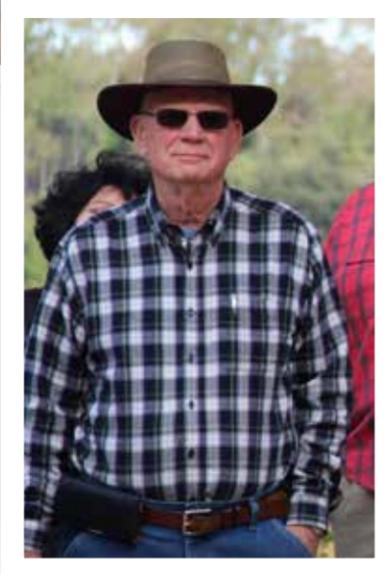


A L U M N I ANCHOR

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016
4TH EDITION



Pheasants, quail and scholarship dollars

Annual hunts generate scholarships for PSC students

Mix a crisp fall weekend, a group of happy hunters, dedicated volunteers, and guided pheasant and quail hunts in an absolutely gorgeous setting in South Alabama, and what do you get?

More scholarship dollars for Pensacola State College students.

Held at the Dennis Lake Wing Club in Bay Minette and now in the third year, the PSC Alumni Association's Pheasant and Quail Hunts began with a volunteer's desire to help more students receive financial support to attend college at PSC.

Founded by alumnus Gerry Goldstein and organized by committee chairs, Mike Thomas, Deryl Hargett and Joseph Herring, the hunt has grown to include more hunters and a getaway weekend hunting experience. This year's expanded hunt—scheduled for Nov. 12 and 13—will bring together a group of PSC supporters for another extraordinary weekend of camaraderie and sport that will generate more scholarships for qualified area residents.

Since November 2014, more than \$8,000 in scholarships have been awarded to students from the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

"The annual pheasant and quail hunts provide educational opportunities to

those PSC students who don't have the funds needed for classes, books and other expenses," said Patrice Whitten, executive director of Alumni Affairs at Pensacola State College. "It's one of many fundraisers that provide scholarships to our students."

Established by the PSC Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2014, the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund was initially made possible by an anonymous donor who gave \$10,000 to the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association Board of Directors voted to set aside another \$10,000 for scholarships from funds raised. Along with other future

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Wayne Wooten
Always Looking Up!

PSC Offers Bachelor's Degree
in Cybersecurity

May Brothers Find Home at PSC

Marie Young Gives Back
to the Community

Images clockwise from top left: 1. PSC President Ed Meadows bestows an "Honorary Doctorate of Quailology" Degree on host Hamilton Smith in appreciation for his support. **2.** Andrew Meadows, Dr. Meadows and Edwin "Doc" Roberts anticipating the pheasant hunt. **3.** Lou Ray, Warren Whitfield, Larry Whitten and Deryl Hargett at the pre-hunt safety briefing. **4.** Dr. Bob Richburg at the safety briefing and ready for the hunt. **5.** Alumnus Mike Thomas enjoying the post-hunt barbecue lunch with Allen and Chuck Unkrich. **6.** Dr. Meadows, Hamilton Smith and his wife take out a minute to share the new diploma.

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Pheasant Hunt cont. from pg. 1

alumni activities, the Association's annual pheasant and quail hunts will continue to generate funds for that endowed scholarship fund.

So far, the scholarships have helped many PSC students including Natasha Suggs, a May graduate who will enter nursing school at the Warrington campus this fall.

"I probably wouldn't be pursuing my nursing degree if it were not for the scholarship," said Suggs, who earned her certificate in phlebotomy and plans to eventually become a nurse anesthetist or specialize in gerontology care.

The 20-year-old Century resident doesn't qualify for federal aid because of her parents' incomes, however she insists on shouldering the burden of her college education.

"I applied for the scholarship because I have two younger siblings — my brother, Warren, just graduated from West Florida High and is heading to college this fall, and my sister, Danielle, will be a sophomore

at Jefferson Davis Community College (Brewton, Alabama)," she said. "I feel like my parents have already done so much for me — I see the career path I've selected as my responsibility."

In order to pay her way, Suggs — who earned her CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) certification while at West Florida High — has been working since she was a teen.

"I plan to use the (PSC) scholarship funds to pay for books and uniforms for my classes. It costs about \$1,000 to be completely outfitted for the nursing program and I've got to buy some comfortable shoes," she explained.

