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Classmates For Life



PJC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



GROVER ROBINSON IV
PJC Foundation President

As Pensacola Junior College celebrates its diamond anniversary, we are reminded of the vital role that PJC has played and continues to play for our community and its citizens.

Many students past and present have chosen PJC as the first exciting step into college after high school while others have come to the college to participate in workforce training as they look for a new career.

Still, others choose to attend PJC as an opportunity to pursue their own interests which range from astronomy, to computers, to music, to plumbing, to sports, to theater, to zoo technology and other subjects in a wide array of offerings.

While the paths are unique to each individual, PJC itself continues to be a constant, providing dedicated teachers who actually know the names of students, small classes that foster

friendships that endure for years, and top notch programs that provide the education and training for future career success.

For these reasons, PJC has been an integral part of this community's past, and more importantly, a real influential factor in our community's future success.

However, most of that success could not happen without you and your financial support. Your generosity can help PJC go beyond maintaining its outstanding reputation, and your support today can lay the groundwork to meet tomorrow's challenges.

As you consider year end giving, I hope you will consider a gift to PJC. Your gift will directly impact students, programs, faculty and facilities, and you will be contributing to the success of our community as this institution changes the lives of its students and opens the doors to a prosperous future.

Thank you for your support to PJC.

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Fashions and hairstyles may have changed over 60 years but PJC's mission of offering an excellent education has remained constant.

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.

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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.



Celebrating Progress

It was in with the new at the Foundation's Leadership Appreciation Dinner, May 15, at the Pensacola Yacht Club.



Pat Miller leads the invocation

"Donors, we love you. You are the lifeblood of this organization."

— Carolyn Davis Simpson, noting that the Foundation had a record-breaking year



Incoming Foundation President Grover Robinson accepts the gavel from outgoing President Carolyn Davis Simpson



PJC's fifth President, Dr. Tom Delaino (right), welcomes the college's new leader, Dr. Ed Meadows



Tad and Lisa Ihns



Chadbourne Scholarship recipient Stephen Dudley



Larry Bracken, Vincent and Alesia Andry, Kitty and Ed Meadows



Grover and Jill Robinson

"An organization cannot rise above the compassion of its leaders. I've already witnessed a great deal of compassion as well as passion at PJC."

— Ed Meadows, PJC's sixth President



Mike Wiggins, master of ceremonies

Cathy and Bill Hamilton



Brooks and Catherine Champlin, Ken Wilder



Jim Martin congratulates Gwen Snowden on receiving the Distinguished Leadership Award for her tireless support of Foundation activities



"Community colleges by definition are part of the community. PJC goes well beyond that definition."

— Tom Delaino, PJC's fifth President

Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary Strengthening Students

When gas prices rose last spring and many students struggled to get to school, nursing student Susan Sadler breathed a sigh of relief.

A Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship defraying her tuition has relieved some of the financial stress her classmates face, enabling her to focus more fully on her studies.

"The Auxiliary's generosity made it possible for me to get to classes and the hospital for my clinicals without those concerns," says Sadler.

"Not only did I get there, but I've been on the Dean's List every semester and was inducted in Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and it looks like I'll graduate magna cum laude. Without a doubt, none of that would have been possible without the generous contributions of the scholarship."

Scholarship committee member Wendy Brandon hears many similar stories.

"I have personally talked to several students and they all tell me that without the scholarship money they do not know how long it would have taken them to finish school," says Brandon.



"The need for caring, well-trained medical employees is great," says David Haddock, scholarship committee chair, noting that the scholarship has expanded to include Allied Health programs as well as Nursing programs.

"We must have a continuing flow of people like this... The need is there and it's not going away," Haddock adds.

An annual Tree of Lights, honoring and memorializing donors' loved ones, funds the scholarship, says Auxiliary President Averette Mull. The names of those honored are displayed in a book that remains in the hospital lobby.

Auxiliary volunteers "promote, sponsor and provide man hours" to make the scholarship a reality, Mull notes.

Sadler clearly hopes to join Gulf Breeze Hospital's dedicated ranks.

