

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
in the News



August 16 – September 15, 2008

Tallahassee Community College in the News



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Tallahassee *Community* College

Tallahassee Community College is one of the nation's top two-year institutions and offers the diverse educational opportunities that rival many four-year universities.

LOCATIONS

Main Campus: 444 Appleyard Drive, 201-6200

TCC Capital Center: 300 West Pensacola St., 201-7662

Quincy House: 216 North Adams, Quincy, 875-3462

TCC Wakulla Center: 5 Crescent Way, Crawfordville, 922-6290

Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy: 75 College Drive, Havana, 201-7000

Economic and Workforce Development: 444 Appleyard Drive, 201-8760

ENROLLMENT

TCC enrolls about 12,000 students.

FEES PER CREDIT HOUR

In-state tuition: \$69.50

Out-of-state tuition: \$250.75

KEY DATES

Aug. 25: Fall classes begin.

Aug. 29: Last day to cancel registration and receive a refund.

Dec. 12: Fall semester ends.

Jan. 7: Spring classes begin.

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

The numbers: Nearly 75 percent of TCC's A.A. graduates transfer into the State University System within a year – the highest percentage in the Florida community college system. In 2006-07, TCC was ranked 14th in the country among two-year schools for the number of associate degrees awarded. The faculty has twice the national average in doctorates, and many have been honored by state and national organizations.

Individualized attention: Most important to many students and their families is the fact that TCC offers individualized attention. In contrast to universities in which hundreds of stu-



MARK WALLHEISER

Above: A student finds a quiet study space on the second floor of Tallahassee Community College's library.

Below: Signs direct visitors around the main TCC campus. The college offers classes at several locations.

dents take the same class, TCC's faculty-student ratio is low, backed up by the academic support programs and Student Success Center.

More opportunities: What's more, via its collaboration with Flagler College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Barry University and Saint Leo University, TCC offers students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree without leaving campus.

Variety of offerings: The college provides day and evening classes, plus distance learning and express sessions in each academic term.

Tailored programs: TCC is seeing a much faster growth of part-time students. People in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties want to enhance their skills, whether they're unemployed, under-employed or worried about layoffs. TCC has responded by tailoring programs to opportunities: ecotourism in Crawfordville, laptops for



MARK WALLHEISER

Gadsden classrooms and Tech@Night training in multiple locations in the tri-county area.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2007-08, the college gave students nearly \$20 million in scholarships and financial aid — a huge amount for a commu-

nity college.

AREAS OF DISTINCTION

■ International education programs of unprecedented scope that span the globe and bring the world to TCC's campus.

■ Comprehensive workforce training to compete in local, state and national economy. With funding from the U.S. Department of Defense, TCC is creating a center for manufacturing and industrial technology.

■ Classroom visits by Florida's leaders and collaboration with state and local agencies.

■ Award-winning arts program, including theater, speech and debate, music, photography and visual arts – and facilities to match.

■ State of the art technology, current in every field.

■ Campus-wide computer labs and Wi-Fi.



MARK WALLHEISER

Dr. Bill Law has served as president of TCC since 2002.

- Athletics programs that combine winning seasons with a high demand for academic performance.
- Internship, work-study and volunteer opportunities.
- Thriving student organizations and intramural sports.

KEY CONTACTS

Student Success Center: 201-8440

Disability Support Services: 201-8430

Academic Support: 201-8505

Financial Aid and Scholarships: 201-8399

Enrollment Services/Dual

Enrollment: 201-8555

TOP 12 FACTS ABOUT TCC

1 Began as Tallahassee Junior College in September 1966. Now, with a student body of nearly 14,000, TCC has locations in Crawfordville, Quincy, downtown Tallahassee as well as the main campus on Appleyard Drive - a total of nearly two million square feet.

2 Offers both Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees, plus certificates and diplomas in everything from health care professions to law enforcement.

3 Collaborates with FSU and FAMU. The highest percentage of community college students who transfer to FSU

come from TCC.

4 Graduates the highest percentage of African Americans with A.A. degrees of Florida's 28 community colleges. TCC is one of 82 U.S. community colleges involved in the "Achieving the Dream" initiative with the Lumina Foundation to help more women and minorities succeed.

5 Offers outstanding Disability Support Services; TCC graduates the highest percentage of people with disabilities with A.A. degrees of Florida community colleges.

6 Health care programs whose students pass their professional exams in high percentages. Soon the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education will break ground to provide local citizens with the quality medical personnel they will need into the future.

7 Provides students with feedback on their academic performance, while the Student Success Center assists students in connecting with peer mentors, developing study skills, educational goals and career planning. Both faculty and staff collaborate with the student for personalized advising.

8 Offers programs in which to serve the community: firefighting, childhood education, law enforcement and health care.

9 Provides free StarMetro bus service for currently enrolled students and has just completed a new parking garage.

10 Offers Dual Enrollment, a program that allows high school students to earn college credit while still in high school.

11 Has just completed the Learning Commons, a central location for academic support in reading, writing, math and computer skills.

12 Offers exceptional orientation program to ensure that new students discover all resources available to them.

THEATER

Capital City Shakespeare

The group was founded in 2000 to study and perform the works of William Shakespeare for the enrichment of the Tallahassee community. The Capital City Shakespeare Players include Tallahassee's talented adult actors as well as students from FSU, FAMU, TCC and local public and private high schools. CCS's home theatre is the Young Actors Theater on Glenview Drive. Next production: "Macbeth", Jan. 9-19. Ccshakespeare@aol.com, 386-6476.

Dixie Theatre

Produces live professional theater and musical events such as "The DIXIE Does Nashville" and the Annual Apalachicola Music Fest. The professional season runs January through March with special events in October through December. Info line: (850) 653-FILM (3456). Reservations and information for professional productions: (850) 653-3200, www.dixie-theatre.com.

