

ALUMNI ANCHOR

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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WINTER 2019/2020

Robby Fussell Used PSC as Stepping Stone for M.I.T., Harvard, Cybersecurity Career

Robby Fussell is one smart guy, with credentials that a cybersecurity expert would need to decipher. His business email signature?

*"Robby S. Fussell, ALM in IT, MS in CSc, CISSP, CSSLP, CWAPT, QSA, CEH, GSEC, CCSE, NSA IAM, NSA 4011/4013
HITRUST Certified CSF Practitioner
Principal Architect — Trusted Advisor"*

That's cybersecurity credentialing lingo. And Fussell's educational repertoire is just as impressive as his career resume.

He earned a master's degree from Harvard University. He earned a hard-gained certificate in Cryptography and Computer Security from the esteemed Massachusetts

"PSC was the first stepping stone in my lifelong learning that made a significant impact," said Fussell, who lives in Tampa.

"Like a rock that starts the first ripples of waves when thrown into a pond. I am forever grateful for the impact that PSC had on my life."

A 1987 Pine Forest High School graduate, Fussell always excelled in math and science, yet first started studying business when he entered then-PJC later in the year.

"I then went into law a little bit," he said by phone from Austin, Texas, while on a business trip. "Then I went into computers and that was my true aptitude for learning."

While with AT&T Cybersecurity, Fussell has worked with the National Security Agency to deploy a classified piece of cryptography for the Maryland-based agency. He has worked with government agencies and major corporations, including the U.S. Department of Treasury, and has led international cybersecurity teams in Singapore, England and Germany. Fussell has earned many cybersecurity

certifications, including the National Security Agency's Information Assurance Methodology certification.

Fussell, whose mother still lives in Pensacola, was an active student while at PJC.

He was president of the school's College Republicans organization, and was even invited to the 1989 inauguration of President George H.W. Bush.

"I just didn't have the finances to go," said Fussell, who took out a student loan to attend Pensacola Junior College.



Robby Fussell, a 1989 Pensacola State graduate, said the College had a profound impact on his education and career paths.

Fussell was also vice-president of the College's Student Government Association. "That was a great experience," he said. "My whole experience at PJC was positive and helpful."

And it provided a foundation for what he has achieved since leaving the College.

"If it was not for PSC, I am not sure where I would be today," Fussell said. "I just know that my success I owe in part to PSC."

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**PSC WAS THE FIRST STEPPING STONE
IN MY LIFELONG LEARNING THAT
MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT. ... I AM
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— ROBBY FUSSELL

Institute of Technology, as well as a master's degree in computer information systems from Nova Southeastern University and a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from the University of West Florida.

But Fussell credits Pensacola State College — PJC during his time here from 1987 to 1989 — with placing him on the proper path in his pursuit of higher education.

And that education has allowed him to achieve a top position as Principal Architect with AT&T Cybersecurity, where he has worked since 2004.

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Alumnus Establishes Scholarship
in Mentor's Name

Alum Helps Up-and-Coming Entrepreneurs

PSC is a Tradition for McArthur Family

Association Honors 8 Accomplished Alumni

15 Inducted into College's
Athletics Hall of Fame

DKA Fraternity Donates Memorial
Cabinet to Library

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www.alumni.pensacolastate.edu

AT A GLANCE

Name: Robby Fussell

Occupation: Principal Architect with AT&T Cybersecurity

Family: Wife, Leanne, and daughter, Katie

Hobbies: Ice hockey, weightlifting, reading, growing bonsai trees

Education:

- Associate of Arts, Pensacola State College, 1989
- Bachelor of Science, Computer Information Systems, University of West Florida, 1994
- Master of Science, Computer Information Systems, Nova Southeastern University, 1998
- Professional program in Cryptography and Computer Security, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2005
- Master of Liberal Arts, Extension Studies in Information Technology, Harvard University, 2016



Cultivating Bonsai trees is a hobby of PSC alumnus Robby Fussell who is a principal architect with AT&T Cybersecurity.

Board Member FOCUS



CHERRY FITCH

Father does know best — just ask Gulf Breeze Mayor Cherry Fitch.

Fitch followed her father's advice and began her education at Pensacola State College — ranked

as the No. 1 community college in the United States at that time. At the College, Fitch said she found a supportive and inspiring environment that bolstered her confidence and solidified her commitment to the pursuit of higher education.

After PSC, Fitch went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English at the University of West Florida, then her master's in Educational Leadership from UWF and counseling from Troy University.

She started her career as a high school teacher. Later Fitch became a guidance counselor, and eventually the principal of Gulf Breeze High School.

Fitch was the 1993 Santa Rosa Teacher of the Year and has been chosen as Principal of the Year — county, regional and state — and, in 2012, was the recipient of a Community Difference Maker Award. Fitch has held memberships, volunteered and served on numerous boards, such as the Santa Rosa Education Foundation and Gulf Breeze Will-Do — involvement which reflects her "can-do attitude."

Fitch also began a second career as a Realtor, and eventually moved into public service — first as a Gulf Breeze councilwoman and ultimately as mayor.

Through her career, volunteer work and memberships, Fitch has built a legacy of public service and education advocacy.

Fitch has one daughter, Mandi, and son-in-law Marty Edwards. She also is the sister of retired PSC administrator, Sara Wilson.



DENIS MCKINNON SR.

Pensacola State College was the perfect jumping-off point for Denis McKinnon Sr.

After graduating from Escambia County High School in 1960, McKinnon

entered Pensacola Junior College. He only stayed at PJC a year but during that time, the 18-year-old discovered his path.

In 1961, McKinnon entered the U.S. Marine Corps aviation program and earned the Naval Aviator Designation in 1963. He spent 20 years as a naval aviator and retired as a lieutenant colonel while earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and an MBA from the University of West Florida. He also worked toward his doctorate at Nova Southeastern University.

While in the Marines, McKinnon served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded more than 30 personal combat decorations, including a Purple Heart and a Meritorious Service Medal.

He retired in 1981 and returned to Pensacola, where he was successful in business. McKinnon was recognized as the Kiwanis Pensacola Business Leader of the Year. He also is a recipient of two PACE Awards — 1989 Business Leader of the Year and the 2004 Spirit of Pensacola. He has served as the president of the Sacred Heart Foundation and of the USO when it opened at the Pensacola International Airport.

McKinnon's involvement with PJC did not end when he left the College. He developed and built a childcare center on the Pensacola campus and was a member of the College's Board of Trustees — a commitment which included the selection of two presidents.

McKinnon and his wife, Maureen, have three children — Denise, Denis Jr. and Darin; and seven grandchildren.



PATRICK ROONEY

Early in life, it was evident that Patrick Rooney would be a leader.

While a student at Pensacola Junior College in the early 1970s, Rooney was a member of the

Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, where he chaired the tutoring subcommittee and the mathematics subcommittee.

Today, Rooney still believes in serving his community. He is the newest Pensacola State Alumni Association board member.

Rooney says it's "a great honor" to serve on the Alumni Association board.

"I'm very humbled," he says. His memories of PJC might be distant, but they're fond.

After graduating from PJC with an Associate In Arts degree in business in 1974, Rooney went to the University of West Florida where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting — graduating magna cum laude in 1976.

Over his career, he has worked for a wide variety of companies around the world, including Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu LLC, VVE Inc., Manufacturing Technology Inc., Beyond Media and P2P Engineering LLC.