"When I graduate, that will be the first place I apply to work," says Sadler. "I want to show my appreciation to the organization by using all the skills and talents I've acquired to make their hospital a better place and make them proud their money was well spent."

Honoring a Beloved Teacher

Since making history as the first class of north Santa Rosa high school students to integrate in 1967, a group of Milton High graduates has met regularly and are now honoring a beloved teacher.

Prior to integration, black students in Milton attended T.R. Jackson High School. Washington Sanchez was among the school's most influential teachers. Students in his homeroom from 1964 to 1967 recently started a PJC scholarship to memorialize Mr. Sanchez.

"When we entered junior high school in 1964 he became our homeroom teacher. We started and ended our school days with him," says Barbara Glover. "We were with Mr. Sanchez until the end of our sophomore year when we transitioned to Milton High School."

Washington Sanchez represented the qualities the students loved about T.R. Jackson. And, says Glover, the affection was mutual. "Mr. Sanchez had many other homeroom classrooms before us. Of course, we were his best and his last," she adds.

William Jenkins also was in the history-making group that graduated from Milton High in 1969.

Jenkins says the group's cohesiveness has led them to stay in touch, socializing regularly and attending church together every other month.



T.R. Jackson now serves as a pre-k center

Courtney Flores, a PJC freshman in the medical assisting program, was the first recipient of the Sanchez scholarship. Preference for the scholarship goes to Santa Rosa County African-American students.

"I feel as though all my hard work through school has paid off," Flores says. "I encourage all high school students to do all they can to receive scholarships, because they really help out in achieving their goals."

Why I Give

"I first began pledging support after I received a letter and brochure about the Foundation's Annual Fund. What touched me the most was seeing some of my colleagues share their reasons for giving. It encouraged me to want to be part of our students' lives, financially as well as through my daily work."



— Rachelle Burns,
project director of TRiO/Student Support Services at PJC

A Brief Life with a Lasting Influence

Shawn Elliott had never savored a cheesy slice of pizza in his young life, but that didn't keep him from selling strings from his prized "Hulk Hogan" T-shirt to buy pizza for one of his buddies who was also a patient at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital.

Shawn's mother, Janet Elliott Brown, chuckles as she relays the incident.

"When Hulk Hogan came to Pensacola, Shawn was in the hospital, so I stood in line trying to get an autograph for him," Brown says. "A security guard gave me a T-shirt that Hulk Hogan had actually worn and Shawn was thrilled to have it."

A few days later, Brown was at her son's hospital bedside, putting clean clothing in a drawer, when she noticed it was full of money.

"I asked about the money and Shawn proudly proclaimed he was selling the T-shirt for a dollar a string," Brown remembers. "I later found out that Shawn — who couldn't eat anything — spent the money on pizza for another child in the hospital who could eat!"

Shawn at his first fundraiser for an organ transplant. Those funds now support scholarships for PJC medical students.



Shawn lived his brief life to the fullest — telling perfectly-timed jokes, listening to country music, watching pro-wrestling, fishing every chance he got, and bringing joy to everyone he met.

This was quite an accomplishment considering Shawn spent 13 of his 17 years, growing up in hospitals.

Born with a condition that prevented his body from digesting food, Shawn was fed through an IV from the time he was two months old. He endured 52 surgeries and was in a Pittsburgh hospital waiting for a five-organ transplant when he died Sept. 2, 1997.

Two months later, Brown, established the Shawn Elliott Memorial Endowed Scholarship to benefit PJC's nursing, paramedic and emergency medical technician students.

"So many people had been so generous and made sacrifices to raise funds for Shawn's transplant," Brown recalls. "When the transplant didn't happen, I wanted to give back so that others could benefit from these funds."

"The medical community took such good care of Shawn; I wanted this scholarship to benefit PJC's medical programs, which in turn benefit the whole community."