According to the scholarship criteria, to qualify for PSC scholarships, students must demonstrate a financial need, have a 2.0 grade point average, be enrolled full- or part-time and be a U.S. citizen or resident alien. Funds may be used to cover tuition, fees, books and supplies and recipients can receive funding for up to two years for an

associate degree or up to four years for a baccalaureate degree.

Students like Suggs are the primary reason these fundraisers are essential, Whitten said.

"Natasha is among our best and brightest but just needed help in order to continue her schooling," Whitten said. "Being able to help students like her is why it is important we continue to find ways to provide these scholarships. We invite our many alumni and friends to help more students by giving any amount to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. All gifts are needed and appreciated."

Suggs is thankful for the assistance.

"This scholarship will help me remain focused on completing my education because I'll be financially secure and can put time and effort into my classes rather than worrying about how I'm going to pay for books, uniforms or whatever is needed," she added. 



Board Members FOCUS

BUCK LEE



Buck Lee, former executive director of Santa Rosa Island Authority, and candidate for Escambia County Tax Collector

Buck Lee's roots run deep in Escambia County and at Pensacola State College. The 69-year-old was born and raised in the Warrington community — attending Warrington Elementary and Warrington Middle before graduating from Escambia High in 1965.

He attended Pensacola Junior College for one year — 1965-66 — before transferring to the University of Mississippi. He was an Ole Miss student from 1966-68 until the U.S. Army came calling.

Starting his collegiate career at PJC was an easy choice and the right choice, Lee says.

"When I got out of high school, my parents gave me two options — Marion Institute (Marion, Alabama) or Pensacola Junior College. To me that was like choosing between federal prison or the beach," he admits with a smile. "I chose PJC and the experience really prepared me for Ole Miss. I remember my guidance counselor advising me to take a dictionary to Oxford — because my spelling wasn't too great."

After serving in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years, Lee returned to Escambia County and went to work at the Jack Lee Buick dealership as well as in the community. Always civic minded, he is a Rotary Club International Paul Harris Fellow — a designation recognizing his

28 years of perfect attendance. He also is a founding member of the Pensacola SERTOMA Club (Service to Mankind).

Over the years, he has served as president of Order of Christian Deluna, on the Fiesta of Five Flags Board of Governors, a United Way committee chairman and was a member of Hadji Shrine Temple.

He's also made time for Pensacola State College — he has been a member of the PSC Alumni Association Board of Directors for the past two years.

Lee has the distinction of being one of only a few Florida officials to have served as a commissioner in two counties. In 1990, he ran for the Escambia County Commission and won by 37 votes. He served one term — 1990-1994. And after moving to Santa Rosa County, he served for one term — 2000-2004 — on the county commission.

"My parents instilled in me at an early age to give back to the community — whether volunteering with a local organization or serving in some other capacity. I was instructed to do everything I could to make this area better," he says.

Lee has two children: a daughter, Michelle Tucker, who lives in Montgomery, and a son, Buck Lee Jr., who splits his time between New Orleans and Pensacola. He also has three grandchildren. 

DAVID COLLINS



David Collins, owner and operator of David Collins Schools, LLC.

Like many students in the late 1960s, David Collins entered Pensacola State College, then known as PJC, eager to get started but not sure where he wanted to go.

Along the way, he found professors who were encouraging and classes that inspired him to try new paths. Collins says this educational road map led to the success he enjoys today.

"PJC was the foundation that got me started," Collins says. "The classes, faculty, friends and experiences I had at the college opened my eyes to possibilities that I had not considered before."

He easily recalls history professors Tom Gilliam Sr. and William Beck for their mentoring and being available after class as well as presenting challenging material during class.

Dr. Beck also served as the faculty sponsor for Delta Kappa Alpha, a fraternity that was pivotal to student life at the college during its early decades.

When Collins pledged DKA, he gained a brotherhood that he still enjoys today.

"The camaraderie we shared in the 60s and 70s has never faded — we still get together often," Collins says. "A couple years ago, the DKAs had a 50th anniversary reunion and more than 200

members from all over the country came to celebrate."

That same sense of connection extends to the PSC Alumni Association and fuels the energy Collins has for growing the membership.

"If there had not been a PJC — a college that allowed me to grow and be involved — I would have missed out on a lot of opportunities," he says.

