

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

1948-2018

*Building* ON TRADITION  
INVESTING IN THE *Future*

CELEBRATING *70* YEARS



This 70th Anniversary Commemorative Edition publication celebrates the historical milestones of Pensacola State College and the accomplishments of eight distinguished alumni. It also recognizes the supporters of our Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala, the Alumni Association Board of Directors and our Lifetime Charter members.

As Pensacola State enters its 71st year, the College continues the tradition of preparing our students to succeed within the global community.

## 2 The Early Years

## 5 1960s-1990s

## 8 2000s-Today

## 16 Distinguished Alumni Awards

## 21 Scholarships

## 26 Friends

## 28 Alumni Association



### **PRESIDENT**

Dr. Ed Meadows

### **OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS**

Patrice S. Whitten, Executive Director

### **MARKETING AND COLLEGE INFORMATION**

Sheila Nichols, Executive Director

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Patrice S. Whitten, Executive Editor

Robin Mertins, Art Direction and Design

Mary Mabins, Writer/Copy Editor

Sarah Richards, Editorial Contributor

### **RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

Rhonda Basler

Lindsey Garner

### **GALA EVENT PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Michael Duncan

Roxanne Lavelle

Hailey Lotz

### **CONTACT US**

Pensacola State College

Office of Alumni Affairs

Web: [alumni.pensacolastate.edu](http://alumni.pensacolastate.edu)

Email: [alumni@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:alumni@pensacolastate.edu)

PSC Alumni Association

1000 College Boulevard, Building 96

Pensacola, FL 32504

850-484-1752



Ed Meadows  
Pensacola State College  
President

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In September 1948, Pensacola State College opened in a boarding house in downtown Pensacola. Only 136 students were enrolled in classes.

Today, the institution which was the first Florida public junior college to be established under the Minimum Foundation Program Law, has changed countless lives.

Since that inaugural class more than 71 years ago, the College has had a tradition of improving the lives and investing in the futures of its students. Today, more than 111,000 alumni have earned associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and workforce certifications from the College.

Our alumni have been, and continue to be, difference makers all over Florida, the United States, the world and beyond. As we commemorate the College's anniversary, let's remember the countless public servants, athletes, educators, entrepreneurs, business leaders and many others who are Pensacola State alumni.

With a rich history of success, Pensacola State College remains dedicated and committed to "Building on Tradition and Investing in the Future."

Here's to the next 70 years...

## DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020



Herb Woll,  
Chair



Marjorie T. Moore,  
Vice Chair  
Human Resources  
Committee



Carol Carlan  
Finance Committee



Patrick Dawson  
Finance Committee



Kevin Lacz  
Academic Affairs  
Committee



Edward Moore  
Facilities Committee



Wendell Smith  
Human Resources  
Committee



# 1948

## PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE 1948–2019

Pensacola State College began as Pensacola Junior College, Florida's first public junior college to be established under the Minimum Foundation Program Law in 1947. PJC held its first classes in the Aiken Boarding House on **Sept. 13, 1948**, with an enrollment of 136 students and James L. McCord as the first director.

### 1948

PJC's original location, Aiken Boarding House



James L. McCord, the first director of PJC.



### 1954

Henry L. Ashmore became PJC's first president.

### 1958

Lyceum, PJC's cultural enrichment program, began. Created by John T. Venettozzi, Fine Arts and Humanities chair.



### 1955

The PJC Alumni Association chartered with Joe Frosio, a 1950 graduate, as the first president.

# 1950s

### 1949, 1951

Louis A. Ross, social science instructor, headed PJC's first basketball team in 1949 and the first baseball team in 1951.



### 1950

Yearbook page of the first PJC graduates.



### 1953

College moved into former Pensacola High School facility.

### 1957

Students attended classes on the new 9th Avenue campus for the first time.

### 1958

PJC introduced a two-year nursing program in a joint venture with Baptist Hospital.



# 1960s



**1962**

PJC became one of three Florida colleges to establish a dental hygiene program.



**1965**

Area's first planetarium opened to the public and a dental health clinic was included in addition to the Mary Ellison Baars Science Building.

Opening of a new Educational Television Building.

PJC and Booker T. Washington Junior College merged.

The PJC Foundation incorporated with Crawford Rainwater as the first president.

**1965**

Garrett T. Wiggins, president of Booker T. Washington Junior College, joined PJC administration as Director of Research.



**1964**

The new Center for Adult Studies became home to the Adult High School and PJC's vocational and technical education programs.

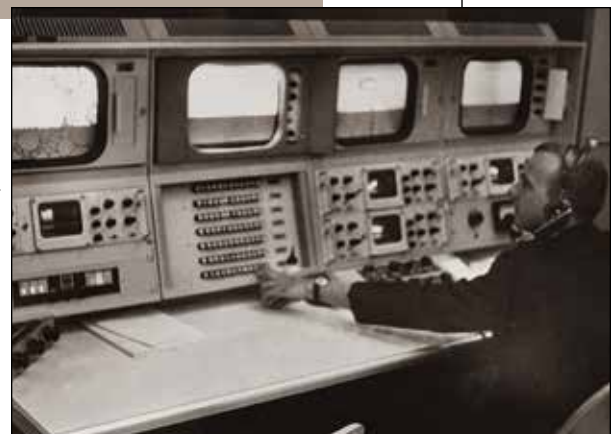
**1964**

T. Felton Harrison assumed the presidency of PJC after having served as Dean of Instruction at the College since 1957.



**1967**

WSRE-TV Channel 23 went on the air.



**1968**

The Triple G Club founded, later renamed the Black Student Union.

PJC's former advisory committee became the District Board of Trustees, the governing body of the College. First District Board of Trustees included James Lay, chair, and members Leonard Wolf, O.M. Carter, H.T. Woodruff, Mrs. E.J. Moore, Shelby Walter, Warren Briggs, Dr. S.W. Boyd, and Earle Bowden.





**1973**

PJC celebrated its silver anniversary and dedicated a new \$1 million Career Development Center.

Steve Marshall,  
1973 yearbook



**1974**

Women were welcomed to varsity sports and Joy DeSensi was hired to coach the Lady Pirates basketball team.

**1975**

A \$1 million Learning Resources Center with state-of-the-art technology opened on the Pensacola campus.



**1971**

PJC's Milton Center opened. Classes were held in the former Canal Street School in Milton with William H. Massey as the center's first director.



William H. Massey



# 1970s



**1971**

WSRE began broadcasting in color.

**1977**

Warrington campus opened for classes. The \$8 million facility was built on 164.7 acres donated by the U.S. government.



