

GREAT NEWS KICKS OFF THE SUMMER AT NWFSC

Summer is in full swing, and Northwest Florida State College is as busy as ever! It is always nice to start my comments with great news, and that is certainly the case this month.

I am pleased to report that two legislative appropriations totaling \$5.74 million are in the FY18 state budget, which Governor Rick Scott signed on June 2nd. The first appropriation is \$3 million for a hot/chill water line project and the second is \$2.74 million for the remodeling of the Engineering Building (#310), both are projects on the Niceville Campus.

The college is appreciative of the excellent work and strong support of our legislators this past session. None of this would have been possible without Senator George Gainer, Senator Doug Broxson, Representative Mel Ponder, Representative Jayer Williamson and Representative Brad Drake who worked tirelessly on our behalf, even championing our college mission to the closing hours of the session. This Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) appropriation is the first the college has received since 2008/09.

Also, a special thank you to the NWF Foundation for the investment in our advocacy efforts, and to everyone who supported our efforts during the session. Remaining diligent and united paid big dividends for NWFSC and our students' futures.

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KAY LITKE CULINARY ARTS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED

Throughout her life, Kay Litke embodied grace and hospitality. She was the wife of Major General (ret) Donald Litke, mother to three children, grandmother, lover of the culinary arts and a decades-long supporter of Northwest Florida State College.

Kay met Don in third grade and they continued through school together including graduating from college. Kay's college major and subsequent degree was in Foods and Nutrition with a long term plan to go to graduate school, get her master's degree, and become a registered dietician. However, Kay and Don married right after graduating and Don began a thirty year career with USAF that included 18 moves across five countries.

Her plans for a career in the culinary field never came to fruition, but Kay's passion for cooking and entertaining continued as she became well known for her fabulous cooking, dinner parties, and especially her Sunday brunches. This passion for food preparation continued until her final days. When her grandchildren were asked what they remembered most about their grandmother the almost unanimous response was her cooking and the great aromas in her kitchen.

As a way to honor Kay's tremendous legacy, the Litke family established the Kay Litke Culinary Arts Scholarship Endowment with a \$100,000 gift to the Northwest Florida State College Foundation. Kay was very active in a variety of ways at NWFSC. She and her husband endowed The Major General and Mrs. Donald P. Litke Scholarship 20 years ago which continues to be awarded each year and has helped over 25 students realize their educational dreams. She became a friend and mentor to every student who were recipients of this scholarship. She was an active member of the Northwest Florida Symphony Guild, a supporter of the NFSO including the Conductor's Circle and Kids at the Symphony, a member of the President's Circle, a Signature Seat holder at the Arts Center and an active Raider Athletics fan and member of the Raider Club. It is the family's hope that this scholarship will allow deserving students to reach their potential in the field of culinary arts. ■

Pictured (l-r): Dr. Devin Stephenson, Cristie Kedroski, Major General (ret) Donald Litke and his daughters Sue Farrell and Lisa Pack.

Another piece of great and heartwarming news in this month's edition is the announcement of the Kay Litke Culinary Arts Scholarship Endowment established in her memory through a \$100,000 gift from the Litke Family. Kay, along with her husband, Retired Major General Don Litke, was very active in a variety of ways at NWFSC. Kay was passionate about helping students pursue their education goals and took personal interest in their success. Read more about this special gift on Page 1.

June and July also brought two sessions of our Kids on Campus program. This year, we celebrated the largest attendance for the program since it began! With classes from Party Planning to Newsroom 101, and even sports, there was something for everyone. The program gives students their

first exposure to a college campus. We consider them "Future Raiders" in the making!

We held our first Strategic Planning Summit on June 16th. The Summit served as the platform from which we will create our college's direction for the next three years. Our methodology included a highly interactive process of environmental context mapping which resulted in the development of action steps we must take to fulfill our mission and vision.

More exciting news was released during our June Board of Trustees meeting with the announcement of our new partnership with Florida State University - Panama City. As a result of this very significant articulation agreement, students now have a smoother transition and easier access to four-year bachelor's degree programs through the Connect to FSU-Panama City program. Students participating in the program who earn an Associate of Arts degree and meet requirements are guaranteed admission to FSU Panama City. This program provides a seamless pathway to success for Northwest Florida students, as they work to earn a degree or credential. We look forward to working with FSU - Panama City Dean Randy Hanna and his

staff to create clear academic pathways for students.

On June 23, several NWFSC students received medals in individual competitions at the National SkillsUSA Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. This year, our students brought home gold, silver and bronze medals and we are very proud of their success! Please read more about these students in this issue.

Lastly, I would like to extend a tremendous thank you to Dr. Sasha Jarrell. Dr. Jarrell recently made the decision to take a step back from her role as Vice President of Academic Affairs, however, she will continue to work with the College on special projects, and eventually return to her first love of instructing math students in the classroom. Dr. Jarrell's leadership at NWFSC has been invaluable. Having served as Interim President prior to my arrival, Dr. Jarrell was instrumental to my successful transition. I feel fortunate to have her as a colleague and as a friend.

Our entire NWFSC team is focused, relentless, and united in the pursuit of becoming the premier higher education provider in our region. Thank you for your support of NWFSC and our students! ■

#TheBestIsOurStandard



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

■ **Tanya Beauregard, MSN, RN** has earned the designation Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) after meeting the eligibility criteria and successfully completing a demanding certification examination developed and administered by the National League for Nursing.

■ **Skills USA National Competition.....▶**

- o The Career Pathways Showcase (Education & Training Services) team, consisting of **Ms. Tawanda Brown, Ms. Elpidtha Gibson** and **Ms. Mary Swisher**, won silver.
- o **Ms. Destiny Leggett** won gold for Early Childhood Ed.
- o **Ms. Tara Rex** won gold for Dental.
- o The Radiography team consisting of **Ms. Megan Campbell, Ms. Kelsie Jacobs**, and **Ms. Kristen Williams**, won 3rd.

