

CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA

SCIENCE TO THE RESCUE:

UWF RESPONDS TO ONE OF THE NATION'S
LARGEST MAN-MADE DISASTERS...

UWF ALUM WORKS ON
NASA PROJECT TO SEND
ROBOTS INTO SPACE

UWF GETS EXTREME—
EXTREME MAKEOVER:
HOME EDITION THAT IS!

ATHLETIC ACTION—
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN



Message from the President



Dear UWF Alumni and Friends:

The 2010 year was one of the most exciting years in our university's history! We reached total enrollment of 11,700 this fall, up five percent over last year; we have more than 1,800 students living on campus, and there is new construction going on all over campus. We are growing purposefully and we are taking control of our future.

Our athletic teams continue to be incredibly successful both on and off the field. We just captured our 57th Gulf South Conference Title, and the student athletes continue to academically perform on an exceptional level. Our athletes deserve state-of-the-art facilities so I am excited to share with you a new athletics facilities master plan. This plan will go to the UWF Board of Trustees for review in December and, if approved, will be integrated into the campus master plan next year. We are currently in the process of an Athletics Fundraising Feasibility Study that will provide us with the vision on how to grow our athletics program.

This year we also faced an environmental disaster of epic proportion. The university was on the front lines providing research, data and expertise on the effects of the Gulf Oil Spill (see cover story on pg.10). We raised our visibility as we

provided much needed service to our region. In fact, UWF was a first responder to the disaster and will long be involved in the region's recovery.

Financial support for the university continues to be key to our success. Gulf Power Company made a \$200,000 pledge for a lab in the School of Science and Engineering, the Florida Legislature has designated \$12 million to expand our College of Business complex and individual gifts are helping our students get the education they deserve through scholarship support. I encourage you to go online to uwf.edu/give to learn more about how your gift can make a meaningful impact for UWF students.

If you haven't visited campus lately or attended an alumni event in your area, please do. We would love to see you, hear about your successes and share ours with you.

Best wishes,

Judith A. Bense, Ph.D, President

We're socially connected in more ways than one.

[Facebook.com/UWFAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/UWFAlumni)

[Twitter.com/UnivofWestFL](https://twitter.com/UnivofWestFL)

[linkd.in/uwf-alumni](https://www.linkedin.com/company/uwf-alumni)

[Flickr.com/UWF](https://www.flickr.com/photos/uwf/)

[YouTube.com/UWF](https://www.youtube.com/user/UWF)

CONNECTION

The purpose of *UWF Connection* is to keep alumni and friends in touch, informed and involved. *Connection* is used to communicate with alumni, parents, donors and other friends of the university to inspire, foster and maintain interest in UWF.

UWF President

Dr. Judith Bense

Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Kyle Marrero

Director of Alumni Relations

KC Etheredge, '00, '09

Executive Director of Marketing & Creative Services

Katrina Janes

Creative Director

Pola Young, '02

Feature Writer

Brenda Gillen, '91

Contributing Writers

Martha Lee Blodgett

Alan Brian

KC Etheredge

Lauren Smith, '08

Alumni Board of Directors

Caroline Hartnett, President (BSBA, '93) Pensacola

Luke van Blaricom, Vice President (BS, '00, MS, '03) Orlando

Maureen Thurston, Treasurer (BA, '95) Tampa

John Gormley (BSBA, '98) Pensacola

Stephen Hester (BA, '91) Lewisville, Texas

Dr. Heidi Lannon (MPA, '86) Gainesville

Dave Langston, (BS, '80) Orlando

Robert L. Lee (BA, '88) Powder Springs, Ga.

Dwayne Manuel, Student Representative

Tim Moore (BA, '05) Pensacola

Paul Prato Fiorito (BA, '81) Pensacola

Kismet Rideau (BA, '96, MEd, '01, EdS, '09) Pensacola

Rebecca Tieder (BA, '04) Tampa

Dr. Stacie Whinnery (MA, '89, EdD '99) Pensacola

Harriet Wyer (BS, '92) Tampa

Contact Us

Web: alumni.uwf.edu

E-mail: alumni@uwf.edu

Phone: 800.226.1893

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

Support UWF

Online: uwf.edu/give

Direct: Kenda Hembrough at 800.226.1893 or
850.474.2758 or khembrough@uwf.edu

UWF Connection is published semi-annually by the Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Marketing & Creative Services.

Address changes can be sent electronically to alumni@uwf.edu.

CONTENTS



10

FEATURES

4 Infinity and Beyond—

Alum works on NASA project to send robot into space...

7 UWF gets Extreme—

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition that is...

10 Science to the Rescue—

UWF responds to one of the nation's largest man-made disasters...

IN EVERY ISSUE

8 Need to Know—

UWF News

14 Developments—

Gifts & Opportunities

16 Athletics—

Athletics Facility Master Plan

17 Class Notes—

Alumni News



16

infinity and BEYOND

John Joseph Carff

'07, BS Systems Science — '09, MS Systems Science

Works on NASA Project to Send Robot Into Space

by: Lauren Smith



In 1969, walking on the moon was considered “one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.” In 2013, it’s possible that this statement may be recapitulated as “one small step for a humanoid, two giant leaps for mankind.”