He also was a co-founder of Nuovo Technologies Inc., a start-up Internet Software Development and Security consulting firm, and Cogon Systems Inc., providing strategic business services.

Currently he provides business coaching and entrepreneurial development services through the Co:Lab Pensacola, a program of FloridaWest, and his company, Coastal CxO Services Inc.

Rooney lives in Gulf Breeze, with his wife, Michelle, and three toy poodles. Rooney and Michelle also have five daughters and three grandchildren.

PIRATES GIVING BACK

Pensacola State Alumnus Establishes Scholarship in Late Mentor's Name

MICHAEL V. HARRELL SCHOLARSHIP TO BENEFIT CULINARY, HOSPITALITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP MAJORS

Gary A. DeLapp, recipient of the 2019 Pensacola State College Distinguished Alumni Life Achievement Award, has established a scholarship to honor his longtime mentor, the late Michael V. Harrell.

Open to culinary and hospitality management, culinary arts and business entrepreneurship majors, recipients of the Michael V. Harrell Endowed Scholarship must have a minimum 2.75 grade point average, be a U.S. citizen or resident alien and enrolled full-time or part-time. Scholarships can be used for tuition, fees, books and other supplies.

Harrell, 77, passed away of leukemia in February 2019. A trailblazer in the corporate hospitality industry, he founded Vista Host, a hotel development and management company.

"Michael will be remembered for his industry vision, his passion for superlative results, and his competitive spirit," said DeLapp, who first met Harrell in 1978.

At that time, Harrell was an executive. DeLapp was a Pensacola Junior College student working as a bus boy and dishwasher at the Holiday Inn North — the first hotel Harrell converted to a Vista Host property.

"I learned many lessons from Michael, there are too many to name but he always stressed the importance of hard work, honesty, integrity and always giving 100 percent," recalled DeLapp. "Sensitivity to guests, attention to detail in all that we do and being bottom-line focused were also other practices he shared."

Linda Harrell, Michael Harrell's widow, was touched that DeLapp chose to memorialize her husband with a scholarship.

"In the early days of my husband's company, Gary was a student working in his spare time. His abilities were quick to surface, and my husband encouraged him to continue in the course he had charted," said Linda Harrell who noted her husband always played the role of teacher and was a "hands-on"



Gary A. DeLapp



Michael V. Harrell

leader who visited all his properties and knew every employee at each site.

"Gary became a superstar and exceeded beyond belief. My husband was so proud to see his success."

His initial donation was matched as part of the Alumni Association Matching Program with funds from the PSC Foundation.

The Harrell Family also donated \$25,000 for a challenge match where donor gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

The scholarships will range from \$500 to \$2,500 per award — starting in fall 2020. Members of the Harrell family plan to meet the scholarship recipients.

"We are very appreciative to PSC alumnus, Gary A. DeLapp and the Harrell Family for honoring Michael V. Harrell by establishing this endowed scholarship. When our alumni generously give to their alma mater, it speaks to the exceptional and enduring educational experience they received here and the legacy they leave for future deserving students," said Patrice S. Whitten, Executive Director, Alumni Affairs at PSC.

Born in Carmi, Illinois, Harrell earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Evansville — where he was introduced to the hospitality industry while working as a hotel night auditor during college.

Harrell also served as president of the International Association of Holiday Inns from 1984-1985 and as a member of the Hilton Advisory Board for Hampton Inn. In 2012, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Hilton Worldwide.

Under Harrell's tutelage, DeLapp also rose up the ranks to become a senior vice president and partner at Vista Host Hotel Management early in his career.

"Michael's gift was to recognize talent wherever it might occur. He encouraged and advised everyone he touched whether they were in top

management or those cleaning the rooms," Linda Harrell said. "Michael loved his job. He loved his associates and he wanted to help everyone become the best person that they could be. His tagline was 'What you do speaks so loudly that I can hardly hear what you say.'"

DeLapp believes Harrell would be overwhelmed by the scholarship bearing his name.

"He was always doing things for others and to have something like this in his name — he would be surprised," he said.

Linda Harrell agreed, adding her husband also loved Pensacola.

"So nothing could have been more appropriate than to provide the opportunity for a similar experience to others. Hats off to Gary DeLapp, a very thoughtful, good man," she said.

Along with his wife, Harrell is survived by daughters, Lisa Galassini and husband Terry, and Sarah Harrod and husband John; four grandchildren, Davis Galassini, Hope Harrod, Grant Galassini and Hannah Harrod; and other relatives.

To contribute to the Michael V. Harrell Endowed Scholarship, visit alumni.pensacolastate.edu/harrell-scholarship/.



Veterans National Homecare Donation

Pensacola State College received \$5,000 in scholarship funds from Veterans National Homecare for first generation in college students. The company pledged a total of \$15,000 to fund scholarships. The first scholarships will be awarded in fall 2020, and funds can be used for tuition, fees, books and other supplies. Two other \$5,000 donations will be made in 2020

and 2021. As available, future donations will be matched by funds from the First Generation Matching Grant Program. Pictured are, from left, PSC President Ed Meadows; Denis McKinnon Jr., Denis McKinnon Sr., PSC Alumni Association board member and alumnus, and Wade Wilson — with Veterans National Homecare; and Rob Gregg, PSC Veterans Upward Bound director.

PIRATES IN THE COMMUNITY

PSC Alum Is Miracle Worker for Up-and-Coming Entrepreneurs

Patrick Rooney says he had some “amazing teachers” during his days at what was then Pensacola Junior College in the early '70s.

One of those teachers of whose memories he remains quite fond was a math instructor, Mary Pfeiffer.

Pfeiffer knew Rooney was a star math student and was, in fact, the head of the math tutoring subcommittee for the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society. Still, she was perplexed when it came to Rooney.

“She could not fathom why an A student would want to go into accounting and not become an engineer,” Rooney says.

The answer to that question is an interesting one, says the entrepreneur and business coach who operates the Co:Lab Pensacola business incubator and Coastal CxO Services consulting firm.

“It’s very simple, actually,” says the newest member of the board of PSC’s Alumni Association.

“I had a spinster aunt who lived in Brooklyn. When I was young, she started buying me a couple of shares of stock in really big companies. She would actually get the stock certificates, these big, ornate, paper certificates, and mail them to me.

In addition, I would get reports from these companies — we’re talking about Scott Paper, AT&T, etc. — and even dividend checks, although we’re not talking about a lot of money. Still, to get money in the mail made a big impression on an 8-year-old.”

Rooney was fascinated, not just with the cash, but with the numbers themselves. Earnings, sales, trends and deficits were to Rooney like the adventures of a superhero would be to other youngsters.

“I wanted to understand what those numbers meant,” he recalled.

So the young Rooney tackled the numbers and became hooked, forging the beginnings of a long career that would have him working for a number of companies around the world.

“PJC at the time reminded me of O.J. Semmes, where I went to school. I grew up on 12th Avenue in Pensacola,” he says of his early PJC days.

He remembers Underwood Avenue, the famed street just to the north of the Pensacola campus, being, at the time, “just a washboard road, almost a dirt road.” He says he and a buddy — Rooney in a souped-up Volkswagen Beetle and his pal in a Karmann Ghia — would drag race in the area.

“PJC was really just about going to school. I was making some money but spending it on my girlfriend. But it was a great time. I just loved it.” He says his two fondest memories were the instructors who helped him, Pfeiffer and accounting teacher Louise Wise.

“And I’ve really liked the presidents at PJC/PSC over the years.”