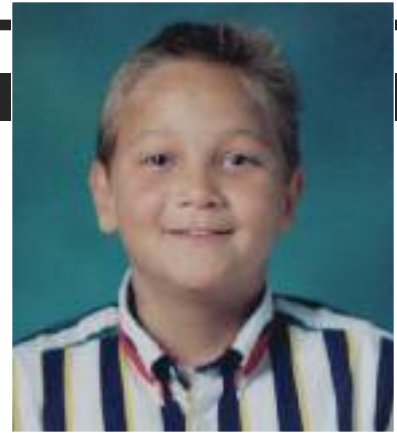
During Shawn's lengthy hospital stays, Brown says her son was blessed with several "mamas" on the nursing staff who provided love and attention as well as medical care.

Shirley Pace Sweeney was one of Shawn's special nurses who never forgot the little boy who brought so much laughter to those around him.

When Mrs. Sweeney passed away last March, one of her final wishes was that friends would donate to the Shawn Elliott Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

The Pensacola Mopar Club has recently made a \$700 donation to the scholarship fund in memory of Mrs. Sweeney, who was a long-time member of the club.

"Shirley truly loved Shawn and I'm so honored that she wanted to do this," Brown says. "She was a wonderful nurse who took excellent care of Shawn for many years. Her thoughtfulness will help future medical students fulfill their dreams and goals."



Shawn Elliott



Shawn with his mom, Janet, a 1978 graduate of PJC's nursing program



Shirley Sweeney, a 1975 PJC nursing graduate, was one of Shawn's special nurses

UNSUNG HERO



GREG SIMPSON
PJC Media Specialist

Need a sound system for a guest speaker? Call Greg Simpson. Making a PowerPoint presentation? Call Greg again.

For more than 25 years, Simpson has been the go-to-guy for audiovisual needs at PJC. From those burdensome slide carousels and filmstrip projectors in the 1980s to the high-tech, multi-media smart classrooms of today, Simpson has made sure that PJC staff and students have the best equipment available.

With Simpson in charge, it's always set up on time — with a smile.

Simpson began his PJC journey in 1982 as an assistant in the Audio Visual Services department. With encouragement from his supervisor, Charles Walker, Simpson also enrolled in PJC classes. When Walker retired, Simpson took over the daily operations.

Although his list of favorite PJC memories is too long to count, Simpson recalls one as a special honor, being named Employee of the Year in 2002.

"I strive daily to do my very best work," Simpson says. "This honor means I achieved my goal, and for this I am very thankful."

Capt. Poindexter shares space adventures with future astronauts in PJC Kids College (Photo by PJC alum Zeke Hazewinkle)



CELEBRATIONS

Soaring with the Blues



Robinson Honors Scholar Danica Spears, 19, made history on July 10 as the first PJC student to fly with the U.S. Navy's famed Blue Angels — a feat that attracted local, regional and national media attention.

Before her once-in-a-lifetime takeoff, Danica had never been in a plane, not to mention never traveling at the speed of sound and pulling more than seven times the force of gravity.

As an award-winning student photo-journalist with the college newspaper, The Corsair, Danica was chosen to ride with the Blues on their VIP/media day.

PJC President Ed Meadows, Vice President Martin Gonzalez and Corsair advisor Christina Drain joined Danica's family and friends to see her soar with the Blues.



Danica Spears gets ready for the flight of a lifetime. Seven media groups interview Danica after her flight with the Blues.

(Photos by PJC alum Sean Drain)

Astronaut Lands at Alma Mater

In celebration of PJC's 60th Anniversary, NASA astronaut and PJC alum Alan Poindexter took a PJC gold medallion with him on a 5.3 million-mile space shuttle mission in February.

Poindexter visited the Pensacola campus and returned the specially minted medallion, as well as Atlantis memorabilia, to PJC President Ed Meadows at a June event packed with students, staff and community leaders.

During his presentation, the Atlantis shuttle pilot thanked three of his PJC science professors for helping to launch his NASA career.

Applause rang out as Poindexter acknowledged chemistry professor Ed Stout, astronomy professor Wayne Wooten and physics professor Joe Zayas who were in the audience, and who are still teaching at the college.

"PJC was an excellent choice for me," said Poindexter, reflecting on his PJC education.