University of West Florida alumnus John Carff, a research associate at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC), is working with a small team of IHMC employees to make this a reality.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration contracted IHMC to work on developing walking algorithms for a two-legged version of NASA’s “Robonaut” humanoid robot. This project is a precursor to “Project M”, a proposed project to develop and land an operational humanoid robot (referred to as R2), on the moon in 1,000 days. Scientists would control the robot from Earth through various user interfaces, ultimately allowing researchers to study the lunar surface virtually. Carff’s team consists of researchers from both NASA Johnson Space Center and IHMC and is led by IHMC Research Scientist Jerry Pratt. Besides developing the walking algorithms that will run the robot, they also are developing simulations that will provide information about motor requirements and lower body dimensions to the NASA engineers who are designing the lower body. Carff said the most challenging aspect of the project has been understanding how gravity affects the way people walk.

“We have had to learn new ways to walk on the moon, just as the astronauts did when they went there,” he said. “We have successfully enabled our current robot, named M2V2, to walk in Earth gravity, but dealing with moon gravity has been more difficult.” Carff states that on Earth, the robot weighs about 80 pounds and can handle significant disturbances. In moon gravity, the robot would weigh about 13 pounds, so even a slight disturbance could push the robot off balance.”

Many robotics experts consider humanoid robots to be one of the defining technologies of this century and believe they will be as significant for this century as the automobile and personal computer were for the last. According to the NASA Web site, if “R2” becomes fully vetted and funded, the plan is for the robot to walk on the surface of the moon as a technology demonstration. This could lead to future robots that may perform a multitude of engineering tasks.

Carff’s team started working on the project at the beginning of 2010. The federal government will vote on the final funding for Project M at end of this year. Regardless of final funding, the work will continue until early 2011.

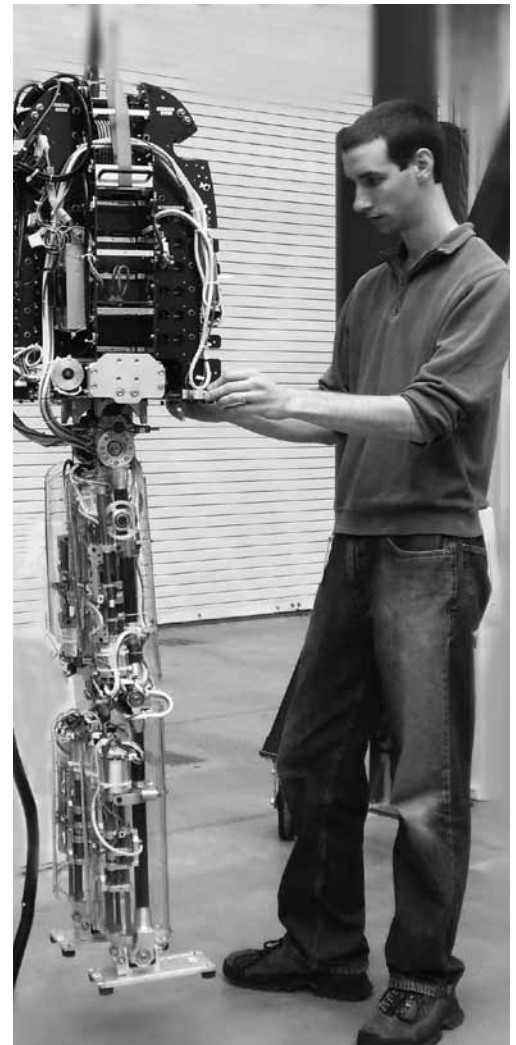
**For many engineers,
working for NASA is the
ultimate dream come true.
Carff is living the dream,
and only one year after
receiving his master’s
from the university.**

“My education and experience at UWF has prepared me to work on a project like this by teaching me to try new things and to always do my best,” said Carff. “I worked on a wide variety of projects at UWF, including my recent master’s project that used augmented reality to navigate robots around urban environments. The paper I produced from that project was published and accepted into a robotics conference last year.”

Carff also received his bachelor’s degree in system science with a concentration in computer science at UWF, as did his three brothers, and sister.

“The main reasons we chose UWF were the computer science program and great location,” he said. “My family and I all agree—UWF is a great place to go to school.”

For more information about Project M, visit robonaut.jsc.nasa.gov. For more information about IHMC, visit ihmc.us. To see recent IHMC robots in action, visit robot.ihmc.us **To learn more about the UWF computer science program, visit uwf.edu/computerscience.**



John Carff is a research associate at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). He started working for the Institute as a research assistant in 2003 as a software tester and now works in the robotics department.



Dr. Bense with SGA members



HOMECOMING 2010

With new buildings on campus to admire, old friends to meet and two Argo soccer wins against the University of Alabama–Huntsville, it was a perfect Homecoming week and weekend for University of West Florida students, alumni and friends the week of Oct. 11. About 2,500 people attended the festivities, including a concert featuring hip hop artist Ludacris on Oct. 14.

“The Ludacris concert was definitely the highlight of the week,” said Joy Tompkins, the program director. “Ludacris and DJ Unk put on great shows and everyone that attended enjoyed themselves.”

Homecoming 2010’s theme was “Waking Up in Vegas...All Bets are On!” The week’s events initiated new students into on-campus activities and set the bar for school spirit and student life.

Five judges were chosen from UWF’s faculty and staff to help decide Mr. and Ms. UWF. Points for contestants were awarded

based on GPA, campus/community involvement and their nomination letter. Out of the 14 people who vied for the titles, Joshua Englund and Ashley Burton won this year’s Mr. and Ms. UWF, respectively. They were announced after the dance, on Oct. 16.

“The Homecoming celebration this year was definitely a success,” said Tompkins. “We have received great responses from the community and the student body about how they enjoyed the events.”

