

# ALUMNI ANCHOR

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014  
2ND EDITION

## PSC Alumni Night Scores a Homer

Shiver me timbers! It was a bountiful night for Pirates.

As a soft summer breeze drifted over the emerald bay waters and across the perfectly manicured home field of the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, PSC Pirate Alumni anchored on the Margaritaville Party Deck at the Bayfront Stadium on Aug. 8.

PSC President Edward Meadows, Alumni Association Executive Director Patrice Whitten and Board members were on deck to welcome about 170 PSC alumni and friends to an evening of food, fun and cheering for the Blue Wahoos as they made the Jackson Generals walk the plank, 5-1.

Sponsored by Margie Moore/Merrill Lynch, the alumni membership kickoff event was free and packed with game-night festivities and door prizes.

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## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

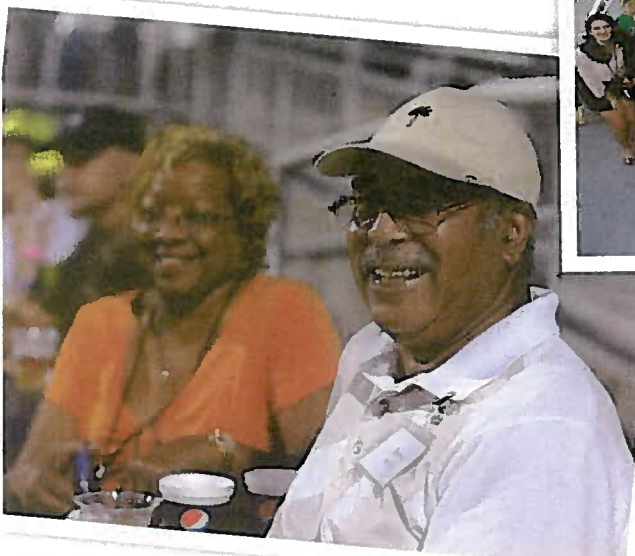
PSC Alumni Night

Alumni Board Spotlight

PSC Experience Opens Door for  
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PSC Nursing Faculty Earn Elite Degree

PSC Receives \$1 mil gift



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## ALUMNI BOARD SPOTLIGHT

**Joseph Herring** grew up in Pensacola but spent much of his professional life traveling the world as a musician, composer, arranger and producer with United Artists Records.

His musical roots began with classical training as a child. When he was in the 11th grade at Booker T. Washington High School, he completed the arrangement of a musical piece for the school's 100-piece marching band. After finishing his studies at the City University of New York, he performed with a range of artists from John Coltrane to Najee.

Herring also spent several years working in Washington D. C. with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Since "retiring" to Pensacola, Herring has continued his music career and his work with the world famous Harlem Gospel Choir. He also serves as the finance director and administrator of the Gulf Coast Veterans Advocacy Council, along with managing several other local non-profit groups.

Herring said he always had a passion for PSC and taught classes in brass and jazz at the college in the 70s. Now he invests time and effort in the PSC Alumni Association because he sees its importance to his hometown.

"I'm involved with a lot of organizations here and I see how PSC is meeting needs in the community," Herring said. "In return, I hope to bring more community support to the college, and the alumni association is a good way to do that."

Moore says the event grew out of the community connection she saw in the college and the baseball team. "PSC plays a vital role in the community with so many people taking classes or teaching there," Moore says. "In the same vein, I've seen so many Pensacolians supporting the Wahoos, I thought it would be fun to have an event bringing together the community's enthusiasm for PSC and the Wahoos.

"We were thrilled with the response. The PSC coaches, athletes, administrators and staff joined in with the alumni to make it a great evening of learning about the college, building friendships and fostering community spirit."

Although Moore is not a PSC graduate, she joined the Alumni Association with a lifetime membership as a friend of the college. She has been involved with PSC for close to 30 years, serving as a board member and president of the Foundation as well as serving on the PSC Board of Trustees.

"Joining the Alumni Association is another way for me to support the college. With more people involved, the college can build a stronger base for success and that means success for the community as well," she added.

## PSC Experience Opens Door for Washington D. C. Internship

While many college students spent last summer sleeping late, going to the beach and relaxing with friends, PSC student Lindsey Steck was in Washington D. C. working as an intern at the Florida House, the only state embassy on Capitol Hill.

Before packing her bags for Washington, Steck, a dual enrollment student, earned her associate in arts degree from Pensacola State College in May and then received her diploma from Tate High School in June. By August, Steck had entered the University of West Florida as a junior at age 18 - when most of her peers were just beginning their freshman year of college.

The six-week internship was filled with learning opportunities that went far beyond those in the classroom and provided the perfect segue from PSC to UWF for Steck.

She worked three days a week assisting with educational and cultural activities at Florida House and two days each week in the office of Congressman Ted Yoho who represents Florida's Third District.

"It was a fantastic experience; I learned so much!" Steck said. "I was active in the Student Government Association at PSC and already interested in the legislative process. The internship let me see how the political system works on the national level."

She especially enjoyed giving tours of the Capitol to Florida visitors who stopped by Congressman Yoho's office and getting to know other college interns at Florida House. During their free time, Steck said the interns toured Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and the sights along the National Mall, to name a few.

Although she was surprised that the summer heat in Washington rivaled that in Pensacola, Steck said she never got tired of soaking in the city's ambiance on the 25-minute walk from her lodgings at Georgetown University to Capitol Hill each day.

"A really wonderful part of the internship was that I got to meet Floridians from all over the state when they visited the Florida House and Congressman Yoho's office," Steck shared. "I would encourage others to look into the Florida House internship. It provided networking and resources that I couldn't get anywhere else."

"The Northwest Region of Florida House provided a \$6,000 scholarship to help cover my expenses.

