

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



November 18, 2011- January 19, 2012



Tallahassee Community College

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TCC Wins Campus Compact Funding For Connect2Complete

By: Tallahassee Community College Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 18, 2011) —

Tallahassee Community College and president Jim Murdaugh announced today that the College has been awarded two-year funding from Campus Compact, a Boston-based national nonprofit organization, to pilot a program intended to help community college students persist in school and ultimately graduate. The grant will fund Connect2Complete (C2C) pilots in Florida, Ohio, and Washington state, on three community college campuses in each state.

In addition to **TCC**, Broward College and Miami Dade College were selected in the state of Florida.

“Our goal is to develop a replicable model that will cost-effectively improve student success at **TCC**,” said Murdaugh. “We’re very excited to be part of this new initiative.”

Campus Compact has received funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to launch Connect2Complete. Compact President Maureen F. Curley explains, “We will mobilize over 150 peer advocates to support 4,500 students enrolled in developmental education courses. In collaboration with our community college and state Compact sub-grantees, we will develop model strategies that have the potential to be adopted at community colleges across the country to help these students achieve the goal of graduation — so valued by them and their families.”

A competitive application process was employed to choose the states that will work with community colleges. **TCC** has proposed initiating a pilot project through which

they will define best practices in student engagement and advocacy in an effort to increase community college students’ persistence toward completing credentials by connecting them to peer advocates.

Nationally, only 40 percent of community college students complete their programs of study.

C2C will directly benefit students entering developmental education, and Pell eligible students who are statistically more likely to struggle to complete college. Peer advocates will work alongside faculty in developmental education classes, individually, and in small groups to support students in goal setting, making connections to college life, navigating college systems, and linking to college services designed to help students complete their credentials.

TCC’s project team, which will consist of students, faculty and staff, will be led by Dr. Sally Search, Dean for the Division of Academic Support Programs. Search has 28 years of experience at **TCC** and is responsible for the developmental studies program and college success courses and oversees the William D. Law, Jr. Learning Commons, the College’s state-of-the-art learning center for all academic support services.

Campus Compact is a nonprofit coalition of nearly 1,200 college and university presidents—representing over 6 million students—who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education. As the only national association dedicated to this mission, Campus Compact is a leader in building civic engagement into campus and academic life. For more information about Campus Compact, visit <http://www.compact.org/>

TCC Lauded as One of Florida's Safest Campuses

Reporter: TCC Release

EMAIL ADDRESS: NEWS@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, FL - December 5, 2011

StateUniversity.com, the leading Web site for college information, has released a new ranking of the safest colleges and universities in the United States and [Tallahassee Community College](#) was rated the fourth-safest campus in the state of Florida.

StateUniversity.com's report looked at all colleges and universities in the state and is based on crime reports submitted by college and university law enforcement between January 1 and December 31, 2010.

"I am pleased to see this safety ranking as it truly reflects [Tallahassee Community College](#)'s strong commitment to the safety and security of the campus community," said [TCC](#) police chief David Hendry.

"This ranking truly validates the strong team effort between the ([TCC](#)) police department and students, faculty and staff who work together daily to ensure the campus remains a safe learning environment."

[TCC](#) received an overall score of 92.03 (out of 100).

As part of the Safest Schools ranking, StateUniversity.com analyzed crime statistics for 450 colleges and universities and assigned a safety rating to each school. Safety ratings are determined based on the number of occurrences of aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, theft/larceny, motor vehicle theft, forcible rape, and murder on campus, and then are weighed based on the probability of each incident happening to each student since naturally larger campuses would be expected to have a higher number of total incidents. Violent crime is given more weight in the ranking system, and has a greater effect on the safety rating than non-violent crime such as theft.

TCC's International Student Organization Celebrates 20 years with Global Literacy Book Drive

Reporter: TCC News Release

Tallahassee, FL -- December 7, 2011 --

Tallahassee Community College's International Student Organization (ISO) is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a book drive to support global literacy.

ISO will begin collecting books at the International Student Services Silent Auction happening in the Student Union Ballroom on December 7 and 8, and continue the book drive into January of next year. The books will be given to Worldwide Book Drive, an organization that has donated over 2 million books to schools, inner-city community centers, international development organizations and other community outreach entities around the globe.

TCC students, faculty, staff and members of the community are encouraged to bring new or gently used books. Students who have textbooks that they cannot sell back to local bookstores have a unique opportunity to make a difference in someone's life by giving them to the book drive.

Worldwide Book Drive not only promotes global literacy, but also helps the environment by recycling books too damaged to use. Furthermore, to recycle hardback books, Worldwide Book Drive employs adults with disabilities to remove the spines from hardbacks and sort the paper so that the pages can be recycled. The recycling income from these efforts is paid to Life Skills & Vocational Centers.

"I'm so proud of our students in the ISO," said Betty Jensen, international student adviser and founder of the ISO. "Over the years, our international students have been outstanding representatives of the College in the local community and beyond—and this book drive is the perfect celebration to commemorate 20 years."

The International Student Organization is one of **TCC's** most active student organizations on campus. It's composed of international students from over 80 different countries and American students interested in learning about other cultures.

Those looking to contribute after the Silent Auction can drop off donations at the International Student Services office, located on the second floor of the Student Union. For more information on the book drive or the ISO, contact Betty Jensen at (850) 201-8457 or jensenb@tcc.fl.edu.

WCTV - December 8, 2011

TCC-Fourth Safest School

Danielle Eldredge

DANIELLE.ELDREDGE@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee-December 8th 2011

Tallahassee Community College is being recognized as one of the safest campuses in the Sunshine State.

Stateuniversity.com ranks **TCC** the fourth safest college in Florida. The web site's report is based off 2010 crime statistics submitted by campus law enforcement.

"It really is a reflection of the relationship we have with the students and staff. Everybody works together. It's a team effort. Everyone is very proactive in reporting suspicious activity," said **TCC** Police Chief David Hendry.

Overall, **TCC** received a score of 92 out of 100. 100 being the safest.

TCC healthcare students prepping for trip to Haiti

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Students in **Tallahassee Community College's** pharmacy technician and nursing programs will travel to Haiti as part of the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team December 13-22.

Founded by Dr. Woodrow Smith, the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team is a team of volunteer doctors, nurses, EMT's, medical students, nursing students, pharmacy technician students and lay persons, all from Tallahassee and the surrounding areas. The team's main mission is to bring needed medical supplies and services to a clinic located in the city of Dumay but the ultimate goal is to build the Dumay Regional Medical Center and provide a training site for future medical professionals.

According to Holly Lofland, pharmacy technician coordinator, students in **TCC's** healthcare programs also went to Haiti in March. Like their predecessors, she says this group is in for a "truly wonderful and life-changing experience."

"While in Haiti, our students' primary responsibility will be running the onsite pharmacy," said Lofland, who added that her team of students will act as the "advance team" and arrive a day before the rest of the medical team.

"The students hope to set up the pharmacy and records so patients can be seen as soon as the rest of the medical team arrives."

Shortly after the tragic Haiti earthquake in January 2010, the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team conducted a fundraising drive to collect medical supplies. Supplies are still needed today.

Some of the most common equipment needs are: test tubes, petri dishes, incubators, a centrifuge machine, glass slides, microscopes, ELISA testing equipment (assay trays and pipettes), IV stands, IV tubing systems and basic clinical site attire (gloves, masks, and gowns). Larger equipment needs range from a 12 lead EKG machine (similar to those on Ambulances), Ultrasound equipment, X-ray equipment, Surgical Suite equipment, AED Defibrillator, an Autoclave, IV Infusion pumps, a Pulse Oximeter and much more.

For more information or if you would like to donate items for the Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team's upcoming trip, please contact Holly Lofland at tallyhaititeam@yahoo.com, loflandh@tcc.fl.edu, or visit myhaititeam.org.

SCF and Suncoast partner on manufacturing project

Herald Staff

BRADENTON -- State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota and Suncoast Workforce are partnering on an engineering, technology and advanced manufacturing grant project.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the project includes a three-college consortium and local work-force agencies to build work-force development solutions that can be deployed in both the education and training environments, the college said.

Academic partners are SCF, Polk State College and [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Educational modules created under the grant will be aligned with courses in the associate in science in engineering technology degree program and formatted so they can be used either in credit or noncredit delivery.

Noncredit courses will be delivered by SCF's Corporate and Community Development Division and Suncoast Workforce for customized worker training and entry-level unemployed and underemployed workforce training.