The above photos show some highlights from Homecoming week, including: the Tailgate party, Ludacris concert and Ludacris posing with two UWF students, face-painting at the homecoming carnival and the soccer game win against the University of Alabama-Huntsville. (Both men and women won their soccer games over Alabama-Huntsville)



UWF gets EXTREME...

— Extreme Makeover: Home Edition that is! —

IN COLLABORATION with local builder Heritage Homes, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition and celebrity Mariah Carey surprised the Gaston family, of Baker, Fla., with a home makeover in Pensacola.

ABC's Emmy-Award-winning reality television show, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, relies 100-percent on donations and local volunteers to build a home in one week. UWF faculty, staff and students pitched in and helped build a home for the Gaston family in October, 2010.

The community kick-off pep rally took place in the UWF field-house on Oct. 12, with more than 1,600 people in attendance and standing-room only. There was tremendous school spirit and an outpouring of support as the Escambia High School marching band performed, students showed their support and President Bense, the Extreme Makeover team and guests spoke to the community.

UWF also awarded the family a \$75,000 "Family Scholarship". The Gaston family episode will be featured in Extreme Makeover: Home Edition's holiday special, which aired on Dec. 12.



More than 250 faculty, staff and student volunteers participated in the home build. "UWF is proud to extend the opportunity of a college education to Finis Gaston and his niece and nephews," said President Bense. "This family is looking forward to a better life and we are happy to be part of that by giving them the chance to earn a world-class education."



Vice President for Student Affairs Named

Kevin Bailey, PhD. has been named Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of West Florida. Dr. Bailey will be providing leadership and oversight for the formulation and implementation of University-wide policies, programs and services related to the welfare of the student body outside the classroom. He has been working in student affairs for 20 years, with positions at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Bowling Green State University, Millersville University of Pennsylvania and Tulane University before assuming his role at UWF in August 2010.



Bailey, as most people call him, is also active in student affairs professional associations, having served elected or appointed positions in state, regional, and national organizations including the Southern Association of College Student Affairs (SACSA).

Dr. Bailey has been recognized by the City of Toledo, OH, Outstanding Young Men of America, Bowling Green State University, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Most recently, he was recognized by his alma mater as the 2009 Ronald Lunardini Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

Bailey holds a doctorate in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University and is a graduate of the Management Development Program sponsored by the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. His master's and bachelor's degrees are from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Students enjoy the "Suite Life" in Heritage Hall's apartment-style living. These transitional dorms include multiple private bedrooms, kitchenette, eating area, vanity areas and bathrooms.

Phase 2 for Heritage Hall Residence Hall Underway

Currently, the University of West Florida is in a procurement process to hire a design build team for Phase 2 of Heritage Hall. Design work is to begin in the early part of 2011 with construction beginning by late spring. The building is planned to open Fall semester 2012. Phase 2 will be a companion building to Heritage Hall and will be suite style with single and double bedroom accommodations. Plans include different types of community space, such as a larger student lounge. The phase 2 project will house approximately 250, bringing the number of residential students on campus to more than 2,000.



Watch the new Heritage Hall video at youtube.com/uwf

UWF Offers Two New Online Graduate Programs

The Master of Public Health, M.P.H. degree is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) and is an increasingly valuable degree, as the public health job market continues to expand. This program was recently selected as the #1 Best Buy Online Masters Public Health Degree in the nation by GetEducated.com.

The M.S. Mathematics degree is the ONLY fully online graduate Mathematics degree in the nation. This unique program uses state-of-the-art web-conferencing software that allows students to learn in real-time, and creates a similar environment to the in-class setting.

For more information on UWF's eight online graduate programs, visit onlinecampus.uwf.edu



And the Curtain Rises....Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre

As the lights dim, and the curtain rises, the Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre sets the stage for professional theatre—right here in our backyard.

Using the classic texts of Shakespeare to present musical theatre as well as modernized classics with unique twists, Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre brings in performing artists from all over the country who work alongside the local professionals here in the greater Pensacola area.

Theatre students at the University of West Florida also get an opportunity to work with and learn from these artists through the organization's partnership with UWF. The theatre organization offers competitive apprenticeship and internship opportunities for UWF students. "Our young people need a place where they can not only watch professionals at work, but also practice their craft right alongside them," said Kevin P. Kern, Artistic Director for Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre. Student apprentices are paid by the theatre company for their work, and it provides an opportunity for students to bridge the gap between the theatrical knowledge they gain in class and onstage application.

"It's a vital part of a theatre person's education," Kern said, "We're able to do what universities three and four-times our size can do with this program."

The Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre's next season is *Shakespeare's 12th Night* and the musical: *Forever Plaid*. There will also be a Valentine's Day benefit.

"Just because you're a Shakespeare Theatre doesn't mean you're limited to Shakespeare," Kern stated.

Performances take place at the UWF Center for the Performing Arts. The UWF Alumni Association often organizes group outings to the shows and Alumni Group outing packages can include dinner and actor meet and greets. Military and student discounts are also available.

For more information on the Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre, visit: www.pensacolashakespearetheatre.org or contact **Kevin P. Kern, Assistant Professor of Theatre at UWF: 850.473.7265**



Photos courtesy of the Pensacola Shakespeare Theatre: During a performance of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

Possibilities

Thank you for donating to the UWF Foundation. As a scholarship recipient, I was able to use this funding to help pay for the costs of my study abroad to Lingnan University in Hong Kong this fall semester. As a global marketing major whose interest is marketing research, I could not have come to a better country to learn about Eastern cultures and marketing in developing markets. This experience has made a significant impact in my life, and it has been possible, in part, due to your contribution.

