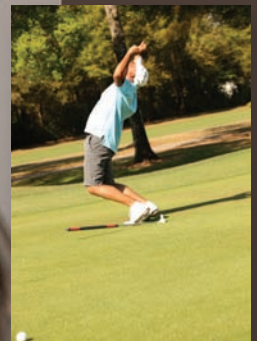


A Collection of Good Works by Pensacola State College Foundation

Summer  
2012

# COMPENDIUM



## INSIDE

Big Break

Civic Band

Ashley Wu Fennell

Holiday Grande





# Foundation President's Message



Pam Hunt Caddell  
Foundation President

Just a few weeks ago Pensacola State College held its May graduation ceremonies, granting an array of hard-earned degrees and opening doors for students who are eagerly anticipating a better tomorrow.

Some of those graduates are continuing their education toward a university degree. However, many Pensacola State graduates are going directly into a career, earning salaries, paying taxes and contributing to the economic betterment of this community. A graduate with an associate degree earns about \$8,000 more a year than a high school graduate, according to recent data from American Institutes for Research.

Think about that for a moment. Students — old or young — can come to Pensacola State, complete a workforce program in two years or less and be gainfully employed. In many of these programs, especially health care, computer technology and cybersecurity, students have jobs waiting for them when they graduate.

Over the years, Pensacola State has listened to our community's business and industry leaders and then provided degree and certificate programs with the training and skill sets needed to move our community forward. An educated, highly skilled workforce has the added benefit of attracting new business and industry to our area, further strengthening our economic base and expanding job opportunities.

It's easy to see the integral role that Pensacola State plays in our local economy, but it offers so much more. Rousing concerts and theatre productions, top-notch art exhibitions, palette-pleasing culinary dinners, championship sports events, flower festivals, salon and spa amenities, and health and career fairs are just a few ways the college nourishes our quality of life.

When we support Pensacola State College, we are supporting our Gulf Coast community. With the costs of education rising while state and federal resources are falling, our support for scholarships and programs is needed more than ever.

Your gift to Pensacola State is an investment in our community, an investment providing an exceptional, affordable education — close to home.

# Foundation Board of Governors

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**On the cover:** Four shiny new flugelhorns debuted at the Jazz Ensemble concert in April, thanks to an unexpected \$50,000 gift for the college's music programs.

Cover photo by Michelle Dycus.

# COMPENDIUM

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

## NEED INFORMATION? PLEASE CALL!

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 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 State College and its students. As a tax-assisted institution, Pensacola State College cannot meet all needs with state and student support. The Foundation assists in obtaining private support to supplement college budgets. The 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.*





# Quail Hunt Bags Support for Students

The first quail hunt hosted by Pensacola State College soared in as a success for the college's Annual Fund for Excellence.

Held at the picturesque Dennis Lake Wing Club in Bay Minette, Ala., the February event included morning and afternoon guided hunts topped off with mouth-watering meals cooked by Pensacola State President Ed Meadows and local businessman Gerry Goldstein.

"When the college president puts on an apron, rolls up his sleeves and cooks quail and venison for hungry hunters, they listen as he talks about his college," Goldstein says.

Goldstein initiated the weekend quail hunt so that businessmen could get better acquainted with the college while enjoying an exceptional hunting trip.

"Education is a top priority for attracting business to this area," Goldstein points out. "The programs at Pensacola State are providing the education and workforce training that we need to encourage business growth.

"I feel that supporting the college and providing scholarships to help our young people go to college is a way of giving back to the community."

With all proceeds from the quail hunt benefiting the Annual Fund for Excellence, Goldstein says the event was successful beyond expectation and next year's hunt is quickly getting booked.



Pensacola State College President Ed Meadows and Gerry Goldstein hosted the event and cooked all the food.



Dennis Lake Wing Club

The kitchen is a popular spot.