Navy Capt. Alan Poindexter and PJC President Ed Meadows unveil the PJC gold medallion that traveled to space (Photo by PJC alum Zeke Hazewinkle)



Suellen and Hal Hudson graciously opened their Bayou Texar home for a reception welcoming Capt. Poindexter

CELEBRATIONS



Geraldine Puertas

Softball Olympian

PJC softball standout Geraldine Puertas played for her home country of Venezuela in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. It was Venezuela's first Olympic softball experience.

A recreation technology major, Geraldine garnered academic and team honors during her freshman year at PJC and is looking forward to her sophomore season as the starting third baseman.



PJC softball coach Brenda Pena and team members gathered at Kooter Brown's Sports Grille to watch Puertas make sports history for her home country (Photo by PJC alum Zeke Hazewinkle)

VOLUNTEER CORNER



VINCENT ANDRY

PJC District Board of Trustees, Chair

I consider my service to PJC an honor and a privilege. Serving through the college and the PJC Foundation to provide quality educational opportunities is a win-win for all.

The students win when their life-long dreams are fulfilled. The college and Foundation win when the very best technology and facilities have been offered to our students to make those dreams a reality.

I win on graduation day when I see the caliber of each student receiving a PJC diploma, knowing another quality PJC graduate is entering the university system or the workforce.

The Foundation's contributions to these wins are immeasurable. Nevertheless, I get a small glimpse of the value, one smile at a time walking the stage. The individual smiles are the reasons I serve PJC.

The positive impact PJC is making on our communities continues to unfold each day, improving the quality of life, one smile at a time. I am excited and proud to serve the PJC institution, a very valuable asset to the economy of Northwest Florida.



Kids College Environmental Camp

Thanks to a \$6,910 donation from International Paper, 35 Kids College students came nose to nose with nature at the Summer Environmental Camp on the Warrington campus. They made bat houses, frog houses and birdhouses; visited wetlands and the Perdido landfill; and learned how to bring a natural habitat to their own backyard.

Sansing Scholars

More than 100 PJC students have been helped this year through the Universal Sandy Sansing Scholarship. As he does each year, Sansing hosted a lunch on campus so he could get to know these students — matching names with faces and listening to their stories. Among those enjoying the conversations with Sansing were (front) Shannon King and Callie Hassebrock; (back) Stephen Alexander and Matt Lamb.



(Photo by Tony Giberson, courtesy of the Pensacola News Journal)

Robinson Scholars



The National Gallery in London



Robinson Honors students, along with English professor Carol Hemmye, spent the summer studying at the University of Cambridge and soaking in the sights of merry ole England. Among those attending were (from left) Leslie Ward, Amie Gramo, Lorraine Ogan and Kendra Lyons.

Nursing Program Earns National Accreditation

PJC's nursing program has recently received full accreditation from the National League for Nursing and Accrediting Commission. For PJC nursing students, the national accreditation opens doors.

"There are many reasons why nursing programs seek NLNAC accreditation," said PJC President Ed Meadows. "Most importantly, it means our graduates now have a competitive edge in seeking employment."



PJC President Ed Meadows

Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future

During PJC's 60th Anniversary, the college is celebrating a rich history and embracing a new beginning as it welcomes its sixth president, Charles "Ed" Meadows.

When Meadows assumed the helm on June 1, it marked the first time since 1980 that the top spot went to someone outside the current administration.

However, just weeks into his new position, it became clear to staff and students that Ed Meadows is no outsider to the mission of Pensacola Junior College.

Furthermore, Meadows sees the college's long-standing success as a strength that should not be taken for granted.

"Once you get to the top of the mountain, it is a huge challenge to continue meeting educational needs at the same level," Meadows says. "Over the past 60 years, PJC's challenge has increased to meet a growing and changing population."

"We have the honor of our past, but also the responsibility to meet and exceed those prior expectations."

Indeed, Meadows is meeting those expectations head on.

The moving boxes were barely empty before he unpacked plans for streamlining office procedures and assessing the college's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.

By the time fall term arrived, Meadows was tackling student retention by reinstating

midterm grades and beefing up tutoring and advising for students. In spite of a lean budget year, he is making professional development a priority for faculty and staff.