After graduating from PSC, Collins earned a bachelor's degree at the University of West Florida. Working in real estate since 1978, he now owns three licensed real estate schools and a publishing company, and is an in-demand speaker on real estate in Florida.

"There has to be a time to give back, to say thanks to those who inspired me," Collins adds. "I want to use this time on the alumni board to remind others of what this college has done for them, to energize our base, and make it so that people want to be a part of us." 

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Wayne Wooten shows Suzanne DeLay how to use a Galileoscope.



Dr. Wooten works with Scouts from Troop 10 to complete astronomy merit badges.



Astronomer Scott Gottilla and Dr. Wooten

Always looking up!

The sky has never been the limit for PSC Astronomy Professor Wayne Wooten. His insatiable curiosity has prompted him to probe beyond the visible heavens since he was a nine-year-old on his family's farm near DeFuniak Springs.

"It was August 1957," Wooten recalls as though it were yesterday, "I was in the field all day helping my Dad. In the twilight, I looked up and saw a beautiful comet called Mrkos. It had a long flowing tail and I was fascinated. That's when I knew I would be an astronomer."

Wooten got his first telescope the following Christmas. Before long, his parents who were both educators began hosting stargazing events at their farm for friends, neighbors and anyone interested.

As steadfast as the Sun rising in the east, Wooten pursued his dream and earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in astronomy and astronomy education from the University of Florida. Although he had an offer to teach in Gainesville, Wooten came to PSC, then Pensacola Junior College, in 1974, partly to be near his family in DeFuniak.

In the past 42 years, Wooten's fascination with the universe has not dimmed.

Besides teaching astronomy classes, Wooten's calendar often includes setting up telescopes on PSC sidewalks for impromptu stargazing; sponsoring the PSC Student Astronomy Club; being the driving force since 1977 for Escambia Amateur Astronomy Association activities such as regular stargazing events at Ft. Pickens, the Pensacola Beach pavilion, and Big Lagoon State Park; editing the EAAA "Meteor" newsletters; and emailing photos and maps of the night sky to a plethora of followers.

Add to this exhaustive list the time that Wooten spends outside class making sure his students are learning to their full potential. On any afternoon, Dr. Wooten's office in Building 17 can be identified by students spilling out into the hallway. There you will find Dr. Wooten patiently answering questions, explaining problems and, in general, sharing half a century of wisdom along with individual attention as he inspires students to become astronomers.

And, in his spare time? Wooten snapped the first known photo of Jupiter's equatorial ring in 1979; he helped develop a PBS series called "Astronomy: Observations and Theories" that won an Emmy in 2006; and he continues to make Galileo telescopes for local school children, work with Scout troops to meet requirements for astronomy merit badges... and the list goes on.

Physical Sciences Department Head Ed Stout pointed out that Wooten's indefatigable commitment to astronomy led to Wooten being among the first inductees into the college's prestigious Academy of Teaching Excellence in 1986 and eventually earning national and international recognition.

In June 2010, Dr. Wooten received the Astronomical League Award at an international presentation in Tucson, Arizona. This is the highest award in amateur astronomy given yearly to only one person who has made worthwhile contributions to astronomy on a national or international level.

Dr. Stout also joined the PSC faculty in 1974 along with Dr. Wooten and shares memories of their early days teaching astronomy and chemistry in the old Baars Science Building and touring the college district when it consisted only of the Pensacola campus and the original Milton Center.

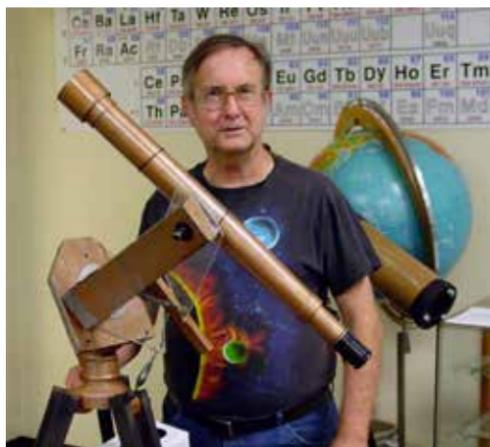
In Dr. Stout's nomination letter for Dr. Wooten to receive the Astronomical League Award, he summed up Wooten's many accomplishments with a simple statement that still rings true: "Wayne ... often can be found outside his classroom building peering through a telescope and sharing the excitement with students, colleagues, and anyone with an interest."