Rooney graduated from PJC with an Associate in Arts in business in 1974. He then attended the University of West Florida, where he took advantage of the school’s robust co-op program, which allowed him to travel and work in other cities, like Omaha, Nebraska, “just in time for the worst blizzard in 20 years.”

He graduated from UWF in 1976 magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in accounting.

For a variety of companies, he’s been an accountant, controller, international tax manager, chief financial officer, vice president and deputy director.

Beginning in the late 1990s, his resume started featuring the word “co-founder,” as in Nuovo Technologies Inc., a start-up internet software development company in Navarre or Cogon Systems Inc., a healthcare technology company.

These days the entrepreneur devotes the bulk of his time to guiding and nurturing other entrepreneurs.



Patrick Rooney

“I do it because I am an entrepreneur myself,” says the Tiger Point resident.

“Large companies are great, but in my experience it’s all about, ‘Let’s do the same thing we did last year,’ so innovation and creativity are not their strong points. I wanted to work with more innovative problem solvers.”

When it comes to problem solving, he refers to himself on his About.me web page as a practitioner of “Thaumaturgy.”

In the fantasy world, thaumaturgy is the realm of magicians or saints. In the real world, a thaumaturgist is, simply put, a miracle worker.

“A lot of entrepreneurs get in over their head and they don’t have the experience to know what to do,” Rooney says.

“That’s where the miracle work comes in. It’s knowing how to tell the entrepreneurs that they will survive.”

AT A GLANCE

Name: Patrick Rooney

Occupation: Director, Co:Lab Pensacola, a business incubator and growth accelerator

Family: Wife, Michelle; five daughters; and three grandchildren

Education: Associate in Arts in Business, Pensacola Junior College, 1974, and Bachelor’s degree in accounting, the University of West Florida, 1976

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PIRATES FAMILY AFFAIR

McArthur Family has Long Legacy with Pensacola State

The McArthur Family has been a part of Pensacola State's history for nearly as long as the College has existed.

The late L.D. McArthur, affectionately known as "Mr. Mac," joined the Escambia County School Board in 1949 — one year after the first students enrolled in Pensacola Junior College. Mr. Mac remained on the school board until his death in 1975 and was instrumental in the College's growth and success.

Over the past 70-plus years, at least 16 of Mr. Mac's descendants have earned degrees or taken courses at PSC. One of his grandchildren — Jo Helen McArthur — even works here as the Business and Outreach Coordinator.

"In our family, the first step into postsecondary study was to attend PSC," said Gerald McArthur Sr., Mr. Mac's middle child. His siblings — the late William "Bill"

McArthur and Annette McArthur — also began their college educations at then PJC.

When the College relocated into the old Pensacola High School building in 1953, Gerald McArthur basically moved to another classroom.

"I spent more than five years in one building (old Pensacola High) — four years of high school and then my first years of college," recalled the 1955 PJC graduate who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in 1957 from Florida State University (FSU). After college, he worked in the automobile industry and Gov. Faris Bryant's office before accepting a management position with Monsanto.

Bill McArthur, the first McArthur child to attend PJC, was inducted posthumously into the College's 2019 Athletics Hall of Fame inaugural class. A standout

athlete, the 1953 PJC graduate was a longtime Pirates basketball supporter and a table coordinator at the College for 42 years.

"He enjoyed a relationship with every president, athletic director and coach who served at the College," said Athletic Director Bill Hamilton.

After PJC, Bill McArthur transferred to FSU for his bachelor's degree. He later earned a master's degree from Mississippi College.

A veteran, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War before returning to Pensacola to work for the Escambia County School District.

When Annette McArthur enrolled in PJC classes, she was the first "McArthur" child to attend classes on the Ninth Avenue campus.

"There were not very many buildings. There were no sidewalks, we stomped around in the mud to get to classes," she fondly remembered with a laugh.

"But time has brought some great changes to the College with all of the campuses and centers. I have enjoyed watching PSC expand — it still amazes me when I see how it has grown."



Annette McArthur and Gerald D. McArthur Sr.

After earning a bachelor's degree from FSU and a master's from the University of West Florida, Annette McArthur was an educator and administrator with the school district and retired after a 40-year career.

The College still remains near and dear to the McArthur family.

In July 2019, the College received \$30,000 in scholarship and program funds from Monsanto-Solutia Retirees Inc.

"The Chemstrand, Monsanto and Solutia companies grew here and contributed in many ways to our community. That growth was done hand-in-hand with Pensacola Junior College/Pensacola State College. Our organization wants to leave a legacy of support to the students at PSC, in recognition of our long relationship with the College," Gerald McArthur Sr., chairman of the Association Monsanto-Solutia Retirees, Inc, said at the check presentation.

L.D. "MR. MAC" MCARTHUR FAMILY — PSC CONNECTION

The late William "Bill" McArthur	Brian McArthur	Douglas Rigby
Gerald D. McArthur Sr.	Rachel McArthur	Melissa Rigby Hatcher
Annette McArthur	William McArthur II	Catherine McArthur Spry
Gerald D. McArthur Jr.	Greg McArthur	* Jo Helen McArthur (currently employed at PSC)
Mac Dills	Edward Winston Rigby	
Lucy Dills Bethune	Faye Rigby Welch	

CLASS NOTES

PSC Alumni Noted for Community Service and Achievements

Two Pensacola State College alumni and community leaders are in the news for separate achievements.

Jerry Maygarden received the highest distinction awarded by Junior Achievement.

On Nov. 5, he became a Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Laureate, an honor that recognizes individuals in the community that are the greatest champions of youth financial literacy and workforce preparedness.

A U.S. Navy and Vietnam War veteran, Maygarden served in the Florida House of Representatives, 2nd District, from 1994 to 2002. He was the mayor of Pensacola from 1991-1994, mayor pro tempore from 1989-1991 and a city councilman from 1985-1992.

Maygarden received an associate degree from Pensacola Junior College in 1974. He went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of West Florida in 1974 and 1975, respectively.

In October, Ted Kirchharr became the City of Pensacola's Human Resources Director.

In the position, Kirchharr is responsible for managing the city's human resources programs including training and development, performance management, staffing and more.

A 1973 Pensacola Junior College graduate, Kirchharr earned his bachelor's degree from UWF in 1975, and a master's degree from Central Michigan University in 1989.

For more than 20 years, Kirchharr was deputy superintendent of the Escambia

County School District. He also was a senior director for Studer Education and vice president and CEO for Landrum Professional Employer Services.

From 2016-2018, Kirchharr was the PSC Alumni Association President.



Jerry Maygarden



Ted Kirchharr

PIRATE STORYTELLERS

Pensacola State Alumni Discover Second Careers at College

Two Pensacola State alumni and longtime community journalists have found their way back to the College.

Troy Moon, a Pensacola News Journal (PNJ) reporter for more than 30 years, along with Mike Suchcicki, who started at the newspaper in the late 1980s, now work in the College's Marketing and Information Department.

Moon's byline has appeared thousands of times on articles about natural disasters, tragedies, music concerts, politics and more. Now a writer and editor at the college, Moon retired from the PNJ in January 2019, but hasn't ended his search for new and interesting stories.

A Pensacola native, Moon attended PSC, then-Pensacola Junior College, in the mid-'80s.