Florida A&M University's Essential Theatre

Produces a variety of plays – from classical to contemporary with an emphasis on African-American culture. Tickets range in price; subscription packages available. Performances in the Charles Winter Wood Theatre at Tucker Hall on the FAMU campus. 561-2425, www.essential-theatre.us/.

School of Theatre at FSU

Presents productions in two venues: the Mainstage Theatre in the Fine Arts Building on the corner of Copeland and Tennessee streets and the Lab Theatre at the corner of Copeland and Pensacola streets. Season ticket packages are available. School of Theatre, Florida State University, 239 Fine Arts Building, Box Office. 644-6500, theatre.fsu.edu.

The Laughing Stock

Political cabaret at its funniest! This local troupe immortalizes and scandalizes local celebrities in song. No one is immune — not governors, felonious football



STEVE CANNON

Theater fans will find high-quality productions in town. Tallahassee Little Theatre staged "The Graduate" for a recent season.

players or any other newsmaker. 841-4063, jestkdn@aol.com

The Mickee Faust Club

For 16 years, the Mickee Faust Club has been poking fun at politics and lampooning works of literary genius in its cabaret performances. The troupe, led by its cigar-chomping self-serving rat figurehead Mickee Faust, has given a creative outlet for those with professional theater backgrounds alongside people whose only theatrical experience was playing the tree in a second-grade play. Showings presented outdoors in back of Mickee Faust Clubhouse, weather permitting. Tickets are \$5. Railroad Square, 623 McDonnell Drive, 309-5353, TLGalloway@aol.com.

Monticello Opera House

Built in 1890, Monticello Opera House offers a full performing season in its acoustically ideal, historic second-floor theater.

Elevator access available.

Dinner option precedes most theatrical presentations. 185 W. Washington St., Monticello, 997-4242. mopera.house@juno.com, www.MonticelloFloridaOperaHouse.com

Quincy Music Theatre

The renovated theater, which was once a movie house, seats 459 guests. Theater students and the general public are welcome to audition. Show times are 8 p.m. and 3 p.m.. 118 E. Washington St., Quincy, 875-9444, www.qmtonline.com.

Tallahassee Broadway Series

Local audiences can get a bite of the Big Apple during the Civic Center's Broadway series. Tickets and subscriptions are on sale at the Civic Center Box Office, 505 W. Pensacola St. 222-0400, (800) 322-3602, www.tlccc.org.

Tallahassee Little Theatre (TLT)

A true community theater where novice actors tread the boards side-by-side with seasoned veterans. It offers a variety of productions. Volunteers are welcome, from actors and directors to ticket-takers. 1861 Thomasville Road, 224-8474, www.tallahassee-littletheatre.org.

Theatre A La Carte

North Florida's premiere musical theater company offers fall and summer musicals. Most productions are Tallahassee premieres and include a unique assortment of contemporary musicals, cult classics, Broadway hits and children's theater. Season subscriptions available. Eric Hurst, 385-6700, www.theatrealacarte.org.

TheatreTCC!

With a state-of-the-art auditorium and stage, each TheatreTCC! production features a unique group of talented students. TheatreTCC! is the breeding ground for learning this dynamic art of theater. 201-8608, theatre.tcc.fl.edu

Young Actors Theatre

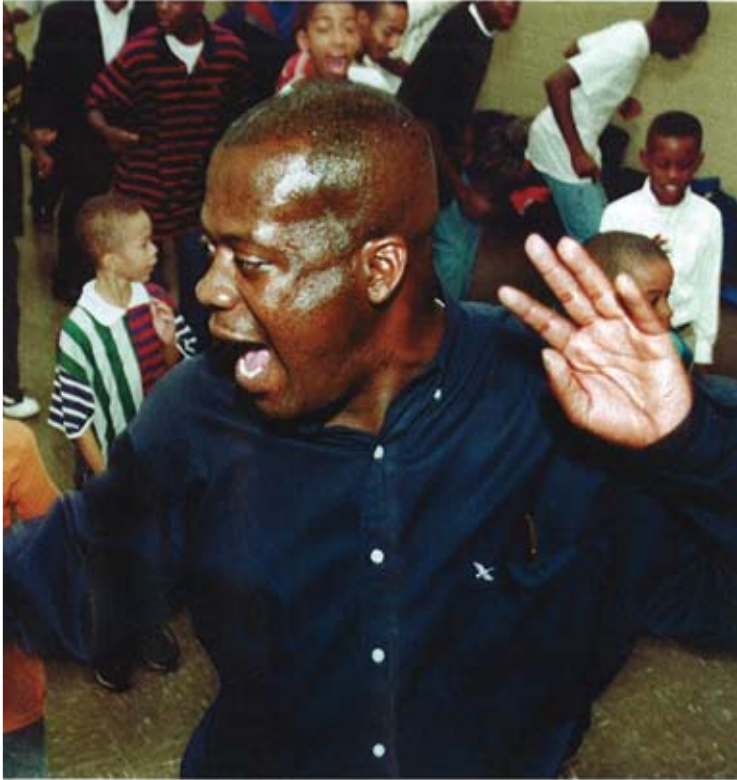
The hard-working players at Young Actors produce professional-quality shows and appear in local television and video productions. YAT offers a full educational curriculum in drama, music and dance for aspiring performers age 3 through high school. YAT provides package subscriptions each season for its slate of productions. 609 Glenview Drive, 386-6602, www.youngactorstheatre.com

Swamp Gravy

A unique folk-life play produced annually by the Colquitt/Miller Arts Council. All of Swamp Gravy's plays are based on real life stories. Cotton Hall, Colquitt, Ga. Tickets sell out months in advance. (229) 758-5450, or e-mail info@swampgravy.com.

Wakulla Community Theatre

Located in the historic Sopchoppy School Auditorium, the Wakulla Community Theatre has produced 19 musicals with 63 performances. One major production is performed each spring. 962-3804.