When Dr. Wooten reminisces about his four decades at PSC, he talks about his students who number close to 30,000. He stays in touch with many of them including Scott Gottilla who operates the world's third largest telescope at the MMT Observatory in Arizona.

But, Wooten says his favorite PSC memory comes from several years ago, working with his wife, Merry Edenton-Wooten. Using Merry's original oil paintings, blending art and science, they created a planetarium show, "When Worlds Erupt," that looked at volcanic processes throughout the solar system.

So, what excites Dr. Wooten about for the future?

"Seeing the unseen," he says. "I'm excited about the new technology that lets us see so much more. Keep looking up!"



Dr. Wooten and his students are building Galileoscopes for local school children.

PSC OFFERS BAS IN CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity careers are among the fastest-growing employment sector and Pensacola State College has stepped up to meet the need.

This summer, PSC is offering classes for the new Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Cybersecurity. The BAS in Cybersecurity will be PSC's third bachelor's degree program, and was approved by the Florida Board of Education in January.

PSC President Ed Meadows said the BAS in Cybersecurity degree program will help provide a pipeline of qualified IT professionals to Northwest Florida's growing cybersecurity industry, and help economic development agencies recruit even more companies to the region - because of the availability of a trained workforce.

"Currently we offer 12 cybersecurity certifications in our associate degree program. The new bachelor's degree will allow us to expand to 19 certifications," Meadows said. "We also will continue to work with our secondary school systems as well as the University of West Florida to further develop opportunities for students to seek careers in this high-demand, high-wage and rapidly growing industry."

To enroll in the BAS degree program students must have earned an associate degree or at least 60 college credit hours.

"The most well-prepared student will have earned an associate of science in cybersecurity or a closely-related field," said Kirk Bradley, PSC's Department Head of Mathematics and Computer Science. "Students coming from other academic backgrounds will be required to complete lower level cybersecurity coursework before enrolling in baccalaureate level courses."

The BAS in Cybersecurity is a \$10,000 degree plan — just like the BAS in Business and Management.

Meadows said PSC has made the cybersecurity degree program a part of the "Governor's \$10,000 Degree Challenge." A few years ago, Gov. Rick Scott challenged Florida's colleges and universities to create \$10,000 degree programs to make higher education more affordable.

The new degree program is welcomed news for PSC students such as Michael Moore who is only a few credits away from earning an associate degree in cybersecurity. A network technician for the Mobile County (Alabama) district attorney's office, Moore will earn his associate of science degree this summer but plans to enroll in the BAS degree program this fall.

"I've really enjoyed the hands-on learning at Pensacola State, and the cost of the degree program here is very economical and the courses are convenient for my work schedule," said Moore, a Pensacola resident. "I enrolled in three classes in the spring and have one more this summer before I earn my associate degree."

Moore who has worked in the IT field for more than 20 years said PSC's smaller classes and instructors really have made a difference in his collegiate experience.

"At some schools, you learn a lot of theoretical knowledge but at Pensacola State that knowledge is hand-delivered to us. Mr. (Robert) Pratten has been instrumental in keeping us abreast of the latest technology in the field as well as the scary side of cybersecurity," he said, noting data breaches at Target and other retailers and credit card companies.



Michael Moore, a Pensacola State student pursuing an associate degree in cybersecurity, is pictured in the college's computer lab.



WHERE ARE



▲ JENNIFER COLE,
PRN at Medical Center Clinic
Realtor for Paradise Coastal Realty, Pensacola

Pensacola State College allowed Jennifer Cole an opportunity to expand her horizons and she hasn't looked back.

In 2011, Cole earned her surgical technical certification from PSC. Since that time, she has made time for the college by serving on the PSC Foundation as a board member. Cole also received a bachelor's degree in communications from Allegheny College in 1991.

"My time at PSC helped to renew my confidence and reminded me that it's never too late to learn and grow, and change your path," she said.

"I advise PSC students to never stop learning and never forget those who helped you along your path. And when you're able, give back to your school and your community."

She has two adult children, Jordan and Ally.