Asked to reflect on his storied PNJ career, Moon says, "Wow, I remember having a private lunch with Dick Clark when he was in Mobile for some pageant. That was cool. I loved covering the first Lollapalooza tour in New Orleans, where I did some crowd surfing and fainting. I spent a week in D.C. for the 2001 inauguration of President George W. Bush, which was fun. Got to cover MTV's Spring Break in Panama City back in the 1990s, where I got to hang out with Gilbert Gottfried and talk to Jenny McCarthy while she had a piece of green spinach dip stuck between her teeth."

Moon says "a marketing department" was the last place he thought he'd wind up, post-PNJ.

"As a journalist, I was always wary of public relations folks, especially from the corporate world. Are you selling that product because you're being paid to or because you believe in it? I could never try to sell something I didn't believe in," he said. "But Pensacola State College is a center of education. I attended PSC. I think the school has provided so many opportunities for so many of our local family members and neighbors, so I'm honored to be promoting PSC and the opportunities offered here. I can sell something — education — and still feel good about myself."

Paula Ingram, advisor for The Corsair, added many people may not know that Moon started at the PSC student newspaper.

"As PNJ reporter, Troy covered our area reporting on the news of the day. In addition, he wrote columns which served a variety of purposes. Sometimes it was to profile someone most people knew nothing about. Other times it was to point out some truths about ourselves that we might not want to admit. Always his sense of humor and pride in Pensacola, shone through."



Troy Moon

A 1977 PSC graduate, Suchcicki joined the College in August 2019. At the PNJ, he was a cartoonist and humorist — and a game inventor on the side. Later, he branched off to the digital side of the newspaper business where he learned web design. He led the development of digital news production at the PNJ, including his creation of the first PNJ website.

Now, Suchcicki or "Sooch" is a multimedia specialist at the College. His responsibilities

include the production of "The Pirate," the PSC Foundation and the PSC Nonprofit Center for Excellence and Philanthropy newsletters.

Suchcicki, who retired from the PNJ in 2015, said he feels as if he rejoined his College family. He was a PJC student from 1975-1977, earning an associate degree in journalism.

"I was here for a long time," he said. "I just liked it here and thought it was such a fun atmosphere. I could have done my A.A. in two years, which is a typical thing, but I just liked it here so much that I just figured out ways to keep coming back."

He got his first taste of journalism writing for The Corsair.

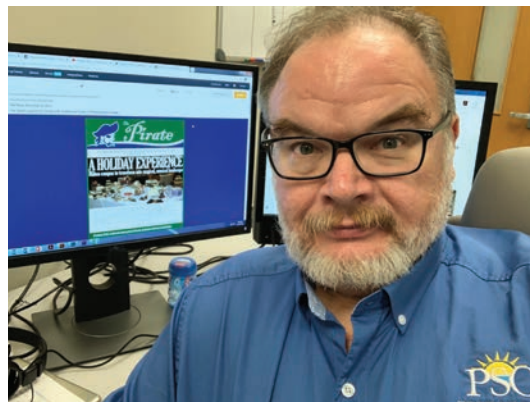
"Our journalism instructor was Linda Bauer, who taught a lot of folks who went on to pretty substantial journalism or marketing or advertising careers. She was a very influential person in my life."

Bauer said that Suchcicki was one of the most creative students she ever taught.

"Oh my goodness, he came in with a lot of talent and enthusiasm," Bauer recalled. "He was a good writer from the beginning and very creative. He could bring out the feature angle on almost any story. He always had a creative twist."

Though PSC keeps him busy, Suchcicki's inventive drive is still in high gear. He is the creator and developer, along with son Joe, of GHOULASH, an action-adventure game. Available in two formats

— a paper version and a card-deck version, Suchcicki first conceived GHOULASH in the 1980s and has been updating it ever since.



Mike Suchcicki

AT A GLANCE

Troy Moon

PSC Position: Writer and editor in marketing department

Previous Career: Pensacola News Journal feature writer, reporter and columnist. Retired 2019

Family: Wife Patti; six children; four grandchildren

Education: Troy attended Pensacola Junior College and was a writer and music critic for The Corsair

Hobbies: Music, disc golf and hiking

Mike "Sooch" Suchcicki

PSC Position: Multimedia specialist in marketing department

Previous career: Reporter, writer, editor and digital web producer at Pensacola News Journal. Retired in 2015

Family: Wife, Lani; son, Joe Suchcicki; daughter, Kate Durden and son-in-law, John Durden; granddaughter Lucy Durden, age 2

Education: Associate of Arts in Journalism, Pensacola Junior College

Hobbies: GHOULASH action-adventure game creator and developer
Details: ghoulash.com

Sheila Nichols, PSC's Executive Director of Marketing, said she was pleased to have the seasoned journalists join her department.

"I was always a big fan of Troy when he was a writer for PNJ, and I knew Mike as well. I have to pinch myself to realize he is now in our department," she said.

"They both are experienced and have a way of drawing you into a story and making you want to read more. Troy and Mike are welcomed assets to the Marketing Department and College."

WHERE IS THAT PIRATE NOW?

Alumnus Credits PSC with Setting Him on a Path to Academic Success

Alessandro Bailetti considers himself fortunate.

Bailetti, a 2009 Pensacola State College graduate, is now a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, where he is researching and investigating genetics, genomics, cell signaling, gene transcription and chromatin modification.

"I'm lucky, I'm blessed," said Bailetti, now 31 and a first-generation college student whose parents came to the United States from Peru in the early 2000s to provide better educational opportunities for he and his sister, Maria Pia Bailetti.

Also, a Pensacola State grad, Maria Pia Bailetti moved on to the University of West Florida and, later, Barnard University in Manhattan.

"That's why my parents moved here. For us," Bailetti said.

anything you want to accomplish."

He remembers his first day on the College's Pensacola campus.

"I was walking around like a chicken without a head," Bailetti said, referring to his confusion in trying to navigate the admissions and registration process. That's when Kimberly Calloway, an academic advisor and life skills counselor for Student Support Services, took charge.

"She literally took my hand and took me from one place to the other," he recalled. "She helped me get my first scholarship to summer classes. She took me where I needed to go to pay the fees. She set it up so I could meet with my department head. I made so many connections with her help. That would have not happened if I was just walking alone."

Student Support Services is just one of five services offered by the College's TRIO programs. The federally-funded TRIO programs are designed to encourage enrollment in postsecondary or high school education programs.

The programs serve first-generation college students, such as Bailetti and his sister, as well as students from low-income households, veterans and individuals with disabilities.

"My parents didn't move here to compete with the Johnsons," Bailetti said. "They sacrificed to give us a better future. They worked their behinds off — two jobs, overtime. Whatever was needed."

It was on his family's farm in Pisco, Peru, that a young Bailetti was first introduced to the scope and breadth of science.

"I always remember my father and my grandfather using basic genetics to make better cattle, better crops," he said.

WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU AS A PERSON, AND DON'T JUST SEE YOU AS A NUMBER, YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH."

— Alessandro Bailetti

After earning his associate degree in math and biology from PSC, Bailetti attended Cornell University where he earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences. He then received a master's degree in science from New York University's School of Medicine and earned a doctorate from the same school in 2019 before moving on to Stanford.

Bailetti credits Pensacola State with preparing him for his future academic success.

"The professors and staff cared about me as an individual," he said. "When you have people, who care about you as a person, and don't just see you as a number, you can accomplish



After graduating from Pensacola State in 2009, Alessandro Bailetti went on to Cornell University for his bachelor's degree and later to New York University for his master's and doctorate. He is now a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University.