谢谢! (thank you)
—Courtney Murphy



SCIENCE TO THE RESCUE:



UWF RESPONDS TO ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST MAN-MADE DISASTERS...

Horrified, mesmerized, the nation watched the worst oil spill in U.S. history unfold. The British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon oil rig, located 42 miles off the coast of Louisiana, exploded April 20 killing 11 workers. Satellite images showed the widening oil slick reaching shore April 29, and streaming video showed oil gushing from the blown-out rig day in and day out. Estimates of nearly five million barrels of oil flowed into the Gulf of Mexico until the leak was finally contained July 15.

By Brenda Gillen, '91 / Photos by John Blackie

WHILE THE WORLD WATCHED,

University of West Florida faculty, staff and students were immediately on the scene providing assistance to the local community. Since then, they have endeavored to discover the extent of the spill's impacts.

"The University of West Florida prides itself in doing applied research that assists the local community in dealing with issues and problems. Therefore we were able to immediately respond to the oil spill in a wide variety of ways," says Richard Podemski, the associate vice president for research and dean of the graduate school.

Economic losses, Gulf Coast citizens' physical and mental health, and historic treasures like the 16th century shipwrecks in Pensacola Bay all were of concern. A cadre of scientists looked to the Gulf itself, from the ocean depths to the white sandy beaches.

Three UWF researchers were awarded grants totaling \$748,913 from the \$10 million BP gave the state of Florida to support oil spill-related research. Richard Snyder, professor and director of the Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation (CEDB), is co-investigator on two grants, one with Florida State University and another with Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). UWF biology professors Will Patterson and Wade Jeffrey (who also is associated with the CEDB) are leading two projects in collaboration with FAMU.

The CEDB was established in the wake of the Exxon Valdez spill, and for two decades the center's research has generated a wealth of data that now will provide valuable "baselines" or pre-spill conditions. Patterson, Jeffrey and Snyder's projects are funded by the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO), which administered grants from the BP donation. Recipients were selected Aug. 12 for fast-track funding to address scientific issues of immediate importance with priority for collaborative projects and those that would produce substantive results in less than two years. More than 200 proposals were submitted to FIO; 27 received funding.



“ I took this opportunity to pursue research with the Environmental Studies Department primarily because it's a huge event and there will be long-term effects.”

— Dane Smith
UWF environmental
science graduate student

Smith, a UWF environmental science graduate student, spent his summer collecting water samples from the Gulf of Mexico to research the effects of the oil spill and how it could damage delicate ecosystems such as sea grass beds.



INVESTIGATING IMPACT

After the BP spill, Snyder immediately began sampling sand and water. While everybody else tracked the spill visually, Snyder knew oil was dispersing into the water. He wanted to know if and when it would reach Pensacola. Taking samples repeatedly at four locations on Pensacola Beach, Snyder added testing stations in Perdido Key and Okaloosa County to accommodate requests from County officials. These test results were available in 24 hours versus a two-week turnaround for most commercial labs.

“We were able to get the local communities’ information quickly so that they could let the public know whether or not there was a health risk from oil they couldn’t see. Everybody could see the floating oil. Everybody could avoid the patches on the beach. What we were concerned about was if people were being exposed to oil that they couldn’t see,” Snyder explained.

Pensacola Beach was closed in late June while workers removed black sludge from the sand, and at times, health advisories along 33 miles of Florida Panhandle beaches suggested people shouldn’t swim or fish. After the oil leak was contained, it seemed that most of America stopped paying attention, thinking the crisis over. But for researchers like Snyder, the work continues. His projects will investigate impacts to sand, water and fish along shorelines and the continental shelf.

When CNN arrived with a sand sample containing fluorescents and oil, second-year graduate biology student Austin Dixon decided to change his thesis to focus on the possible contamination to the sand. To get core samples, he hammers metal tubes into the ground. Back in the lab, he puts samples through an extraction that tells him what the sample contains.

“There is a fluorescent compound in the oil and I am going to figure out what that is and also see if that relates to other constituents in the oil... because if it does we can use that as an indicator,” said Dixon. “I’m then

going to create a 3-D map or 3-D diagram of where these compounds are in the beach and at what concentrations. And, if I do sampling again, I’m going to look at how the compounds are moving.”

FRAGILE FOOD WEBS

Snyder is also supervising an unfunded research project to test the spill’s impact on coquina clams. Snyder’s “small army” of undergraduates is looking at coquinas, which are considered important links in food webs.

“Coquinas make a good indicator if any of this material is still around because they will concentrate it to the point where we can see it with our analytical equipment. That gives us a biological indicator of impact,” Snyder said.

Marine biology major Gracie Exline, who will be a senior by semester’s end, is one among several UWF students involved in coquina research. The process is painstaking. She hand-collects about 200 of the tiny marine mollusks between tidal wave zones, shucks each one by hand, and then runs a chemical analysis.

“If we can prove that these [coquinas] are a wonderful indicator of marine pollution then we can actually extend that through the Southeastern region of the United States. And so this is much larger than just actually testing for the leftover chemicals from the oil spill,” Exline said.

Using microscopic plants and plantlike organisms in the ocean called phytoplankton and bacterioplankton, Jeffrey is investigating how the oil is affecting carbon cycling. Phytoplankton form the beginning of the food chain for aquatic animals. In the process of photosynthesis, phytoplankton take carbon dioxide and convert it into organic matter or “fix” large amounts of

carbon, which would otherwise be released as carbon dioxide. Jeffrey gathers water from three coastal locations and adds oil and/or dispersants to measure carbon flow dynamics over a period of time.

