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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 1, NO. 1

## Scholars & Donors

On Friday October 21st, the Northwest Florida State College Foundation held its Annual Scholars and Donors Luncheon, celebrating scholarship recipients and the donors who made their scholarships possible. The Foundation heralds over half a million in scholarship dollars supporting 415 deserving students. ■



PHOTO RIGHT (L to R): Student Scholar Speaker Clay Keel (Shalimar), Donor Keynote Speaker Judy Byrne Riley (Niceville), and Student Scholar Speaker Shayna Clay (Crestview).

## Harrington Championship Fund

The inaugural Patrick Harrington Classic basketball tournament was held in December 2016 and featured four Division I Women's Basketball teams. The tournament not only helps to pay tribute to a great Coach, who was deeply invested in the young ladies that played for him, but also helps to continue his legacy by supporting women's basketball. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Harrington Championship Fund, which supports all NWF State College athletic teams in their post-season quest to become Champions. ■

PHOTO CENTER (L to R): Mrs. Lori Harrington; her three children, Kelly, Patrick and Katherine; and Ramsey Ross, NWF Raider Athletic Director.



## Boeing Gift Supports CBA

The Boeing Company continued its longtime partnership with the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance by awarding \$45,000 to CBA's K-12 environmental education programs. With this gift, CBA will be able to reach over 3,200 students in Okaloosa and Walton Counties with hands on science education that focuses on our local water resources. ■



## Emerald Coast Music Alliance

The first annual Emerald Coast Music Alliance Festival was declared a resounding success after world-renowned pianist Alon Goldstein and Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra musicians, Leonid Yankovsky (violin) and Boyan Bonev (cello) entertained students with classical music recitals at five Okaloosa County schools and organizations.

The festival was made possible by the newly formed Emerald Coast Music Alliance (EMCA). The inaugural festival culminated in a spectacular fund-raising reception and recital which was hosted by Edwin and Mary Watts as well as Robert and Venita Morell. Plans are underway to expand festival offerings throughout the Northwest Florida region. For more information about the ECMA please call the NWF State College Foundation at 729-5357. ■

## FIRST EDITION WELCOME

Welcome to our first edition of the President's Perspective! Our goal for this monthly newsletter is to share how we are engaging with the communities of Northwest Florida and to highlight the success of our faculty, staff and students.

As I am writing this first column to you, my head is spinning with the whirlwind of activities that we have been working on in the last 60 days and my heart is full due to the wonderful reception that Judy and I have received since moving to the region. Thank you for being great partners in our quest to create a culture of excellence at NWF State College! We are beyond excited to see what our future holds!

First, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Mrs. Susan Pryor Sloat Myers for her recent \$1 million dollar bequest to Northwest Florida State College. This generous gift will connect her name to our Learning Resources Center and provide six scholarship endowments to honor her family. Please read more about this wonderful donation in this edition.

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Brian S. Pennington of NWF Board of Trustees, Susan Myers, Judy Stephenson and President Stephenson.



## MYERS PLEDGES PLANNED GIFT

Lifelong champion of education, philanthropist and community activist, Mrs. Susan Pryor Sloat Myers will connect her name to the Northwest Florida State College's Learning Resources Center with a \$1 million dollar bequest, updating the name of the center to the Susan Myers Learning Resource Center. Additionally, as a way to memorialize her loved ones, Susan Pryor Sloat Myers also intends to create, through a planned gift, six scholarship endowments to preserve her family's legacy. This generous multi-faceted bequest enables many students to achieve their dreams of going to college and furthering their education for years to come. Read more on our website at the following link: [http://www.nwfsc.edu/news/spotlights/Myers\\_Donation.cfm](http://www.nwfsc.edu/news/spotlights/Myers_Donation.cfm) ■



(L to R): NWF President Devin Stephenson and Florida Legislators: Rep. Williamson, Sen. Broxson, and Sen. Gainer.

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In my third week as president, we hosted several members of our Northwest Florida legislative delegation for a tour of our administrative campus and for a brainstorming session on how we can best work together to nurture relationships and further position the college as an active leader in workforce, economic and community development. Representative Jayer Williamson, Representative Mel Ponder, Senator George Gainer and Senator Doug Broxson were here to meet with us that day and we look forward to hosting more members of the delegation in the future.



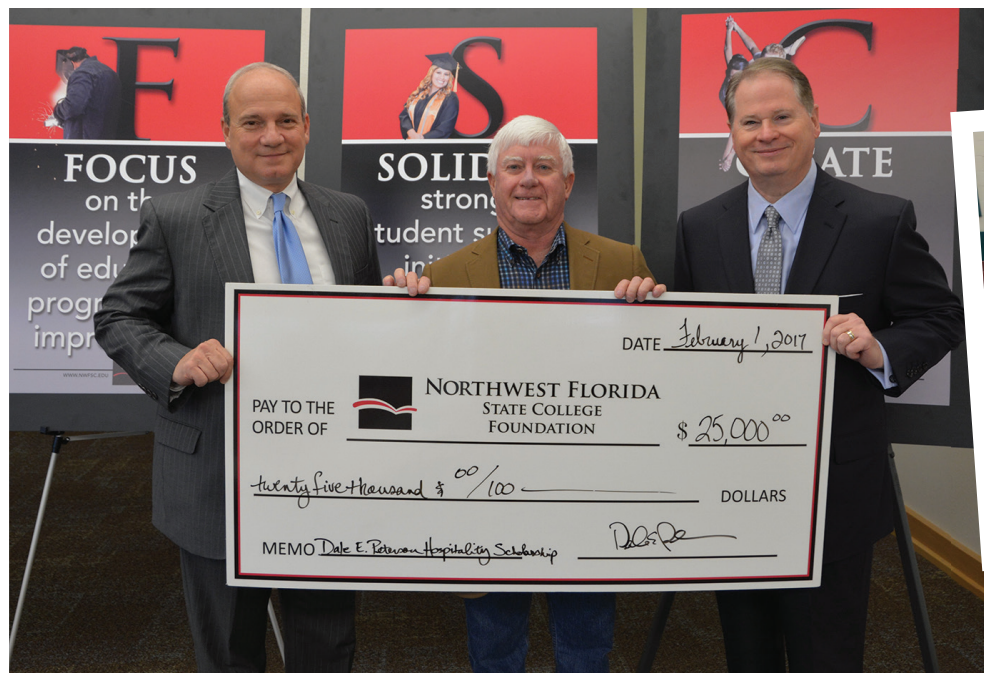
President Stephenson and FSC Chancellor Madeline Pumariega.