AT A GLANCE

Name: Alessandro Bailetti

Occupation: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Stanford University

Family: Parents Ana Saez and Rodolfo Bailetti; sister, Maria Pia Bailetti, who also is Pensacola State alumna

Education: Pensacola State College, associate degree in math and biology, 2009; Cornell University, Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, 2012; New York University School of Medicine, Master of Science in Developmental Genetics, 2014; New York University School of Medicine, Ph.D. Developmental Genetics, 2018

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2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS GALA

Pensacola State Honors 8 Accomplished Alumni



Denis McKinnon Sr.



Steve Olesky



Gary A. DeLapp



Jarl "J.T." Young



Cherry Fitch



Chip Simmons



Barry Cole



Thomas Vaughn

It was a night filled with shared memories, honoring the deserving and building legacies when eight highly-accomplished Pensacola State College alumni were honored at the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala.

Held May 4 in the Jean and Paul Amos Performance Studio on the Pensacola campus, "Building on Tradition — Investing in the Future" was the theme of the inaugural event where honorees were recognized in five categories: Spirit of Pensacola, Rising Star, Life Achievement, Hometown Hero and Against the Odds.

Denis McKinnon Sr., the recipient of the **Spirit of Pensacola State College Award**, is one of Escambia County's most-beloved sons.

"PJC (Pensacola Junior College) was the time when I became an adult, it was one of the best things to ever happen to me," said McKinnon, a 1959 Escambia High graduate who attended PJC from 1960 to 1961.

After leaving the College, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and earned his Naval Aviator designation in 1963. McKinnon served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded more than 30 personal combat decorations, including a Purple Heart and a Meritorious Service Medal.

Following a 20-year career as a naval aviator, McKinnon served as an aide to President Gerald Ford during the Michigan politician's term as a U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader.

After returning to Pensacola, McKinnon established himself as a community leader — helping wherever needed. He was named the Kiwanis Pensacola Business Leader of the Year, received two PACE Awards — 1989 Business Leader of the Year and the 2004 Spirit of Pensacola and numerous other accolades.

Despite all of other obligations, McKinnon's devotion to Pensacola State College was evident.

He served on the Board of Trustees, and sat on the committees that selected Dr. Charles Atwell and Dr. Thomas Delaino as presidents.

He currently serves on the Alumni Association board.

Bright nova, **Steve Olesky**, received the **Rising Star Award**.

"PJC was a stepping stone into my future," said Olesky, a senior director of the digital creative department at Ralph Lauren Corp.

"I learned how to present myself, follow directions and leadership and accept guidance from people who

were smarter than me. I feel like I have these certain gifts and palates, and I needed guidance to help understand how to use them," said Olesky of his time at Pensacola State.

After graduating from PSC, Olesky earned a bachelor's degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Gary A. DeLapp and **Jarl "J.T." Young** were presented the **Life Achievement Awards**.

DeLapp, who started out as a hotel dishwasher and moved up the hospitality industry ladder to hold several executive posts, also had the Gary A. DeLapp Alumni Scholarship established by his family and friends.

"I'm just blown away ... but I'm not done yet," said DeLapp, who fondly remembered pledging Delta Kappa Alpha Fraternity while a PSC student.

The DeLapp Endowed Scholarship was made possible by donations and matching contributions from the PSC Foundation as part of the PSC Alumni Association Matching Scholarship Program.

Young, CEO and president of Memphis (Tennessee) Light, Gas and Water, was humbled by his selection as a Distinguished Alumni.

"This award is for my family and the community," said Young, whose family roots are intertwined with the College. His wife, Deidre, was a member of the PSC Board of Trustees; his uncle was a College instructor; and his parents were devoted WSRE supporters.

"We've had this legacy of affection," Young, an engineering major, said of the College. "... By the time I got to the University of Florida, I realized that the classes I took here were much harder there. This foundation prepared me to be able to compete successfully at the University of Florida."

Young and his wife, Deidre, established the Aspire Higher Scholarship to assist African American students who major in



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.

STEM or business-related fields. The \$12,500 gift also will be matched by the PSC Foundation under the Alumni Association Matching Program.

Selected as **Hometown Heroes** were Gulf Breeze Mayor **Cherry Fitch** and Escambia County Sheriff's Office **Chief Deputy Chip Simmons**.

Fitch, a retired educator, community advocate and Realtor, said PJC was the right place for her.

The boomerang student (Fitch attended the College first as a freshman and then returned as a single mother) said she was honored to be a member of the inaugural Distinguished Alumni class.

"One day when I came back, I was walking across campus, and it was just so beautiful and peaceful — everyone was friendly. The support I received here when I came back — from the professors and the advisors — gave me the confidence to go on to the University of West Florida, which resulted in me becoming an English teacher at Gulf Breeze High School the week after I graduated," she shared. "I grew, and I came to love it here."

Simmons attributes much of his success to the College.

"Literally, every professional achievement that I've been able to accomplish has had its roots in my time at PJC," said Simmons

who started his career as a corrections officer in 1984 and retired as Pensacola Police Chief in 2015. He was sworn in as Chief Deputy in December 2016.

Beré Jewelers owner **Barry Cole** and Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Advisor **Thomas Vaughn** received the **Against the Odds Awards**.

Cole chose Pensacola State over the University of Alabama.

"Something tugged at my heart and said I couldn't go ... I ended up staying here for a girl, who I ended up marrying, so it worked out awesome," said Cole, who opened Beré Jewelers with partner, the late Ray Jones, in 1985.

Cole said that decision led him to where he is today.

For Vaughn, Pensacola State was "a place of transition."

"It was really part of a growing up stage. This was adult-based education," said Vaughn who credits the College with helping him learn how to earn his way out of a loving but disadvantaged childhood.

"We didn't have air conditioning. She didn't have indoor plumbing and I saw what poor really was," he said of a childhood visit to his grandmother's home in Red Level, Alabama.

When Vaughn enrolled in PSC, he had been in the U.S. Air Force for three years. At one point, he spent his days at the College,

evenings at Troy University, and nights working a midnight shift.

"Through the College's placement and career services, they got me in touch with my industry. It was because of Pensacola Junior College that I ended up in the career that I am in," he explained.

Sue Straughn, a WEAR-TV anchor, was the mistress of ceremonies and Patrice Whitten, PSC's Executive Director of Alumni Affairs, welcomed honorees to the gala where the Ginger McMullen Moore, Edward Meadows Meritorious and the Delta Kappa Alpha Fraternity Alumni scholarships also were announced.

The \$12,500 Edward Meadows Meritorious Endowed Scholarship has been matched by the PSC Foundation and Delta Kappa Alpha scholarship will be matched by the alumni association.

Pensacola State President Ed Meadows congratulated the inaugural class on the induction as well as their accomplishments.

"Take to heart what was said this evening, about the successes of all these people — it wasn't just Pensacola State that made them successful, but it was something inside themselves," he said.

Distinguished Alumni Awards nominations are open to all Pensacola State College alumni.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS PROGRAM SPONSORS

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Northwestern Mutual Wealth
Management Company —
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Counselor at Law

Larry and Patrice Whitten
& Family

WE ARE PIRATES, WE ARE PENSACOLA STATE



SAUNDRA COLVILLE

Saundra Colville has worked at Pensacola State College for almost 30 years.

"I have grown-up at the College and made lifelong friendships," said Colville, a Senior Student Services Advisor.

Colville can relate to being a Pensacola State student.

"I've been in their shoes," said the Pensacola resident who has earned three degrees from the College.

In 2000, Colville earned an associate degree in office systems, and in 2011, she went on to earn a second associate degree with honors.