“Bacteria in particular and phytoplankton are really responsible for the overall quality of water and the health of an ecosystem. So if you disrupt bacteria and phytoplankton processes then you have a big potential to disrupt the overall quality of an ecosystem. You can think of it in terms of if you disrupt the foundation then everything above it can be disrupted too,” Jeffrey said.

Patterson has studied natural and artificial reef communities from Dauphin Island, Ala., to Panama City, Fla. He’s turned his efforts toward discovering effects of oil on Northern Gulf of Mexico reefs. Fish liver and bile can reveal evidence of exposure to oil, and a structure in fish heads called otoliths provide growth data similar to tree rings. Over time, Patterson will be able to tell if fish are growing more slowly. He hopes to develop a unique chemical marker that would identify fish that were exposed to the spill.

“Our ‘before’ data, our baseline, and the data we will be collecting over the next year will serve as an estimate of acute effects, and then, down the road, data we will collect will serve as estimates of chronic effects,” Patterson said.

A COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Data collection, so key to scientific research projects like these, requires a lot of hands in the field. Gulf Coast volunteers, from high school students to senior citizens, continue to collect samples along 35 miles of coastline to assist UWF researchers.

“It was amazing how many people came out of the woodwork wanting to do something to assist,” said CEDB watershed coordinator Barbara Albrecht. “The community was just heartbroken about what was happening and said, ‘What can we do?’”

UWF students eager to participate have been supported in part by BP/FIO grants. In the future, UWF undergraduate students specifically, will have increased opportunities to conduct scholarly research—similar to the student involvement surrounding the oil spill crisis. The UWF Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is a new initiative and was established this fall. It will finance its first projects in December from \$25,000 in available funds. Stipends of \$650 for students and \$100 for their faculty sponsors may be used for supplies, books and travel for one semester.

OUR Director Pamela Pippin Vaughan said, “It just really transforms their thinking and they’re better able to synthesize all of the information that they have learned in their courses. It’s more like a problem-solving mode



University of West Florida faculty researchers acted on the forefront of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, conducting significant research and serving as expert resources in local, regional and national news.

that they go into that is sometimes hard to teach in a traditional classroom.” For many Gulf Coast citizens, the problems created by the BP oil spill have forever changed their lives. WUWF Public Media has encouraged local citizens to tell their personal stories through StoryCorps, a nonprofit video storytelling project. The StoryCorps mobile booth holds interviews in Pensacola Dec. 15–22.

READY FOR THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

For UWF, the story is far from over. It may take years to learn the full impact of the BP oil spill. While the rest of the nation may have turned its attention elsewhere, UWF will continue to ask questions and find answers that the Gulf Coast needs. UWF President Judith Bense addressed the university response to the oil spill in a video posted on YouTube.

“At the University of West Florida we are at the forefront and actively engaged in providing answers our community needs to move forward. We’ve played a significant role in maritime and environmental studies for decades. Our scientists are sampling and analyzing and teaching throughout the region. Our economists are working with state and national leaders to help stabilize businesses during this crisis and our curricula are evolving to engage students in the science of this disaster.” Bense concluded by saying, “UWF is ready for the long road to recovery.”

To learn more and find out how to support spill-related and other UWF research visit:

CEDB: uwf.edu/cedb/index.cfm

UWF OUR: uwf.edu/our/

StoryCorps: wuwf.org/events/storycorps.shtml

Visit www.youtube.com/uwf to watch UWF’s oil spill response video featuring UWF President Bense and UWF researchers.



To watch the video that was played at the dinner showing students expressing, in their own words, how powerful these gifts have been, visit: uwf.edu/give/impact.

Donor Dinner Recap

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, the University of West Florida held its annual Donor Appreciation Dinner at the Museum of Commerce in Downtown Pensacola. Students participated with UWF President Bense and Foundation Board members in thanking UWF's most generous and loyal donors for their support in excess of \$3 million during FY09-10. The thoughtful gifts from these alumni and friends supported academic programs, scholarships, athletics and numerous other UWF initiatives. The evening was an opportunity for UWF to express sincere appreciation to donors for their support.

To see highlights from the evening, visit flickr.com/photos/uwf and search for the Donor Appreciation Dinner 2010 album.

Ron Besser, UWF Friend, Photographer and Philanthropist

ON NOV. 30, UWF LOST A FAMILY MEMBER, STUDENT, FRIEND AND TRUE PHILANTHROPIST. The "man behind the camera," Ronald N. Besser, USN (Ret.) died unexpectedly.

The name Ron Besser brings so many images and characteristics to mind for friends of UWF: husband, student, photographer, patron, historian, veteran, friend, fan, volunteer and so much more. For 20 years, Ron shared his time, talents, resources and wisdom with many people. With his passing, the UWF family is forever changed.

During the last week of his life, Ron and his wife, Valmae, endowed a scholarship in the theatre design/technical department in the UWF Center for Fine and Performing Arts.

After years of giving, this major gift will now become another one of Ron's legacies at UWF. We will value his photographs. We will remember his history lessons, his passion for lifelong learning and his unwavering support for theatre and athletics. In addition, future UWF students studying in the theatre design/technical department will also be the beneficiaries of the generosity of Ron and Valmae Besser and their spirit of giving.





Gulf Power Makes Powerful Investment

The Gulf Power Foundation, Inc. recently announced a gift commitment of \$200,000, marking the single largest investment to date in the new University of West Florida School of Science and Engineering. This donation will create a state-of-the-art lab allowing the engineering program to purchase training equipment to benefit UWF students in the areas of solar power, wind generation and more.