Meadows has maintained a whirlwind schedule, getting to know his new PJC family and the surrounding community. From employee gatherings, to pizza with scholarship students, to receptions with local leaders, Meadows has been turning faces into friends.

Well into his "first impression" of PJC, Meadows says he has been struck by the groundswell of support for the college and what it means to Northwest Florida.

"I've met people who love and appreciate PJC for what it has offered them as individuals, for what it has done to help them reach their goals," Meadows says.

"I've been particularly pleased that so many people not only love the college, they support it in a continuous manner."

People give because they see the value of that gift and how it is used."

Charles Edward Meadows Profile

BACKGROUND

Meadows is a native of Ripley, Miss. He and his wife, Kitty, have two sons, Daniel and Andrew.

EDUCATION

Ball State University, M.A. and Ed.D., 1979
University of Tennessee, M.S., 1975
Delta State University, B.S., 1971

EXPERIENCE

President, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, 2003-2008
President, Ayers State Technical College, 1996-2003
Vice-President, Beville State Community College, 1991-1996
Various college administrative positions, 1985-1991
Various college teaching positions, 1975-1985

RECOGNITION

Kermit Mathison Award from the University of Montevallo for outstanding junior/community college administrator, 2006
Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the University Council for Educational Administration, 2004
Administrator of the Year Leadership Award from the College of Education of the University of Alabama, 2004
Phi Theta Kappa International Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, 1999

"While I am president, I will do everything possible to keep PJC as a beloved college, offering a quality education."

— Ed Meadows

"Quality means something to me. This is a beloved college that has been attended by thousands," Meadows told faculty and staff at his opening convocation in August. "While I am president, I will do everything possible to keep PJC as a beloved college, offering a quality education."

President Ed Meadows talks with PJC student Danica Spears before her flight with the Blue Angels.

(Photo by PJC alum Sean Drain)



President Meadows and PJC District Board members welcome PJC alum and NASA astronaut Alan Poindexter to campus in June (see page 6). Shown are (from left) Meadows, Carol Carlan, Margie Moore, Poindexter, John O'Connor and Vincent Andry.

(Photo by PJC alum Zeke Hazewinkle)

President Meadows addresses Foundation directors and donors at a summer event



If Meadows seems to have slipped into PJC like a favorite T-shirt, his wealth of experience has probably stitched the comfortable fit.

He says his early years in the classroom as a biology professor have kept him keenly aware of today's teachers who have a heart for instruction.

"I see teaching as providing a service to humankind," Meadows says. "It's a way to provide a better life for students and their families."

With a resume profiling more than a decade leading two community colleges, Meadows is not surprised by budget cuts and enrollment challenges.

PJC Board of Trustees Chair Vincent Andry spoke of Meadows' credentials when he was selected to lead PJC, following a national search.

"Dr. Meadows impressed me," Andry says. "He is innovative and creative and experienced with institutional finance and student growth issues."

Perhaps the most useful experience Meadows brings to the chair in the PJC

president's office comes from his role as a parent. His two sons began their college life at a community college. One has finished his bachelor's degree, and the other is a senior this year.

"I'm a parent, and I know what it is like to be on the other side of the desk," Meadows says with a chuckle.

For PJC students today and in the future, Meadows says that a nurturing learning environment is essential. He stresses the importance of careful planning to meet changing student needs and the importance of exploring ways to provide greater access for students to take advantage of PJC's programs.

"PJC is known for the individual attention that is given to students," Meadows points out. "We will continue to provide a support system to give students every tool available to be successful."

Ed and Kitty Meadows have been busy meeting the PJC community



Sansing Scholarship recipient Stephen Alexander (left) talks with Sandy Sansing and President Meadows. (Photo by Tony Giberson, courtesy of Pensacola News Journal)



President Meadows congratulated PJC students Maria Bailetti, Amber Barr, Timothy Haynie, Jessica Keith and Bionca Johnson for receiving Champions Scholarships from Communities in Schools of Northwest Florida



President Meadows joined YouthBuild students at the groundbreaking ceremony for the latest YouthBuild house



PJC Alumni Prove You Can Get There from Here!