In 2012, she was one of the College's first baccalaureate graduates when she received her Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Administration.

"We have the most outstanding students and I love helping them choose the right path for their educational and career goals. I am so blessed that my supervisors have always been so supportive of me pursuing my degrees" added Colville who completed her master's degree in counseling and psychology from the University of West Alabama.

Colville has one son, Zach, and is engaged to Chris Pearson.



LAURA FLETCHER

When Laura Fletcher enrolled in Pensacola State as a student in summer 2012, she didn't expect to still be at the College eight years later.

Now a senior administrative assistant in the Office of Institutional Research, Fletcher earned her associate degree in August 2016 and decided to remain at Pensacola State for her Bachelor of Applied Science in Project Management.

"Michael Johnston, Executive Director of Institutional Research, asked me to join his staff. I was elated to be a part of the PSC family," said Fletcher who has worked at the college since August 2018.

"I chose to come to PSC — as a student — because of the Health Information Technology Program. I did extremely well in that program but decided to change my path."

Fletcher did much more than "extremely well" in the Health Technology Program, she excelled. She was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and won a first-place award in Medical Law and Ethics at the 2014 HOSA National Leadership Conference. The year before, she placed first in medical terminology at the HOSA State National Leadership Convention.

And Fletcher continues to shine. In October 2019, she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, and completed the 2019 PSC Works program.

A resident of Navarre, Fletcher is the daughter of Helen Fletcher. She has a brother, Bill Fletcher, sister-in-law, Dianna, and a niece and nephew — Victoria and William.



MARY GRAVES

Earning a degree from Pensacola State College was an easy decision for Mary Graves, a Senior Computer Systems Analyst on the Pensacola campus.

"I was a College employee and the tuition waivers made it an economical and smart choice to pursue my associate degree here," said Graves, who has worked at Pensacola State since 1993. "And my classes were where I worked. It couldn't be any more convenient than that."

After graduating from PSC, Graves went on to the University of West Florida for a bachelor's degree in computer information systems. An outstanding student, Graves was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and graduated with high honors.

"I love what I do and enjoy the people who I work with," she said. "I may not get the opportunity to see a lot of coworkers but I know we are all committed to helping our students succeed — that gives me great purpose and great joy, especially when I meet someone in the community who is a PJC or PSC graduate."

Mary and her husband, Jim, have one daughter, Annie Alfieri, and two grandsons, Gage Biles and Dalton Richards.



JIM HINES

After leaving the U.S. Navy in 1981, Jim Hines earned an industrial arts certificate from Pensacola State College.

Sixteen years later — 1997 — Hines returned to the College when he was hired as a temporary computer technician. He had worked in nightclubs for about 10 years but wanted a career change. He also wanted to complete his electronic engineering technology degree.

"I was hired as a Keegan Staffing employee and have been at Pensacola State since that time," recalled Hines who earned his associate degree in electronics

engineering technology in 1998 and a certificate in machining in 1984 from the College.

He is currently working toward a Bachelor of Applied Science degree at PSC.

In 1998, that temporary computer technician position became full-time and Hines became a multimedia specialist — at least until 1999. That year he was promoted to microcomputer support coordinator — a position he held until 2016.

In 2016, Hines was named a Senior Coordinator of Academic Computing — the position he holds today.

"I've also taken several professional development and continuing education courses since I've worked here," he added. "I'm always interested in growth and self-improvement and Pensacola State allows me to do that by offering a selection of courses and classes."

A veteran, Hines served from January 1977 until January 1981 as an avionics technician.



KIM LAFLAMME

For more than 40 years, Pensacola State College has been a part of Kim LaFlamme's life.

In 1988, LaFlamme was hired as a clerk-typist in the College's Purchasing Department. However, she was already familiar with the campus and many employees because her mother, Jo Ann Bjorensen, worked in the Comptroller's Office.

"My mom started working at PJC in September 1978 and retired in June 2002. So when I came onboard, it almost felt like a homecoming," she said.

LaFlamme didn't stay in her first position very long. She was promoted to secretary for the provost, then became an administrative secretary/administrative assistant in the Physical Sciences Department. Today, she is an Administrative Assistant in the Natural Sciences Department.

"That's 31 years, and all I can say is 'Wow,' and ask where did the time go?" said LaFlamme, who earned an associate degree in office system technology from the College in 1999.

In 2000, LaFlamme was named Employee of the Year.

LaFlamme and her husband, Jerry, have two children — Brittany, 28, and Dalton, 13. Brittany LaFlamme is a 2016 PALS (Program for Adult Learning and Support) graduate and a member of the program's first graduating class.



LISA MOORE PAYNE

More than four decades ago, Lisa Moore Payne found a home here at Pensacola State College.

The Executive Assistant to Dusti Sluder, Dean of Health Sciences, remembered the exact date — Sept. 6, 1979 — when her career began at the College.

"I started work at PSC shortly after graduating with my first career certificate that I received in June 1979," she recalled.

Payne also earned an Associate in Science degree from the College in December 1979 and Associate in Arts degree in August 2000.

"I chose Pensacola State — PJC at the time — because as a child growing up in my beloved Pensacola, PSC was the 'place to be,'" Payne remembered. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at PJC as a student and decided it would be a great place to work. And now over 40 years later, I still enjoy coming to work every day."

Payne's older brother, Mike, also attended PJC in the early 1970s.

"...So the College is a legacy in my family. If I was going to college, my parents made sure that PJC would be where I started," she said.

Payne and her husband, David, have one daughter, Shannon.



RICKY SMITH

Most Pensacola State College employees know Ricky Smith's name — even if they don't recognize him by face.

Smith is the Coordinator of the College's Microcomputer Resources Department and the HelpDesk Manager.

"When you call the PSC HelpDesk we will treat you in so many ways you'll have to like at least one of them," he declared with a smile.

Smith earned an associate degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from the College in 1990 and his BAS in Business

and Management with an Organizational Administration concentration in 2017. While a student, he was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and Sigma Beta Delta honor societies.

"I decided to give up my coal mining career and trade my hard hat and shovel for a keyboard and mouse in 1989 when I joined the IT world. I began my career here at PJC in 2004 as a Microcomputer Specialist where I served until 2009 when I moved to Tennessee for family obligations," Smith recalled. "We moved back to Pensacola in 2012 and I was very fortunate to find my old position had been vacated and I was rehired in the same capacity. In 2016 I was selected to fill the vacated Coordinator's position in Microcomputer Resources where I am currently serving."

Smith and his wife, Margaret, have been married for 43 years. They have three children and a grandson. The family lives in Milton.



DEVEN WALTHER-THEAD

Deven Walther-Thead, the College's Coordinator of Continuing Education, Recreation and Leisure, is relatively new to Pensacola State as an employee.

However, she is very familiar with the College as a student. The 2003 Pensacola State graduate was awarded an art scholarship to the College after graduating from Jay High School.

"That scholarship paid for my first two years of college and my associate degree,"

said Walther-Thead who went on the University of Florida for her bachelor's degree.

After graduating college, Walther-Thead moved to Washington, D.C., and worked at the International Monetary Fund as a projects coordinator. She and her husband, Rob Thead, moved back home a few years ago to be closer to their families.

"Pensacola State is a great place to start your college career. My time here as a student really helped prepare me for UF. I highly recommend it to graduating high school seniors."

Walther-Thead and her husband, Robert, a professor at the College, have five furbabies — two cats, Georgia and Virginia, and three dogs, Lucille, Pumpkin and Percy.