CAROL CLEERE

PreK-12th grade students, ages 5-18 and scholarships to Tallahassee Community College for students ages 17-25 in North Florida/South Georgia. Executive Director, Martha H. Stubbs, 893-8754

The Tallahassee Bach Parley

Performs chamber music from the Baroque period (1600-1750). Its three-concert season is a mixture of instrumental, vocal and choral. www.bach-parley.org.

Tallahassee Barbershop Chorus/Capital Chordsmen

Continues the tradition of singing "The Old Songs" and contemporary songs that lend themselves to four-part a capella harmony. Meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at the Second Floor of the Senior Center. Annual concert on the last Friday and Saturday of May. 385-0036; 877-5781

Tallahassee Civic Chorale

A 60-member, nonaudition,
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE >>>

adult chorus that performs three concerts yearly. Rehearsals Tuesdays 7 to 9 p.m. at Tallahassee Community College in the Communications and Humanities Building CH-168 (The Chorus/Band Room). 942-1893, www.civicchorale.org.

Tallahassee Community Chorus

This group is conducted by Dr. Andre Thomas. Everyone is invited to sing. Auditions are not required but there is a small registration fee. 688-5394; www.tcchorus.org

Tallahassee Girls' Choir of CHOICE

Open to girls ages 8-18. The girls meet 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bethel AME Church, 501 W. Orange Ave., to spend time on homework, participate in personal, social and cultural enrichment activities, and practice music, choral speaking and dance. CHOICE stands for character, honesty, originality, integrity, confidence and excellence. Director Rosalie Hill, 576-7501

Tallahassee Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI)

Nonprofit organization with more than 4,500 members worldwide. The NSAI Songwriter Workshop is for songwriters of all genres and all levels of accomplishment. A workshop usually consists of a lesson or guest speaker, followed by a group song evaluation. The workshop meets the second Wednesday. Notices posted in the *Democrat*. Ron Patrick, 509-3002., ron@greaterbigbend-music.com.

The Tallahassee Pipe Band

Celebrating 25 years of performances and free instruction of Scottish bagpiping and drumming. Available for parades, parties, memorials, weddings and funerals. Rehearsals are usually at 7 p.m. Mondays at the Butler Lodge, 359 E. Lafayette St. Suzanne Paul, 545-9522 or Joe Ashcraft, joe-bagpipes@yahoo.com

Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra

A professional symphony orchestra that presents four classical concerts, an American Celebration and Holiday Magic concert, and one Young People's Concert per season. The TSO is

Women's business expo empowering

By Will Brown
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER
August 15, 2008

The inaugural Women in Business Expo was so successful, organizer Katina Amoah is bringing it back for a second year. Advertisement

Held at the Economic & Workforce Development Building at [Tallahassee Community College](#), more than 40 vendors and business owners are slated to attend.

Amoah is the founder of You Can Women, a non-profit organization started in 2006 to encourage and empower women. She said Saturday's event is another fulfillment of the mission. The five-hour expo will also include seminars to help women set goals, establish networking skills, apply for grants and hone other skills that are "imperative" for business.

"It's wonderful because women will be able to get more exposure for their businesses and also provide an opportunity to let the community know what they are doing and what services they provide," Amoah said.

Attorneys, accountants and consulting firms will be among the vendors and professionals on hand. Amoah said attendance this year should likely be larger because unlike last year, admission is free and the expo doesn't conflict with the revelry that is the FSU-Miami football game.

Jennifer Donald is among those hosting seminars. The chief executive at a local consulting firm will discuss research and grant-writing strategies during the expo.

"Workshops like what we're offering can give (women) information about where they want to be," Donald said. "We're here to help, and sometimes it's hard to find free help or information in one place."

Donald was referring to her own presentation, but her comment reflected Amoah's goal for the event.

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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get ahead

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TCC is offering training for contractors, plumbers, electricians, HVAC and engineers or those looking to learn more about alternative energy.

Intro to Thermal Solar Hot Water Heating – 32-hours.
Aug. 25 – Sept. 11 and repeated Sept. 16-30
from 6 -10 p.m. on Mon., Tues. & Thur.
\$109, includes materials.

Intro to PhotoVoltaic – 48-hours.
Aug. 25 – Sept. 15 from 6 -10 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thur.
\$159, includes materials.



To register

call

(850) 201-8337

or e-mail

trades@tcc.fl.edu

TCC trustees to meet today

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer
August 18, 2008

Tallahassee Community College trustees will meet today for their monthly workshop and meeting in the administration building of the Herb F. Morgan Room at 444 Appleyard Drive.

The workshop is planned for 2:30 p.m. The board meeting is scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

FloridaCapitalNews.com • August 18, 2008

FloridaToday • August 18, 2008

Tallahassee Democrat • August 18, 2008

News-Press.com • August 18, 2008

Amendment 5 off the ballot, but “Protect Florida’s Future” campaign continues

By Bill Cotterell

Florida Capital Bureau Political Editor

With colored blocks and a stuffed toy ostrich, an influential legislative money manager wound up his 10-city campaign against the tax-swap constitutional amendment Monday.

Although a circuit judge threw Amendment 5 off the ballot last week, state Sen. Mike Haridopolos said his “Protect Florida’s Future” campaign will not stop.

Haridopolos, R-Indianapolis, said he stumped at community colleges from Miami to Panama City over the past few weeks to tell voters the amendment would actually lead to tax increases for most Floridians.

No one showed up from the other side, so Haridopolos spent an hour telling 42 people at [Tallahassee Community College](#) why he opposes the plan -- which would abolish the school-support portion of county property taxes and require the Legislature to come up with some \$11 billion in replacement revenues. One option for doing that would be a 1 percent increase in the sales tax, but Haridopolos said that would raise only about \$4 billion.

The other \$7 billion would have to come out of repealing existing sales tax exemptions, levying taxes on some new goods or services and slashing state spending, Haridopolos said. He also said that about \$1.6 billion of the property taxes saved by eliminating county school taxes would go to the federal government, because homeowners would lose part of their property-tax deduction on their income taxes.