For more information on the project, contact Glenn Goonis, SCF manufacturing education grants coordinator and project manager, at 941-363-7229 or goonisg@scf.edu.

-- Herald staff reports

Florida spends millions on questionable mobile home program

BY KRIS HUNDLEY, TIMES STAFF WRITER

Over the past dozen years, Florida has spent more than \$33 million putting anchors under aging mobile homes to keep them from blowing away.

The program, free to homeowners, was supposed to make thousands of outdated mobile homes safer in the next storm.

Don't count on it.

Of the more than 23,000 mobile homes retrofitted so far, few appear to have received enough anchors to bring them up to the state's tough safety standards.

Mobile homes requiring a dozen or more new tie-downs instead got just a handful. And state-mandated devices that keep a home from sliding end to end were not always installed.

Homeowners, many elderly, received letters signed by the contractor leading them to believe their retrofitted homes met today's standards.

They did not.

Critics call the program a waste. Ken Cashin thinks otherwise. He's the Tallahassee businessman and mobile home lobbyist who sat on a state committee that designed the program in 1999.

Cashin helped craft terms of the program, then quit the advisory committee to create a company that bid on the work. His company became the state's only retrofitter and has held the contract for 11 years.

Despite some homeowners' expectations, the program does not require Cashin's company to make old mobile homes comply with today's installation standards. Instead, it lets the company determine how many anchoring devices can be installed.

The state pays Cashin's company \$1,330 for each home whether his workers install one tie-down or 10.

State inspectors randomly check the retrofitted properties to see if equipment is installed correctly. But they do not determine whether the number of anchors meets state rules.

Nor does anything prevent crews from anchoring decrepit homes that have little hope of surviving a storm even with the best tie-downs in the world.

Last spring, a 41-year-old mobile home in Clearwater with a leak-stained ceiling and jalousie windows propped open with sticks got 10 new anchors and two stabilizing devices. The state spent \$1,330; the mobile home is for sale for \$4,000.

Cashin, who has been in the mobile home business for nearly 40 years, argues that doing anything to anchor older homes is better than nothing and that many of his retrofitted homes have stayed on their foundations during storms.

"There's a story here, but it's a good story of a successful program run correctly," Cashin said. "It's a great service to lots of seniors, and I've never had a single complaint."

The tie-down effort has one high-profile critic. Jack Nicholson is chief operating officer of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, which reimburses insurers a portion of their catastrophic losses in the event of a hurricane.

As part of a 1995 agreement with the IRS, the Cat Fund is exempt from federal taxes if it gives the state \$10 million each year to "harden" properties so they can better withstand hurricanes. The money comes from insurance premiums paid by all homeowners. Nearly \$3 million a year goes to the mobile home tie-down program.

Nicholson said it doesn't make sense to spend nearly 30 percent of the money on mobile homes, which represent less than 2 percent of the state's total insurance risk.

"It's a little disproportionate," Nicholson said. "But it was recognized a long time ago that certain politicians were able to put money in for that program."

Florida spends millions on questionable mobile home program...

continued

The retrofit program was renewed last spring for another decade, with Cashin's company awarded the contract in November over two other bidders.

State Sen. Jack Latvala, the Republican who sponsored the original legislation in 1999 as well as the renewal, said the retrofit program helps keep mobile homeowners safe.

Nearly half of the homes retrofitted over the past decade are in the Tampa Bay area, which encompasses Latvala's district.

"It's just a couple of million dollars a year," Latvala said.

The insider

In the world of mobile homes, Cashin is one of Florida's most powerful figures.

Until 2006, he owned one of the biggest mobile home supply companies in a state with more than 850,000 mobile homes.

For almost 30 years, he has been legislative chairman and lobbyist for the industry's trade group, which has given nearly \$1.5 million to politicians since 2000. Cashin, 61, is also former chairman and a current board member of the Seminole Boosters, which raises money for Florida State University athletics.

In June 1999, the mobile home trade association picked Cashin as its representative when state officials were deciding how to use Cat Fund money to protect homes from storms.

The Department of Community Affairs gave [Tallahassee Community College](#) responsibility for administering the tie-down program because it expected to take control of a vocational school where retrofitters could be trained. Cashin and other appointees to an advisory committee designed the details of the program.

According to committee meeting minutes, in August 1999 Cashin wrote the technical report outlining how the retrofitting program should operate. Several of his recommendations became part of the bid.

Two months later, Cashin resigned from the committee and formed Windstorm Mitigation Inc., which bid on the retrofit contract.

"After looking at the whole thing, I decided we were the

best ones to do the program," he said recently.

Cashin said he consulted a private attorney at the time and was told he could bid even if he stayed on the committee. He opted to resign first.

Though the work was to be done statewide, the contract opening was advertised just once, in the Tallahassee Democrat. It attracted two bidders; Cashin's company won.

Soon after signing the contract, Cashin hired a project manager: John MacDonald, who had just retired as head of the state's mobile home bureau. MacDonald also had been on the committee that designed the retrofit program.

A few months later, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement began investigating a complaint about the state's mobile home bureau. A mobile home installer in the Panhandle had accused MacDonald of having questionable relationships with some manufacturers and organizations while he was the state's top mobile home regulator.

The FDLE found no evidence of wrongdoing. But it noted that a DCA employee raised concerns about a potential conflict of interest with Cashin's company being selected as contractor for the tie-down program.

When the FDLE report was released, DCA's then-secretary, Steven Seibert, took the program away from the college in 2000 and split the year's contract among several vendors, including Cashin.

But by 2001, lawmakers had passed a bill requiring DCA to use "a public higher education institution" to administer the program. [Tallahassee Community College](#) reclaimed the program, and Cashin's company became the sole contractor once again.

The contract calls for the college to get \$150,000 a year for administering the \$2.8 million annual contract. The contractor gets the remaining \$2.65 million.

Spotty work

Annette Dublino never thought much about how her tidy beige single-wide was strapped to the ground when it was installed back in 1970.

Florida spends millions on questionable mobile home program...

continued

Despite having just a handful of anchors, her home has not moved an inch in 41 years.

Then, last spring, Cashin's crews showed up in her Largo park to enlist homeowners in the voluntary tie-down program.

Dublino said one of Cashin's managers told residents at a meeting that the state might soon require old mobile homes like hers to meet standards created in 1999 for newly installed mobile homes. She said they also told her she would not be able to get insurance if her home was not retrofitted.

Like most of her neighbors, she signed up for the program rather than risk paying for tie-downs herself later.

Once the work was done, Dublino never bothered to look under her home to see how many anchors had been added.

But she was sure about one thing.

"They told us it would bring our homes up to code," said Dublino, who also got the form letter signed by Cashin suggesting as much. "And they said if it wasn't up to code, we couldn't sell our homes."

So Dublino was miffed when she was told recently that her home did not have enough tie-downs to meet today's standards. Only nine new anchors had been installed on her single-wide home, four in the front, where a concrete porch blocked part of the access, and five in the back. Based on her home's 56-foot length, state rules would require about 10 anchors on each side -- one every 5 feet, 4 inches.

Nor did the work crew install stabilizing devices, one at each end, gripping the underlying I-beams.

"There's plenty of room to get under there," Dublino said. "I just had guys under there working on the air conditioning."

No one knows for sure how many retrofitted homes still have outdated anchoring like Dublino's. Nor does anyone audit the contractor's work or record the number of tie-downs used on each home. But evidence suggests that most of the retrofitted homes fall short of today's

standards.

A competitor of Cashin's, Rob Boulware of MBW Joint Venture in Orlando, said he has visited more than 250 homes that got new tie-downs through the program. He said none of the homes comply with state anchoring rules.

The St. Petersburg Times asked a supervisor with the state's mobile home bureau and an inspector for the Federal Housing Administration to review Cashin's retrofits on eight randomly selected homes at parks in Pinellas and Polk counties.

Andrew Shirley, who has inspected hundreds of mobile homes for the FHA, found only one home at a park in Lakeland that he felt met Florida's anchoring requirements. But that home had been retrofitted by another private company before Cashin's crew added more equipment.

"It's like they had to justify their fee so they put anchors wherever they could," Shirley said of the work on a 20-year-old mobile home at Hickory Hills park. "It didn't need them." Three other homes retrofitted by Cashin's company fell short of today's standards, he said.

That did not surprise Shirley. None of the homes retrofitted by Cashin's company that he has inspected for FHA over the past five years has been anchored sufficiently to meet the mortgage insurer's requirements.