Matt Parker and Scott Luth



Gulf Power team, from left: Lynn Barnhill, Cerex; Steve Merritt, Cerex; Bernard Jacob, Gulf Power; Gerald Ard, Taminco; Mark Crosswhite, Gulf Power; Tim McLendon, Navy Federal; Dwane Brumfield, Taminco; Deryl Hargett, Gulf Power



# Thank You, Donors!

*"I want to express my gratitude for receiving the Jacob Horton Memorial Scholarship. I do not qualify for grants or anything of that nature, so every scholarship dollar is of the utmost value to me. Again, thank you."*

— Charity Hamilton

*"Thank you for the J.D. Carroll Scholarship! When I received the letter, I went online and added more classes to my schedule. Now, I am enrolled in 13 credits for the term. Not only has the scholarship helped financially, it has allowed me to enroll full time for the upcoming semester. Thanks again!"*

— Waylon Mock

*"I want to express my appreciation for the Jacob Horton Memorial Scholarship. After being unemployed in the past year, I know that having my degree is just one step closer to getting into the job field I actually want to be in. Thank you for your generous donation toward my education."*

— Suzanne Lamb

*"Thank you for the Robert McColskey Scholarship. It will make a huge difference in my life. My husband and I do not qualify for much financial aid and cannot afford my tuition. I want to provide my daughter with the best opportunities in life, and this scholarship has brought me one step closer to that goal by providing me with a full semester's tuition. I am incredibly humbled and grateful."*

— Jessica A. Herbert

*"The Universal Scholarship has opened the door for me to go into nursing. This will be a second career for me. My husband and I have a 3-year-old son, and without the Universal Scholarship, I could not afford to go back to school and pursue my dream of becoming a nurse."*

— Mendi McCormick,  
Associate Degree Nursing student



*"I accept the Alfred I. duPont Foundation Scholarship with gratitude and appreciation. After graduation from Pensacola State, I hope to attend the University of West Florida and study social work/psychology so that I might assist others in our community, just as you have assisted me. Thank you so very much for your support and financial assistance."*

— Margaret R. Padilla

*"Thank you for the Aaron Lee Thomas Memorial Endowed Scholarship. As I continue to push forward to better myself for my son, I will forever be grateful for this award! Words really can't describe my appreciation. Thank you so much."*

— Sharonda Etheridge

*"I wish to express my thanks for the Casey Lee Brown Scholarship. As a middle-age student, any encouragement and aid is so greatly appreciated. This scholarship has made it possible to take required courses that are needed for my dream to come to fruition."*

— Evan Scott

# Gift for Music Students has Perfect Timing

The \$50,000 gift to Pensacola State College's music program was completely unexpected. But the timing was perfect, says Don Snowden, Music and Theatre Department head.

"This gift is very appreciated. Our music programs are among the most expensive programs at the college because the instruments are so costly.

"Anytime we get support from the community to bolster equipment and students, it has a far-reaching impact on our performing arts — from rehearsals to concerts."

Snowden says the gift comes from an anonymous donor who has enjoyed concerts at the college for many years and wanted to give something in return.

Thanks to the gift, four shiny new flugelhorns debuted at the Jazz Ensemble concert in April. Roger Villines, Jazz Ensemble director, says the flugelhorns are a significant enhancement for the program.

"We are thrilled with the four new flugelhorns for our Jazz Ensemble trumpet section," Villines says. "Normally, we have four trumpeters in the section, and very seldom do they own a flugelhorn due to the added expense."

Since the Jazz Ensemble plays arrangements designed for high-level university or professional jazz ensembles, the music often calls for flugelhorns. In the past, Villines says he had to borrow flugelhorns or his players just used their trumpets.

"The trumpet does not make the warmer, darker sound of the flugelhorn," Villines explains. "The new flugelhorns will enable us to play advanced jazz music arrangements as they were meant to be played. Plus, students will have the experience of playing a flugelhorn that they could not otherwise afford."

The gift is also going to purchase two new pianos, much to the delight of piano professors Kadisha Onalbayeva and Michael Coleman.



Famed jazz musician Lou Marini, center, performed with Jazz Ensemble students at the Lyceum concert debuting the new flugelhorns. Shown from left: Chrissy Carr, Kevin Haddocks, Lou Marini, Colin Slavin and Michael Dobbs.

"This is a great gift for our department and an invaluable boost to all of our music majors." Coleman says.

Onalbayeva echoes excitement for the gift.