Haridopolos used long wooden building blocks to illustrate the size of replacement revenues needed if the tax passes and various tax sources that might be tapped.

He said there are four big exemptions that might get taxed for replacement revenue -- the trade-in value on cars, purchases made by city and county governments, the value of natural gas bought by electric companies and the cost of metered water.

He said all of those taxes, if adopted, would be passed on directly to the consumer and city and county taxpayers.

Haridopolos said he hopes the Florida Supreme Court will uphold the ruling by Circuit Judge John Cooper, who said last week that the ballot title and summary of Amendment 5 were ambiguous and did not fully explain what the amendment does. But the Senate Finance and Tax Committee chairman said his side is not letting up, in case the high court reinstates the amendment on the Nov. 4 general election ballot.

TCC could face \$2.3 million budget cut

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law told trustees Monday that budget cuts could affect his institution to the tune of \$2.3 million or 7.5 percent.

"We're working against an historic state-budget decline," Law said during his monthly report to the Board of Trustees. "We continue to manage it, but everyone knows no one is making any promises."

TCC's revision to the 2008-2009 budget has not been finalized. Law said that will be completed when all the details are ironed out at the September board meeting. The dollar figure he projects comes in part from Gov. Charlie Crist's request that state agencies hold back 1 percent of their operating funds per quarter this fiscal year.

"We know that 4 percent is not the end," Law said. "If it is, we'll celebrate."

Barbara Sloan, TCC's vice president of academic affairs, said the college is also figuring out how they are going to carve that \$2.3 million out of their budget.

"We're increasing class size," she told trustees. "We're adding up to five to six students to a class."

Law said university administrators consider this type of proactive planning so that they can get ahead of the next potential budget cut.

"We're able to chart our own course," Law said. "I just think that's prudent leadership."

Law said any fix Crist could put to community-college or public-university budgets would only be temporary.

Law used the idea of dipping into the state's emergency fund as an example. Even if Crist used emergency dollars, it would be a one-time fix, he said.

"Beware of the help," Law said.

■ Contact Angeline J. Taylor at 850-599-2382 or e-mail at ajtaylor@tallahassee.com.

REGIONAL NEWS

TCC Composite Materials Camps Make Learning Science Fun

Tallahassee Community College's Division of Economic and Workforce Development hosted two composite materials camps on TCC's main campus during the month of July. The camps focused on the science of composite materials and included area middle and high school students who are interested in science and engineering.



"The camp introduced participants to general composite material concepts with the intent to create a pipeline of future industrial engineering and technology students," said Beth Mann Pace, Manufacturing Technology Program Specialist. "Participants learned the basic science of composite materials and how composites work."

Learning methods included hands-on lab scenarios and the opportunity to build a composite material skateboard deck. To supplement classroom learning, students participated in field trips to the Florida State University High Magnetic Field Lab, the FSU Composite Materials Lab and Tallahassee Community College. Participants were also introduced to composite manufacturing and future job possibilities in the field of composite materials.

Both week-long programs ended with a field trip to the City of Tallahassee Skateboard Park, where students tested their class project.

Amendment 5 is down, but it's far from out

Bill Cotterell
News Journal capital bureau
August 19, 2008

TALLAHASSEE — Although a circuit judge threw the tax-swap constitutional amendment off Florida's Nov. 4 ballot last Thursday, the issue is far from dead.

Advertisement

Gov. Charlie Crist, a backer of Amendment 5, said Thursday that Circuit Judge John Cooper's ruling "doesn't mean anything" because the Florida Supreme Court ultimately will decide the issue. And state Sen. Mike Haridopolos is continuing his "Protect Florida's Future" campaign in hopes of the Supreme Court upholding the lower court decision.

Amendment 5 would eliminate the required local effort portion of property taxes for school support, would make the Legislature put up equivalent state funds to replace the money and would authorize a 1 percent sales tax increase. If passed, it would cut property taxes an average 25 percent statewide.

A coalition of business and education groups that sued to torpedo the amendment argued that the replacement-revenue provision applies only to the 2010-11 fiscal year, and the wording on the ballot does not alert voters that lawmakers could appropriate as much or as little as they saw fit for education in all subsequent years.

In his 13-page ruling, Cooper agreed that the ballot title and summary of Amendment 5 were ambiguous and did not fully explain what the amendment does.

"Ballot titles and summaries cannot 'fly under false colors' or 'hide the ball,' as to the proposed amendment's true effect," Cooper wrote. "A title and summary may not leave a key term undefined so that the meaning of the proposal is ambiguous or misleading."

Crist said whichever side lost was certain to kick it up to the Supreme Court.

"I was disappointed but not dismayed. It will be appealed — I think everybody knows that," Crist said. "I hope it stays on the ballot because I like the will of the people. I want them to weigh in. I want them to have that power, because they're the boss."

Haridopolos spent an hour telling 42 people at [Tallahassee Community College](#) on Monday why he opposes the plan. He argued that \$11 billion in replacement revenue would have to come from an unknown array of taxes and severe spending cuts.

He said a 1 percent increase in the sales tax would raise only about \$4 billion, and the other \$7 billion would have to come out of repealing existing sales tax exemptions, levying taxes on some new goods or services and slashing state spending.

He also said that about \$1.6 billion of the property taxes saved by eliminating county school taxes would go to the federal government, because homeowners would lose part of their property-tax deduction on their income taxes.

Saunders, Canada pushed to brink in Olympic baseball game

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

August 19, 2008

Former Tallahassee Community College baseball standout Mike Saunders and his Canadian baseball teammates suffered their fourth straight one-run loss, falling to Japan, 1-0, in Monday action at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Advertisement

The loss leaves the Canadians at 1-4 and on the brink of being eliminated from medal contention in the eight-team field.

After opening the Olympic tournament with a 10-0 win over China, Canada has dropped its past four games by scores of 7-6, 1-0, 5-4 and 1-0.

In Monday's loss to Japan, Canada recorded only two hits, one of which came from Saunders, who finished the game 1 for 3.