"We have gone into parks where the state program was done and had people get irate with us when we tell them it's not up to code," said Shirley, owner of H.A.S. Inspections in Lithia. "What they've done is put in a few anchors and straps and then say it's up to code. But it's a waste of money. If this were their home, they'd insist it be done right."

Cashin himself concedes his workers do not bring the homes up to code, and he says they do not make such promises.

"There's not a home out there that can be retrofitted to meet the letter of 15c," he said, referring to the state rule governing mobile home installations. "This is not a code compliance program, it's a property protection program." Cashin said older mobile homes are often too low to allow workers to slide stabilizers under I-beams. Water

Florida spends millions on questionable mobile home program...

continued

pipes and electrical cables prevent anchors from being placed where required. Sun porches, utility sheds and concrete steps block access to crawl space. Cashin said homeowners are even told if cars or lawn chairs are in workers' way, they will skip the area.

"I have to run a program that respects the residents' homes and respects my workers' safety," he said.

Though Cashin signs the letter to homeowners saying their retrofitted homes "substantially" meet state standards, he said that's not necessarily the case.

"Quite frankly, that letter probably should be changed," he said. "When I look at a home, I know where you can put an anchor in and when you can't. And by contract, we are the final arbiter of that."

The arrangement severely limits the powers of state officials.

On a recent visit to Japanese Gardens, a mobile home park in Clearwater, Wayne Jordan assessed the work Cashin's crew did last spring. Of four homes, Jordan found only one with stabilizing devices. Jordan is the supervisor of the state's manufactured housing section with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in Tampa.

Though the homes were of similar age and length, the number of new anchors varied widely, from four to 11.

Peering under a home where new anchors were about eight feet apart and no stabilizers had been installed, Jordan said, "We don't measure it off to see if the anchors are every 5 foot, 4 inches. We can't do anything about it anyway."

Asked if the retrofitted homes in Japanese Gardens "substantially" met the state's standards, as homeowners were told, Jordan said, "I can't go there."

Storm warnings

When it comes to protecting mobile homes from high winds, adequate anchors are only part of the equation — and maybe not even the most important part. When flimsy carports are attached at the roof line, even a stable home can become a total loss.

Last March, a storm system roared in from the Gulf of Mexico and tore across the middle of Pinellas County. Directly in the path of powerful winds and hop-scotching tornados was a Largo mobile home park that had been retrofitted by Cashin's company several years ago.

Most retrofitted homes stayed put during the storm. But some were damaged or destroyed when high winds lifted the carport, which peeled back the roof like a can-opener.

After surveying storm damage from the 2004 hurricane season, Jordan, the state's inspector, wrote: "Attachment structures were the most vulnerable part of a mobile home and in many cases, when the attachment fails, it damages the home itself."

FEMA reviewed how retrofitted homes fared in the multiple hurricanes of 2004, visiting six parks across the state. It found that none of the retrofitted homes appeared to be damaged because of anchor failure.

"This does not mean, however, that all structures survived," the report said. "They did not." Uprooted carports and flying debris still ripped off roofs and demolished retrofitted homes.

In 2006 and 2007, the state tried to address the issue, spending \$22.5 million to strengthen mobile home carports and replace windows. The program lost funding in 2008.

Based on its findings after the 2004 storms, FEMA suggested the state consider whether putting a few anchors on old mobile homes is really cost effective.

Cashin believes the hurricanes proved the value of retrofitting, regardless of the number of anchors or age of the home.

"Worrying about whether this is cost effective doesn't make sense," he said.

Profit margin

In his bid for the 2011-12 contract, Cashin submitted figures showing how his company has fared financially. In 2010, Windstorm Mitigation Holdings, of which Cashin

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continued

is president and chief executive, reported \$2.9 million in sales, with "substantially all sales with one major customer."

Connie Humburg contributed to this report.

The company reported \$2.2 million in gross profit.

Gross profit typically is the money left over after paying for materials and the workers doing the job, but before paying overhead and taxes.

By his company's own reporting, Windstorm had nearly a 74 percent gross profit margin last year.

Cashin declined to comment on the profitability of his company. He said the 2010 financial statement "encompassed more than just the profit from the **TCC (Tallahassee Community College)** contract." He declined to say how much was attributable to other sources.

Last month, Cashin's company was awarded another five-year contract for the tie-down program. For the first time, the company will be paid according to the number of anchoring devices he installs, up to a maximum of \$1,600 per home. His proposal calls for him to receive \$60 for each anchoring system and \$65 for stabilizing devices. Those figures are supposed to include materials, labor, profit and overhead.

That means that for the nine anchors on Dublino's home, which paid him \$1,330 under the previous contract, the company would have received \$540. A home in Japanese Gardens that got four anchors would have resulted in a check for \$240, or \$1,090 less than his check last spring.

While his reimbursement for each home may go down, the new arrangement gives Cashin's company \$15,250, nearly five times as much as he gets currently, for each mobile home park he processes for the program. Last year he worked with 16 parks.

Though Boulware's company is challenging the latest award, Cashin is eager to get going on the contract. He figures most of the 850,000 mobile homes in Florida are in need of at least a few more anchors.

"We've only done about 20,000," Cashin said. "So there's a large need for this program to continue."

Kris Hundley can be reached at khundley@tampabay.com or (727) 892-2996. Times researchers Natalie Watson and Shirl Kennedy and computer-assisted reporting specialist

Senior center to host Holiday Music Magic concert Monday

BY ELIZABETH M. MACK

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Jingle bells will be ringing — and maybe a chorus of “chestnuts roasting on an open fire” will get the holiday mojo working at the Tallahassee Senior Center.

The inaugural Holiday Music Magic concert, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the center on North Monroe Street.

The [Tallahassee Community College](#) Capital City Band and Jazz Band will be performing.

“This is our first holiday show at the center,” said Gary Coates, director of the two bands for 16 years. “We’ll be doing a lot of traditional Christmas music, but we have surprises in store, as well.”

The concert is open to the public, and a \$5 donation is requested.

Proceeds from the concert will help the senior center to continue to provide its nearly 200 programs, said Andrea Personett, assistant supervisor for programing at the center.

The nonprofit organization was founded in 1978 by the city, Personett said. About 300 seniors use the center every day, with about 30 to 40 new seniors attending every week.

Programs include language classes, needlepoint, book clubs, quilt-making, dancing and music activities, recreational activities such as, mahjong, bridge, Wii sports, yoga classes and Zumba.

“For some seniors, without the center they would probably sit at home,” Personett said. “For the active senior we offer them a way to be active inexpressively. Basically we offer a place for seniors of like minds to do a variety of different things.”

Englewood Sun - December 12, 2011

SCF, Suncoast Workforce partner up

By ED SCOTT

Staff Writer

MANATEE COUNTY — State College of Florida and Suncoast Workforce announced a partnership this week on a project that officials hope will result in a better-trained work force and more local jobs.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Engineering, Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing grant program involves SCF, Polk State College in Lakeland, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and local work force agencies as they attempt to build “work force development solutions that can be deployed in both the education and training environments,” according to information provided by SCF.

Health Information and Informatics Management Professionals High In Demand

Tallahassee Democrat



Health Information and Informatics Management Professionals in High Demand

Tallahassee Community College programs include:

- Health Informatics Specialist certificate
- Medical Coder/Biller Specialist certificate
- Health Information Technology A.S. degree



For more information, go to www.tcc.fl.edu/him or call (850) 201-8352

* This is running in the Tallahassee Democrat Dec 9-12.

Winter Break Information from TCC

TCC PRESS RELEASE

Tallahassee, FL -- December 12, 2011 --

Tallahassee Community College will close for Winter Break at noon, Tuesday, December 20 and will reopen at 8 a.m., Tuesday, January 3.

The College would like to remind students, faculty and staff of the following information in advance of the Spring 2012 Semester, which begins Thursday, January 5.

Current Student Registration

Spring 2012 registration for current students will continue during the Winter Break through **TCC Passport**. To make changes or revisions to your spring schedule, log on to **TCC Passport** and select "My Schedule."

Fee Payment Information

To verify fee payment information, log on to **TCC Passport** and select "My Account." Students are asked to check their fee slip for payment deadline information.

Tuition and fees for the Spring Main and January Express 1 Sessions are due by 10 p.m., Tuesday, December 13.

Fees can be paid online (by credit card) through **TCC Passport** or by check (see mailing address below). NOTE: College officials would like to remind students that if payments are being mailed, they must be received at least five business days prior to the payment deadline.