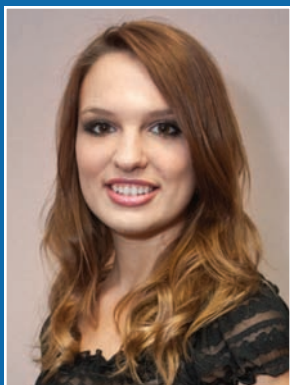
"This will not only benefit the piano majors but all of our music majors," Onalbayeva says. "It will definitely inspire our students in both their piano practice and their music studies."

Pointing out that one of the old practice pianos has been used since 1958 — the year the college's Ninth Avenue campus opened — Snowden calls attention to the long-lasting value of the donation.

"This gift is providing instruments that will be played by scores of students for years to come."

*"I am really excited about the new pianos. There is something about a well-tuned, new piano that just makes me practice more."*

— Rebecca Palmer, piano major and Rolfs-Wawrzyniak Memorial Music Scholarship recipient  
(photos by Michelle Dycus)





# Remembering Ed Leigh McMillan II

The Pensacola State College family mourns the passing of Ed Leigh McMillan II, a philanthropic visionary whose support for education and health care jump-started the building of the health sciences complex on the Warrington campus.

Patrice Whitten, executive director of Pensacola State College Foundation, recalls Mr. McMillan's encouragement as the college began plans for the new building project more than a decade ago.

"As the managing trustee of the D. W. McMillan Trust, he cleared the way for the first major gift to our health sciences complex. This allowed us to receive state matching funds and move ahead with what is now a premier health sciences teaching and learning facility," Whitten says.

"Without his leadership and the generous gift from the D.W. McMillan Trust, the facility might have been delayed for several years."

Allison Sinrod, a trustee for the D.W. McMillan Trust, fondly remembered Mr. McMillan's generous spirit in overseeing the trust.

"There is a part of the Trust Instrument that provides for the relief of poor and needy people, whether deemed worthy or unworthy. He lived his life by that credo. He didn't judge and always tried to make others feel important," Sinrod says.

"Even though he was an imposing figure, he was never unapproachable, and he truly had a giving heart."

A native of Brewton, Ala., Mr. McMillan graduated from T. R. Miller High School in 1958, received a bachelor's degree in forestry at North Carolina State University in 1962, and a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Alabama in 1964.

After college, he returned to Brewton as the first forester of T. R. Miller Mill Co. He served more than 40 years with this hometown company and also was president and director of numerous timber companies until his retirement in 2006.

Being a good steward of the forest and natural resources were of utmost importance to Mr. McMillan. In 1981, he received the W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Award for Achievements in Forestry, Wildlife and Related Resources.

Among his many honors were: Brewton Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year in 1983, Forest Landowner of the Year in 2010, and North Carolina State University, College of Natural Resources Distinguished Alumnus in 2011.

He was instrumental in building and strengthening the Brewton community through his charitable generosity in areas such as the Brewton Library,



Ed Leigh McMillan II  
July 8, 1940 – March 29, 2012

D.W. McMillan Memorial Hospital, Brewton YMCA and Jefferson Davis Community College.

Mr. McMillan was a member of First United Methodist Church of Brewton. He loved his church family and enjoyed singing in church.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Ann McMillan; son Ed Leigh McMillan III and wife Perri; and son Daniel W. McMillan and wife Kathy; step-daughter Christina Johnson and husband Stanley; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and a multitude of friends.





# On Par for Scholarships

Sunshine, 80 degrees, frozen margaritas served on the course at the beautiful Marcus Pointe Golf Club – great golfing for a great cause.

The seventh annual Big Break Cox Golf Classic scored a hole-in-one, raising more than \$28,000 for the Universal Scholarship Fund that benefits students who often do not qualify for traditional financial aid.

Gulf Coast Office Products hosted an awards dinner complete with filet mignon and entertainment. Golfers enjoyed more than \$15,000 in prizes, including two tickets to the Masters Golf Tournament.