1948



Honorary Alumni Chair, E.W. Hopkins, thumbs through old Tide yearbooks

E.W. Hopkins

When PJC opened the doors for its inaugural class on Sept. 13, 1948, Elbert "E.W." Hopkins was among the 136 students to step inside the old Aiken boarding house that served as the college's first location.

"The thing that really impressed me about that first year was that the faculty and students were all so enthusiastic about starting a junior college," Hopkins recalls. "They wanted to make PJC the best school it could be."

After PJC, Hopkins graduated from Auburn University, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and returned to Pensacola for a long and successful business career. He still finds time to support PJC alumni activities.

1980



PJC was a first step to an engineering degree for J.T. Young

J.T. Young

J.T. Young, chief information officer at Gulf Power Co., found PJC to be a smooth path to an engineering degree from the University of Florida.

"The foundation I had at PJC was well-received at UF. I was admitted directly into their electrical engineering program and that was a significant feat," Young recalls. "PJC has always been extremely relevant to students. It was like that for me and I think it will be like that in the future."

"PJC gave me a tremendous start through caring instructors and strong academic offerings," says Young, noting that his chemistry professor, Dr. Butler, had a life-changing impact on him.

1994



Angela and Randall Lunsford

Angela Lunsford

As Adult Med-Surg Nursing director at Sacred Heart Hospital, '94 graduate Angela Lunsford leads about 300 associates. Lunsford, who will soon complete her master's degree from Spring Hill College, says PJC instructors laid the foundation for her success.

"Two instructors who made the biggest impact on my professional life have been Melinda Hamilton and Dr. Shirley Holt-Hill," Lunsford says.

"They encouraged me to move forward every day. They supported me in the student nurse association to the point that I became a state officer. Both have been mentors and an inspiration to me for more than 15 years."

1999



Jason King is part of PJC's Web team

Jason King

Jason King, whose grandparents were in the inaugural class at PJC (see page 12), is internet systems analyst for the college. He attended PJC twice on a part-time basis, with service in the Coast Guard in between.

"My favorite teachers at PJC were James Ward, math; Zeida Ward, Spanish; Paula Takahashi, drawing; and Patrick Rowe, art history," says King.

King and his wife Marla have a three-year-old son. When he's not solving computer glitches or spending time with his family, King steals away to the beach to surf.

2005



Chris Drain advises Corsair multimedia editor Jen-Beth Ball

Chris Drain

Chris Drain was in her mid-40's when she returned to PJC to finish her associate's degree. English Department head Thom Botsford hired Drain as a student publications manager, a job that led to her current position of adviser to the Corsair, PJC's award-winning student newspaper.

"We are now online and have kept pace with learning skills in new media," says Drain, who led a team of student journalists to Cape Canaveral to cover the Atlantis space shuttle liftoff.

Chris Drain, continued

Drain is also project director for the Santa Rosa Virtual Museum, an interactive Web site containing the history of Santa Rosa County, funded by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council.

2007



Zeke Hazewinkle earned three PJC degrees with honors

Zeke Hazewinkle

Zeke Hazewinkle accomplished the near-impossible during his PJC journey. He earned three associate's degrees, all magna cum laude, during commencements in May, August and December 2007.

Besides top grades, Hazewinkle garnered a wagon-load of awards in graphic design, photography and leadership, while also getting job experience in graphic design and multimedia. His hard work paid off with an honors scholarship to the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design.

"PJC's Visual Arts program has a phenomenal reputation due in large part to the caliber of its instructors, who are also professionals in their fields," Hazewinkle says. "Their active involvement in all aspects of the program gives their students the skills to be successful."

2008



Arabia Marshall became a leader at PJC

Arabia Marshall

After receiving scholarships to PJC, Arabia Marshall jumped in with both feet. She delved into her studies in psychology and became a student ambassador, a role that found her leading tours, attending leadership conventions and generally representing PJC.

Her favorite Pirate class was American Literature, a course that looked at great writing as well as life. Marshall is continuing her education at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

"I have PJC memories that will last forever," Marshall says.