If paying by check, please mail payment to:

Tallahassee Community College

Attn: Cashiers Office

444 Appleyard Drive

Tallahassee, FL 32304-2895

Beginning December 14, Spring Main and January Express 1 Session tuition and fees will be due the same day as registration. NOTE: Failure to pay will result in classes being dropped unless the student has financial aid. If paying by check between December 14 and December 20, 2011, you must do so in person at the Cashier's Office.

From noon, Tuesday, December 20 through 8 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, the only available fee payment method will be online via credit card.

State Employee Registration

Registration for all students using the State Employee tuition waiver for the Spring 2012 Main and January Express I session begins at 8 a.m., Thursday, December 15 and ends at noon, Tuesday, December 20. **TCC** will not be able to process any tuition waivers during the College's Winter Break. The state employee registration window will resume Tuesday, January 3 at 8 a.m. and continue through 5 p.m., Friday, January 6.

TCC Bookstore Hours

For students' convenience, the **TCC Bookstore** will operate on the following schedule during Winter Break.

Monday, December 19-Thursday, December 22: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday, December 23: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, December 24-Monday, December 26: Closed

Tuesday, December 27-Thursday, December 29: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday, December 30-Sunday, January 1: Closed

Monday, January 2-Thursday, January 5: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday, January 6: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

To contact the **TCC Bookstore**, call (850) 575-9200.

TCC Basketball

TCC's men's and women's basketball teams will be in action at home throughout the month of December.

The teams will host doubleheaders on Friday, December 16 (4/6 p.m.) and Saturday, December 17 (2/4 p.m.).

The Eagle men will host the Comfort Inn Holiday Classic on Friday and Saturday, December 30 and 31. For complete information on the Classic, visit www.TCCeagles.com.

All games will take place at the Bill Hebrock Eagledome. **TCC** students, faculty and staff are admitted free with a valid **TCC ID**. For more information, log on to www.TCCeagles.com.

9th-grader heads to Haiti for Christmas break

DOUG BLACKBURN

Vince Dewar is no ordinary ninth-grader.

While some of his classmates at Lincoln High may have splashy get-aways planned for their Christmas break, Dewar will make his sixth trip to Haiti in the last two years as part of the group Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team.

Dewar, 15, is leaving today and will volunteer in the impoverished island nation until Dec. 23.

"It was a little intimidating the first time I was there," he said. "I was in the middle of Port-au-Prince when a tank rolled by, but since then I've been pretty comfortable with everything."

It's been almost two years — 23 months, to be exact — since a massive earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince and the areas surrounding the capital.

The Tallahassee Haiti Medical Team, formed shortly after the earthquake, is led by Dr. Thomas "Woody" Smith, the medical director at the Gadsden County Correctional Center. Smith has been making medical-mission trips to Haiti for 20 years.

There are 17 in the group going this week. Dr. Wayne Sampson, a Tallahassee physician, is joining Smith, as are four [Tallahassee Community College](#) health-care students, two [TCC](#) instructors, a Florida A&M University student and a number of lay people, including Dewar, the youngest member of the group.

"I want to help people out in the middle of nowhere who wouldn't get help from anyone else," Smith said.

Vince's mother, Betty, is team coordinator for the group — though she is not making the trip this time. She can't hide her pride when talking about Vince, who maintains the team's website (myhaititeam.org) in addition to being an active participant.

"He's a big help down there. He's gotten to know everyone and knows the ropes," she said. "Everybody who goes down, I think they come back changed."

Vince acknowledges that the trips to Haiti have been eye-opening, if not life-altering.

"It's pretty sad. People don't realize how bad it is in Haiti,"

he said. "The news doesn't even show how bad it is. I can't tell you how much I've learned during these trips."

TCC speech and debate team wins Dec. Seminole Swing

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Tallahassee Community College's speech and debate team closed the fall semester with a dominating performance at December's Florida State University (FSU) Seminole Swing.

Team TCC won going away, totaling 283.5 points to easily outdistance second-place University of Florida (130.5) and third-place Florida State College at Jacksonville (52.5). TCC's point total also surpassed the combined total of Florida and Florida State University (149), who scored the second-most points but did not officially place due to serving as host for the ten-team event.

Other participating schools included Brevard Community College, Cedar Crest College, Clemson University, Florida College, Northwest Florida State College and University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

"This is a clear indicator of how powerful our squad is in the Southeast," said John Schultz, director of forensics, noting that this performance came on the heels of a top ten finish at Bradley University's nationally-recognized L.E. Norton Memorial Tournament.

Team TCC placed students in the elimination round of all 11 individual events, as well as parliamentary debate – the only school at the event to accomplish the feat. And 14 of the team's 15 participants qualified for an elimination round.

Sarah Whitten led the charge, individually, for Team TCC. Her overall performance, which included a first-place finish in program oral interpretation of literature, helped her claim the top honors in quadrathlon, the individual event sweepstakes. Three teammates joined her in the top six – Eugene Butler (fourth), Alex Coyle (fifth) and Jake Harrelson (sixth).

TCC also had a strong showing in poetry, where it finished 1-2-3 with Toy Campbell winning followed by Butler and Harrelson.

Campbell also finished first in dramatic interpretation.

Other members of Team TCC who participated at the Seminole Swing included: Jordan Bates, Chanequa Cargle-Price, Jacob Dean, Tyreek Greene, Jessica Hughes, D'bora Johnson, Kelsey Kinnebrew, Susan Rimmel and Timothy Ward.

Following the holiday break, Team TCC will begin preparing for February's four-year state tournament, which will be held in Pensacola, Fla.

Brogan to close its doors indefinitely

Museum CEO Chucha Barber resigns

PAUL DE REVERE

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science will close its doors indefinitely Jan. 15, board of directors President Felicia Nowels announced Thursday. Nowels said the museum could be closed for up to a year as the board considers options for restructuring and reopening the local cultural institution.

The Brogan has been in dire financial straits for several years, a situation that gained particular urgency this year. A series of financial setbacks put the museum in a precarious position by midsummer, leaving it with a \$250,000 shortfall — about one-fifth of its usual operating budget of \$1.2 to \$1.3 million.

The museum launched its Five by Five campaign in July, hoping to raise \$500,000 in five months in a bid to stay afloat. The campaign fell well short of that goal, leading to the board's decision to close the museum.

Nowels said the board will be working to keep the institution sustainable and to find out how The Brogan can best serve the community.

"We need to focus our purpose because we're trying to be too many things," she said. "We are not able to sustain ourselves that way."

It was also announced Thursday that CEO Chucha Barber had resigned. Barber, who previously served as The Brogan's director of institutional advancement, succeeded original executive director Rena Minar when Minar left in 2004 to take a job with the Palm Beach County Cultural Council. Barber served as interim CEO until being officially appointed in early 2005.

"The people who work at The Brogan are the most incredible museum professionals I've ever worked with," said Barber, who added she considered resigning before the board made its decision to close the museum. "It wasn't the way I wanted to leave it, but sometimes you know it's time to move on."

Barber said her future efforts will be focused on her television production company.

"If The Brogan was going to choose to reinvent itself, then it deserved the opportunity for new vision and leadership," she said.

Going forward, Nowels said the board of directors was committed to finding a new way for the museum to operate.

"It's important for us to maintain the gem that is The Brogan," she said.

From MOA to The Brogan

The Brogan opened as the Museum of Art/Tallahassee in January 1999 on the top floor of what was then the Capital Cultural Center on the south side of Kleman Plaza, sharing a building that also housed the Odyssey Science Center. In July 2000, MOA/Tallahassee and the Odyssey Science Center merged under a new name — the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science — chosen to honor then-Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan's late wife, an educator who was a driving force behind the capital campaign that raised funds for construction of the cultural complex in downtown Tallahassee.

In 2001, The Brogan became affiliated with the prestigious Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., giving it access to the Smithsonian's formidable collections of artifacts and specimens. In 2003, [Tallahassee Community College](#) acquired ownership of the lease for the building housing The Brogan.

The museum's permanent collection includes a substantial donation of outsider and folk art from the private collection of Dr. Lou and Calynne Hill.

"I think the museum has had great directors in Rena Minar and Chucha Barber, but it has struggled from the get-go," Calynne Hill, a local Realtor, said Thursday. "Everyone will say they love the museum and are happy to have it here, but when it comes down to financially supporting it, only a few are willing to do what it takes."

"This is such a loss for Tallahassee and for the Panhandle in general. It's a huge loss for the downtown area, which is trying to revitalize. It will be great if they can reinvent (the museum) somehow."

