



NEW SEASON NEW TERM NEW PROGRAMS

One of my favorite times of year is fall semester on a college campus! It represents the start of a new academic year and the return of faculty and students to campus and their excitement to engage in the learning process. Our staff has been diligently working throughout the summer months preparing for the beginning of a great new year.

On August 11, we welcomed over 500 new students and their parents to our campus for our "Be a Raider" New Student Orientation event. Students and their parents were guided through the process of navigating their first days on a college campus; on strategies to be successful in the classroom, and how to get connected with their peers through clubs and organizations. It is always our goal to set students up to be successful, while also being fully immersed in student life on a college campus.

Our first day of classes was August 21, and it was a very exciting day for everyone. I spent most of that day walking the campus meeting our students and welcoming them to NWFSC. I could not help but reflect on a day in the future that I will have the opportunity to shake their hand again as they walk across the stage at commencement and receive their diploma. That is what our work is all about – student success!

Our college has seen many exciting changes this year, but our commitment

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RAIDER ATHLETICS SUPPORTED FOR PAYING IT FORWARD

The All Sports Association made a generous donation of \$5,000 to Northwest Florida State College to support Raider Athletics in response to the Raiders conducting multiple sports camps with the Boy & Girls Club of the Emerald Coast. ■

Pictured: Dr. Devin Stephenson accepts donation from All Sports Association representatives, with Raider basketball athletes and participants in the local sports camps with the Boys & Girls Club of the Emerald Coast.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP BREAKFAST

On August 22, Northwest Florida State College hosted the Legislative Wrap-Up breakfast with the Florida Home Builders Association, Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS®, Building Industry Association of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Inc. and community members from Walton and Okaloosa Counties. Representative Mel Ponder, Representative Frank White, Senator Doug Broxson, and Senator George Gainer attended the breakfast and provided updates on items on the agenda for discussion during the next legislative session. ■



Pictured (Lto R): Representative Mel Ponder, Senator Doug Broxson, Senator George Gainer, Dr. Devin Stephenson, and Representative Frank White.

to student success is unwavering. This fall we are launching several new programs including Bachelor's Degrees in Military Science and Logistics as well as Associate Degrees in Fire Science Technology and a



flagship program in Hospitality and Tourism Management. We continue to strengthen our industry partnerships to provide a future workforce that enhances community and economic development in our region.

If you haven't seen our lineup for shows at Mattie Kelly Arts Center this year, I encourage you to read more on Page 3 of this month's edition. With shows such as *The Sound of Music*, *American Bandstand*, *Grease*, and more we are sure to have another sell-out season! Also, The Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra recently released its schedule with another stellar season coming up!

Our student-athletes have been on campus late this summer hitting the books and the weight room preparing for championship play in all sports again this coming season. We are looking forward to another exciting year of intercollegiate competition from all teams!

Lastly, we continue to develop the strategic path forward for our college. With student success as our primary goal, we are focusing on ways we can improve higher education in Northwest Florida. Our mission remains resolute, to improve lives in Northwest Florida, and we will do that one student, one opportunity, and one possibility at a time. ■

#TheBestIsOurStandard



**CHOCTAWHATCHEE
BASIN ALLIANCE**
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

NEW OYSTER REEF CONSTRUCTED IN ALAQUA BAYOU

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and Eglin Air Force Base have partnered to construct a brand new oyster reef in Alaqua Bayou. Nearly 500 of the 1700 foot reef has been constructed, much of which was created using recycled shells from local restaurants. "So far we have been able to cover a lot of ground in a short amount of time," Rachel Gwin, CBA Restoration Coordinator explains, "After our first monitoring session, we are already seeing crabs and shrimp utilizing newly created habitat." When complete, the reef will reduce erosion along the banks of the bayou. ■

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- **Dr. Patrice Williams-Shuford**, Director of Robert L.F. Sikes Center in Crestview, was awarded the AFC Administration Commission 2017 Leadership Excellence Award.