> CHIP SIMMONS,
Escambia County Assistant Administrator
Pensacola Police Chief, retired
PSC District Board of Trustees, current member

Although Chip Simmons came to PSC in the 1980s without a career in mind, he made the most of his opportunities and earned an associate degree in Criminal Justice. Next, he completed bachelor's and master's degrees at Troy University and graduated from the FBI National Academy — all while working full time.

On the Pensacola Police Department, Simmons received numerous awards, including a Bronze Cross and the Gold Medal of Valor, the department's highest award for heroism.

"Throughout my 30-year law enforcement career, I can realistically say that it all began at PSC. The education I received opened many doors," Simmons says. "My advice for today's PSC student is to work hard, stick with it and you will be glad you did. PSC is a great institution and can prepare you for any future endeavor."

Chip and Susan have been married 29 years and have two sons, Christopher and Garret.



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THEY NOW?

▼ LARRY ADAMS,
*Architect, associate partner and director of design
at Bullock Tice Associates, Pensacola*

Larry Adams' influence is visible all over the Pensacola State College campuses.

He was the architect for the PSC Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio addition, Phase I of the South Santa Rosa Center and many other college enhancement projects.

He also is a product of Pensacola Junior College which he attended from 1989 to 1992 before transferring to Auburn University and earning his bachelor's degree in architecture in 1996. Since then, he has earned National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and LEED AP certifications. He also is the president of the American Institute of Architects Florida Northwest Chapter.

Adams credits PJC with laying a firm foundation for him.

"I enjoyed my time at PSC and often fondly think of the hard work I put in there to make my dreams a reality. I would not trade the learning experience and life lessons for a different path," he said.

Adams is married to Lee Anne Chanslor Adams, and they have one son, Bryson William Adams.



▲ RENEE HOSEA,
*Purchasing Specialist, Pensacola State College Purchasing and
Auxiliary Services, Pensacola campus*

Pensacola State College has made a tremendous difference in Renee Hosea's life.

"PSC has been a blessing. I am originally from Pensacola and find it a privilege to be able to return home and work for the very school I attended so many years ago," said Hosea who has earned two degrees from PSC.

In 2011, she earned an associate degree in general studies from PSC and went on to the University of West Florida where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Management in December. And back in 1999, Hosea received her associate degree in business administration with an emphasis on microcomputers from the college.

"I am a living witness of our new slogan, 'Go here. Get there.' My education and my networking here at PSC prepared me to successfully accomplish my goals and earn my bachelor's degree from UWF," she said.

Hosea has one daughter, Aaliyah, 12, and assists with the college's SkillsUSA program.

◀ MARY CECILIA 'CECI' PRICE,
*Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, West Florida Medical Group
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pensacola*

Pensacola State College has been a part of Ceci Price's life for nearly 20 years. In 2000, she earned an associate degree in nursing from PSC before moving on to Fort Hays State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Later, she earned a master's degree in nursing and her Nurse Practitioner certification from the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

A Certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner, she also was an adjunct clinical instructor for PSC's Nursing Program until 2014 and says the college's faculty was instrumental to her success.

"The instructors I had during my nursing program at PSC truly cared about me and always pushed me to be the best I could be. Without them, who knows where I would be now," she added.

Price's husband, Justin, is a graduate of PSC's EMT and Paramedics Program. The couple has two daughters, Cailey and Lily.

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PSCAlumniSurvey

*All participants will have an opportunity at the end of the online survey to enter into a random drawing for a \$25.00 gift card and PSC school swag.

Make sure we can get in touch with you. Provide your preferred contact information on the last page of the survey.



Lumon May (l), District 3 Escambia County Commissioner and president of May's Construction Company, and LuTimothy May (r), Pastor, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

May brothers find family, success at PSC

Brothers Lumon May and LuTimothy May have a long history with Pensacola State College.

Lumon May, Escambia County District 3 Commissioner, is a 1990 graduate of Pensacola Junior College, while LuTimothy May who went on to graduate from Concordia College in Selma, Alabama, participated in a college preparatory program in summer 1995.

Both men have gone on to have successful careers and credit Pensacola Junior College now Pensacola State College as an invaluable resource in their journeys.

"PJC offered me the opportunity to remain at home and earn my associate's degree," said Lumon May, who also is president of May Construction, the company started by their late father, the Rev. Theophalis May in the 1950s.