# 1980s



**1980**

Horace "Ed" Hartsell became PJC's third president.



**1988**

Coach Mary Bailey led the Lady Pirates slow-pitch softball team to the NJCAA Division I National Championship.

**1981**

PJC opened a center at Naval Air Station Pensacola, offering daytime and evening classes to military and civilian personnel.



**1988**

PJC celebrated 40 years.

**1982**

An 80-acre site along U.S. 90 was purchased for the new Milton Center.



**1985**

Lady Pirates won the FCCAA State Basketball Championship, and Coach Vicki Carson was named FCCAA Coach of the Year.



**1985**

Milton Center opened for classes and offered new programs in horticulture and wildlife ecology. Phase II was completed in 1986.

**1986**

The Academy of Teaching Excellence was established.

**1989**

PJC opened a Downtown Center in the Blount Building.



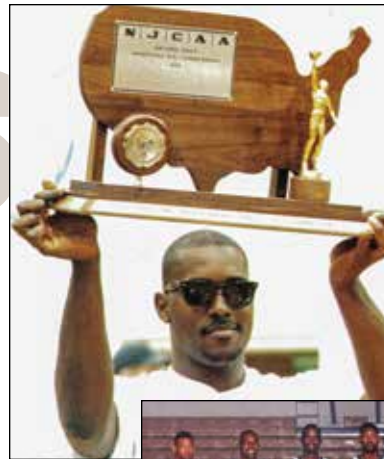


# 1990s



**1990**

PJC honored its first president by naming the renovated Building 8 as the Henry L. Ashmore Fine Arts Center.



**1993**

PSC standout basketball player Chris King raised the NJCAA Division I National Championship trophy over his head after the Pirates won the title. Bob Marlin was the team's coach.



**1994**

The \$5 million Bo Johnson L.I.F.E. (Lifestyle Improvement Fitness Education) Center sports complex at the Milton Center was dedicated.

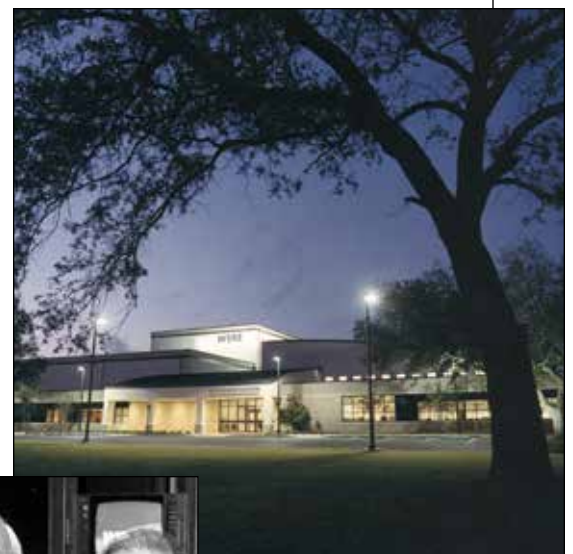


**1990**

The Baroco Center for Science and Advanced Technology was dedicated.

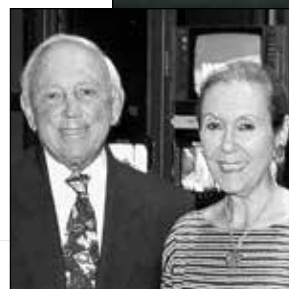
**1993**

Pirates golf team, under Coach Jim Donovan, won the NJCAA Division II National Championship.



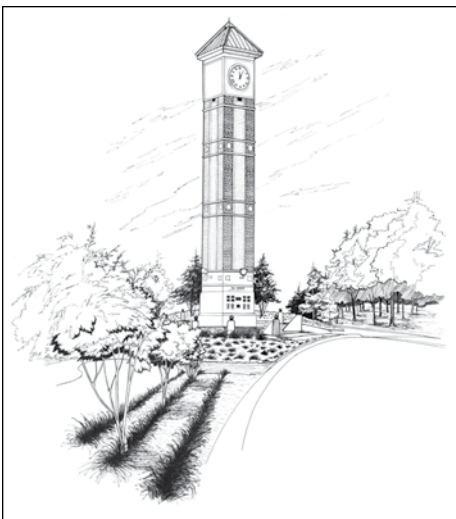
**1994**

The \$7 million, Kugelman Center for Telecommunications opened to house WSRE-TV, the area's first digital television station.



Jack and Jane Kugelman





**1997**

President Hartsell and the District Board of Trustees announced plans for an 80-foot bell tower on the Pensacola campus as part of PJC's 50th anniversary celebration. The carillon was named for M.J. Menge, a 1956 PJC graduate and the College's general counsel for 31 years.



**1998**

Charles A. Atwell became PJC's fourth president. His inauguration coincided with the College's 50th anniversary.



Sandy and M.J. Menge

**1998**

The PJC Foundation launched the College's first capital campaign led by alumnus Tommy Tait and Foundation Executive Director Patrice Whitten. The lead gift of \$1 million from the Switzer and Reilly families established the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts. The campaign exceeded its goal, reaching more than \$5 million.



**1998**

To commemorate the College's golden anniversary, the "M.J. Menge Fiftieth Anniversary Tower" was dedicated on the Pensacola campus.



**1999**

PJC's first Endowed Teaching Chair, named in honor of Margaret Moore Nickelsen, was awarded to Lou Fazio, dental health professor.

**1999**

Award-winning architect Michael Graves was the inaugural speaker for the Anna Lamar Switzer Distinguished Artist Series.





## 2000

The Student Ambassador program was initiated.

## 2001

PJC began a "Legends" program honoring employees who had served 25 years or more.

## 2000

Sandra and Grover Robinson III Honors Program began with 42 Robinson Scholars.

## 2001-2002

Lady Pirates volleyball team won the Panhandle Conference Championship, the softball team was voted Academic Team of the Year in the Panhandle Conference, and Coach Vicki Carson earned her 400th win in women's basketball.

## 2002

Grand opening held for the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts.



## 2002

Former First Lady Barbara Bush visited PJC to help the Foundation launch the Universal Scholarship and Adult Literacy Fund.

## 2004

Category 3 Hurricane Ivan devastated the Pensacola area, leaving more than \$10 million in damage to the College's campuses and centers.

# 2000s



## 2002

Charles A. Atwell Health Sciences Complex dedicated on the Warrington campus.

## 2002

G. Thomas Delaino became PJC's fifth president.



## 2004

The Pirate baseball team won the FCSAA championship – the first state title for Pirates baseball since it began in 1951. Coach Bill Hamilton was named Coach of the Year.