Big Break Putting challenge participants, from left, Herb Sadler, Mike Werner, Lee Cruder, Rich Burns, Kirk Waters

## Classic Thanks! Sponsors

**Tournament:** Cox

**Signature:** STOA Architects

**Gold:** James J. Marks Foundation Inc., Regions Bank

**Bronze:** Baptist Healthcare Foundation; DK & K Management Group – Taco Bell; Gulf Power; McDonald's/O'Connor Management Group; Moore, Hill & Westmoreland; VT Group; Woodfin Cabassa Orthodontics; Blair Crooke; Stanley Security

**Hole:** Randall W. Brown DMD; Herb Woll; Saltmarsh Financial Advisors; National Standard Parts Association; Bailey's Produce and Nursery Market; New York Life, "Doc" Bailey; Engineered Cooling; GulfWinds Federal Credit Union

**Food & Beverage:** Gulf Coast Office Products/Hewlett Packard; Keegan Staffing; Merrill Lynch, Margie Moore; Paul Snider, Morgan Stanley; Salomon-Goldstein Properties, LLC; Sonny's Real Bar-B-Q

**Hole In One:** Sandy Sansing Chevrolet BMW Nissan Mini Mazda

**Tee Sign:** George Bailey; Dell Consulting; Denny and Betty Gail Peters; Fairfield Dental Center; George Talbert; Hess Financial & Realty Services; James E. Pewitt, DMD P.A.; Jim and Susan Reeves; Fountain, Schultz & Associates; Montgomery Realtors, Sharon Hamner; Renfro & Ziemann Family Dentistry; Whibbs & Stone; Wiggins Lawn Spray Service; State Farm, Michael Johnson; ServisFirst Bank; Gwen Snowden; Employers' Assistant Inc.; Southern Dental; Trademark Properties Inc.



Lane Harper, David Batten, Mike Grimley

Ferd Salomon III

Photos by Amy Hall

*"Receiving the Universal Scholarship has been such a blessing. I have been able to get my classes completed without taking on anymore debt. This scholarship has allowed me to follow my dream and become a nurse."*

— Catherine Brown, Associate Degree Nursing student



## You Made It Happen!

**Big Break Committee:** Chair Greg Woodfin, George Bailey, Fred Bond, Sparkie Folkers, Hugh Fones, Gerry Goldstein, Lane Harper, Marty Stanovich, Buddy Vance.

**Volunteers:** Carol Hemmye, Ann Woll, Ginger Moore, Anne Cynkar, Christa Ruber, Linda Sheppard, Peggy Ward, Sherrill Halftown, Rebecca Nicklow, Debbie Douma, Robb Gregg



Jeff Neeley won two tickets to the 2012 Masters Tournament.



Don Posey collecting his prize for winning a Big Break challenge



# Holiday Grande

## Celebrating the Season

Take a chilly December evening and warm it with friends, laughter and holiday jazz by the Gino Rosaria Trio. Add sumptuous sustenance and sprinkle with silent and live auctions. Serve in the sparkling Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Community Center and you have the recipe for the most successful Holiday Grande Gala to date.

In the spirit of the season, Holiday Grande guests and sponsors benefitted Pensacola State College students and programs, netting more than \$54,000 for the college's Annual Fund for Excellence.

Paul and Laura Austin,  
Holiday Grande chairs

*Photos by Carmen Jones*



Music student Ralf Romero welcomed guests with holiday tunes.



Michael Reynolds, Stephanie Bargaineer, Christina Reynolds, Sarah and Matthew Fox

### Specify CFC #93008

## Support the College through Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign enables federal employees to contribute to the charities of their choice. Pledges made by federal, civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations, including Pensacola State College Foundation.

CFC campaign season: Sept. 1 through Dec. 15.

Specify Pensacola State College Foundation CFC Number 93008 when making your CFC contribution to support the college.

For more information on ways to support the Annual Fund for Excellence, including Alumni and Friends Memorial Walkway bricks, President's Circle memberships and other giving opportunities, please call (850) 484-1560, or go to [pensacolastate.edu/foundation](http://pensacolastate.edu/foundation).