2008



Leslie Ward at Westminster Abbey

MILESTONES

New PJC Foundation Governor and Holiday Grande auction committee member extraordinaire **Jan Miller** was honored by the Pensacola Opera as a trustee emeritus.



Miller served on the Pensacola Opera's board of trustees for eight years. During her term as board president, Pensacola Opera was the fastest-growing opera company in the United States and experienced its greatest growth in its 25-year history.

Michael Boles, art professor, won the 2008 Best of Show at the Members' Juried Exhibition at the Pensacola Museum of Art. Boles' winning piece was "Luff," pencil on vellum.



PJC alum **Victor Bokas**, and former PJC faculty members **Tony Kryszynski** and **James Carter** were featured at the Switzer Center's opening gallery show for the 2008-09 season.

Leslie Ward

PJC's outstanding Dual Enrollment program drew Leslie Ward to campus as a high school student. Then, the opportunities offered in the Robinson Honors program gave her the well-rounded college experience she wanted.

"PJC's teachers are terrific and love what they teach," Ward says. "The small classes are an incredible asset, giving teachers time to get to know their students and help them grow."

Along with six other Robinson Honors Scholars, Ward capped her PJC career with summer classes at the University of Cambridge and weekend trips throughout England and Ireland. Ward is now a scholarship student at the highly esteemed Chicago Institute of Art.

 Share your PJC memory!

Join your classmates at alumni.pjc.edu and share a PJC memory for future issues of *Compendium*.

Classmates for Life

Embarking on History



Charles and Clora King

When she joined PJC's historic Class of 1948, no one in Clora Stewart's family had graduated from high school, let alone college.

But that didn't deter Clora, then 16, from walking a mile to a bus stop in Pace, then catching the bus to downtown Pensacola to make her dream of college a reality. A \$100 scholarship and a part-time job helped pay her expenses.

"All the classes were rather small and it was somewhat like a family," says Clora, who started dating her husband Charles King when he offered to pick her up to see an assigned film.

Clora and Charles were two of 136 students in PJC's inaugural class, which met in an old boarding house at the corner of Palafox and Cervantes streets. As the first Pirates, their class started *The Beachcomber* student newspaper and voted on school colors.

A year later the couple married and got busy with their lives — raising four sons and working. As her sons got older, Clora, always a "numbers person," found herself assisting in computerizing Whiting Field, where she eventually retired as comptroller.

The knack for computers must run in the family. The Kings' oldest grandson Jason King is an internet systems analyst at PJC. (See page 10)

In 1992, at age 61, Clora graduated magna cum laude from Troy State University.

Charles King retired from American Cyanamid and then began contract work for Monsanto. Now 81, he's "going strong," says Clora. He gardens and builds toys for the couple's great-grandchildren.

The Kings celebrated their 59th anniversary in August, proving their skeptics wrong.

"And they said it would not last!" jokes Clora.

Dancing the Jitterbug



Edward and Ginger Moore

Elvis tunes playing in the Quonset hut student center, carpools to Casino Beach, baseball and debate tournaments.

These are memories Edward and Ginger Moore relish when they think back to the late 1950s and PJC's "new" campus. If memory serves the Moores, the fine arts auditorium and the administration and science buildings were the only permanent structures on campus.

"They had to have a place for the president," quips Ginger.

Having met through friends on campus, Ginger and Edward finally had their first date at a Sadie Hawkins dance. The romance flourished despite the harsh test of Ginger transferring to Florida State University while Edward chose rival University of Florida. They married during Edward's senior year of law school.

Over the years, they have continued their PJC involvement and take pride in the school's history and accomplishments. They have given back to their alma mater many times over.

"PJC has played a significant role in our lives, not only providing an excellent academic foundation, and a spouse, but many lifelong friends and relationships," says Ginger.



Dixie and Jerry Sansom

Setting Sail

PJC may be miles from the nearest beach but that didn't keep the student sailing club from flourishing — and playing cupid — in the 1960s.

Dixie Newton Sansom says she and her husband Jerry have been sharing a love for sailing ever since they met in PJC's sailing club in 1966. They even called a 32-foot wooden ketch "home" for five years.