## 2000

The first Anna Lamar Switzer Endowed Teaching Chair awarded to photography professor Warren Thompson.





**2008**

NASA astronaut and PJC alumnus Alan Poindexter took a specially-minted, gold PJC medallion with him on a 5.3 million mile Atlantis Space Shuttle mission in February 2008. In June, he presented the medallion to President Meadows and College officials.

**2008**

C. Edward "Ed" Meadows selected as College's sixth president.



**2006**

The Mary Ekdahl Smart Center for Patient Simulation Training and Research was established through grants and a donation from Mary and Bill Smart.



**2008**

September marked the 60th anniversary of PJC.

**2005**

Lady Pirates' basketball coach Vicki Carson won her 500th game, the most wins in FCCAA history.

President George W. Bush held a town hall meeting at the College.

The 16,257-square-foot Jean and Paul Amos Performance Studio was dedicated.

The Garrett T. Wiggins Student Affairs Complex was dedicated.



**2007**

The basketball gymnasium was dedicated as the Ed Hartsell Arena in honor of Pensacola State's third president.

**2007**

The Corsair student newspaper won the national Pacemaker Award for its online version, eCorsair.



**2009**

The Raymond B. and Leila Hobbs Center for Teaching Excellence was dedicated on the Pensacola campus.

The Edward M. Chadbourne Library was dedicated after a \$9 million renovation and expansion.



**2005**

Milton and Dona Usry, PJC Board of Trustees chair, attend the PJC Foundation 40th anniversary celebration.



Edward M. Chadbourne Jr.





**2010**

Ground broken on \$9.4 million South Santa Rosa Center.



**2011**

Florida Heritage Site Historical Marker unveiled honoring the original site of the College at the corner of Palafox and Cervantes streets.



**2011**

First bachelor's degrees awarded at the December graduation. Seven students earned BAS and BSN degrees and received specially-minted coins.

**2011**

1976 PJC graduate, David Andrews was selected the 2011 Florida College System LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award winner. He is currently president of National University.



**2010**

College received approval from the Florida State Board of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs including a Bachelor of Applied Science in Administration and Supervision and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

PJC was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. It was one of only four Florida community colleges honored with the national recognition.

**2012**

Lady Pirates basketball players won back-to-back FCSAA State Championships. Coached by Chanda Rigby, the team again ended the season ranked third in the nation.



**2012**

Pensacola State opened two new facilities – the renovated Century Center and the 35,000-square-foot South Santa Rosa Center.



**2010**

College name officially changed to Pensacola State College from Pensacola Junior College.



**2010**

Astronomy professor Wayne Wooten received the National Astronomical League Award, the highest award in amateur astronomy.







## 2013

College unveiled a new logo reflecting PSC's name change and the beautiful coastal area.

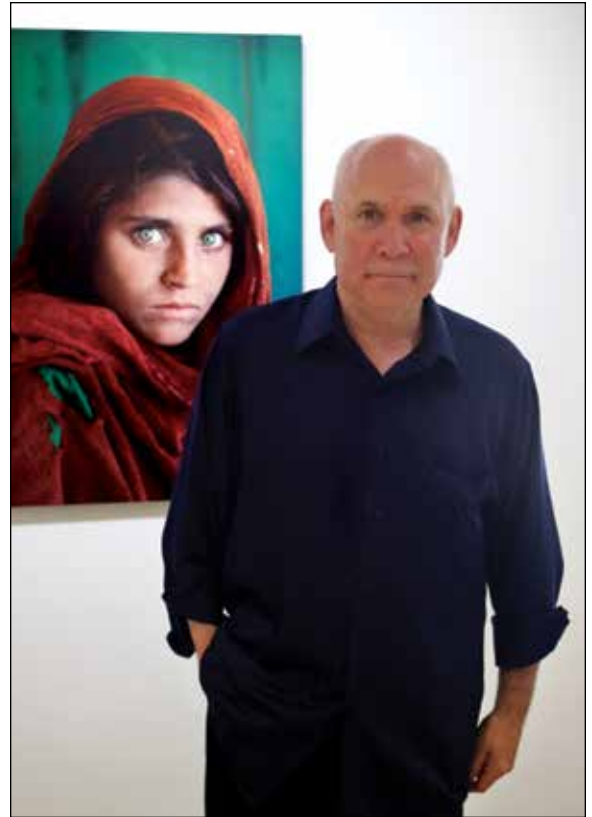
## 2013

PSC celebrated its 65th anniversary and launched a new Alumni Affairs office with Patrice Whitten at the helm.



## 2013

College hosted the largest-ever SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills Conference, drawing more than 6,500 participants. College also hosted 2012 and 2014 conferences.



## 2014

National Geographic photographer, Steve McCurry, displayed 74 large-format photographs in a four-month solo exhibit in the Switzer Gallery.



## 2013

Visual Arts Professor Bill Clover received the U.S. President's Call to Service Lifetime Achievement Award for contributing more than 7,000 hours of volunteer service to Manna Food Pantries.

## 2014

PSC and the University of West Florida launched the PSC2UWF partnership.

## 2014

Pensacola State College hosted the Jazz at the Lincoln Center Orchestra with master musician Wynton Marsalis in concert at the Pensacola Saenger Theatre.



## 2014

The Sid and Jeannie Kamerman Piano Series was launched in 2013 to bring concerts by renowned international classical pianists to local audiences. The inaugural season in 2014 featured Pensacola native, Mark Markham (left), Svetozar Ivanov and Michael Gurt.

# 2015-

## 2015

In December, Pensacola State College surpassed the 100,000th graduate milestone. To date, more than 111,000 students have graduated from the College since its opening in 1948.

PSC and UWF entered a partnership to admit select students from PSC's Bachelor of Applied Science degree program into UWF's Master of Business Administration or Master of Science in Administration, Health Care Administration Track.

## 2016

PSC received approval from the Florida Department of Education to offer Bachelor of Applied Science in Cybersecurity.

PSC's Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing program became the first in the region to earn accreditation from two national agencies – the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

White House TechHire Initiative added Pensacola, with PSC leading way, to national program that promoted access to well-paying technology jobs.



## 2017

PSC's Virtual Tutoring Program awarded the national Bellwether Award in the Instructional Programs and Services category.

## 2018

Century Center Mobile Welding Program named a Top 10 finalist for the 2018 National Bellwether Awards.



## 2015

Molly McGuire Culinary Arts Dining Room dedicated in memory of Molly McGuire Martin, a beloved restaurateur known for her unmatched hospitality.