Linn Farrior (second from left) celebrates winning a mountain retreat in the live auction, along with Rosemary Stoner, Debbie Crossland and Chris Bolton



Patrice Whitten and Vincent Andry





## Grande Thanks!

### Sponsors

**Gold Bell:** Tom and Karen Brown

**Silver Bells:** Linn and Keith Farris, Keegan Staffing

**Winter Wonderland:** AppRiver, AT&T Florida, Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Florida State Employees Federal Credit Union, Gulf Power Co., Dr. and Mrs. Gerard H. Hilbert, Teri Levin, Margie Moore/Merrill Lynch, Trane

**Mistletoe:** David and Abigail Ackerman; Paul and Laura Austin; Avalex Technologies; Bank of America; Bob Tyler Toyota; Kids' Dentist, Stu Bonnin DMD; Gary and Linda Brown; Brown-Galloway Associates; Tim and Marguerite Burr; Designs By Diva; Chris and Caroline Farrugia; Brian and Susan Finger; GulfSouth Private Bank; Mark and Lori Hahn; Mansfield Industrial; McDonald's/Susan and John O'Connor; McKenzie Buick GMC; Will and Jane Merrill; Peter and Angela Moore; Morgan Keegan & Co. Inc.; Morette Co.; The Oar House; Henry and Patricia Odom; Tom and Gigi Owens; Pen Air Federal Credit Union; Rock and Sue Penfold; Roads Inc. of NWF; Colleen Rogers; Rosenbaum Family/Southern Scrap; Karl and Pamela Schutzmann; Hazel Shackley; Linda Tugwell; Wendy's/Wendco Group; Rick and Celeste Whisenant.

**Event:** Apple Market; Carmen Jones Photography; FormSystems Inc.; Nancy's Haute Affairs; North Hill Chair Covers & Linens.

Constance Soutullo, Laura Austin, Celeste Whisenant, Lori Hahn, Karen Hendrix, Linda Brown

## Volunteers

**Event chairs,** Laura and Paul Austin; **sponsorship chair,** Donna Clark; **live auctioneer,** Sandy Sansing; **committee members:** Christie Alsop, David Alsop, Kat Davis, Caroline Farrugia, Rita Finkbone, Helen Brown-Galloway, Karen Hendrix, Abbie Offerdahl, Rena Patton, Rock Penfold, Sue Penfold, Beverly Pica, Boo Rawson, Pamela Schutzmann, Karen Wilder

Stephanie Bargaineer, Christina Reynolds, Michael Reynolds and Charlie Switzer



Browsing the auction items

## Volunteer Corner



Laura Austin

"When you drink a cup of water, don't forget those who dug the well," goes an old Chinese proverb.

Laura Austin, chair of Holiday Grande Gala, has added a modern spin: "When your children do well in college, don't forget to support the college."

Austin says her interest in volunteering with the Foundation is rooted in the positive experiences her children enjoyed as Dual Enrollment students while attending Gulf Breeze High School.

"I felt that Dual Enrollment played a part in their later success. I wanted to give back to the college that gave my children a good start," Austin says.

"Over the years, I've noticed that a number of local business leaders who are quite successful got their start at Pensacola State. I feel that benefiting the college really benefits the whole community."

Friends and fun are also key ingredients in volunteering with the Foundation, Austin adds.

"My favorite part is working with the other volunteers and the Foundation staff. They are all so accommodating and helpful."

Austin, along with her husband Paul, spearheaded the Foundation's most successful ever Holiday Grande Gala, raising more than \$120,000, including in-kind and auction donation values.

"The Holiday Grande committee really made it successful with everyone getting auction items and sponsors," Austin says. "I think everyone looks forward to Holiday Grande. It's such a wonderful way to start the holiday season."



# Celebrations

## Switzer Distinguished Artist

Internationally known artist, printmaker and lecturer Jaune Quick-to-See Smith was honored as the 2012 Switzer Distinguished Artist. Her works were featured in a seven-week show at the Visual Arts Gallery.

Smith delighted students, faculty and community members during her February visit as she led them through a gallery talk, panel discussion and printmaking demonstration.

The Switzer Distinguished Artist series is presented annually through a major gift from the Switzer and Reilly families.



Smith demonstrates her skills for students and community members.

Helen Brown-Galloway and Kat Davis, from left, chat with Jaune Quick-to-See Smith at a reception for the artist.



## Students Add Up Awards

Pensacola State College visual arts students won 34 of the 47 awards presented to college/university students at the 2012 American Advertising Federation/Pensacola ADDY® Awards Gala.

Miranda Anderson won Best of Show for her poster campaign. Seven students won gold medals, nine students won silver medals and seven students won bronze medals. Shown from left: Kristen Regan, Matt Gates, Valerie Baczewski, Caleb Pierce and Krist Lien, Visual Arts Department head.