State Supreme Court Director Credits PJC with Laying Groundwork for Successful Career

For decades, Craig Waters has credited his two years at then-Pensacola Junior College with giving him the start he needed for a career of more than 30 years now as a lawyer and communications director at the Florida Supreme Court.

Waters especially mentions his studies in English, history and journalism while attending PJC. According to Waters, he never could have succeeded in his long public service career without the tutelage of PJC professors Clarice Burrell, Ted Carageorge, and Grace Earnest along with The Corsair newspaper advisor Linda Bauer.

"These four PJC teachers gave me a comprehensive background in language and journalism skills and textual analysis, as well as a deeper understanding of the changing currents of politics and history," he said.

After transferring to Brown University from PJC in 1976, Waters went on to work as a political and court-beat news reporter with the Pensacola News Journal before attending law school at the University of Florida. He was



Craig Waters

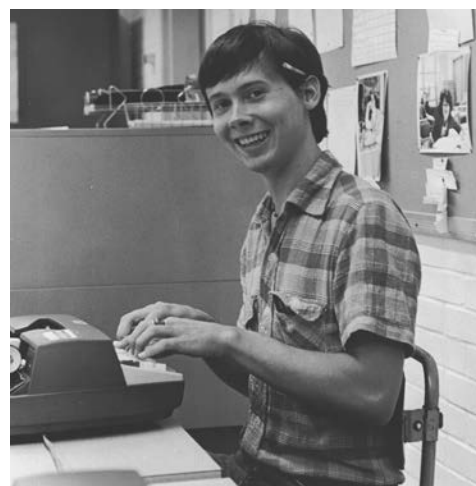
hired right out of law school by the first woman on the Supreme Court of Florida, Justice Rosemary Barkett, as her staff attorney in March 1987.

He moved into court administration in 1996 serving first as the executive assistant to then Chief Justice Gerald Kogan. Kogan eventually appointed Waters

communications director of the state's highest court. At the time, Waters' challenge was to establish the first-ever public communications office.

His background in journalism and Florida politics soon became far more valuable to the high court than the routine legal work. All of this led to the biggest challenge of Waters' career — serving as public spokesperson for the Florida Supreme Court when journalists from over the world descended on Tallahassee during the legal appeals over Florida's disputed 2000 presidential election.

Appeal after appeal came to the Florida Supreme Court in fall 2000 as then-Vice



Craig Waters works on a news story in The Corsair office in 1976 while attending PJC. PSC employee and alumnus Mike Suchcicki took this photo as a Corsair staffer.

President Al Gore sued then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush over Florida's uncertain presidential election results. After the dust settled, Waters received many honors and awards for his work in the election disputes.

3 'Branches' Have Made Pensacola State College a Second Home for Family

Pensacola State College's family tree has many branches. But only one branch has three Branches.

Butch and Jeanne Branch, and daughter Michelle Branch are all Pensacola State College/Pensacola Junior College graduates, as well as staff and faculty members.

"All of us went to school here and earned a degree here," said Michelle Branch, a financial aid coordinator. "I went to the (PSC) Kids' College."

Jeanne Branch is an assistant professor in the Business Department. And even youngest daughter Ashley Cruz earned a cosmetology certificate at PSC 15 years ago.

"You can see how PJC, now PSC, is part of our family," said Butch Branch, L.I.F.E. Fitness Center Coordinator at the Milton campus. "Our kids grew up here."

The family's association with PSC traces back to 1976, when Butch and Jeanne Branch were

serving in the U.S. Navy. It was her father, a Navy recruiter, who advised Butch Branch to enroll in a program that would allow a sailor to enroll in college courses, and have the credits sent to the school of their choice.

The couple knew that coming to Pensacola Naval Air Station was a possibility, since Jeanne Branch worked in aviation. So Butch Branch enrolled in classes at a Puerto Rican college while the couple was stationed there (they also married in Puerto Rico) with the credits being sent to PJC.

"Her father told me, and it was great advice, that I needed to continue my education and enroll in this program if I was going to follow his daughter around," Butch Branch said.

In 1978, Jeanne Branch received orders to Pensacola. And by that time, Butch had left the Navy and became a PJC student. In 1980, he earned an associate degree in health and physical

science, and bachelor's and master's degrees from UWF.

He taught at PJC as an adjunct professor from 1986–1990, receiving the Teaching Excellence Award in 1989. His wife had received orders to return to Puerto Rico, so the couple left Pensacola but came back in 1991. He returned to PSC as an adjunct instructor and received the award again in 1996.

"I never thought I would come back to Pensacola and teach. It was never a thought. But it was just meant to be," said Butch Branch who became L.I.F.E. Fitness Center and Student Activities Coordinator in 1998.

Jeanne Branch retired from the Navy in 1996 and earned an associate degree in business from PJC in 1997. She transferred to UWF for her bachelor's and master's degrees and was hired as an accounting clerk at the college in 2003. A year later, she was promoted to Capital Outlay



Butch, Michelle and Jeanne Branch at Michelle's 2018 graduation ceremony.

Accountant, and was an adjunct professor before becoming a faculty instructor in 2012. She also has received the Teaching Excellence Award.

Michelle Branch began working at PSC in 2011, and moved to the Financial Aid Department, where she advanced to her current post. She earned an associate degree from PSC in 2018 and is working on a Marjan Mazza Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Organizational Administration.

PSC ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2019



Joel Anthony



Mary Bailey



Bill Brantley



Jim Donovan



Charles Fairchild



Dana Gilmore



Dennis Lindsey



Greg Litton



Bob Marlin



William "Bill" McArthur

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2020



Doug Bates



Vicki Carson



Donn Peery



Brenda Peña



Dan Shugart

Champions, Mentors, Instructors, Supporters Recognized by the College

Fifteen of Pensacola State's most-accomplished Pirates have been inducted into the College's Athletics Hall of Fame.

In its second year, Hall of Fame inductees include student-athletes, participants, advisers, coaches, directors, administrators, contest officials, media personnel, sports medicine personnel, athletic trainers or distinguished volunteers who exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, moral character and ethical conduct.

Making up the inaugural class were 2019 inductees — Joel Anthony, former Pirates basketball player and two-time NBA champion; the late Mary Bailey, former softball coach whose team won 1988 NJCAA Division I National Championship; William

"Bill" Brantley, former PSC professor and longtime Pirates booster; Jim Donovan, former PSC golf coach who led the team to the 1993 NJCAA Division II National Championship; Charles Fairchild, member of PSC 1962-63 first championship basketball team and charter member of the PSC Athletic Program Boosters; Dana Gilmore, former softball player and most-decorated female athlete in PSC history; Dennis Lindsey, PSC's first full-time assistant coach and current executive vice president of basketball operations for the Utah Jazz; Greg Litton, former PSC baseball player and 1989 World Series champion; Bob Marlin, former PSC basketball coach who led Pirates to 1993 NJCAA National Championship; and the late

William "Bill" McArthur, longtime PSC basketball supporter and table coordinator at the College for 42 years.

The 2020 inductees are Doug Bates, former baseball player, recipient of the 1998 Lea Plarski Award and former president of the PSC Foundation; Vicki Carson, former Lady Pirates women's basketball coach whose team won the 1985 FCAA State Championship and was named 1985 FCAA Coach of the Year; Dr. Donn Peery, former athletic director and military veteran; Brenda Peña, former softball player, former head softball coach and 2003 Panhandle Conference Coach of the Year; and Dan Shugart, longtime supporter of PSC athletics and WEAR-TV 3 sports director.