"Like many young people, I wasn't ready to leave home after I graduated from high school and I found PJC to be a place that cultivated love and support." Lumon May who went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of West Florida, said many PJC faculty, staff and administrators served as surrogate parents while he was student.

"Many of my professors knew my family so they provided guidance and support for me — James Calloway, Paul Moseley, Mrs. Ellen Lett, Dr. Broxton. They were not just teachers but saw the potential in me," Lumon May said.

LuTimothy May agreed. The pastor of Pensacola's Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is quick to acknowledge PJC's impact on his life.

"I had just graduated from high school and was introduced to college life by former PJC administrator Angela McCorvey who I worked for that summer. Initially, I was nervous but I learned so much — mainly to take ownership of my journey by taking a serious inventory of what I would like to be in life."

During that summer, he said his vocabulary expanded

and he learned words like matriculation, course outline — college terminology.

LuTimothy May, 38, went on to graduate from Concordia College in Selma, Alabama, the University of West Florida and Morehouse College School of Religion's Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Both brothers added that PJC offered local students and those from across Florida and the nation an opportunity to achieve their dreams.

"Had it not been for PJC, there would have never been a Concordia College, there would have never been a UWF, there would have never been a Morehouse," LuTimothy May added. "PJC prepared for me for my future."

Lumon May, 47, said he learned his first leadership skills while at PJC where he was student government association president and a member of the Black Student Union and other organizations.

"My time at PJC really had a positive impact on my life. It was there I learned about being a leader, a volunteer and organizing events," he remembered. "We were encouraged to become actively involved in the community — help improve your community and make a difference."

The brothers said PJC was considered Pensacola's hometown college.

"We considered PJC 'our college.' When we talked about college, most of us were referring to PJC. It was the natural progression after high school and once we were here, we thrived. The Student Center was the gathering place, everyone hung out there..." Lumon May said, adding PSC still offers something for everyone.

"PSC offers a unique opportunity for a student who may not be a great athlete or an academic star to earn a college degree or learn a skill. These kids can go on to a university from here or learn a skill and go on to a good-paying career. It's a great fit for everyone," he added. 🚣

— Letter from the Alumni Association Board President —



**Ted Kirchharr
PSC Alumni Association
President**

Alumni and friends of Pensacola State College and Pensacola Junior College, I am very excited to report that your Alumni Association is alive and well. Jerry Maygarden, our past president, did a great job of leading the board through the start-up phase.

We are moving forward to provide more value to our alums. With you in mind, we are always seeking valuable benefits and hosts for networking events to connect our members. Recently, we added a Travel Club with two trips planned for 2017, member discounts at area businesses, a Pensacola State College Alumni Pen Air Credit Card and more.

We hope to see you and your guests at our networking events held at popular locations throughout the year. These provide PSC/PJC alumni and friends an opportunity to get to know one another and build their networks. Look for additional new programs later this year.

We invite you to join us. A Lifetime Charter Membership is only \$250. And like your education here, it lasts a lifetime. Other membership levels are available.

Join us by visiting our website at <http://alumni.pensacolastate.edu/> or complete the membership form enclosed in this newsletter. If you have any questions, contact us online or call the PSC Alumni Affairs office at 850-484-1752. 🚣

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Patrice S. Whitten, PSC Alumni Association,
Executive Director**

Greetings, Pensacola State College and Pensacola Junior College alumni and friends. Your opinion is important to us. As we build the Alumni & Friends Program, it's meant to be for you and about you. We appreciate your time in taking the PSC/PJC Alumni Survey.

All participants will have an opportunity at the end of the survey to enter into a random drawing for a \$25 gift card and PSC branded merchandise. You do not have to take the survey to be eligible for the drawing. However, we will need your contact information on the last page of the survey.

Please take a moment to provide us with your opinions. Your feedback will help us shape the programs and offer the services that you really want. Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSCAlumniSurvey>. We also have a link from the Alumni & Friends website: <http://alumni.pensacolastate.edu/>.

All information collected will be kept confidential and used solely for the development of the Alumni & Friends Program. *This information will not be shared with any outside organizations.*

If you have any questions, contact me at Alumni@pensacolastate.edu or 850-484-1752.

Thank you for sharing your opinions and ideas.

Happenings



Kevin Smith wins the door prize and shares his PSC experience with the crowd.



PSC employee and member Roxanne Lavelle and Alumna Jessica Whitten pose for the camera.