Susan Story, president and chief executive officer of Gulf Power, said the grant would also provide for enhanced curriculum. "In addition to equipping the lab, this grant will help with professional development, new courses, distance learning and online classes. This is an important investment in terms of educating our future employees who will have the knowledge and skill sets needed for our workforce. This Power Lab will empower these future engineers."

According to school director Leo ter Haar, "During the design phase of the new Science and Engineering Building, Gulf Power engineers were consulted to provide layout and equipment recommendations for the Power Lab. However, the budget shortfalls prevented us from fully equipping the lab. Thanks to this generous gift, we will complete our lab and immediately enhance and support basic engineering curriculum."



UWF'S FIRST-EVER FAMILY WEEKEND

With 109 UWF families represented, the weekend kicked off on Sept. 24, with events ranging from open house tours of the Counseling and Wellness Center to an origami workshop. More than 285 family members got the chance to experience undergraduate campus life at UWF during the University of West Florida's first Family Weekend.

ANNOUNCING THE UWF ANNUAL GIVING ALLIANCE

Alumni and friends who make monthly or quarterly gifts to the university provide steady and ongoing support for our students and the programs they treasure. The university is excited to honor these loyal donors with membership in the UWF Annual Giving Alliance. Membership benefits include special recognition in the annual Honor Roll of Donors, plus:

- Eliminating the cost of renewal and reminder notices, acknowledgement letters and postage.
- Reducing costs related to fundraising via mail, e-mail and phone.
- Providing UWF a stable and sustainable source of income to support the programs, departments and scholarships that our students value.

Joining is as easy as 1-2-3...

1. Go to uwf.edu/give and add a gift of \$10 or more to the shopping cart.
2. When you check out, choose to give on a monthly or quarterly basis, and select the option to become a member of the Annual Giving Alliance.

3. Sit back and relax! Your installment will be automatically deducted and a record of each transaction will appear on your monthly statement. Your membership is automatically renewed each year on your membership anniversary date.

For more information, please call the Annual Giving Office at 850.857.6112 or connect via e-mail at khembrough@uwf.edu

ATHLETICS: argo action

The Athletic Facility Master Plan was created to help ensure that UWF remains competitive and positions itself for future program expansion that will transform the university's athletic program (as we grow our program). EMO/Architects, Inc. created the conceptual designs.

“As we move forward, I am excited about the future of UWF Athletics. We have a plan to move ahead strategically and to build upon a very successful athletic program. Please join me in supporting UWF Athletics as we launch into a new era.”

— President Judy Bense

The University Park area is envisioned as the core of student life on campus. The aerial view from the northeast, (top photo), overlooks the fully developed University Park area. Beginning clockwise from the top of the lawn is the proposed, renovated and expanded field house, the renovated and expanded natatorium including an outdoor pool, the football stadium, student union, events center and bell tower. Directly adjacent to and surrounding the lawns are four future facilities, each of which could be comprised of academic or administrative facilities, student residences or other types of facilities.

The East Sports Complex area is conceived as the center of UWF Field Athletics on campus. This aerial view from the west, overlooks the fully developed East Sports Complex. Beginning clockwise, from the upper right is the proposed renovated track and field, soccer field and sports performance center, the east complex pavilion, baseball stadium, events promenade, softball stadium, and outdoor tennis complex.

The timeline for the future of athletics at UWF includes a Fundraising Study, which is happening now; the development of a Football Feasibility Study in spring 2011 and a presidential decision on UWF Football in summer 2011. We will continue to keep you informed as the exciting future for UWF Athletics continues to develop.



Explore
UWF SUMMER CAMPS

UWF's *Explore Summer Programs* present awesome opportunities for youth (grades kindergarten to 12) to widen horizons and discover new strengths. All of our programs are carefully designed to be engaging and fun. UWF offers Explore Youth Programs and summer camps in everything from theatre to sports, and studying marine biology at Pensacola Beach to engineering! **Children of UWF Alumni receive a 5%**

discount. For more information visit: uwf.edu/exploreamps

Class Notes

ALUMNI NEAR & FAR

73, Mort O'Sullivan III, BA accounting; managing partner of the accounting firm O'Sullivan Creel LLP; has been elected to the Gulf Power Co. board of directors.

74, Michael Given, BS cellular and molecular biology; has received the Vietnam Veterans of America Excellence in the Sciences Award at VVA's biennial National Leadership Conference on August 14.

74, Kenneth Benoit, BA music; has received an ASCAP Plus Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for his efforts as an active composer.

74, James Rish, BA interdisciplinary social science; has been named Gulf County's Farm Family of the Year by the Gulf County Extension Service. Rish is a 4th generation bee keeper and Wewahatchka native.

76, 87, Thomas Bell, BS management, MPA; was named to serve a two-year term on the Escambia County Board of Adjustments in May 2010. He is senior vice president of NAI Halford Commercial Real Estate.

77, Henry Morgan Jr, BA political science; was recently named to The Best Lawyers in America 2011 list.

80, Sharon Arnold, BA sociology; is a principal in Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold Marketing and Public Relations which recently merged with m.creative.



74, Michael Given

80, Virginia Shelby, BA elementary education; has opened Shelby Tax Consultants in Pensacola.

82, Frances J. Yeo, BS marketing; is the coordinator of continuing education at Pensacola Junior College.