Through five games, Saunders, Canada's starting right fielder, is batting .278 (5 for 18) with two home runs, four RBIs and three runs scored in the Olympic tournament.

Saunders, a native of Victoria, British Columbia, played at TCC in 2005 under Coach Mike McLeod.

Canada must win its final two preliminary round games to have any chance of advancing to the medal round. The team returned to action at 10:30 p.m. Monday (10:30 a.m. Tuesday EDT in Beijing) against the Netherlands.

The game is not scheduled to be televised locally but can be watched live by logging on to www.nbcolympics.com.

Softball

Former TCC standout Daisy dePeinder and her teammates from the Netherlands ended their Olympic stay on a winning note, defeating Chinese Taipei, 4-2 on Monday.

dePeinder, a third baseman for the Dutch, did not play in Monday's game and went 1 for 5 with a walk in five games.

dePeinder played softball at TCC in 1997 under then-coach Maria Mendoza. Current TCC softball coach Patti Townsend was an assistant on Mendoza's 1997 staff.

The Netherlands ended the round-robin tournament with a record of 1-6 and did not qualify for the medal round.

TCC to hold grand opening for new learning center

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer
August 19, 2008

Tallahassee Community College will open its new campus learning center during a ceremony at 10 a.m. today at the 444 Appleyard Drive location.

The community is invited to attend the grand opening. Following the ceremony, tours will be provided from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Located in the former Legislative Research Center and Museum and adjoining the TCC Library, the Learning Commons will bring all of the campus' academic support facilities -- reading, writing, math and computer -- under one roof.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

TCC Feels the Pinch of the Budget Cuts

Posted: 4:57 PM Aug 19, 2008

Last Updated: 4:57 PM Aug 19, 2008

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

The college could see \$2.3 million cut from its budget. The President of TCC addressed the faculty about the issue so everyone knows where the college stands.

“Combined with the cuts last year we are just about 15 percent below where we were on July one last year. So it’s serious times and the sad part is we’re not sure we’ve seen the bottom yet. So it’s very difficult and I really, I’m proud of the faculty and staff,” said Dr. Bill Law, the President of TCC.

Law says they managed to work around the cuts through federal grants, raising the tuition, and no pay raises. They haven’t had and lay-offs or had to cut classes.

The board of trustees was briefed on the budget Monday and the official budget will be brought to the board next month.

New Learning Center Helps Local Students

Posted: 5:17 PM Aug 19, 2008

Last Updated: 5:17 PM Aug 19, 2008

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

Tallahassee Community College unveiled the Learning Commons Tuesday. The inclusive center is designed to help the whole student body. Educators say new technology and an integrated staff helps create a unique learning environment.

“The way we designed the center is so that students who are in the same classes can sit together. And so not only can they get help from the tutors. They can also develop relationships with each other and get help from their peers,” said Sally Search, the Academic Support Programs Dean for TCC.

“Now the learning commons including the English skill center, writing center, and the math and sciences so you don’t have to run around the place to go to like science and to go to English skill to go to math. It’s all in the same building even if you need computer help you can get it straight from here,” said Chen Chou Kuo, a tutor at the learning center.

Search says the goal of the learning commons is to be pro-active, so students have the resources they need and can get help right away

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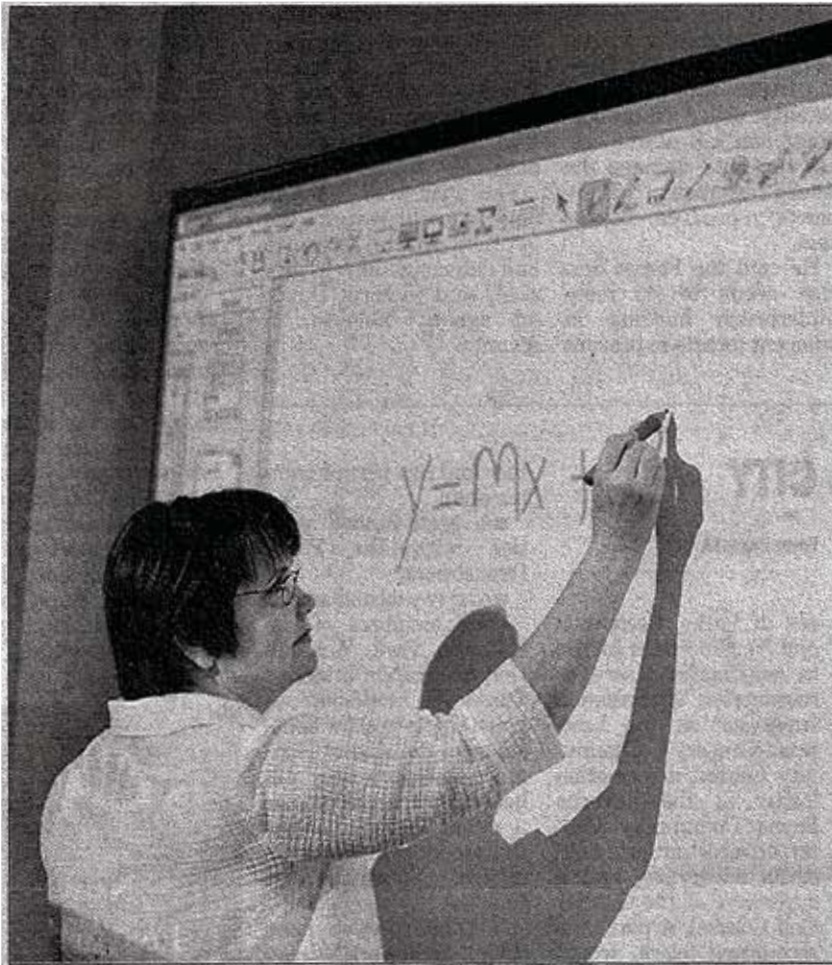
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Photos by ELLIOTT MCCASKILL/Special to the Democrat

At left, instructional technologist Robin Donaldson gives a demo on how the new touch-screen SMART boards work at the Learning Commons open house on Tuesday at Tallahassee Community College. At right, Dr. William D. Law Jr., president of TCC, speaks about how beneficial the Learning Commons will be for students this fall. Below, Tutor Scot Hardcastle checks out the new computer systems available to students.