Brogan to close its doors indefinitely...

continued

From the beginning, the museum has tried to present a combination of fine art exhibitions and popular draws such as the controversial "Our Body: The Universe Within" touring exhibit. It has exposed local art lovers to the glass artistry of Dale Chihuly, the surrealistic visions of Mexican artist Enrique Chavarria, sculptures and drawings by late Tallahassee artist and FSU professor Ed Love, contemporary Cuban art, prints by Durer and Rembrandt, the "AfroProvocations" of John Sims and other black artists, and Baroque masterpieces from the Pinacoteca di Brera in Italy's Lombardy region.

Local artists — including George Blakely, Jim Roche and Stuart Riordan — also got their chance to shine in The Brogan's galleries, and children from area schools have delighted in the museum's education and interactive displays.

—Features editor Kati Schardl contributed to this story.

Florida's Great Northwest announces 2012 officers

Staff Reports

Daily News

Florida's Great Northwest, the regional economic development organization for the 16-county Florida Panhandle region, recently elected its new officers, board of directors' members and executive committee members for 2012.

Florida's Great Northwest is the regional economic development organization representing the 16 counties in the Florida Panhandle: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Leon, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton and Washington.

The mission of Florida's Great Northwest is to market and brand the 16-county Northwest Florida region as a globally competitive location for business and to work with regional partners to recruit new jobs and investment throughout Northwest Florida.

The 2012 officers and directors were elected at the organization's annual meeting earlier this month and include:

2012 Florida's Great Northwest Officers:

John Hutchinson, Gulf Power Company — Chairman

Ed Gardner, PowerSouth — Vice-Chairman

Jeff Helms, Atkins North America, Inc. — Past Chairman

Kim Bodine, Gulf Coast Workforce Board — Secretary

Neal Wade, The St Joe Company/incoming Bay County EDA Executive Director — Treasurer

Associate Member Representatives to the Board:

Rick Bitner, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Johnathan Taylor, Landrum Employer Services

Bobby Pickels, Progress Energy

Lawrence Saunders, SunTrust Bank

Economic Development Representative to the Executive Committee: Larry Sassano, EDC of Okaloosa County

Corporate Representative to the Executive Committee: Denise Barton, Sacred Heart Health System

2012 Florida's Great Northwest Board of Directors:

Cindy Anderson, TEAM Santa Rosa

Denise Barton, Sacred Heart Health System

Rick Bitner, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida

Kim Bodine, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

Ed Gardner, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative

Ty Handy, Northwest Florida State College

Rick Harper, University of West Florida

Jeff Helms, Atkins North America

Jim Hizer, Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

John Hutchinson, Gulf Power Company

Beth Kirkland, Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County

Rick Marcum, Opportunity Florida

Ed Meadows, Pensacola State College

Kim Moore, Workforce Plus

Jim Murdaugh, [Tallahassee Community College](#)

Scarlett Phaneuf, Walton County Economic Development Alliance

Bobby Pickels, Progress Energy

Larry Sassano, Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County

Lawrence Saunders, SunTrust Bank

Sandy Sims, Gulf Power Company

Bill Stanton, Jackson County Development Council

Jeff Stevenson, Gulf Coast Community College

Linda Sumblin, Workforce Board of Okaloosa-Walton Counties

Johnathan Taylor, Landrum Employer Services

Neal Wade, The St Joe Corporation/Bay County Economic Development Alliance

Richard Williams, Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board

Read more: <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/articles/florida-46054-great-northwest.html#ixzz1gzfkNBt8>

Stop mobile home mitigation boondoggle

A TIMES EDITORIAL

TAMPA BAY TIMES

A costly state program aimed at shoring up mobile homes to better withstand hurricanes has all the trappings of a boondoggle: insider dealing, little accountability and disproportionately high funding. Florida's Legislature, including a key Tampa Bay lawmaker, have been all too willing to look the other way. But now that Windstorm Mitigation Inc. has received another extraordinarily lucrative multiyear contract financed through the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, Gov. Rick Scott and fellow Cat Fund trustees should reconsider whether the program is the best use of public money.

As the St. Petersburg Times' Kris Hundley reported last Sunday, only one vendor with an inside track has ever been hired for the state's mobile home mitigation program, which receives \$2.8 million of the \$10 million the Cat Fund spends annually in order to qualify for tax-exempt status. Ken Cashin, a longtime manufactured home industry lobbyist, was part of the 1999 state committee assigned to design the mobile home program. He wrote a technical report outlining how the retrofitting program should operate, and several of those recommendations became part of the bid. Two months later, he resigned from the committee to form Windstorm Mitigation and won the bid to install anchors — at no cost to the homeowner — on homes manufactured after tougher federal building standards took effect in 1976. (Homes built to earlier standards aren't believed to have the structural integrity to benefit from the anchors.)

But 11 years later, Hundley found a program that appears to be rife with waste even as it has spent \$33 million from the state Cat Fund. Inspectors told Hundley they routinely find mobile homes that had been part of the program but have far too few anchors installed to be of any use or should never have qualified because of their age. And professional inspectors conducting a random survey of eight mobile homes that took part in the program in Pinellas and Polk counties found only one with enough anchors to actually qualify as meeting the current safety codes. At a Clearwater park, none of four mobile homes that were in the program had sufficient anchors. These are not the characteristics of an efficient, cost-effective program.

Then there is the lack of agreement as to whether mobile home mitigation even works. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, surveying damage in mobile home

parks from Florida's 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, suggested the anchors may not be worth the investment as they seemed to have little influence on whether a home survived.

And even supporters of the program — including the administrator of [Tallahassee Community College](#) — appear willing to concede the original program was too generous. When Cashin won another five-year contract earlier this year, a losing bidder's protest led the college to substantially change the contract's reimbursement scheme. Rather than getting \$1,330 per mobile home, regardless of the amount of work done, Cashin's company is now paid per anchor.

In a state so prone to hurricanes, it defies logic to spend more than a quarter of the state's mitigation funds on mobile homes, which account for 2 percent of the state's insurance risk. The Cat Fund sells low-cost reinsurance to property insurers, but those costs are passed straight through to Florida property owners. State Sen. Jack Latvala, R-Clearwater, who sponsored the original legislation in 1999 as well as the renewal, shrugged off scrutiny with, "It's just a couple of million dollars a year." With that kind of indifference, it's no wonder politically connected insiders get rich off the public purse.

Scott, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, the Cat Fund's trustees, should not sit idly by. Lawmakers may have created this boondoggle, but state leaders can use their bully pulpit to demand change.

TCC NR: Career Pathways Program Initiated to Serve Adult Learners

TCC RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (December 19, 2011) -

An innovative new Career Pathways Program has been initiated through a regional partnership to bring together employers, community services, government agencies and educational organizations to identify, enroll, educate and prepare adult learners for high-demand career opportunities.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) awarded \$204,513 to establish Career Pathways Programs in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. The program is open to adults enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult High School, or General Education Development (GED) instruction.

FDOE awarded \$83,866 to serve Leon County through a partnership composed of Leon County Schools Adult and Community Education (ACE) and [Tallahassee Community College \(TCC\)](#), \$64,595 to serve Gadsden County through Gadsden County School Gadsden Technical Institute (GTI) and [TCC](#), and \$56,032 to serve Wakulla County through the Wakulla County Schools' Sopchoppy Education Center and [TCC](#).

"The purpose of the Career Pathways initiative is to strengthen the capacity of entities that provide adult education services to increase the number and percentage of adult education students who enter postsecondary education and earn a degree, certificate or industry credential," said ACE Principal Barbara Van Camp.

Said Dr. Jim Murdaugh, President of [TCC](#), "We are excited about the strong, positive impact that this program will have on the success of adult learners, and we are especially pleased that this initiative is being initiated through a strong partnership that includes the Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla school districts, [WORKFORCE plus](#), [TCC](#) and employers, and for the generous support from the Florida Department of Education that made this new program possible."

Project activities include: 1) Analyzing current services that assist students in transitioning from adult education to postsecondary education; 2) developing a strategic plan to implement curriculum, guidance services, access to community support services and transition support for students to develop career pathways; 3) networking with employers to ensure that curriculum is designed for student success in bridging to postsecondary education,

and 4) helping each student develop a career and education plan with multiple entry and exit points.

Dr. Murdaugh said a critical need exists for these services because over 38,000 adults lack a GED or high school diploma in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

"This program will help meet a compelling community need to identify and implement needed changes to transform adult education career pathways and transition to postsecondary programs," Murdaugh added.