## 2017

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts Jr., addressed "Saving America: Politics at the Crossroads" when he spoke at Pensacola State.



## 2017

Pensacola State's E.G. Owens Planetarium was the place to be on Aug. 21, 2017, to safely view the Great American Eclipse.





**2018**

Charles W. Lamar Studio at the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts opened with a celebration.

**2018**

PSC President Ed Meadows tapped to join the Governor-elect Ron DeSantis and Lt. Governor-elect Jeanette Nuñez Transition Advisory Committee on Education and Workforce Development.

**2018**

PSC became part of Pathway USA, a collaborative program between the University of South Alabama and select community and state colleges.



**2018**

Pensacola State employees donated food, cleaning supplies and personal care items to Gulf Coast State College employees and students affected by Hurricane Michael.



**2018**

PSC Athletic Director Bill Hamilton inducted into the Florida College System Activities Association Hall of Fame.

**2018**

Ground broken for the \$13 million east wing of Pensacola State College's STEM building.



## College Accolades

**2017:** PSC ranked as one of the best colleges – regionally and nationally – by U.S. News and World Report. In the "Best Colleges 2018 Edition," Pensacola State tied for 4th in Top Public Schools-Regional Colleges-South – the highest ranked college in Florida. Pensacola State also ranked No. 28 in overall Best Regional Colleges South. Among national colleges and universities, Pensacola State ranked No. 11 in Best Schools for Veterans and No. 147 in Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs.

**2018:** Military Times included PSC in its 2018 Best Colleges list.

**2018:** The U.S. Department of Education listed PSC as a best value among public four-year colleges and universities for the seventh consecutive year.

**2019:** U.S. News and World Report ranked PSC Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree No. 114 in the nation and No. 10 in Florida in the category of Best Online Bachelor's Programs.

**2019:** PSC named a Military Friendly School by VIQORY Media for 10 consecutive years.



# 2018

## 2018

Pensacola State College celebrated its 70th birthday with a week of activities in September 2018. Sept. 13, 1948, is the official opening date of the College which began in the Aiken Boarding House with 136 students. PSC now has three campuses – Pensacola, Milton and Warrington and three centers – Century, Downtown and South Santa Rosa.

Staff and students celebrated on each campus and center.



### PSC 70th Anniversary Committee

Andrea Krieger

Sheila Nichols

Anthea Amos

Samantha Hill

Hikmat BC

Angie Kemp

Diane Bracken

Gaye LaCasce

Butch Branch

Johnathan Lanza

Paula Byrd

Alexandra Mabery

Pat Crews

Ruth McKinnon

Bob Culkeen

Sandy Ray

Debbie Douma

Rosemary Ropke

Kathy Dutremble

Dusti Sluder

Gean Ann Emond

Patrice Whitten

Tom Gilliam

Stephen Whiting

Kylie Henderson

Layla Zandi

Laura Hill



Ruth McKinnon, left, Coordinator of Corporate and Professional Development Training, and Sheila Nichols, Executive Director of Marketing and Information, are all smiles at the Downtown Center's 70th Anniversary celebration.





Joel Anthony



Mary Bailey



Bill Brantley



Jim Donovan



Charlie Fairchild



Dana Gilmore



Dennis Lindsey



Greg Litton



Bob Marlin



Bill McArthur

## 2019

The Pensacola State College Athletics Hall of Fame inductees and their representatives were recognized in February. Joel Anthony, the late Mary Bailey, William "Bill" Brantley, Jim Donovan, Charles Fairchild, Dana Gilmore, Dennis Lindsay, Greg Litton, Bob Marlin and the late William "Bill" McArthur made up the inaugural class. Hall of Fame inductees Joel Anthony, Mary Bailey, Bob Marlin and Bill McArthur were represented at the ceremony by Paul Swanson, Carolyn Voight, Matt Marlin and Gerald McArthur, respectively.

# 2019



## 2019

For the second time, Pensacola State was selected to host the SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills Conference in three-year increments – 2018, 2019 and 2020.



## 2019

More than 40 Delta Kappa Alpha Fraternity brothers and guests, including seven founding members, gathered on July 27 in the Edward M. Chadbourne Library for the unveiling of the Delta Kappa Alpha Memorial Cabinet.

## 2019

For the first time in more than 20 years, Pensacola State fielded a new athletic team – a women's cross country team. Julie Burger, an experienced triathlete and director of the College's Pharmacy Technician Program, is the team's head coach. She is pictured with Athletic Director Bill Hamilton, left, and President Ed Meadows.



## TIME CAPSULE

**1948–1998–2048**

The M.J. Menge Bell Tower holds precious historic Pensacola State College memorabilia. A time capsule – sealed in the structure when it was dedicated in 1998 – is scheduled to be unsealed on the College's 100th anniversary in September 2048.

## 2019

The Nonprofit Center for Excellence and Philanthropy at Pensacola State College held its first workshops in 2019. The center was funded by a \$150,000 donation from the Gulf Power Foundation.

---



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

---



## ABOUT THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Pensacola State College Distinguished Alumni Awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding alumni. Hosted by Pensacola State President Ed Meadows and the College's Alumni Association Board, the awards recognize alumni who demonstrate a lifelong dedication to integrity and excellence while serving others as role models and mentors.

Presented biennially, the next Pensacola State College Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony and gala is set for spring 2021.

---

## Pensacola State College Past Distinguished Alumni Honorees\*

Namrata Advani	Edward Moore
David Armstrong	William "Bill" Peters
E.W. Hopkins	Sandy Sansing
Willie Junior	Michael Saxon
Jerry Maygarden	Tommy Tait
M.J. Menge	Larry Tyree

\*We are pleased to include this recognition of past alumni honorees.  
This list is based on the information we have available at this time.  
If you have information that could complete our records, please let us know.

For more information about the awards or to nominate distinguished alumni,  
visit [alumni.pensacolastate.edu/distinguished-alumni-awards/](http://alumni.pensacolastate.edu/distinguished-alumni-awards/)  
or contact Patrice Whitten, Executive Director of Alumni Affairs,  
at [alumni@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:alumni@pensacolastate.edu) or 850-484-1752.



## Life Achievement

PRESENTED TO ALUMNI WHO HAVE REACHED STATE, REGIONAL OR NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND REPRESENT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THEIR PROFESSION OR SERVICE.

– **GARY A. DELAPP** Gary A. DeLapp is known by his friends and colleagues as the man who "gets things done."