■ **Dr. Diedre Price**, Interim Director of Learning Technologies, was the invited speaker at Chattahoochee Valley Community College to address faculty about how to motivate, engage and retain students with teaching technologies, focusing on hybrid and online learning. This workshop was held as part of the institution's QEP Spring Workshop.

■ **Mr. David Weatherford**, adjunct history professor, contributed three scholarly entries to the recently published 2017 edition of The Mississippi Encyclopedia, published by the University Press of Mississippi.



CBA HOLDS ANNUAL CELEBRATION AND BENEFITS FROM REDFISH ROUNDUP

On June 19, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance hosted its annual meeting event for staff, volunteers, and members. The evening focused not only on successes from the past year but also plans for the future. CBA also celebrated a gift as the charity beneficiary for the 12th Annual Old Nick's Redfish Roundup, the largest redfish tournament on the Gulf Coast. The tournament, located at Nick's Seafood Restaurant, brought anglers from near and far to try their luck. At the end of the day, the tournament organizers gave the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance a \$750 gift for restoration in Choctawhatchee Bay. ■

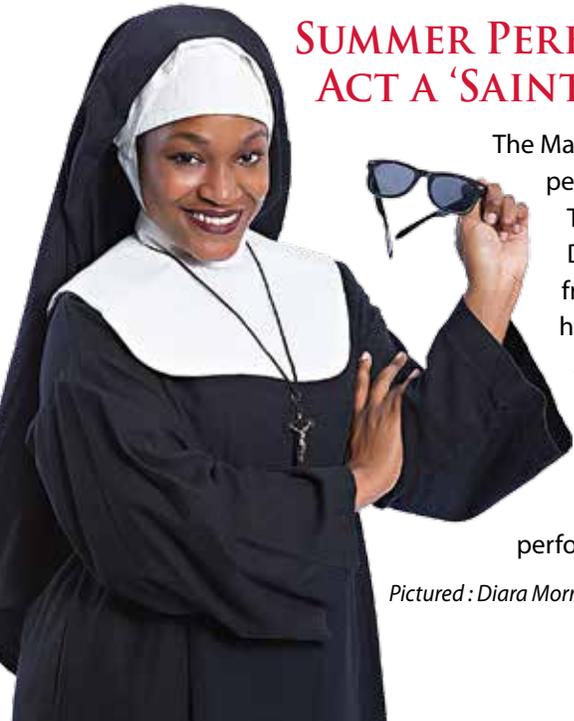


Pictured Top row, from left to right: Brittany Tate, Rachel Gwin, Brandy Foley, Alison McDowell. Bottom row, from left to right: Alison Jean, Charles Foy, Amanda Briant.

SUMMER PERFORMANCE OF SISTER ACT A 'SAINTLY' SUCCESS

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center featured four performances of *Sister Act* this summer. The play, directed by Joe Taylor, NWFSC Dance Instructor, received rave reviews from the local community. Based on the hit 1992 film, the uplifting musical *Sister Act* is filled with powerful gospel music, outrageous dancing and a truly moving story. Congratulations to the cast and staff of Mattie Kelly Arts Center for another spectacular summer performance! ■

Pictured : Diara Morris as Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act.



ATHLETICS

Student athletes receive numerous awards

For the 2016-2017 academic year, NWF State College had 25 student athletes named to the FCSAA All-Academic Team and 35 named to the Panhandle Conference All-Academic Team. Several athletes were also recently recognized for their exemplary athletic achievements. Seven NWF Baseball athletes received All-Panhandle Conference honors. NWF Softball also has ten athletes recognized to the All-Conference team and two named to the All-State team. Congratulations to our student athletes on your clear demonstration of commitment to athletics and academics! ■

Former Raider wins in College World Series

Former NWF Raider, Hannah Sparks (2014-16), is a member of the University of Oklahoma's softball team that won this year's Women's College World Series! During her sophomore season at Northwest Florida, Hannah was named a NJCAA Softball All-American after boasting a batting average of .401 with 16 homeruns and driving in 48 runs. ■



Pictured: Hannah Sparks, NJCAA All-American catcher, during her time at NWFSC.



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STEPHENSON SELECTED FOR FAC&U BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Devin Stephenson, President of Northwest Florida State College, has been selected to the Board of Directors for the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities (FAC&U).

Members of the FAC&U Board of Directors are chosen by member institutions. FAC&U members represent all sectors of higher education in Florida.

"It is always an honor to be recognized by our colleagues across the state," said Dr. Stephenson. "I am grateful for the confidence my peers have placed in me to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to working with other members of the FAC&U board to advocate for and advance higher education in Florida." ■



The generous Northwest Florida Symphony Guild is at it again! The NFSO thanks the Guild for their generous annual contribution of \$10,300, which helps support them and provide musical opportunities for area youth. Established in 1988, the Northwest Florida Symphony Guild has donated more than \$371,000 in direct support of the orchestra to date. ■



Twin Cities Woman's Club Gives Scholarship

The Twin Cities Woman's Club (TCWC) recent gift of \$4,200 will provide scholarship assistance to adult women who are beginning or returning to college and need assistance to complete a college education. Since 1994, the organization has donated more than \$95,000 in financial support to NWF State College students. Thank you Twin Cities Woman's Club! ■

Pictured: Dr. Devin Stephenson, NWF State College President, with members of the Twin Cities Woman's Club Education Committee. (l to r) Ann Harbaugh, Rhonda Davis, and Mary Corbett.