[WORKFORCE plus, Inc.](#) reported in 2011 that a growing need exists for a well-educated workforce in the area. Individuals who lack a high school diploma or GED are at a distinct disadvantage in a job market that is increasingly based on educational skills. The highest level of educational attainment for 44% of all unemployed job-seekers in Florida is a high school diploma or GED even though this population represents only 20% of the state's adult population.

According to Harriett Abrams, [TCC](#) Program Coordinator for Adult Education, employers are playing a vital role in the success of the program. Through a partnership with [Manpower](#), for example, 16 adult learners were placed in temporary positions at [Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.](#) this past August.

A NEW PROGRAM CALLED “CONNECT TO COMPLETE” WILL HELP TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS FINISH THEIR DEGREES.

NATIONALLY, JUST 40 PERCENT OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR PROGRAMS OF STUDY... SO CAMPUS COMPACT, A BOSTON-BASED NONPROFIT, IS FUNDING A PROJECT TO BOOST THAT FIGURE. T-C-C IS ONE OF THE CHOSEN SCHOOLS. SALLY SEARCH, DEAN OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS, SAYS FIFTY STUDENT MENTORS... CALLED “PEER LEADERS” ... WILL WORK WITH FIVE HUNDRED NEW STUDENTS TO ENGAGE THEM MORE FULLY IN ACADEMIC, CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY LIFE. THAT INCLUDES SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS ON ISSUES SUCH AS HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS...

So it's looking at really trying to help them become really good students, but also members of – really conscious members of the community. Research tells us if we can connect students to each other and to the institution and to the larger community, they're much more likely to persist and complete their degrees and go out into the work world.
26, Sally Search C2C WFSU

THE PEER LEADERS WILL ALSO WORK WITH FACULTY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS IN “CONNECT TO COMPLETE” ... WITH GOAL SETTING, NAVIGATING COLLEGE SYSTEMS AND LINKING THEM TO SERVICES.

Our Opinion: Charitable giving

Nonprofits thrive when mission is strong and clear

The news that the Brogan Museum was closing its doors next month dealt a blow to a community trying to promote the arts.

But the news wasn't surprising. The Brogan Museum has been struggling for years, and anyone paying attention to its many appeals for money feared that it was only a matter of time before its board would decide that those efforts were merely Band-Aid attempts to keeping the doors open.

One of the biggest problems was that the Brogan was unable to sell itself as a major attraction in this community, one so important that businesses, families and major donors wouldn't let it fail.

Board members say that the Brogan could remain closed for up to a year before a final decision is made on the center's future. This is a wise decision. It will give everyone involved a chance to step back, evaluate what it struggled with in the past and decide what direction it wants to take in the future. If it's to reopen and be successful, the Brogan needs to rebrand and reinvent itself in such a way that donors will want to be associated with it. It must offer the right combination of attractions that will attract local families and tourists on a regular basis; it's not enough to be an occasional host for a major exhibit and or special events tied to Kleman Plaza.

But what the Brogan board has said publicly is surely being discussed privately by other nonprofit organizations in Tallahassee that are struggling to make ends meet. The economy's impact on business and government trickles down to nonprofits at a time when their services, especially social services, are in demand.

This makes it even more difficult for organizations such as the Brogan that must compete with nonprofits that are addressing urgent needs like food, shelter and emergency services.

On the other hand, many nonprofits in this community continue to be successful in attracting private support.

Those are the organizations that are clearly providing a service with which the broader public can identify and that have established track records showing that they are worth the investment. Agencies receiving strong community support include Boys Town, the HOPE Community, the Tallahassee Museum and even

The Shelter, where a coalition of partners is working to improve services for the homeless. America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend has enjoyed strong corporate and private support in meeting the demands of families that need food assistance.

Alyce Lee Stansbury, a local fundraising consultant and board member for United Partners for Human Services, said agencies such as Refuge House, the Gadsden Arts Center, Legal Services of North Florida and the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Foundation all have received major donations just within the past week, including some gifts of over \$100,000.

Ms. Stansbury said nonprofits can be successful if they can show that they have committed leadership and if they can show what can be done with additional resources.

"People want to hear about what is being accomplished and what can be done rather than 'Woe-is-me, we need money,'" Ms. Stansbury said. "Despite the enormous challenges, organizations that are putting their missions first and showing what can be done, they are the ones that are being successful. It's a combination of generous givers and artful askers."

The decision by the Brogan board to allow itself time for self-examination and refocusing is a move that shouldn't be lost on other nonprofit groups, as the economy also forces private donors to rethink priorities.

Jeremy Haynes, Lorenzo Cain teach lessons in baseball, giving

BY JIM HENRY

One of Jeremy Haynes' goals Wednesday was to squeeze in as much baseball and fun as possible during his annual Jerald Haynes Game For Gifts Camp.

That was easy to accomplish, especially with former Madison County High School teammate and Kansas City Royals outfielder Lorenzo Cain helping provide instruction to the 24 campers (ages 7 to 13) who participated in the six-hour camp at Madison County's recreation fields.

Another important aspect of the camp also was accomplished — more than \$1,000 was raised to purchase toys for children in Tallahassee Memorial Hospital's Pediatric Unit who won't be home for Christmas on Sunday. Haynes and Cain will play Santa Claus and pass out the toys to the hospitalized children Christmas Eve.

"I don't even know how to put in words when you are passing out the toys and see the kids' smiles, it's such a great feeling," said Haynes, a pitcher in the Atlanta Braves organization who was selected in the 2005 major-league draft out of [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"We go room to room and it's so much fun to watch them open their gifts. I always wanted to do something to be able to help kids and give back."

Haynes, with help from Cain and Jonathan Jones, an athletic trainer at [TCC](#), came up with the camp's unique concept three years ago.

Haynes doesn't charge campers a registration fee — it's donation only. The community and local businesses such as Madison County Community Bank and Madison Sporting Goods also have rallied behind Haynes' camp.

TMH provides Haynes the names of children who won't be home for Christmas. Haynes and company then schedule a shopping spree at Wal-Mart followed by a gift-wrap session.

One change this year is Haynes has named the camp in honor of his father, Jeremy, who died in September following a heart attack.

"We had a great relationship; we were probably more like brothers and best friends," said Haynes, who has a career record of 18-18 with 334 strikeouts (387.2 innings) in six minor-league seasons. "I want to pass on what he taught

me to our campers, that we respect each other and treat everyone the same."

Cain, who is expected to contend for the Royals' starting center-field job in spring training, embraces the opportunity to help his good friend. Other instructors who helped Wednesday included Madison County baseball coach Terry Barrs and Aucilla Christian baseball coach Drew Sherrod.

"It's always a good feeling to give back to the community where I grew up," said Cain, who still resides in Madison during the offseason. "It's a lot of fun working with the kids during the camp and help make a difference. It's also a great experience to pass out the toys at the hospital and see the children's faces light up. I really enjoy it, and it's something I look forward to."

Godby student named Young Marine of year for region

By Jim Burke

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Young Marine First Sergeant Kaytron T. Coker is the 2011- 2012 Young Marine of the Year for the 3rd (Southeast U.S.) Young Marine Division. Coker was selected as the representative for the division in competition with five other Young Marines chosen from among all the Young Marines in the Southeast. Coker will now go on to compete against five of the finest Young Marines in the nation.

Coker has been a member of the Young Marines of the Big Bend in Tallahassee since 2005. His impressive display of knowledge, physical strength and endurance and maturity provided the needed impetus for his selection.

Coker serves as the senior Young Marine leader in North Florida for units in Tallahassee, Crestview and Pensacola. He was quick to praise the guiding influence of his maternal grandmother, Mary A. Coker of Tallahassee, as being a positive, loving and constructive role model.

As a Young Marine, Coker has had many varied and exciting happenings. He has had the opportunity to travel the nation meeting new challenges from hiking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to Virginia for Advanced Leadership School as well as to the various locations around the state where the Young Marines conduct their activities.

Coker has well served the Young Marines in his home regiment. As Sgt. Major John M. Gionet USMC (ret), the Florida regiment's commander, says of Coker, "As an Instructor, Young Marine First Sergeant Coker was articulate, knowledgeable and professional. He [is] able to articulate Young Marine curriculum so that all students were able to learn ... He prepared his lessons and was always ready to instruct."

Coker has been an outstanding student at Godby, plays varsity basketball and is dual enrolled at Amos P. Godby and TCC. His current goals are to obtain a college degree from FSU and become a successful businessman. Coker praises the Young Marines program for providing him with the ability to sharpen his focus on success through the discipline and challenges the program provides.