After a more than 40-year career in the hotel industry, the Pensacola State College alumnus, has earned the loyalty and respect of business associates worldwide.

DeLapp's career began as a dishwasher at the Holiday Inn North Pensacola. That entry level position as a teenager led DeLapp to a successful career where he served in all levels of executive management.

While at PSC, DeLapp was inducted into Delta Kappa Alpha, a fraternity whose mission includes building lifelong character, ethical and productive business practices, philanthropic action and fraternal bonds.

For DeLapp, this has become a lifelong calling, according to those who know him.

"To my experience, people are often one way in business and another in personal life. Gary's personal life and business life are the same. He treats people in both domains the same. With me, he has always been forthright, clear and motivated by the highest values of integrity," said Michael Thomas, a business associate, fraternity brother and friend.

Family and friendships also are important to DeLapp, who has never lost sight of the importance of those relationships.

Admired by many for his ethics, integrity and compassion, he maintains a positive outlook. In professional and personal circles, DeLapp is known to be a loyal and trusted business colleague, friend and devoted husband and father.



**"Attending PJC gave me more exposure to activities and afforded me the opportunity to interact with people from all areas of Pensacola which has allowed me to be a better leader in my career. It changed my life by broadening my horizons."**

– Gary A. DeLapp  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



– **JARL "J.T." YOUNG**

Jarl "J.T." Young's collegiate career began at Pensacola State as a dual-enrolled Washington High School junior.

But by that time, PSC had become a part of his family. Young's parents were devoted WSRE supporters, and his uncle, the late Robert Walker Jr., taught at the College. Young's older sister, Avis, graduated from PSC, and his wife, Deidre, served 12

years on the College's Board of Trustees. The legacy continued with the Youngs' sons – Thomas and Joseph – who began their educations at PSC.

After PSC, Young went on to the University of Florida, the University of West Florida, and finally Harvard Business School. But he never forgot the College's impact on his life.

"The wonderful faculty and staff at PJC not only shaped my educational awareness but they helped to prepare

me for life," said Young who is president and CEO of the Memphis (Tennessee) Light, Gas, and Water Division.

"The personal interaction between students and faculty as well as the friendly campus environment and community focus served to inspire me to always pursue excellence."

Those who know Young well say he embodies the meaning of the Life Achievement Award.

"As I think about his life, I think about of him being a loving husband, a loving father, serving in his church, serving in the community," said Stan Connally Jr., executive vice president of operations for the Southern Company.

"He is wholly deserving of the Life Achievement Award."

**"Without a doubt, I've been blessed for a lifetime by my PJC/PSC experience. It was in the right place; it was just the right size; it had just the right curriculum at just the right time for me. And I will be forever grateful to God for the opportunity to be a part of the Pirate family."**

– Jarl "J.T." Young  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree

*Hometown Heroes* PRESENTED TO ALUMNI WHO HAVE ACHIEVED A MEASURE OF SUCCESS WITHIN THE COLLEGE'S SERVICE AREA AND WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED NOTABLE COMMUNITY SERVICE.

– **CHERRY FITCH** Those closest to the Honorable Cherry M. Fitch know she has never met a challenge that she didn't overcome.

Fitch has dedicated her talents and energy to the enrichment and growth of her hometown, Gulf Breeze. Throughout her career, volunteer work and community involvement, she has built a legacy of public service and advocacy for education.

The Pensacola State College alumna's journey began after high school. Following her father's advice, she enrolled at PSC which was ranked as the No. 1 community college in the country at that time.

"At PSC, I found a supportive and inspiring environment that bolstered my confidence and solidified my commitment to the pursuit of higher education," she said.

Following PSC, Fitch earned a bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida, a master's from Troy University and a master's in educational leadership from UWF. Her choices led her into the classroom as high school teacher, guidance counselor, principal, Realtor, city councilwoman, and mayor of Gulf Breeze.

"Cherry Fitch has built a life around serving others. Her dedication to our area runs deep and has touched countless citizens," said Gulf Breeze resident Cathy Purdon. "Cherry's quiet, yet firm style, vast educational

experience and business mindset make her a valuable resource for our community."

Sara Wilson, Fitch's sister, said numerous accolades are a testament of her leadership, integrity and ability to inspire others.

"Cherry epitomizes dedication, intelligence and caring," Wilson added.

Fitch has a daughter, Mandi, and son-in-law Marty Edwards.



**"Studying at Pensacola State College (PJC) gave me the confidence and commitment to continue my education and earn a four-year degree. I'm not sure if I had started college at a large university, I would have felt the same support system and become as comfortable as quickly."**

– Cherry Fitch  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



– **CHIP SIMMONS** Chip Simmons truly believes part of serving your community is helping to protect it. And making Escambia County safer has been a longtime mission for the current Escambia County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy.

Simmons, who has worked in law enforcement for more than 35 years, earned an associate degree in criminal justice from

Pensacola State College. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Troy University. Later, he graduated from the FBI National Academy.

Simmons' dedication to Escambia County has not gone unnoticed.

"Just about anyone you run into who knows him says he is that guy who is there when you need him," said Escambia County Sheriff's Capt. Ken Simmons, Chip Simmons' younger brother. "He's a good solid person."

Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan describes Simmons as a role model with an uncanny ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

"Regardless of their educational background or their position or who they are or what job they hold, Chip connects with everyone," Morgan said. "He has always been that way. Most people don't know, but Chip was quite an accomplished athlete in high school. Rather than getting all of the trophies and accolades, he went on to mentor and help other young men and his teammates."

Simmons began his law enforcement career in 1984 as a corrections officer. In 1986, he was hired by the Pensacola Police Department. He retired as police chief in 2015.

Simmons and his wife, Susan, have two sons, Christopher and Garet.

**"Literally, every professional achievement that I've been able to accomplish has had its roots in my time at Pensacola Junior College. If it were not for Pensacola State College, I wouldn't have what I have. I wouldn't have the wife I have."**

– Chip Simmons  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



*Against the Odds* PRESENTED TO ALUMNI WHO HAVE ACHIEVED SUCCESS DESPITE FINANCIAL, SOCIOLOGICAL OR PHYSICAL ADVERSITY.

– **BARRY COLE** A positive attitude has paid huge dividends to Barry Cole, owner of Beré Jewelers and a Pensacola State graduate.

At 17, Cole secured a job at Zales Jewelers in Cordova Mall. At 22, he partnered with the late Ray Jones and the two opened Beré Jewelers.

Jones passed away in 2005, however Cole continued to expand the business. In April 2017, he opened a Beré Jewelers flagship location on 12th Avenue. In the first year, the freestanding 7,350-square-foot store doubled its sales volume.