HAPPENINGS



PSC alumni Deryl Hargett and Steve Rhodes, Rick Byars, Gulf Power Company, and guests enjoy some time between hunts at Dennis Lake Wing Club.



PSC alums Lane Harper and Deryl Hargett meet and greet before the Pheasant Shoot. Funds raised benefitted the PSC Alumni Association Matching Scholarship Fund.

PSC Student Ambassadors Michael Showalter, Caroline Cope and Elijah Dash model apparel at the JC Penney Suit Up event.



Rotarians Gerald Adcox, secretary/treasurer of the PSC Alumni Association, and Christine Williams, a PSC alumna, were recently named Paul Harris Fellows. The award recognizes individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Adcox and Williams are members of Five Flags Rotary Club.

The 2019 fishing group poses for a photo with their catch at Lafitte, Louisiana. Funds raised benefitted the Delta Kappa Alpha Scholarship at PSC.



Delta Kappa Alpha Members Donate Memorial Cabinet to Chadbourne Library

More than 40 Delta Kappa Alpha Fraternity brothers, including seven founding members, gathered on July 27 in the Edward M. Chadbourne Library to unveil the Delta Kappa Alpha Memorial Cabinet.

Pensacola State College chapter founding members — George Gaines, Ira Lee Jones, Steve Van Wezel, Al Shams, Roger Eaton, Raymond Periera and Bobby Bell — attended the historic event.

Also present for the ceremony were Pensacola State College President Ed Meadows, PSC Alumni Association Executive Director Patrice Whitten and PSC Alumni Association Board Member and former Milton Campus Dean Anthea Amos.

"Watching the unveiling of the Delta Kappa Alpha permanent

display cabinet was a deeply moving experience. It affirmed my belief that what we do in our lives really matters. Most of us were only 18 or 19 years old when DKA was founded," said Gaines who was Delta Kappa Alpha's Pledge Bond No. 1.

"Who were we to think that the principles of our fraternity would have such a powerful influence on so many lives — not only the founding 13 — but also the hundreds who would follow in our footsteps? My counsel to anyone, especially our young people, is whenever you do something, do it so that it benefits others. Who knows, in 58 years or so, you too may be blessed to see the fruits of your labor."

Those recognized who envisioned, designed and worked on the Delta Kappa Alpha

Memorial Cabinet included Michael Brock, Doug Knowles, Steve Burch, Fred Schreiber, Scott Fisk, Bo and Judi Johnson, David Collins, Mike Thomas, Meadows, Whitten, Gary and Heather DeLapp and Larry Hunt.

President Meadows also was named an Honorary Delta Kappa Alpha Brother and was welcomed into the fraternity with the official handshake.

For ensuring the project's success, Thomas recognized the Founding Brothers, those in Chapter eternal, Brock, DeLapp, Knowles, Collins, Burch, Johnson, Schreiber, Fisk along with Meadows, Whitten, Amos, PSC District



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

Department Head of Libraries LisaMarie Bartusik, Roxanne Lavelle, Lindsey Garner and Hailey Lotz.

FACULTY AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Faculty Members Inducted into Academy of Teaching Excellence

Five Pensacola State faculty members have been inducted into the College's Academy of Teaching Excellence.

The 2019 inductees are:

- Dr. Burton Beck, History, Languages, Social Sciences and Education
- Wendy Carden, Mathematics and Computer Science
- Jamey Jones, English and Communications
- Sara Smith, English and Communications
- Chandra Wood, Applied Technology and Professional Services

Dr. Rameca Leary, Business, was selected as the Outstanding New Faculty Member.

The Teaching Excellence awards recognize outstanding classroom instructors who demonstrate sustained teaching excellence as measured by four criteria:

- Demonstrated knowledge of and enthusiasm for subject matter



Pictured are, from left, Chandra Wood, Rameca Leary, Jamey Jones, Sara Smith, Wendy Carden, Burton Beck and PSC President Ed Meadows.

- Good rapport/relationship with students
- Effective course content and organization, and
- Effective instructional methods.

The faculty members were honored at a reception and dinner on April 2 in the Student Center on the Pensacola campus.



Pictured are from left, Greg Oliver, Rhonda Likely, Jessica Millis, Mary Scott and Renee Hosea.

2019 Employees of the Year Award

The 2019 Career Service Employees of the Year and the Professional Employees of the Year awards were presented to five Pensacola State employees who had more than 122 years of cumulative service to the College. The 2019 Career Service Employees of the Year are Renee Hosea, Purchasing Specialist, Purchasing and Auxiliary Services; and Mary Scott, Executive

Assistant, Institutional Diversity and Student Conduct. The 2019 Professional Employees of the Year are Rhonda Likely, Assistant Director, Human Resources; Jessica Millis, District Supervisor, Writing Lab, English and Communications; and Greg Oliver, Maintenance Manager, Facilities, Planning and Construction.

Alumni Association Executive Officers

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Mike Thomas
Vice President

Gerald Adcox
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Ted Kirchharr
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Patrice Whitten
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Lisa York

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BY YOU

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PSC Alumni Association

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Open to all alumni and friends of PSC.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Pensacola State College Enters New Decade with New Programs, Facilities and Expanded Goals

The dictionary defines an alumnus as a graduate or student of a particular school, college or university.

As of Dec. 15, 2019, more than 112,000 graduates have earned degrees or certificates from Pensacola State College. However that number does not reflect the thousands of others — from dual-enrollment, adult education, continuing education students and corporate training participants — who consider themselves PSC alumni.

This year — 2020 — as we begin a new decade, Pensacola State remains dedicated to improving the lives and investing in the futures of not only our students but the community, as well.

Since that inaugural class of 136 students gathered in the Aiken Boarding House nearly 72 years ago, our alumni have been and continue to be innovators, pioneers, groundbreakers,

trendsetters and more. As you will see in this edition, one priority of our alumni association is recognizing alumni who have been successful in life and given back to the community and the College with their time, talent and resources.

Along with student enrollment, the College has grown to three campuses — Pensacola, Milton and Warrington and three centers — Century, Downtown, South Santa Rosa and our soon-to-open fourth center in the Santa Rosa Industrial Park that will support truck driver training and other programs such as diesel machines, lineman training and heavy equipment operation.

Over our history, the College has introduced new programs to fulfill the needs of the local and national job markets and continues to do so.

This fall, students will take classes in our new \$15 million

STEM facility. The 25,389-square-foot Baars Technology Center will be home to various programs, including mathematics, cybersecurity, aviation maintenance, computer science and other high-tech fields of study. Future plans include a second phase 46,000-square-foot STEM facility connected to the soon-to-open center.

In 2019, the College introduced a new Commercial Vehicle Driving Program, a 320-hour course that equips students with the tools needed to earn a Florida Class A Commercial Driver's License. Scanning the horizon for workforce gaps, you will find thousands of driver shortages in the commercial trucking industry.

We are pleased to hear from some of our alumni in this edition — including a hotel industry executive who started out as a hotel busboy/



PSC President Ed Meadows

dishwasher and has now established a scholarship in his mentor's name at the College.

I am sure you will enjoy reading about others spotlighted in this edition who are supporters of PSC. Now as we begin a new decade, the PSC Alumni Association, under the leadership of its Board of Directors and staff, looks forward to exploring new and expanded opportunities to serve its members and the College.