"Jerry chose PJC because he wanted a good science education without being part of the freshman culling classes at the universities," Dixie recalls.

Having renowned rocket engineer Wernher von Braun as the college's 1967 graduation speaker was a favorite highlight, she adds.

After PJC, Jerry earned degrees in marine science from Florida State University and from Florida Tech. He is now a gubernatorial appointee to the east coast navigation district and a national trustee to the Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute.

Dixie has maintained educational ties, serving as a trustee for Brevard Community College. She also chairs the nearly 2,000 member Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Florida Chamber of Commerce Board.



Clair and Bob Montgomery

Treasuring Memories

From the beginning, Clair and Bob Montgomery's romance had an academic flavor. They met in the Clubbs Junior High library and dated through Pensacola High. The couple married the summer after Clair graduated from high school in the late 1960s, then attended PJC together before transferring to Florida State.

Compelling teachers and classes are the Montgomery's most distinctive Pirate memory. A dreaded biology class turned into a fascinating study for Clair, thanks to professor Elmer Jenkins. Years later, she returned for teacher certification and was impressed with the classes taught by Ann Southerland.

Until Hurricane Ivan destroyed their home, Bob kept a treasured project he created in a PJC advertising class.

"PJC has always had a great art department and English department, and those classes have always stood out in my memory," says Bob, who now serves on the PJC Foundation Board of Governors.

"PJC was the perfect place for us to start our higher education while still close to family and friends. We are still married after 42 years, so PJC served us well."



Laura and Barry Cole

Sparkling Future

For Beré Jewelers owner Barry Cole and his wife Laura, PJC was the right place to begin building their life together.

The Coles met at Washington High School when Laura was a freshman and Barry a junior. Both went on to study at PJC — Barry in business and Laura in court reporting, where she attained the coveted Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) accreditation, the pinnacle of court reporting.

In 1985, Barry opened his business, which has grown into one of the Gulf Coast's most trusted jewelers. Laura worked in court reporting from Escambia to Okaloosa counties. The couple has an extensive network of friends from their years of investing in their community.

In fact, Barry says his best PJC memories revolve around friendships, flag football and his favorite history teacher, Owen Farley.

"PJC was a no-brainer as it was convenient and had the quality education we were looking for to continue our academic studies," Barry says. "We're happy that Northwest Florida has such a fantastic center for learning at our doorsteps."



Planned Giving

Today's Plan Benefits Tomorrow's Students

Longtime PJC supporter Elba Robertson has invested so much time and energy into the college, she often says it is like her family.

That family connection has spurred Elba and her husband Samuel to remember their PJC family in their estate planning.

"My husband and I are realistic and we feel it is important to plan ahead," Elba Robertson says. "We sat down with our financial advisor and our attorney to make PJC the beneficiary of a charitable trust."

From her many years of serving on PJC's District Board of Trustees, WSRE's Foundation Board and the PJC Foundation Board, Robertson says she has seen firsthand the positive impact the college has on students' lives.

"I've spent so much time at the college; I've met students who would have no higher education at all, if it were not for the opportunities available to them at PJC," Robertson says.

"When I see the students at graduation, I see the pride in their faces. I see the importance — the necessity — of all that PJC does in preparing them for a promising future.

"PJC has excellent programs and faculty. Planned giving will help this to continue. Samuel and I are not looking for recognition, we just want to help students. Giving to PJC is a great way to help students!" Robertson adds.

Time is Running Out



Kramer A. Litvak

"Before you get too busy with the holidays, take some time for year-end tax planning. If you have a large estate, or a significant non-income producing asset, you may consider a charitable remainder trust (CRT).

A gift to a CRT can be used to convert a non-income producing asset into an income producing asset without triggering income taxes. In addition, such a gift may create a deduction against your income taxes."

— Kramer A. Litvak, board certified tax attorney
Litvak Beasley & Wilson, LLP

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— Universal Scholarship recipient and pre-engineering major Del Sherburne

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From the desk of Patrice Whitten

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60th Anniversary cake and an outdoor concert were among the celebration events

Concert photos by Bill Mertins

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