I am so thankful for those who made this opportunity possible for me."

Even after Steck's status moved from PSC student to PSC alum, she has continued to be recognized for her accomplishments at PSC. She was just named as a Florida College System Chancellor's Student of the Month for October. The honor was based on Steck's leadership skills, academic success and community service during her student days at Pensacola State. Steck said she is keeping fond memories of PSC with her as she pursues her major in public relations at UWF.

"I learned so much about leadership at PSC," she added. "SGA kept me involved and I went to leadership conferences and did a lot of volunteer work that helped shape me as an individual."

"And, I'll never forget Samantha Hill in Student Activities. She guided me through everything at PSC and recommended me for the Florida House internship. I can't thank her enough for the positive influence she had in my life."



Lindsey Steck

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



*Dustie Sluder and Judy Evans*

### PSC Nursing Faculty Earn Elite Degrees

When Dusti Sluder and Judy Evans, the PSC Director of Nursing and Assistant Director of Nursing, respectively, completed the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, they became part of roughly four percent of nurses in the United States to hold doctorates.

Sluder and Evans truly embody the spirit of PSC's motto, "Go here. Get there." Their doctoral degrees were earned from Duquesne University, a top-notch academic institution, but their journey began at Pensacola State. Sluder graduated from PSC's Licensed Practical Nurse program, and Evans earned her Registered Nurse associate degree at PSC.

Both women furthered their education and eventually became instructors in Pensacola State's nursing program. In 2011, they were promoted to their current positions.

Evans describes herself as a lifelong learner and says that earning her doctoral degree fulfills both a personal goal and a desire to help PSC students.

"I wanted to bring something back to PSC that would make a difference for students," Evans says. "We're vested in Pensacola State. It feels like home."

Sluder says that her work ethic and desire to learn fueled her decision to pursue higher education.

"In nursing, there's a spirit of inquiry. The DNP fulfills that spirit of inquiry and emphasizes evidence-based practice. It was something I wanted to pursue," Sluder says.

Duquesne is in Pittsburgh but has a sister school in Rome, Italy. Sluder and Evans were required to take a cultural class in Rome, where they studied the differences in healthcare in Europe and the United States.

They also were required to go to Pittsburgh twice, including once to present their capstone research projects.

Sluder's project relates to the effects of high-fidelity simulation and safety education for nursing students, while Evans' project evaluates nursing students' knowledge of the connection between oral health and systemic illness.

Frances Duncan, dean of the Warrington Campus, is proud of Sluder and Evans.

"Not only have they earned their doctoral degrees, they also have been busy improving PSC's nursing curriculum, training new faculty, and working on accreditation," Duncan says.

"None of these are easy tasks. They have burned the midnight oil. While they have been improving themselves educationally, they have been making major improvements in the nursing department."

Duncan adds that Sluder's and Evans' new degrees also will be evident at PSC's next graduation ceremony.

"These women will make a splash. Duquesne's robes are bright blue and crimson!" she pointed out.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER 15, 2014

Continental Pheasant Hunt  
Fundraiser for Alumni Association  
at Denis Lake Wing Club  
in Bay Minette, AL

### DECEMBER 12-13, 2014

Women's Basketball  
Alumni Classic Weekend:  
Thirty-fifth Anniversary  
of PJC/PSC Women's Basketball

## CONTINENTAL PHEASANT HUNT

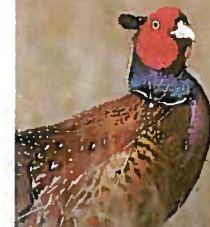
November 15, 2014

at the exclusive  
Denis Lake Wing Club  
in Bay Minette, AL

Join the first-ever  
Continental Pheasant Hunt  
benefiting the  
Pensacola State College  
Alumni Association!

for more information contact  
Patrice Whitten at  
[pswhitten@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:pswhitten@pensacolastate.edu)

or go to the website for more  
details and to register.  
[www.alumni.pensacolastate.edu  
event/continentalpheasanthunt](http://www.alumni.pensacolastate.edu/event/continentalpheasanthunt)





Charlie Switzer

## Sowing Seeds of Success at PSC

Pensacola State College's designation as a Military Friendly School holds special significance for Charlie Switzer, a PSC alum and Alumni Association Board Director. Born at NAS Pensacola, he grew up with an appreciation of the military, joined the Navy around 1970, and during the Vietnam War era.

After his last tour of service, Switzer returned to Pensacola in 1978 to join his wife Fran who was completing her Navy career at NAS Pensacola. The couple, with their young son Jason in tow, saw college as their next step.

Although Fran had already begun taking classes at the PSC (then PJC) Center aboard NAS, Charlie says he felt a little trepidation about starting PSC due to his less than stellar attempt at college years earlier.

However, his reluctance was soon replaced by success.

"The marvelous thing for me was that PSC embraced veterans," Charlie said. "I got college credits for my hours in Navy schools, and I benefited from a grade forgiveness program that kept my first attempt at college from hurting my grade point average.

"That wonderful gesture allowed me to go to class with the confidence that I could succeed. It was amazing what that attitude allowed me to accomplish. Fran and I both graduated from PSC and then the University of West Florida, with honors. PSC's atmosphere was very supportive of a young veteran's family."

Their success climbed even more as Charlie put his economics degree to work at Shell Oil Company and the Lamar Corporation. Through the years, the Switzers continued their connection and support of Pensacola State.

In August, Charlie and his brothers Robert and John joined with their extended Switzer, Lamar and Reilly families to present their second \$1 million gift to Pensacola State to support expansion of the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts at PSC.

"Giving back has been a tradition in our family," Charlie said. "This gift is a testimony of the importance of PSC to our family."

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