TCC debuts new Learning Commons

Center will give students the tools they need to enhance their education

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

If a student could wave a magic wand to determine educational needs, Tallahassee Community College's newly opened learning center would be it, said Frank Messersmith, trustee chairman.

Messersmith was joined by two other trustees and nearly 100 students, faculty and administrators Tuesday who attended the opening of TCC's \$1.3 million newly renovated Learning Commons. Blue, yellow and white balloons hung in the front foyer of the three-story complex that is equipped with study rooms, technology-enhanced

100 students and several computer stations. Plus the center's second floor leads to the college's library.

But the complex is more than the average large-sized study hall, administrators say. Tutoring in math, English, reading or other areas is available. But administrators say the component that makes the learning center appealing is that everything students need to improve for class is available, complete with the latest technology.

"We knew that we were on the verge of creating something that could make the classroom experience better, stronger," TCC President Bill Law

TALLAHASSEE.COM

■ Photo gallery of the learning center.

said. "I've always said students need more than just a seat in the classroom. There's no more of the scavenger hunt for support."

Student C.J. Edwards, 26, agrees. He completed his resume at one of the many computers on the second floor.

"It's pretty much a one-stop shop for me," Edwards said.

Florida State University Professor Jim Sampson volunteered his time to make the facility unique. Sampson works with FSU's Department



of Education. He said at the center, students' educational needs can be analyzed. Students can then be directed to a service for direct help.

TCC wouldn't have the complex if it weren't for former House Speaker

Allan Bense, R-Panama City, Messersmith said. Law mentioned Bense when he spoke to the crowd.

"If there ever was a magic wand for students, this is it," Messersmith said.

FSU grad in Morocco serving tour in Peace Corps

By Gerald Wartenberg

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

August 20, 2008

Linley Wartenberg, a Florida State University graduate, is currently serving a 27-month tour in Morocco as a Peace Corps volunteer.

She arrived in Casablanca, Morocco, on Sept. 10, 2007 and is presently serving in Midelt, Morocco. She has now moved into her own house. Previously she had been living with a Moroccan family. Linley's greatest loss has been the lack of dependable Internet access, and she is worried about completing her income taxes and the upcoming election.

Linley was born at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and grew up in Tallahassee. She got her high school diploma from North Florida Christian School, received her associate degree from [Tallahassee Community College](#), her bachelor's degree in communications from FSU and her master's in sports management from the United Sports Academy.

Prior to joining the Peace Corps Linley worked for the Associated Press as an editorial assistant and as a freelance writer for Inside Hockeytown and Red Wings World in Detroit. Her permanent residence is in Havana.

While working in Detroit, Linley volunteered for several overseas missions and was so impressed with her work she decided to do it fulltime with the Peace Corps. It was a big step with a lot of paperwork but she was finally posted to Morocco.

Visit her at her blog at www.lgwpcseminole.blogspot.com/ to learn more about life as a Peace Corp volunteer in Morocco. As you can guess from her handle, Linley is a dedicated Seminole fan.

Saunders doubles in Beijing win

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

August 20, 2008

Former Tallahassee Community College baseball standout Mike Saunders and his Canadian baseball teammates shut out the Netherlands 4-0 in Tuesday action at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Advertisement

Saunders doubled in the eighth inning, his only hit in four at-bats against the Dutch. Later in the inning, he scored Canada's final run on a single by Jimmy VanOstrand.

The win improved the Canadians to 2-4 heading into its final preliminary round game on Wednesday. Despite the win, Canada was eliminated from medal contention when the United States posted a 4-2 victory over Chinese Taipei, Canada's opponent today.

Canada's two wins in the Olympics have come by a combined score of 14-0 while its four losses have been by a total of four runs.

Saunders is batting 6 for 22 (.273) with two home runs, four RBIs and four runs scored through six games in the Olympics.

Canada will close out its stay at the 2008 Olympics on Wednesday when it faces Chinese Taipei today at 6 a.m. EDT.

Softball update

Former Florida State and Thomas University softball player Yuruby Alicart went 1 for 2 in Venezuela's 9-2 loss to Australia. Venezuela did not make the medal round.

Alicart led Venezuela with a .333 average with a double, home run, two runs and one RBI. She also had a .966 fielding percentage.

Alicart also played on Venezuela's 2006 world-championship team that finished seventh.

Women-owned businesses play prominent role in Tallahassee

Owners offer advice at women's forum, business expo

By Will Brown

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

• August 20, 2008

More than 200 attendees gathered Tuesday at the Civic Center for the monthly Women's Professional Business Forum, where they traded ideas for improving their companies and heard tips on better communication.

Advertisement

Keynoting the event was Karen Moore, who spoke on a topic that many business owners — male and female — dread: public speaking.

Moore, president and CEO at Moore Consulting Group, said she enjoys working with other business owners, whether their firms are in the formative stages or nationally recognized like her company.

"We have to figure out ways to be nurturing," Moore said. "What's wonderful about the Women's Forum is that it's one of the best vehicles in this region where women can provide best practices . . .and mentoring advice."

For some, the notion that August is Women's Small Business Month may be an afterthought. That's not because the observance isn't important. Rather, Tallahassee is a community where so many women hold high-profile positions that it's often accepted as fact that women-owned businesses are this prevalent elsewhere.

Even if two firms are competitors, the business culture here is quite welcoming for small companies, said Gwen Powell-Jones, who started her mobile merchandising business Suits on the

Move 18 months ago.

Powell-Jones is a lifelong Tallahasseean who said the local business community has a compassion and culture that is not found everywhere. She added that owning a business gave her an opportunity to call the shots and provided some unexpected benefits.