Photo by Caleb Pierce

## PACE Setter

Congratulations to Foundation supporter Julian MacQueen who received the Business Leader of the Year Award at the 52nd annual PACE Awards presented by the Pensacola Bay Chamber of Commerce. MacQueen is the largest employer on Pensacola Beach.



## Sweet Repeat

Congratulations to the history-making Lady Pirates basketball team. For the second straight year, the Lady Pirates won the Florida College System Activities Association State Championship and returned from the National Junior College Athletic Association finals ranked No. 3 in the nation.

This was the first time in the college's history that an athletic team won back-to-back FCSAA state championships. Sophomore guard Brandy Broome was named state tournament MVP, and head coach Chanda Rigby once again was named FCSAA Coach of the Year.





## “The Pursuit of Happyness” essay winner

*(Editor’s note: Pensacola State student Jill Marlowe won first place in “The Pursuit of Happyness” essay contest based on Chris Gardner’s book and movie of the same title. Below she shares an unexpected bonus in her own pursuit of happiness.)*

“The Pursuit of Happyness” essay contest held the perfect mix of motivators: \$200 prize and the chance to meet Chris Gardner — my hero! I had watched the movie based on his personal struggles every night for over a year to keep myself going. I was working seven days a week as a single mom with seven kids, trying to save enough money to go back to college.

“At the luncheon where my essay was read and I met Chris Gardner, I also met Connie Erickson, the comptroller of Gulf Power Co. I was a business major who still thought more like a mom. Now, thanks to mentoring from Ms. Erickson, I’m a mom who is starting to think more like a business woman!

“Winning \$200 was good for my strained budget. But I believe gaining a mentor was the real prize.”



## Unsung Hero



Martha Caughey

When Pensacola State College Registrar Martha Caughey began her career at the college in 1969 as a departmental secretary, she had no idea she would later head the office in charge of enrolling close to 30,000 students each year.

She credits the faculty in the Division of Social Studies during her early years for encouraging her to move forward.

“They saw something in me that I didn’t even know existed,” Caughey says. “They mentored me to continue my education, which I did — one class at a time.”

Caughey’s experience spans a revolution in office technology. She recalls the days before computers when she made copies at the college’s only photocopy machine, witnessed lines of students registering with punch cards and was impressed by the cutting-edge capabilities of microfiche.

With plans to retire in February 2013, Caughey’s passion for education is as fresh as ever.

“When I am asked, ‘What do you do?’ I respond that I am a record keeper and a problem solver,” Caughey says. “My motivation comes from a sincere desire to assist students to achieve their potential.

“I am thankful for the mentors I have had...and I want to be that for others.



Photos by  
Xiaolun Chen



Thomas J. Raber



Richard Jernigan



Laurel Brownlee

## Forty and Fabulous

Under the direction of Don Snowden, the Pensacola Civic Band celebrated 40 years of first class music with a standing-room only concert at the Saenger Theatre in March.

With 76 trombonists marching down the aisles and across the balcony, “Seventy Six Trombones” was just one of the concert tunes bringing the 1,000-plus audience to their feet.

The playlist was filled with crowd-pleasers like “The Phantom of the Opera” and “Washington Post March” along with popular soloists — Holly Shelton, vocals; Richard Jernigan, clarinet; and Kadisha Onalbayeva, piano.

Guest conductors included Peter Rubardt, Stephen Pearce and Laurel Brownlee, the Civic Band’s only surviving founding conductor.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of James Etherton III, a founding conductor for Civic Band and a longtime Pensacola State College music faculty member, who passed away in October 2011.



## Profile



Ashley Wu Fennell

### FAMILY:

Husband: Jonathan Fennell  
Son: Kai McQuade Fennell  
Parents: P.C. and Judi Wu  
Brother: Chris Wu

### EDUCATION:

Washington High School, 1992  
Pensacola Junior College (now Pensacola State College), A.A., 1994  
Florida State University, B.S., 1996  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, M.S., 1998

### OCCUPATION:

Speech-Language Pathologist,  
San Diego City Schools

### COLLEGE EXPERIENCE:

PJC Leadership Award  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society  
Graduated with honors  
Cheerleader for Pirates basketball team when they won the 1993 NJCAA Division I National Championship

*“PJC (now Pensacola State College) is set up for students to succeed. I knew that when I earned my A.A. degree I would have a solid basis for whatever I wanted to do next.”*

## Ashley Wu Fennell

“What’s up?”