BRINGING BROADWAY TO THE EMERALD COAST

The Mattie Kelly Arts Center has announced the lineup for its upcoming Broadway season. The season's shows include *The Sound of Music*, *Elf*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Grease* and more! Season tickets are now available. For the full schedule of performances, please visit mattiekellyarts.com.

The 31st season of the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra features ten concerts, recitals and special events that showcase the Emerald Coast's premier professional orchestra. Highlights include a star-studded special event concert and guest artists from around the globe. For show dates, please visit nfsymphony.org. ■

Right: Pianist Tzu-Yin Huang will perform September 16, 2017 at 7:30 in Russian Nights, opening season concert. Tickets: \$25 Adults, \$18 Youth (18 & under).



FALL CONVOCATION

On August 16-18, the college hosted its annual Fall Convocation event to welcome back faculty and staff for the fall semester. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Dot Richardson. Dr. Richardson is a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist in Softball, an Orthopedic Surgeon and currently the head coach of the woman's softball team at Liberty University. Dr. Richardson has an amazing personal story to tell, and she inspired and motivated us as we prepared for the 2017-18 academic year. ■

Pictured (L to R): Judy Stephenson, Dr. Richardson, and Dr. Stephenson.

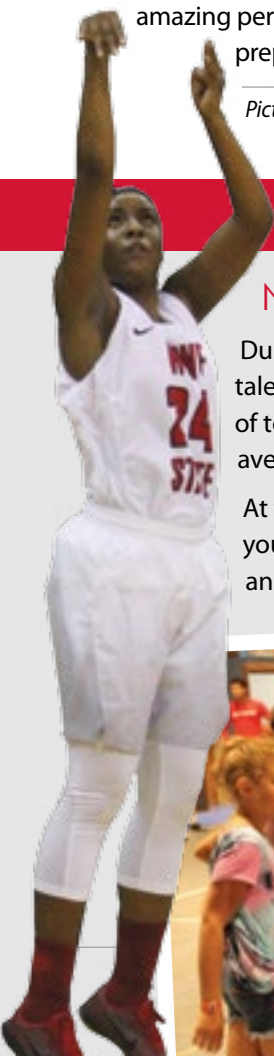


ATHLETICS

NWF hosts NJCAA Women's Basketball All-Star Weekend

During July, Northwest Florida State College hosted the NJCAA Women's Basketball All-Star Weekend. The most talented junior college players from around the country came together to showcase their skills in games in front of top NCAA coaches and scouts. Jade Lewis, a rising sophomore at NWF, competed throughout the weekend and averaged 11 points per game.

At the end of the summer, both NWF Raider Basketball teams, along with the All Sports Association, hosted two local youth clinics at the Boys and Girls Club of the Emerald Coast and the Fort Walton Beach Recreation Center. Coaches and players ran drills and worked on sharing their skills with some of the kids in the community. ■



NORTHWEST FLORIDA
RAIDERS

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www.NWFRaiders.com

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**PRESIDENTIAL
AWARD FOR
VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Congratulations to Audrey Bailey, head usher, for receiving the Presidential Award for Volunteer Service. Bailey has been serving the Mattie Kelly Arts Center as the head usher for more than 20 years. We are very grateful to her and all that she does for the Humanities and Fine Arts Department and the Mattie Kelly Arts Center. ■

Pictured (L to R): Jeanette Shires, Audrey Bailey, and Dr. Stephenson.

Bringing
BROADWAY
to the
Emerald Coast

THE SOUND OF MUSIC | OCTOBER 26, 2017
 ELF | NOVEMBER 8, 2017
 DIRTY DANCING | JANUARY 9, 2018
 ORIGINAL STARS FROM AMERICAN BANDSTAND |
 JANUARY 20, 2018
 GREASE MOVIE SING-A-LONG |
 FEBRUARY 3, 2018
 MJ LIVE | FEBRUARY 17, 2018
 CATAPULT | MARCH 14, 2018
 HOTEL CALIFORNIA | MARCH 29, 2018
 CINDERELLA | APRIL 14, 2018

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