Gerald Adcox, president of Adcox Imports, said Cole started his business with a prayer, a partner, hope, less than \$10,000 and a desire to succeed.

"Barry has overcome a lot of stuff," said Adcox as he recalled when the jewelry store was robbed at gunpoint just before Christmas in 1984.

"After the robbery, it was a tremendous setback, it took years to recover but Barry never lost sight of his passion, and what he wanted to bring to Pensacola, the vision of the store he wanted, where he wanted to be in the future," recalled his wife, Laura, who is also a PSC graduate.

"His sheer dedication is why we are where we are today."

October marked Beré Jewelers 35th year in business. Along with the flagship store, a Gulf Breeze location also is thriving.

A member of the Downtown Rotary Club, Cole also has served on the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation, Sacred Heart Foundation and Gulf Coast Kid's House.

The Cole family also supports Independence for the Blind, Autism Pensacola, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

**"Attending PSC allowed me to stay in Pensacola, start my business, and remain close to family and friends."**

– Barry Cole  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



– **THOMAS VAUGHN** Tom Vaughn measures his true success by helping others reach their goals.

A wealth management advisor with Northwestern Mutual, Vaughn credits Pensacola State College with helping him learn how to earn his way to success.

Life wasn't always easy for the fourth-generation Pensacola native. Despite a some-

what disadvantaged childhood, Vaughn was brought up in a close-knit, loving and supportive family.

At 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, and began pursuing a post-secondary education. Along with balancing military duties, Vaughn studied at PSC and Troy University before earning an associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force and later, a bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida.

Longtime friend Paul Morris described Vaughn as the classic example of America.

"Tom came from humble beginnings, and has worked his way up to the top and most of that is truly from outworking others," said Morris, who owns The Doctors Directory. "...Tom is just a good guy. He is the type of friend that you would want in your corner. He is the type of person you would invite to your party."

Kristan Brinkley, a Northwestern Mutual colleague, said Vaughn has been in situations where the odds were stacked against him – but he still persevered.

"He never used those situations as an excuse not to give 120 percent," she said.

Along with a successful career, Vaughn always found time to give back to the community. He has served on many boards and donated his time, talent and resources to the Sacred Heart Children's Hospital Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House and Alex's Lemonade Stand just to name a few.

**"Pensacola State made it possible for me to achieve my goals despite life's challenges."**

– Thomas Vaughn  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree

*Rising Star* PRESENTED TO AN ALUMNUS WHO HAS BEGUN A SIGNIFICANT CAREER OR COMMUNITY SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT.

– **STEVE OLESKY** Pensacola State College is where Steve Olesky discovered his passion for graphic design.

A senior director of the digital creative department at Ralph Lauren Corp., Olesky earned an associate degree from PSC and went on to receive a bachelor's of fine arts from the Savannah College of Art & Design.

He credits a supportive family and amazing PSC professors for his successes. At PSC, Olesky won a gold ADDY, two silver ADDYs and received the Anna Lamar Switzer Award.

"Play. Experiment. Create. Learn continuously. Be inspired by others, but find your own style," is Olesky's philosophy. However, he hasn't forgotten his beginnings. He says his foundation was formed at PSC, that everything he learned, he carries with him.

PSC faculty members recall Olesky as an outstanding student with an unbelievable work ethic.

"Even as a young designer, he worked tirelessly and never complained. As a student, he understood that design is not a 9 to 5 job and was committed," said Visual Arts Professor Mark Hopkins.

Krist Lien, head of the Visual Arts Department, described Olesky as a student who knew where he

wanted his dreams to take him.

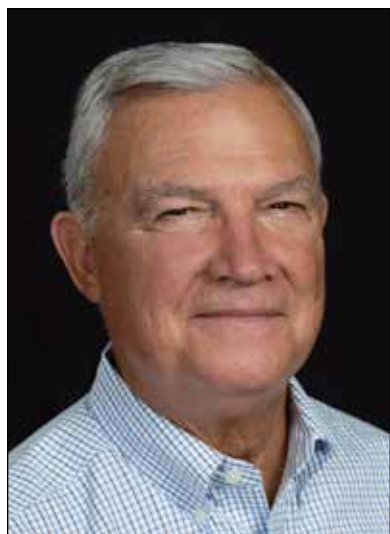
"One of the things I really do remember about Steve is that he was always very focused, and knew he had a certain window of time to get where he wanted to go," Lien said.

"That always impressed me – especially for a freshman coming in to realize he wanted to take advantage of the opportunities put in front of him at PSC."

Olesky and his wife, Lindsay, have two children, Asher and Elle, and live in New York City.

**"As a designer, my foundation was formed at PJC. I am forever grateful for the graphic design program, and the professors there. I will carry the lessons and skills they instilled throughout my career."**

– Steve Olesky  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



*Spirit of Pensacola State College* PRESENTED TO AN ALUMNUS WHO HAS SERVED THE COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY AND MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

– **DENIS MCKINNON SR.** Over his lifetime, Denis McKinnon Sr., has worn many hats – U.S. Marine, highly-decorated Vietnam War veteran, banker, community advocate and volunteer just to name a few.

However, McKinnon ranks being a Pensacola

State College alumnus among his greatest honors.

"My time at PJC was a learning experience. It was one of the best things to ever happen to me," said the 1959 Escambia High School graduate who attended Pensacola Junior College from 1960 to 1961.

After leaving college, the Pensacola native entered the U.S. Marine Corps' Aviation Program and earned his Naval Aviation Designation in 1963. McKinnon served two tours of duty in Vietnam – one where he was injured, but still went on to serve 20 years as a Marine aviator.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, an MBA from the University of West

Florida and worked toward his doctorate at Nova Southeastern University.

McKinnon's devotion to PSC has been evident.

"I've had the opportunity to come back and serve on the Board of Trustees, and sat on the committees that selected Charles Atwell and Dr. (Thomas) Delaino as presidents," he said.

One highlight of his service to the College was helping to procure a \$1 million donation from the Lamar, Switzer and Reilly families. The donation served as the lead gift of the College's first capital campaign.

McKinnon and his wife, Maureen, have been married for 56 years. The couple has three children – Denise, Denis Jr. and Darin; three grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

**"I consider this to be the entry into my adult life where my decisions – both good and bad – affected my success or failure in life. The PSC Experience allowed me to enter the U.S. Marine Corps Aviation Cadet Program and started my 20-year career as a Marine aviator."**

– Denis McKinnon Sr.  
2019 Distinguished Alumni Award honoree



# *Gary A. DeLapp*

## ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

---

The Gary A. DeLapp Alumni Scholarship was established by family, friends and colleagues of the hotel industry executive.