It’s a simple greeting but the response can be complicated, especially for those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

As a speech-language pathologist in San Diego City Schools, Ashley Wu Fennell understands this dilemma better than most, having spent more than a decade helping children learn to communicate effectively.

While multi-tasking is a necessity for anyone who works with school children, Fennell has elevated it to an art form. She squeezed conversations for this profile into her packed schedule via Bluetooth as she navigated San Diego streets from one school to the next.

Her infectious laughter and obvious enthusiasm for working with children easily traversed the 2,000 miles between California and Florida.

For Fennell, the journey from Pensacola to San Diego required more than trading one coastal, sun-drenched city for another. It took years of study, a sense of adventure and a dream of helping others. She credits Pensacola Junior College, now Pensacola State College, with helping her get started on that journey.

From the time she was a small child, Fennell knew she would go to college. After all, her parents, Judi and P.C. Wu, were educators, and her father was an

esteemed professor at the University of West Florida for many years.

“Education was so important in our family, I never doubted that I would go to college,” Fennell says. “But, I didn’t know what my focus would be when I started at PJC.”

Among her many interests was sign language, a skill she learned in Girl Scouts. The importance of sign language became apparent during her years at Washington High School.

“All hearing impaired and deaf students in Escambia County came to Washington High School during the time that I was a student there,” she recalls. “It was a great experience having classes with them. It sparked my interest in speech pathology.”

While Fennell was a student at Washington High School, she began taking Dual Enrollment classes at PJC. When she discovered that she could take a college-credit course in sign language, her interest grew.

Fennell says that PJC’s supportive faculty and small classes created an atmosphere where students were encouraged to pursue their dreams.

“PJC helped me in so many ways,” she says. “The teachers were interesting and so supportive. They gave us a solid foundation and then encouraged us to spread our wings and explore new ideas.



PJC student Ashley Wu



1993 PJC Cheerleading team





Enjoying a recent visit from her family in Florida, Ashley Wu Fennell (third from left) with her husband, Jonathan, holding 18-month-old Kai, along with her brother Chris Wu, and parents Judi and P.C. Wu.

Ashley,  
Jonathan  
and Kai  
Fennell

“I was interested in speech therapy. I thought about how hard it would be, how long it would take to earn the master’s degree that is required for this field. With the education I got at PJC, I felt confident that I could make speech therapy my goal, work hard and make it happen.”

Work hard, she did. After PJC, Fennell earned degrees from Florida State University — her parents’ alma mater — and from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette — all with honors.

But it wasn’t all work. Fennell has fond memories of cheering the Pirates to victory, especially in basketball. In 1993, Fennell was on the cheerleading squad that accompanied the men’s basketball team to Hutchinson, Kan., where they won the NJCAA Division I National Championship, the first national championship in basketball ever won by a Florida college.

“That was such an exciting time,” Fennell says. “The college was so supportive of the team, and they made sure that the cheerleaders were able to make the trip to nationals as well. I still have my national championship ring!”

Fennell also enjoyed the sense of community on campus.

“I never felt lost in the crowd,” she says. “It was easy to get to know everyone. Students, professors — even President Ed Hartsell — interacted and worked together. The college felt like a family.”

Although her roots were firmly embedded in Florida, Fennell says her fascination with California drew her there for a clinical fellowship following her master’s degree.

“I thought I would complete my fellowship in a year and then come back to Pensacola,” Fennell remembers. “But I fell in love with California — the beauty, the great weather, the active lifestyle — and I just stayed.”

Fennell met her husband, Jonathan, in California but she made sure some Florida sand was included in the nuptials. The couple married on Captiva Island,

where Ashley’s parents were married, and where she and Jonathan often had vacationed as children although they never met during those years.

After more than a decade in California, Fennell is still making the most of her surroundings — hiking, kayaking and photographing breathtaking scenery with Jonathan and 18-month-old Kai. When she finds a moment to herself, she enjoys sewing and creating jewelry from metal clay.