Alumni Board members David Collins and Mike Thomas sharing a toast with guest Tami Newton.



Alumna Lauren Meiss watching the door prize giveaway.



Alumni Association member Richard Messerly takes a selfie and joins in the fun.



PSC Trustee and member, Patrick Dawson with Alumni Association Executive Director, Patrice Whitten and PSC President, Ed Meadows.



PSC Alumni Association Meet & Greet at The Fish House



Shelley Ovsak, Alumna and Lifetime Charter Member, enjoying the Alumni Association Meet and Greet.



Alumna Fran Switzer and Dr. Meadows take time out for a "photo op."



President Ed Meadows checks out the log toss competition at the 2016 Lumberjack Festival on the PSC Milton campus.



Rick and Celeste Whisenant, alumna, PSC Foundation Governor and member of Zeta Phi Delta Sorority.



Three PSC/PJC alums and Association Lifetime Charter Members reconnect. PSC Trustee, Edward Moore, PSC Alumni Association President, Ted Kirchharr and PSC Foundation Governor, Gerry Goldstein.



PSC alum and Milton campus dean, Anthea Amos, partners with President Ed Meadows on the cross cut saw competition.

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ALUMNI BOARD SPOTLIGHT



A servant's heart – Marie Young gives back to community

One morning a few weeks ago, Marie K. Young walked into the Pensacola community center named in her honor.

To a stranger, it was as if an international celebrity had made a stop in the Wedgewood neighborhood. The former Pensacola City Council member, District 3 Escambia County Commissioner and Escambia County School District educator was welcomed as a beloved friend, sister, and neighbor by a group of senior citizens at the center.

"Marie has always been one of us," said Annie Lois Madison, a longtime friend. "I remember her when I was a girl growing up right here in Pensacola. Even then, she was devoted to her community and she still is today."

Caring about the community comes second nature to Young, a Pensacola native who graduated from Booker T. Washington High School at 15 in 1951, and Booker T. Washington Junior College in 1953.

In 1965, Booker T. Washington Junior College merged with Pensacola Junior College. Today, the institution is Pensacola State College.

As with most young people, she had dreams of going away to college but decided to stay at home.

"My father (Matthew Kilette) had passed and my mother (Louise Kilette) didn't want me to go off to school. I had some scholarships but not enough to pay

all of my tuition if I went off to college," remembered Young, who also worked to help pay her way through college.

As a child, Young wanted to be an attorney, but said her father suggested she become a teacher.

"My father had a lot of influence on me and he would say, 'You may not be able to be a lawyer but you can become a good teacher,'" she recalled.

It was a piece of advice that Young has never regretted accepting.

"I loved teaching and always strived to be a great teacher. My goal was to make sure my students were becoming the best that they could be," said the educator who worked in the Escambia County School District for more than 40 years.

Young eventually became a principal and then moved into several administrative roles within the school district before retiring. During her career in education, former NFL player Derrick Brooks and Mary Clements Smith, Emmitt Smith's mother, were among the thousands of students whose lives she touched.

However, her career in education didn't start in Escambia County — it began in Georgiana, Alabama, where she coached girls' basketball.

After earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education at 19 from Florida A&M University, Young learned she was too young to teach in Florida. At that time, teachers had to be 21 to work in the Sunshine State.

Over the years, Young has made a huge impact on her hometown, county and country.

Among her many other accomplishments, she has served on the WSRE Foundation, Council on Aging of West Florida, Community Equity Investment Board, and Area Housing Commission, just to name a few.

She also has made time for Pensacola State College. Currently, Young is a member of the college's Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a Lifetime Charter Member of the Alumni Association.

When asked why she gives so much of herself to the community, Young has a simple answer: It is her responsibility.

"When you learn what the community needs and are in a place to bring about change, you should do it," she noted. "And if you never put yourself out there, you never know what is needed."

Area residents described Young as a get-it-done type of leader.