82, 87, 08, Cheryl Auten Butler, BS leisure studies, BS physical education, MS physical education; was named the Southern District Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Butler is a teacher at Jim Bailey Middle School in Pensacola.

83, Richard Staples, BS management; has written his first novel, "Prophets and Bad Guys," set in Pensacola; the novel's protagonist is a student at the University of West Florida.

84, Kenneth Ford, MS system science; was awarded the National Aeronautic and Space Administration's highest honor, the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal. The distinguished Public Service Medal was given to Ford for "displaying distinguished service... and making an exceptional contribution to NASA representing substantial progress to its mission."

85, Ruth A. Smith, MS educational leadership; retired in June 2010 after a 43-year teaching career. She spent her last 25 years at Pleasant Grove Elementary School.

90, Greg Caples, BA accounting; has been named as chief operating officer for Summit Medical Center in Tennessee.

90, Lee Conroy, BS system science; was recently named IT Manager for Chevron's MidContinent/Alaska Strategic Business Unit.

90, 94, Bryan S. Shell, BA interdisciplinary social science, MS educational leadership; was named as the new principal of Pace High School.



76, BILL POWLEY, MBA; a retired Air Force officer and mentor to thousands of Air Force Junior ROTC cadets, has been named winner of the 24th annual A. Scott Crossfield Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year Award. Powley, a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, has flown supersonic fighters, 347 combat missions and is twice a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

91, Leslie Smith, BA communication arts; was named chief operating officer for EW Bullock Associates, a Pensacola marketing and public relations firm.

92, Darlene Dickey, BA criminal justice; has been elevated to commander and has assumed the third highest position in the Escambia County Sheriff's Office command structure.

92, Darby Kenniff, MBA; has joined Neal & Company, LLC, a commercial sales and leasing real estate firm.

92, Lynn Vinson, BS nursing; has joined the staff of West Florida Healthcare as clinical resource director.

93, Garu Urteaga, BS economics; received the MYPE President Prize from Alan Garcia Perez, the president of Peru, during a ceremony at the presidential palace in May 2010. The MYPE President Prize is the highest recognition of the state to an entrepreneur as a benchmark of entrepreneurship, effort and development.

94, Sarah Williams-Tolliver, MS health education, completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree.



93, Gary Urteaga

95, Jennifer Richardson Hagler, BA international studies; and her husband welcomed their son Jackson Wallace Hagler on Aug. 9.

96, 00, Angel Hill-Reynolds, BA science, MA education; has joined the Alternative Health Food Store as the store's holistic nutrition consultant.

96, Edwin Howard, BA political science, and wife Kristen Howard, AA; welcomed their first child, Edwin Emmanuel Howard on Sept. 13, 2010. Edwin is a Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy.

96, 05, Farica Marie King, BA special education, MA educational leadership; was named the 2010 Middle School Reading Leader of the Year by Just Read, Florida!

Don't be shy alumni! We'd like to include your news and photos in Class Notes. Send your information to: alumni@uwf.edu



79, 93, LINDA EVANCHYK, BA communication arts, MA communication arts; was inducted into the National Teacher Hall of Fame in June. She has taught English and journalism for 26 of her 31 years at Choctawhatchee High School in Fort Walton Beach.

98, Denise Plouviés, BS health leisure and sports; has graduated with a Master of Science in healthcare administration from the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

99, 03, Kathryn Cornwell Foster, BA accounting, MBA; was married on June 12, 2010.

00, Sean Enfinger, BA anthropology, MA interdisciplinary humanities; is a Native American rapper who raps under the name Shadowyze. He raps and appears throughout the video for the song "Feel Your Love (en San Pedro)" from the latest Franxel y Chamika album "Los Nenes Del Grubeo," released in July.

00, Daniel Edward Henderson, BS finance; is now a certified veterinary practice manager, a distinction offered by the Veterinary Hospital Managers Association, the CVPM is the group's highest professional distinction.

02, Carolyn Gambles, MA special education; won the Florida Foundation for Excellence in Education's 2010 Excel Award for Escambia County.

03, Keir Hoppe, MBA; who currently resides in Colorado, welcomed a son Kaden in May.



95, Jennifer Richardson Hagler



96, Edwin Howard



03, Keir Hoppe

03, 05, Virginia Elizabeth Joiner, BA international studies, MEd educational leadership; has accepted the position of director of campus life at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, WA.

03, Justin B. Mazzara, BA legal administration; has been named a Rising Star in the 2010 edition of Florida Super Lawyers. He is an associate in the commercial litigation group in the Fort Myers offices Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP.

04, Jessica Morris, BA communication arts; communications manager with International Paper, received the For Profit Communicator of the Year award during the Florida Public Relations Association, Northwest Florida 2010 Image Awards in April.

04, 06, Elona Jouben, BA political science, BA legal administration; has received her master's degree in professional studies, paralegal studies from George Washington University.

04, Susan Nitterauer, MA english/creative writing; has received the Eric Hoffer Award for Short Prose & Independent Books in the commercial fiction category for her book "Cold Case In Ellyson".

05, Brandon Winslett Kirkland, BS biology; graduated from the doctoral of medicine degree program at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile, Ala. He received the Medical Assurance Award for the senior who excelled in patient communication and the John W. Donald Award in Surgery for academic excellence. He accepted a pediatric residency at the UA Medical Center.

06, Augi Lye, BS electrical engineering; was featured in a New York Times article in April, spotlighting ToneRite, Inc., his company which specializes in providing musicians with advanced play-in devices.

06, Kerstan Mork, MA psychology, was selected to receive a \$10,000 State Farm Companies Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Award.