“I love being outside with my family. I feel like I am living my dream in paradise,” she says.



# Questions for the President



Ed Meadows  
Pensacola State College  
President

## Why does the college need an annual giving program?

The mission of the Pensacola State College Annual Fund for Excellence is to provide flexible, unrestricted funds for the college to meet unforeseen expenses, to increase awareness of Pensacola State and to build alumni participation through yearly gifts. This fund also supports the areas of greatest need at the college – including scholarships

– and covers critical expenses that tuition, fees and state appropriations do not cover.

A strong annual fund is important because Pensacola State is state-assisted, not state funded. Because state funds, federal funds and capital gifts are restricted to a specific purpose, so many instructional priorities are not funded through any of these income streams. In addition, unrestricted dollars give the college a valuable opportunity to leverage grants and allow the college and Foundation to fundraise for important initiatives.

Most importantly, everything this fund does leads back to students. From admission to graduation, from the honors program to the alumni program – students benefit from Pensacola State having access to a strong annual giving program.

## What role does President's Circle play in the Pensacola State College Annual Fund for Excellence?

President's Circle is a leadership-giving program that not only supports the college financially by providing unrestricted funds, but through these members, the college identifies and works with our biggest advocates in the community. Regardless of one's giving level, a gift of any amount is always meaningful to the college and greatly appreciated.

Biology lab students use equipment supplemented through the Annual Fund for Excellence.

*Photos by Michelle Dycus*



Mike Wiggins  
Annual Fund for Excellence Chair

## Leading the Way

“The new name for the college's greatest needs fund is Annual Fund for Excellence. This better tells what the annual fund does – it fills in the gap between what the state provides and what the college needs in order to provide an excellent education.

“One way to support this fund is through the President's Circle. When you give to the President's Circle, you make a big difference in the lives of students at Pensacola State. Nearly 50 percent of our students are first generation students, the first in their family to go to college. Your gift to President's Circle helps ensure that students from all walks of life have the opportunity for an excellent first step into college at Pensacola State!”





# President's Circle Honor Roll of Donors

We salute our President's Circle members\* for investing in the future of our students through their gifts to the Pensacola State College Annual Fund for Excellence.

*\*Membership list reflects 2011 giving.*

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

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Pacesetter (\$1,000 - \$4,999)  
Patron (\$5,000 - \$9,999)  
Pillar (\$10,000)  
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To join, call  
850-484-1560.





## New Veterinary Technology Program

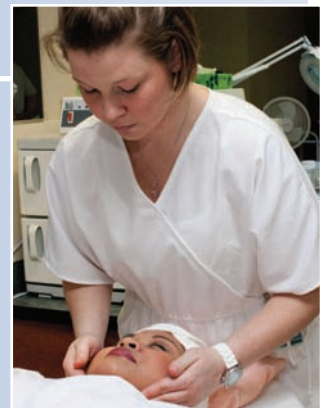
The new Veterinary Technology program on the Warrington campus opened in state-of-the-art facilities that include a surgery room, X-ray room, labs, kennel areas and a reception area.

In support of the much-needed program, Northwest Florida Veterinary Medical Association donated \$5,000 for steel cages, and the Veterinary Emergency Referral Center gave a \$1,500 in-kind donation of steel cages.



## Salon and Spa Gets a Facelift

Cosmetology, barbering and massage therapy students are getting hands-on experience in sparkling, renovated facilities featuring contemporary design, colors and art. Salon and spa appointments are open to the public. For details, call (850) 484-2567.



## Save the Dates

**Sporting Clay Fun Shoot**  
 Saturday, Oct. 6  
 Shoal River Sporting Clays  
 and Shooting Center in Crestview  
 Benefits Universal Scholarship Fund

**Holiday Grande Gala**  
 Friday, Nov. 30  
 Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones  
 Community Center  
 Benefits Annual Fund for Excellence

For details on both events,  
 call (850) 484-1564

*Photos by Michelle Dycus*

## Shining in South Santa Rosa

The stunning new 35,000 square-foot South Santa Rosa Center opened just off Gulf Breeze Parkway on Nantahala Beach Road in January. The two-story, multi-use facility emphasizes green technology and includes classrooms, science labs, computer lab, library, faculty offices and conference room.