In my fourth week, we hosted Madeline Pumariega, Chancellor of the Florida College System (FCS), for a breakfast meeting with members of our Executive Council and Brian Pennington, Chairman, NWF State College Board of Trustees. Chancellor Pumariega provided our team with an update on the FCS and encouraged us to stay engaged with our local legislators but more importantly, our students.

Student success, is what it's all about and that is certainly our focus for 2017. We will stay engaged with our community and will continue to create a culture of excellence for our faculty, staff and students.

I hope that you enjoy this first edition of the President's Perspective and the highlights for all areas of our college. Judy and I look forward to spending more time with each and every one of you and working together to improve lives in Northwest Florida.

—Dr. Devin Stephenson



(L to R) NWF Foundation Chairman Mitch Mongell, Dale Peterson, and President Stephenson.

## DALE E. PETERSON HOSPITALITY SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

True to its community college heritage of listening and responding to community needs, NWF State College will introduce a new program in fall 2017; Hospitality and Tourism Management. Answering the call to support students in this new program, Dale E. Peterson, owner of Dale E. Peterson Vacations and Dale E. Peterson Realty, Inc., gave a generous \$25,000 gift to the NWF State College Foundation to establish the Dale E. Peterson Hospitality Scholarship Endowment. With 30 years' experience in real estate, 20 years' experience in resort management, and a breadth of civic leadership, the Peterson name has become synonymous with hospitality and tourism in the area. ■

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- **K. C. Williams** earned her Ed.D. from the University of West Florida in Administrative Studies. In April 2017, she will present her dissertation research – which concerns the role of art galleries in community colleges – at the 16th FATE Biennial Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.
- **Dr. Marty Walker and Linda Whitenton** have been asked to write a second edition for their bestselling book: CNA Certified Nursing Assistant Exam Cram.
- **Rhonda Trueman** recently served as co-editor of Teaching and Learning in Virtual Environments: Archives, Museums, and Libraries and co-author of the chapter "Riding the Hype-Cycle: Community Virtual Library Turns 10."
- **The Nursing Program was recently ranked as one of the TOP 20** associate of science (A.S.) in nursing programs in Florida by RegisteredNurse.org.
- **NWF State College Police Department:** Celebrates 1 year anniversary
- **Ingrun Mann** had her historical, academic book *Anna of Saxony* published. She will have 2 book signing events: Friday, February 10 at the Bayou Book Company in Niceville at noon and Saturday, February 11 at Barnes in Noble Bookstore in Destin from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

## MATTIE KELLY ARTS CENTER

### Rare Musical Donation

Mary Mancini donates rare musical charts and papers of the late Michael M. Mancini, a regional jazz legend, to the NWF State College Fine & Performing Arts Division and the college's Jazz Ensemble. ■

PHOTO: Mary Mancini (left) and Fred Domulot in the college's Jazz Rehearsal Hall.

### NFSO honors Arpke

Former Board of Trustees member and longtime financial underwriter of college programs, Eileen Arpke, was honored on her 90th birthday with a lifetime membership in the "Conductor's Circle" of the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Over the years, Mrs. Arpke and her late husband Charles have generously contributed to the NFSO, youth music education and various endeavors of the college. ■

PHOTO: NFSO conductor Jeffrey Rink and Ms. Arpke.



## ATHLETICS

### Coach DeMeo's 100th Win

On January 21, 2017, with a close road win over Tallahassee Community College, the NWF Raider Men's basketball team obtained the top spot in the Panhandle Conference. That win was also Coach Steve DeMeo's 100th career win as head coach of the NWF Raider Men's Basketball team. "When you actually take a step back and think about it, it's impressive," Assistant Coach Rory Kuhn said. "100 wins, a national championship, back-to-back state and Panhandle Conference championships and poised to make another run this season." Make sure you check out the Raider Basketball teams as FCSAA State Tournament is right around the corner March 8-11 in Ocala, FL. ■

Visit our new website at:

[www.NWFRaiders.com](http://www.NWFRaiders.com)

For ticket sales and a complete listing of shows and events, visit us at

[www.MattieKellyArtsCenters.org](http://www.MattieKellyArtsCenters.org)



### DR. STEPHENSON'S Game Ball

Dr. Stephenson and his wife, Judy, presented the referee with the official game ball to tip-off the Raider Men's Conference Basketball season on Jan. 18, 2017. The Stephenson's were also on deck for the first softball and baseball pitches of the season. Go Raiders! ■