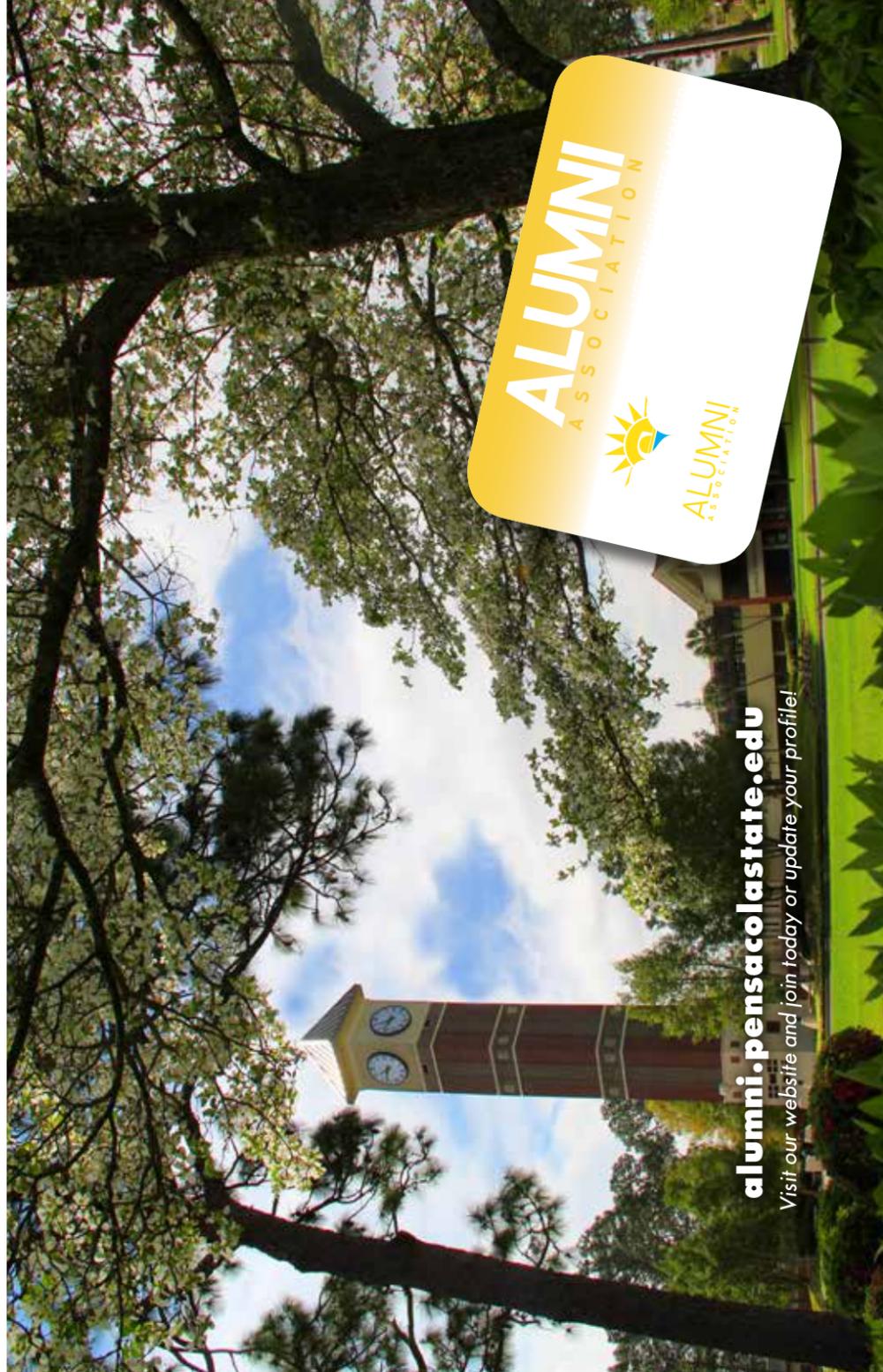
"She makes things happen. If you have a problem, we know we can call Marie — even now — and she will take care of it," Madison says. "She loves Pensacola and the people here, and we love her."

The Escambia County Commission also has noted Young's dedication to the community. In 2012, the County Commission renamed the Wedgewood park and community center in her honor. It is now the Marie K. Young Wedgewood Community Center and Park.

Located on Wagner Road, the eight-acre park has a picnic pavilion, playground, one-half mile walking trail, basketball court, benches, barbecue grills and picnic areas.

Always modest, Young does not feel that she's accomplished "anything fantastic but has just followed God's purpose."

"I think it is important to be a servant to your fellow man. I've been blessed with a servant's heart and want to serve others," she admits. "You can't be an effective leader unless you show some real concern for other people." 



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