"It allows me to network with other people in the business world and see what else is out there in our community," Powell-Jones said. "It adds uniqueness to not only be a business owner, but part of a culture."

On Saturday, that culture was on full display as more than 40 businesses and 200 people attended the Women in Business Expo at [Tallahassee Community College](#). Toward its conclusion, expo organizer Katina Amoah said the turnout was another indicator women in the community are interested in being business owners, but are looking for that extra push to boost their confidence.

"It's imperative that women educate themselves on what they need to do to start a business," Amoah said. "If they are not properly educated, they could experience problems down the road. Educating themselves on what they need to do and how they will carry it out will help them avoid unnecessary pitfalls."

Contact business reporter Will Brown at (850) 599-2312 or wbrown@Tallahassee.com.

Budget cuts slash FSU's freshman class

Posted by Marvin Tarver

Tallahassee, Florida - Florida State University's incoming freshman class is unlike any in the school's history. Its members are smarter than any other freshman class and it's the smallest in at least a decade. But Malia Dreyer won't be a part of FSU's wave of incoming students, though she had a 3.6 grade point average at her college preparatory high school in Winter Park. She's among more than a thousand who didn't get in because of budget cuts.

Officials at FSU had to further restrict admission because of state budget cuts. This year's incoming class is 5,053. That's down from about 6,326 who entered last fall. In the last two years, FSU officials have had to deal with about \$41 million in cuts and more are looming.

With fewer students admitted, the academic bar was raised to gain entrance into FSU. The class SAT average for this group of freshmen is 1261, higher than any previous class. "It's incredibly frustrating," said Dreyer, who will major in merchandising, and will attend [Tallahassee Community College](#) this fall. "It's (FSU) the only Florida public school majoring in merchandising."

Dreyer graduated from high school in 2007 and went to a fashion school in New York, before deciding she wanted to

go to FSU. She received a letter from FSU saying because of budget cuts they will only transfer students who have associate degrees from Florida schools. But after attending TCC this fall, officials have told her she can enter FSU for the spring semester.

Dreyer can share her frustration with many other students shut out of FSU this fall. FSU officials take a positive view.

"It's certainly the best prepared ever," said FSU Provost Larry Abele. What does it take to get into FSU? Abele said the school focuses more on what the student accomplished in high school than how they did on the SAT. "We really want to look for hard work," Abele said. "Did you challenge yourself by taking a full array of academic courses? I don't think a single sitting at a single exam should outweigh four years of high school."

Though the class is smaller, FSU officials say they hope it means more students will graduate. "One hopes that they will stay on track and graduate and open up space for more students," Abele said. "So the state of Florida would benefit in the long run."

Stephen D. Price, Florida Capital Bureau

Commissioner criticizes GCSO expenditures

08/20/08

By ALICE DU PONT Times Editor

With two months left in the fiscal year, the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office informed Gadsden County commissioners during the regular meeting Tuesday night that they are operating on a shortfall. Unsympathetic, the chairman of the county commission, Ed Dixon, said the sheriff's office needs to learn how to manage its money. Maj. Shawn Wood said that as of Tuesday there were 275 inmates in the county jail, a facility built to house 157 people.

He speculated that by 2009 the average daily count could reach 300. "You can tell by the economy. If people can't pay their probation, child support or restitution, they're going to end up in jail," Wood said.

Also adding to the bottom line is ever-increasing medical and food costs. He said overcrowding causes conflicts between inmates that can lead to fights, and the facility has experienced several confrontations in the last few days. "Inmates who don't go to the doctor when they are outside come to the jail with multiple health problems and we have to take them to the doctor. It's coming, I just want to let you know," Wood told commissioners.

"Don't say anything is coming. You need to manage your budget. Your budget staff needs to know what you're looking at before it breaks down. At the end of the day, it's about managing your money. It's two months before the end of the year and how many times have you met with (county budget office) staff?" Dixon asked.

Catherine Poindexter, GCSO chief financial, said that she is in contact with the county's budget director Davin Suggs on a regular basis. The two, Poindexter said, talk often. "Does Davin have access to your budget, the entire budget? Did I not ask the GCSO to give a monthly report to Davin?" Dixon asked Poindexter. Poindexter said the department couldn't manage or project medical costs that may vary from day to day. She said there have recently been two medical outbreaks at the jail. Inmates may need medical attention that could cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and the bill comes to the GCSO for payment. "People project all the time. I want to see what you've done in your budget to cutback.

There isn't an unlimited pot of money here," Dixon said. Dixon told Poindexter and Wood that there wasn't anything the county could do to help them and suggested that the GCSO staff meet with county manager Marlon Brown and his staff and go over the GCSO entire budget. "We need to look at

everything, every line item," Suggs said. "We have two more months in this fiscal year. At this late stage there is nothing to cut. This is a request from the sheriff's office for money," said Brown. Dixon said he wants to see the past two years of the sheriff's office budget to find out what it actually spent and where. "They have a line item (medical) that they have overspent and they want us to help them out. Ultimately it (the jail) is the board's responsibility. We need a plan," Dixon said.

In other business, George Shelton, interim director of the Department of Children and Families, made his first official appearance since being named to the position four days ago in Gadsden County. He said Gov. Charlie Crist asked him to continue the department's special relationship with Gadsden County. "We'll put another \$161,000 into the county for domestic violence. Statewide food stamp (requests) are up 23 percent and child abuse calls to the hot line are up 20 percent," he said.

Hard economic times, Shelton said, unfortunately equate to more instances of domestic violence and child abuse. He pledged that he and his department would ask all other agency Secretaries in state government to continue making Gadsden County a priority. He said that state agencies would need to step up to the plate to bring better health care to the county. Also, Richard Law of Law, Redd, Crona & Munroe P.A., along with county auditors, presented the 2007 audit report to commissioners. The unqualified report means that the county is in good financial standing according to state rules and regulations.