DeLapp, a Pensacola State College graduate, was a recipient of the 2019 PSC Distinguished Alumni Life Achievement Award presented at the Awards Gala held May 4, 2019.

The \$161,801.63 endowed scholarship was made possible by donations totaling \$81,150.79 and matching contributions of \$62,500 from the PSC Foundation and \$18,150.84 by the PSC Alumni Association.



Dr. Ed Meadows, Gary A. DeLapp, Lane Harper

### **Contributors to the Gary A. DeLapp Alumni Scholarship**

#### **Robert Alter\***

Peter Birkhead

#### **John & Melissa Ceriale\***

David Cleveland

#### **Jonathan & Mindy Gray\***

Timothy Groves

Toni Jacaruso

Donald E. Jenkins

David & June Kim

Rick Krueger

Therese Lehman

Dennis Long

Lance McFaddin

F. Joseph Rogers

Dave & Cathy Smith

#### **William Stein\***

Evan & Judee Studer

Rick Takach

Mike & Patti Thomas

Norman Understein

Linda Wiley

Steve Woolridge

**\*Lead Contributors**

---

# Aspire Higher

## SCHOLARSHIP

---

Established by Jarl "J.T." and Deidre Young, the Aspire Higher Scholarship assists African American students who major in STEM or business-related fields. The Youngs' \$12,500 pledged gift will be matched by the PSC Foundation under the PSC Alumni Association Scholarship Matching Program.

"So as you can probably tell education is huge for us and our family. Our parents were not formally educated but they knew the value of education," said J.T. Young, CEO and president of Memphis (Tennessee) Light, Gas and Water.

**"Deidre and I are trying to make sure that we pay forward what we believe is so important in our community."**

"We know that's so important for our community and so Deidre and I are trying to make sure that we pay forward what we believe is so important in our community."

In 1980, J.T. Young earned an associate's degree in pre-engineering from Pensacola State College. Deidre Young completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and later served as a trustee for Pensacola State College. She also completed a number of educational certification courses at the College.

The couple's sons – Thomas and Joseph – also enrolled in courses at the College.



Jarl "J.T." and Deidre Young are pictured with their sons, Thomas, and Joseph, as well as his mother, Mable Young, and sister, Avis Bemby, at the College's Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala in May.

---



# *Delta Kappa Alpha*

## SCHOLARSHIP

---

Delta Kappa Alpha Fraternity, in partnership with the Pensacola State College Alumni Association, has agreed to raise funds to establish a new scholarship.

When fully funded, this scholarship will benefit Pensacola State students who qualify. The Fraternity has raised more than the original goal of \$12,500 which was matched by the College's Alumni Association Scholarship Matching Fund. They continue to build the scholarship endowment and plan future annual fundraising events.

The fraternity was active from the 1960s until the 1990s. Delta Kappa Alpha "Deke" Brothers, PSC alumni and friends are invited to contribute to this fund.



Founding Delta Kappa Alpha Fraternity brothers, clockwise from back left, Bob Bell, Ray Periera, Lee Jones, George Gaines, Roger Eaton, Al Shams and Steve Van Wezel, at the unveiling of the DKA Memorial Cabinet in the Edward M. Chadbourne Library.

# Edward Meadows

## MERITORIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

---

Established by Pensacola State College President Ed Meadows in May 2019, the Edward Meadows Meritorious Scholarship will benefit full- or part-time Pensacola State students enrolled in an A.A., A.S., or B.A.S./B.S.N. field of study.

Preference will be given to students majoring in STEM, health sciences or nursing. Scholarship recipients also must remain involved in student life at the College, demonstrate financial need and maintain a minimum of 2.5 grade point average.

"Many of our students work full-time jobs, have families and sometimes even care for their parents – scholarships help them pay their tuition,

fees and books," said Meadows who has been Pensacola State's president since June 1, 2008.

**"Many of our students work full-time jobs, have families and sometimes even care for their parents – scholarships help them pay their tuition, fees and books."**

With a vast background in higher education, Meadows served 17 years in the Alabama Community College System – 12 of those as president. He also worked 10 years in the Mississippi Community College System as a faculty member, department chair and campus dean.

Meadows earned his Master of Arts and doctorate from Ball State University, a Master of Science in science from the University of Tennessee, and Bachelor of Science from Delta State University.



PSC President Ed Meadows chats with students.

---



# *Ginger McMullen Moore*

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

---



Established in 2017, the Ginger McMullen Moore Endowed Scholarship honors one of Pensacola State College's longtime supporters.

Mrs. Moore attended PJC from 1958-1960 and subsequently graduated from Florida State University. She was a member of the Pensacola Junior College Foundation Board of Governors from 2007 to 2012, serving on several committees and twice chairing the Annual Fund Campaign. She is also a Lifetime Charter Member of the PSC Alumni Association.

In honor of Moore's commitment to supporting students and programs at the College and her many civic contributions, her husband, Edward Moore, established the scholarship.

Also a PSC alumnus, Edward Moore graduated from Pensacola Junior College in 1960, and later the University of Florida. He is a member of College's District Board of Trustees, beginning his term in 2007 to the present and serving as chair from 2011 to 2013. He is also a Lifetime Charter Member of the PSC Alumni Association.

"I am beyond honored; never in my wildest dreams did I imagine a Pensacola State College scholarship would one day bear my name," Ginger Moore said. "I am so grateful to my husband for the scholarship proposal and the Alumni Association's Board of Directors for supporting the idea. It is one of the brightest highlights of my life – the epitome of a lifelong interest and involvement with the College."

**"I was a first-generation college student and have a great appreciation for what this scholarship can do for students."**

Helping first-generation college students realize the dream of higher education is very near and dear to Ginger Moore. The 1958 Escambia County (Alabama) High School graduate, was the first in her family to attend college.

"I was a first-generation college student and have a great appreciation for what this scholarship can do for students," said Ginger Moore – the oldest of five children.



Edward and Ginger Moore

## Guardians of Tradition

ENHANCING LIVES SINCE 1936



The unwavering spirit, hardworking character, and confidence that we all can succeed is what makes our community so great. Pen Air is a **proud community partner of Pensacola State College** and a community partner in an area where we all live, work, and play together. Learn more about our local history at [penair.org/AboutUs](http://penair.org/AboutUs).