Interested parties may contact the Young Marine of the Big Bend by phone at 850-264-5414. The webpage is www.bigbendym.org.

TCC student arrested on felony gun charge

Democrat staff report

Alexander Haynes, a 19-year-old Tallahassee Community College Student, was arrested and booked into the Leon County Jail Thursday after he was found with a gun in his apartment in Heritage Grove, said Florida State Police Department spokesman Maj. Jim Russell.

Haynes tried to flee his apartment and toss a pistol into some bushes when a maintenance inspector visited the apartment, Russell said. An FSUPD officer happened to be patrolling the area and apprehended Haynes.

Officers were able to find the gun and the maintenance inspector found drug paraphernalia inside the apartment and reported it to the police department, Russell said.

Haynes was arrested on charges of possession of a firearm on school property, which is a felony, as well as a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia, Russell said. He has since been released from jail.

New VP to focus on TCC's effectiveness

By Doug Blackburn

Democrat senior writer

Tallahassee Community College has hired Lei Wang, an administrator at a university in Texas, for the newly created position of associate vice president of institutional effectiveness.

Wang will report directly to **TCC** President Jim Murdaugh, who is acutely aware of lawmakers' and Gov. Rick Scott's increased focus on accountability in higher education.

"I want us to state very clearly what measures we have for effectiveness. This is sort of the icing on the cake for us," Murdaugh said. "This will really step it up a notch."

Wang, director of institutional research and effectiveness at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, will start at **TCC** on March 1.

Her focus at **TCC** will include grants and research, strategic planning and accountability. **TCC** Provost Barbara Sloan had been responsible for the majority of those areas.

"Obviously, we already have a strategic plan and accountability measures," Sloan said. "In many ways, we had just outgrown handling this without having an office committed to it on an ongoing basis."

It's essential that the college be able to assess how it is doing and in which areas it needs to improve, Sloan said.

Wang has spent the past seven years at Our Lady of the Lake, a liberal arts school with about 2,800 students, or one-fifth the size of **TCC**. Prior to that she was at the University of Memphis, where she earned her doctoral degree in curriculum and instructional leadership.

Allison DeFoor, chairman of **TCC's** board of trustees and an advocate for accountability, said he was impressed with Wang's resume. He regards her hire as a continuation of what **TCC** is already doing.

"Accountability is part of the college's DNA. (Hiring Wang) is part of a matrix, not an unusual event," DeFoor said. "It's more of the same trend."

Where are the TV campaign ads in Florida?

Reported by: Jerry Hume

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The first race in the road to the White House may now be over, but the results from Iowa still make it unclear who Republicans want to face off against President Obama.

That makes Florida, with its primary on January 31st, even more important.

But currently, there are no political television advertisements airing in our area.

"Florida has 10 very diverse media markets, very expensive media markets when you look at the national landscape," said Brian Hughes, Communications Director for the Republican Party of Florida, "so it doesn't make a lot of sense for the candidates to get in here too early because it burns a lot of cash."

State leaders were hoping that Republican candidates would spend a lot of time and money on Florida's primary. That's why they went against party rules, and voted to have the primary on January 31st. For doing so, the state loses half its delegates for the Republican National Convention.

"We can't be ignored and Florida is going to be a huge, huge game changer," said Richard Murgio, [Tallahassee Community College](#) Political Science Professor, "they may be holding back because resources are scarce, particularly for some of these new contenders."

Still, with just two primaries between the candidates and Florida, local and state Republican leaders are expecting campaigning to ramp up very soon.

"I've received calls from several of the campaigns that are making plans to have events in Florida," said Bradley Maxwell, chairman of the Leon Co. Republican Party, "they're getting ready to come here, so as the primary gets closer, you're going to see more of them."

Hughes expects a TV ad overload before too long.

"By the end of January, I think your television sets will be inundated," Hughes said.

Be a part-time correctional probation officer with **TCC** class

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – **Tallahassee Community College's** Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) will begin a part-time correctional probation officer class in June 2012.

On Thursday, January 12, FPSI will host an open house for all interested applicants. The event will take place at 6 p.m. in Room 203 of FPSI's Classroom Building.

Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications, as established in Florida Statutes 943.13:

be at least 19 years of age;

be a citizen of the United States;

have earned a high school diploma or equivalent (GED) a bachelor's degree is required for correctional probation officers;

not have been convicted of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or false statement. Any person who, after July 1, 1981, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or is found guilty of a felony, or of a misdemeanor involving perjury or a false statement, shall not be eligible for employment or appointment as an officer, notwithstanding suspension of sentence or withholding of adjudication;

never have received a dishonorable discharge from any of the Armed Forces of the United States;

have documentation of processed fingerprints on file with the employing agency;

pass a physical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or certified advanced registered nurse practitioner;

have good moral character as determined by a background investigation under procedures established by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission.

The class is scheduled to begin June 4, 2012, and continue through December 16. Classes will be held Monday through Friday from 6 to 10 p.m.

For more information on the class, contact Andrea Blalock at blalocka@tcc.fl.edu or call 850-201-7659.

Tallahassee Community College Hosts U.S. Ambassador to Portugal during International Education Week

Susie Hall

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

This year's International Education Week celebration at **Tallahassee Community College** brought home a nearly native son who has become an international figure. The event's featured speaker was the United States Ambassador to Portugal, Allan Katz, who lived in Florida's capital city before his posting to Lisbon. Katz, a former member of the Tallahassee City Commission, spoke to **TCC** students and others on the theme, "Education Links You to a Global Economy: Are You Ready?"

His message focused on the realities of global interconnectedness and the need for well educated global citizens, telling students: "Education, entrepreneurship and exchanges of ideas will lead us out of this financial crisis and propel you into your futures."

Ambassador Katz was also the guest of honor at a dinner for approximately 75 invited guests. He described his experience of being chosen as ambassador by President Obama and shared some insights into the relationship between Portugal and the U.S. Katz drew laughs when he talked about the difficulty of learning a new language in his middle years, declaring that the hardest part of his day is the 45-minute Portuguese lesson.

He also impressed many in the audience when he predicted that the term "international education" will soon be redundant, because an education without international studies is not going to be an education at all.

A panel discussion entitled "Democratic Transitions in the Middle East: Turning Challenges into Opportunities," was facilitated by Mark Schlakman, senior program director of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University. Joining Katz on the panel were Scott Bates, president of the Center for National Policy in Washington, D.C., and Paul Salem, director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. "We were very proud to bring these experienced individuals to discuss global issues for the benefit of our community," said Betty Jensen, **TCC's** coordinator of the Office of International Student Services.

Other highlights of **TCC's** seventh annual International Education Week observance included the Parade of Nations; a teleconference with the Anglo-Colombiano School of Bogota; a forum on international pop culture; music from **TCC's** own International Student Organization trio; and "Bringing the World to **TCC**" that gave students the opportunity to "visit" 15 countries—learning about the cultures, sampling native foods and perhaps sparking their own interest in travel or study abroad.

Florida State, FAMU optimistic as 2012 session begins Tuesday

By Doug Blackburn

DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

For the first time in five years, the leaders at Florida State and Florida A&M are approaching the legislative session with cautious optimism.

Gov. Rick Scott's proposed 2012 budget, despite an overall shortfall approaching \$2 billion, calls for no changes in funding for higher education. It's a marked departure from painful reductions since 2007.

While the governor's budget does not include an increase in tuition — a vital revenue source for the state's public universities — the Board of Governors is empowered to recommend tuition hikes of up to 7.5 percent. The board, which oversees the State University System, will likely take up tuition increases at its Jan. 18-19 meeting.

"If we are flat-funded with a tuition increase, we will go into the black for the first time in five years," FSU President Eric Barron said. "If this is indeed what happens, I think we can then begin to think about recovering and being able to do some things that are innovative that promote a better position for the university.

"It's hard to strengthen (science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs) or be more entrepreneurial if you're cutting the budget every year," Barron added.

James H. Ammons, FAMU's president since July 2007, has yet to take part in a legislative session without a budget cut. He admits he's relieved at the prospect of avoiding another year of reduced appropriations.

"Compared to the last several years, to have an opportunity to have level funding without any additional cuts is good news," Ammons said.

Since 2007, when a recession put the economy in a tailspin, FSU, FAMU and the state's nine other public universities have been cut by more than 25 percent. At FSU, that totals more than \$110 million; at FAMU, more than \$33 million.