Rocking People to Sleep

Christopher Brill, 03, MA Psychology

Christopher Brill continues to build on the research he did while working on his thesis at UWF. Brill, now an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Old Dominion University, is studying Sopite Syndrome—or motion-induced drowsiness. Brill's innovative study tests subjects that sit in a motorized glider rocking chair to determine how much of the rocking motion makes them feel drowsy. Brill received a \$36,000 grant under the Virginia Space Grant Consortium's New Investigator Program, since Sopite Syndrome can be problematic for astronauts in space and is pursuing additional funding opportunities for this research from agencies such as NASA and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He notes that there is no shortage of people who want to sign up for the test to be rocked to sleep in the chair and states, tongue in cheek, that perhaps he should charge admission to supplement his research funding.

07, Amanda Brewer, BA special education; was named the 2010 Santa Rosa County Rookie Teacher of the Year in April. Brewer is a third-year teacher at Pea Ridge Elementary School.

07, Courtney Longuet Cook, BA social work; was named Social Worker of the Year for 2009 by the National Association of Social Workers – Northwest Florida Chapter.

08, Amy Maygarden, MA accounting; an accountant with O'Sullivan Creel, has received her Florida Certified Public Accountant's license.

08, Steve Schickel, BS accounting; has been promoted to accounting senior with Bloomer, Geri & Company, CPAs.

09, William Straley, BA international studies; has been selected to participate in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. Starley will spend one year immersed in Japanese Culture as a language teacher in Hokkaido, Japan.

In Memoriam

68, Harold I. Renninger Jr., BA psychology; died May 2, 2010.

68, 76 Jo Alice Tarwater, BA elementary education, MA elementary education; died July 30, 2010.

69, Nicole Wirth, BS cellular and molecular biology; died May 7, 2010.

70, 74, James Dingle, BS management, MA economics; died May 3, 2010.

70, Clyde Russell Jr., BS health leisure and sports; died Aug. 17, 2010.

71, 79, Sue F. Turner, BA, MA elementary education; died June 6, 2010.

73, 86, James Attaway, BA psychology, BS industrial tech; died July 25, 2010.

76, Billy W. Helms, BS management; died June 3, 2010.

83, Arlene Mazurek, BS vocational education; died June 7, 2010.

87, Mary Allen, BA english; died May 30, 2010.

88, Lamoyne Edwards, BA social work; died July 31, 2010.

00, James Land, BS system science; died Aug. 20, 2010.

01, Michael Francis Bloomer, BS management; died May 26, 2010.



1



2



3

Attending chapter alumni events in your area is a great way to get caught up with UWF!

1. Alumni and friends at UWF night at Pensacola Pelicans game.
2. Alumni BOD members and guests at a university dinner.
3. Denver area alumni and friends at a gathering in September.



Alumni Quick Takes

GOLFING FOR A CAUSE – Fourth Annual Scholarship Classic

Seventy golfers teed off Sept. 24 at the fourth annual Alumni Scholarship Classic at Stonebrook Golf Club in Pace, FL. For the second year in a row, tournament champions in the alumni / community division were Steve Bedford and Marty Stanovich. The student division team winners were Justin Ford and Daniel Reynolds. Both teams won all expense paid trips to Las Vegas to play in the National Collegiate Golf Championships in November. Congratulations to our winners! The real winners of the day were UWF students. More than \$10,000 was raised from the tournament for scholarships. The proceeds will be combined with the proceeds from previous years' tournaments to create a scholarship endowment for students in need.

Special thank you to our Chambered Nautilus Sponsor, GEICO, and to the following sponsors: UWF Recreation & Sport Services, Chartwells, Morette Company, Coastal Moving & Storage, UWF Bookstore, Sandy Sansing Automotive, Caroline Hartnett and The Lewis Bear Company

Save *the* Date
 –next year's tournament–
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011



UWF Alumni Travel Program—Two upcoming opportunities for Alumni with special pricing on group travel.

March 11 – 18, 2011—Monumental Rome. Land program includes six nights in Rome at a four-star hotel, buffet breakfast daily, special welcome gathering, professional dedicated tour guides, and all local taxes. Price per person \$1,749.

August 15 – 26, 2011—Mediterranean and Greek Isles Luxury Cruise. Includes stops in Barcelona, Marseille, Monte Carlo, Florence/Pisa, Rome, Amalfi/Positano, Sicily, Zakynthos, Santorini, Kusadasi, and Athens. Cruise program includes 10 nights accommodations onboard Oceania Cruise Ship Nautica; all meals, entertainment, and facilities onboard; private welcome reception; complimentary bottle of wine, and more. Price is two for one and includes airfare from select cities starting at \$3,799 per person.

Call Go Next Travel at 800.842.9023 or 952.918.8950 or visit www.GoNext.com for more information, and mention you are a member of the UWF Alumni Association.

CONNECTION

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

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 183
Pensacola, FL

Upcoming Events (visit alumni@uwf.edu for the most up-to-date information)

February

- 4 – School of Science & Engineering Alumni Event
- 17 – DC Area Alumni Event
- 18 – UWF Athletics Hall of Fame

March

- 24 – Creating Great Futures Campaign Closing Celebration
- 25 – College of Business Groundbreaking Ceremony
- 30 – Tallahassee Area Alumni Event

April

- 1-2 – Festival on the Green
- 1 – Phillips Jazz Piano Competition
- 2 – Annual Alumni Awards Celebration
- 21 – Emerald Coast Area Alumni Event
- 30 – Commencement