**Pen Air**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1.877.4PENAIR | 850.505.3200

© 2019 Pen Air Federal Credit Union. Federally Insured by NCUA. NMLS# 413053.



## Stewards of Success



*Duncan McCall was pleased to produce the video presentation for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards. We salute each honoree. It was a pleasure meeting the inspiring people who nominated and supported the award recipients. Congratulations!*

—Michael Duncan

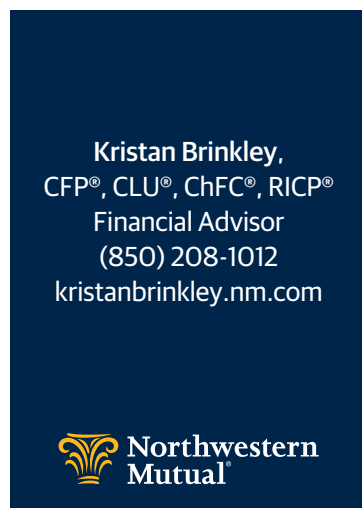


**Duncan McCall**  
Advertising • Marketing • Public Relations





## Advocates for Achievement



## Partners in Progress

*A* | *Anthea E. Amos, Ph.D.*  
DEAN OF THE MILTON CAMPUS



*W* | *Larry & Patrice Whitten & Family*

## MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

*Building* ON TRADITION  
INVESTING IN THE *Future*



LANE HARPER  
President, Pensacola State College  
Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

The PSC Alumni Association Board of Directors was honored to join with the College in presenting the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards and Gala. It was a memorable and inspirational evening. We recognized eight successful alumni and celebrated PSC's culture of outstanding faculty and dedicated staff. Their stories speak to the positive influence that this great College has had on so many lives.

The Alumni Association works closely with the College to open doors to greater possibilities. We're pleased that four newly-endowed, named scholarships were established in conjunction with the awards.

As we move forward, we will continue to enhance the alumni experience at Pensacola State College. Also, the Alumni Association remains committed to perpetuating the College's tradition of excellence and strengthening the bonds with our students and alumni.



PATRICE S. WHITTEN  
Executive Director, Alumni Affairs  
Pensacola State College

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working closely with College Leadership, the celebration of our 70 years of service afforded us the opportunity to establish a new tradition, the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Designed to highlight the accomplishments and impact of Pensacola State College's exceptional alumni, the event marked another milestone in the history of our College and left a lasting legacy of newly-created scholarships and enduring philanthropic support. Together with our sponsors, patrons and contributors, we are united in our pledge to give back to the College in ways that engage and recognize outstanding alumni and serve the students of tomorrow. We will always remain grateful to all who were part of our inaugural alumni awards and have supported PSC throughout our history.



## PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Lane Harper  
President



Mike Thomas  
Vice President



Gerald Adcox  
Secretary/Treasurer



Martha Caughey



David Collins



Joseph Herring



Eric Irwin



Chris Jones



Ted Kirchharr



Buck Lee



Jerry Maygarden



Norris McMahon



Wesley Meiss



Steve Rhodes



David Sutton



Erin Whibbs



Lisa York



Marie Young

### Executive Committee

Lane Harper  
President  
Mike Thomas  
Vice President  
Gerald Adcox  
Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Patrice S. Whitten  
Executive Director

### Directors

Martha Caughey  
David Collins  
Joseph Herring  
Eric Irwin  
Chris Jones  
Ted Kirchharr,  
Immediate Past  
President  
Buck Lee  
Jerry Maygarden,  
Honorary Member,  
Past President  
Norris McMahon  
Wesley Meiss  
Steve Rhodes  
David Sutton  
Erin Whibbs  
Lisa York  
Marie Young

### Incoming Directors

Cherry Fitch  
Denis McKinnon Sr.

### The Alumni Employee Council (A.C.E.s)

Dr. Anthea Amos  
Dr. Dusti Sluder  
Renee Jenkins Hosea  
Butch Branch

### Lifetime charter members

(As of 9.13.19)

Gerald Adcox  
Anthea Amos  
Douglas Bates  
Linda Bauer  
Debra Bigelow-  
Jordan  
Carol Carlan  
Jayson Carter  
David Collins  
Gary A. DeLapp  
Theresa Dillon  
Deborah Douma  
Dirk Dupuy  
Pamela Edwards  
Elaine Fields  
Gerry Goldstein  
Tracy Gonsoulin  
Robbie Gregg  
Bill Griffin  
Lane Harper  
Bo Johnson  
Judi Johnson  
Chris Jones  
Obi Kalu  
Gayle Kelly  
Charles King  
Clora King  
Ted Kirchharr  
Andrea Krieger  
Kevin Lacz  
Rameca Leary  
Buck Lee

Sarah Lewis  
Lynsey Listau  
Michael Listau  
James Martin  
Robert May  
Ed Meadows  
Edward Moore  
Ginger Moore  
Margie Moore  
Josh Moya  
Sheila Nichols  
Karen Nobles  
Shelley Ovsak  
Chris Pate  
Steven Peacock  
Kerry Polingo  
Jennifer Ponson  
James Reeves  
Juanita Scott  
Chip Simmons  
Dusti Sluder  
Hamilton Smith  
Kevin Smith  
Anthony Sullivan  
David Sutton  
Charlie Switzer  
Fran Switzer  
Jason Switzer  
Michael Thomas  
Dona Usry  
David van Hoose  
Thomas Vaughn  
Celeste Whisenant  
Frank White  
Linda Whinton  
Patrice Whitten  
Mike Wiggins  
Sara Wilson  
Herb Woll  
Deidre Young  
Jarl "J.T." Young  
Marie Young  
Joan Ziel

### About the Pensacola State College Alumni Association

The PSC Alumni Association provides alumni networking and engagement opportunities, student scholarships, scholarship matching funds and supports the mission of Pensacola State College. We provide opportunities for our alumni to join with our Alumni Association Board and members, volunteer and serve the more than 111,000 graduates of Pensacola State College.



**PENSACOLA CAMPUS**

1000 College Boulevard | Pensacola, FL 32504

**MILTON CAMPUS**

5988 Highway 90 | Milton, FL 32570

**WARRINGTON CAMPUS**

5555 West Highway 98 | Pensacola, FL 32507

**DOWNTOWN CENTER**

418 West Garden Street | Pensacola, FL 32502

**CENTURY CENTER**

440 East Hecker Road | Century, FL 32535

**SOUTH SANTA ROSA CENTER**

5075 Gulf Breeze Pkwy | Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

[PensacolaState.edu](http://PensacolaState.edu)