The state's college system, which includes Tallahassee and North Florida community colleges, will also be funded at the same amount as 2011, if Scott's budget is followed. This system has not been affected by cuts nearly as much as the universities. [Tallahassee Community College](#) President Jim Murdaugh said they are well prepared for flat funding and no tuition increase in 2012.

While Barron and Ammons are hopeful that 2012 is the

beginning of a change in funding for higher education, there is virtually no money available for any building projects at the state's universities.

The Public Education Capital Outlay budget, responsible for both new buildings and vital infrastructure improvements, has all but disappeared.

For example, the new building at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, approved by both universities in 2009 to replace a handful of trailers in use as temporary classrooms, has yet to receive any funding from the state.

FSU would like to construct a new facility for its earth sciences. It merged Geology, Meteorology and Oceanography three years ago, but has not been able to house the three under one roof.

"These programs are nationally recognized and a good source for federal funding," Barron said. "I have never seen the case where a department was successful when it was divided by topic and split into three different buildings."

One FSU project, the Aero-Propulsion, Mechatronics and Energy building on the southwest campus, lost its state funding when it was two-thirds completed, and didn't get the additional money to finish it.

"That slowed us down a little bit," Barron said. "Maintenance dollars are very important to the university."

Ammons is concerned about the long-term effects of not having money available for building projects.

"It puts the universities in jeopardy of being able to maintain quality environments as we compete for the best and brightest students in Florida and across the nation," he said. "We need to have ways to maintain what we have and we need to be able to replace facilities that outlived their usefulness."

Scott has spoken forcefully about the need for more students getting degrees in science, technology, engineering and math fields, known collectively by the acronym STEM. The presidents of FSU and FAMU are eager to focus more on STEM.

Florida State, FAMU optimistic as 2012 session begins Tuesday...

continued

Barron points to two growing programs — material sciences and engineering — whose students will be well prepared for careers in industries that could help Florida prosper.

"We're desperate to start to invest in that area a little more. You want to cross over to the point where you can make investments in areas that will make a big impact for the state," Barron said.

Ammons hopes the Legislature is able to find additional money for STEM, because it's crucial to the state's growth. Part of the focus of FAMU's restructuring before the 2011-12 school year was to put more emphasis on STEM and health-care disciplines, he noted.

"Given the importance of education, especially college-level education, to America's competitiveness, we would like to see additional investments in education, especially in STEM," Ammons said.

Former Godby wrestler only knows one way

BY ST. CLAIR MURRAINE

Anyone who has heard Charles Kilbourn's speech to his Godby High School wrestling team more than once might say he sounds like a broken record.

It doesn't change, especially if the topic is about finding the will to succeed and commitment. The name of fledgling mixed martial arts fighter Rafael Valdez always comes up in the story that Kilbourn uses to make his point, although it's been four years since Valdez graduated.

In a nutshell, when Kilbourn found that he had a team of undisciplined wrestlers during Valdez's senior year on the team, he began to weed out the bad influences. When he was done, Valdez was the only man standing.

"There was nobody who could touch Rafael's dedication," Kilbourn said. "He had a lot of pride in the wrestling team.

"Rafael came every day. He worked his butt off every day. He was never late, he never left early and he never complained."

Valdez is demonstrating that same kind of commitment as an MMA fighter. How far he will go remains to be seen but he continues his amateur career Jan. 21 on a card at The Moon.

Valdez, 21, first turned to MMA about two years ago. He trained for a few months then left before making a return during the past year. He now has more time to give to the demanding sport, he said.

"I don't have time to hang out so as long as I stay consistent I think it's going to grow," Valdez said.

But so far it's taking some juggling of his time. He works a full-time job and attends classes at [Tallahassee Community College](#). He participates in twice-a-week training camp at Capital City Combat Club in preparation for his upcoming bout. On the days he isn't in training, he works on his conditioning.

Of course his strongest suit is in grappling. His trainers said his kicking and hand speed are above average and they see progress every week.

"His striking game is on point," said pro fighter Matt Munsey, who trains and spars with Valdez. "He probably has some of the fastest hands in the gym. His mat work came naturally. We didn't have to teach him that.

"You work with some people who have it and some don't. He is on point. He is definitely giving it his all. He wants it."

That's saying a lot more than could be said for Valdez when he played football at Godby. He said he enjoyed playing but was doing it because it was what his friends did.

But Valdez, who played four seasons at multiple positions, said he has no regrets because football taught him how to be resilient.

"I definitely was an aggressive (football player)," he said. "I liked to hit."

He'll do a lot of that as an MMA fighter. He can expect to take a few shots as well, but his former wrestling coach isn't questioning how far Valdez will go.

"MMA is a tough sport, but how far he takes it is up to him," Kilbourn said. "If he can win a few more of these amateur fights, go pro and people notice him, I think Rafael can go as far as he wants."

Then, he got into telling the story about Valdez one more time to prove his optimism.

"You can't question the guy when he is the only guy on the wrestling team and he doesn't quit," he said. "When I'm talking about commitment, dedication and perseverance, I always bring that story up."

TCC Receives \$100,000 Pledge for Healthcare Campaign

TCC Press Release

The **Tallahassee Community College** Foundation started the New Year with incredibly exciting news when it received a \$100,000 pledge towards its Healthcare Provision and Excellence Campaign from an anonymous donor.

The Healthcare Provision and Excellence Campaign enables **Tallahassee Community College** to continue serving the community by educating future outstanding healthcare professionals. The campaign supports **TCC's** expanding healthcare programs by providing investments for facilities, state-of-the-art technology, student support services, scholarships and more. **TCC's** healthcare programs recently completed their first semester in the new 88,000 square foot Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, culminating in pinning ceremonies for radiologic technology and nursing graduates.

"I don't think it is possible to overstate the generosity of this gift," said Dr. Jim Murdaugh, president of **TCC**, "or the impact that it's going to have on the state of healthcare in our community. A contribution such as this will have a positive influence for years to come, helping educate healthcare professionals whose careers will serve hundreds of patients and even save lives."

Almena Pettit, a member the **TCC** Foundation's Board of Directors and the campaign's Lead Gift Committee, agreed. "The support of so many local individuals and organizations has been incredible to witness during this campaign. We are so grateful for this generous gift, and we are excited about the future of the healthcare education students and programs at **TCC** and what they mean to our community."

For more information on the **TCC** Foundation's healthcare campaign, please contact Robin Johnston at (850) 201-8580 or johnstor@tcc.fl.edu.

Student Stabbed on TCC's Campus

Student stabbed in chest, suspect arrested

Julie Montanaro

UPDATED 1.11.12 by Julie Montanaro

The TCC Police chief says an argument between two students escalated into a stabbing this morning. It happened at about 9:30 am near the parking garage on campus. TCC Police Chief Dave Hendry says the victim was stabbed in the chest with a short-blade knife. Hendry said the men had an ongoing argument over living arrangements, but couldn't be more specific. Hendry says 36 year old Trevor Myers has been arrested and charged with aggravated battery.

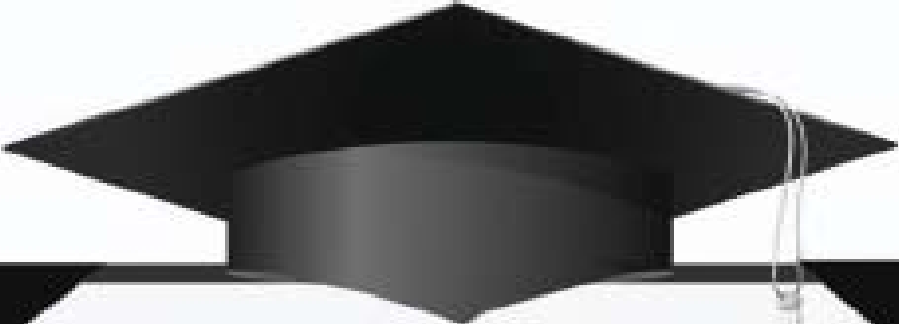
Tallahassee, Florida - January 11, 2012

A stabbing took place on the Tallahassee Community College campus during the morning hours of January 11th, according to TCC's Chief Communications Director. The stabbing took place west of the student union. The victim was taken to Tallahassee Memorial with serious injuries. No other official details have been released.

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Twin City News



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* This is running in the Tallahassee Democrat Jan 8, 12, 13, 14 and Feb 9-12 and Havana Herald and Gadsden County Times on Jan 12, 19, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23.