Awards were also presented to Rep. Curtis Richardson, who because of term limits will no longer represent Gadsden County in the Legislature, and Tricia Collins, former executive director of the Gadsden Arts Center. Both were thanked for their work on behalf of the community. Richardson was presented a framed photograph of men fishing at sunset on an area waterway. The photo was signed by most of the county's leadership. Collins received a plaque and accolades from commissioners.

Also on hand were students who participated in a special science camp through Tallahassee Community College, who showed off skateboards they made through the week-long camp. Kim Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus and Rick Frazier of Tallahassee Community College presented the annual G*STARS report to commissioners. Overall, the program has achieved

the goal of finding summer jobs for high school students in various offices and businesses throughout the county, helping students learn valuable skills and help prevent possible juvenile crime. In the past three years more than 300 local students have participated in the program.

In other business, David Crayer was introduced as the new chief executive officer of the Capital Area American Red Cross, with Marlon Brown, county manager, announced that the county's public information officer, Jon Brown, is leaving the county's employment next Wednesday to begin work as public information officer for Leon County.

Rooming Houses Face New Fee

Posted: 11:54 PM Aug 20, 2008

Last Updated: 12:29 PM Aug 21, 2008

Reporter: Liza Park

Email Address: liza.park@wctv.tv

Rooming House Fee

Wednesday Florida State students streamed into Tallahassee as campus dorms opened for the school year, but most students don't live in dorms. They live in apartments or houses, and some of those houses are facing new fees.

As the student population at Florida State, FAMU and Tallahassee Community College grew, the nearby neighborhoods housed more and more students. Complaints from Tallahassee residents tired of noise and lots of cars parked at one house led to a rooming house ordinance in 2000. The ordinance requires homes in certain areas that house four or more, unrelated people to register with the city.

This year, owners of rooming homes also had to pay a 150 dollar fee... and they say it's unfair.

Josh Kasper owns multiple homes categorized as rooming houses and says, "Ultimately they're charging for me as a landlord and resident to bring in a list and to data entry that list into a computer when all the information's the

same except for the number of addresses that I put in." Frank Gomez also owns multiple rooming houses and adds, "The registration fee which is really unnecessary because they have that information available through the property appraiser."

City officials say the fee pays for the cost of tracking data on rooming homes. Tallahassee City Commissioners took up the issue Wednesday night... re-examining the ordinance and the new fee. They didn't allow public comment on the issue but debated the issue among themselves.

Commissioner Mark Mustian says, "It tracks the cost that we're incurring to enforce the ordinance. I think the ordinance deserves to be enforced."

Commissioners voted four to one to keep the rooming house fee. The one vote against the fee came from Andrew Gillum who said he opposes the principle of the ordinance.

TCC Cuts More Than Standard Amount

Updated: Aug 20, 2008 11:26 AM



State universities are struggling to make the four percent budget cut work. Tallahassee Community College is cutting more than that. TCC plans to cut more than two million dollars from this year's budget.

They say anticipation of future cuts is the reason for the 7 and a half percent trim on this year's fiscal budget.

They're under a hiring freeze, only bringing on people they absolutely need. College administrators say they plan to tighten the belt for a year or two until things get better. By cutting more from this year's budget, the college can better serve their students throughout the year.

TCC says no one has lost their job because of budget cuts and they're confident they can keep it that way. Despite a slow economy, TCC opened its doors to a new learning commons.

The restoration of the building started last December. The new center is available to all students where they'll be able to get help on a variety of subjects. Students will be able to find tutors, computers, and other study materials.

TCC also announced the launch of a new online tutorial service called, smart thinking, which will assist students 24 hours a day.

Faculty hopes this new center will help students be more proactive with their education throughout the entire school year.

FSU's new class 'best prepared' in years

By Stephen D. Price

FLORIDA CAPITAL BUREAU

Florida State University's incoming freshman class is unlike any in the school's history.

Its members have the best credentials of any other freshman class, and it's the smallest in at least a decade.

But Malia Dreyer won't be a part of FSU's wave of incoming students, though she had a 3.6 grade point average at her college preparatory high school in Winter Park. She's among more than a thousand who didn't get in because of budget cuts.

Officials at FSU had to further restrict admission because of state budget cuts. This year's incoming class is 5,053. That's down from 6,326 who entered last fall. In the last two years, FSU officials have had to deal with about \$41 million in cuts, and more are looming.

Facing limits on the number of students it could admit, FSU raised the academic bar for students applying for fall. The class SAT average for this group of freshmen is 1261, higher than any previous class.

"It's incredibly frustrating," said Dreyer, who will major in merchandising and attend [Tallahassee Community College](#) this fall. "It's (FSU) the only Florida public school (offering a major) in merchandising."

Dreyer graduated from high school in 2007 and went to a fashion school in New York before deciding she wanted to go

to FSU. She received a letter from FSU saying that because of budget cuts, they would only accept transfer students who have associate degrees from Florida schools. Officials have told her that after attending TCC this fall, she can enter FSU for the spring semester.

Dreyer can share her frustration with many other students shut out of FSU this fall. But FSU officials take a positive view.

"It's certainly the best prepared ever," said FSU Provost Larry Abele.

What does it take to get into FSU?

Abele said the school focuses more on what students accomplished in high school than how they did on the SAT.

"We really want to look for hard work," Abele said. "Did you challenge yourself by taking a full array of academic courses? I don't think a single sitting at a single exam should outweigh four years of high school."

Though the class is smaller, FSU officials say they hope it means more students will graduate.

"One hopes that they will stay on track and graduate and open up space for more students," Abele said. "So the state of Florida would benefit in the long run."

Updated: FAMU administrators confirm university will stay open during storm

By Angeline J. Taylor
Democrat Staff Writer

UPDATED 12:30 P.M.

Administrators at Florida State and Florida A&M universities along with [Tallahassee Community College](#) say they are monitoring Tropical Storm Fay. So far, TCC administrators are the only ones to formally announce that the main campus at 444 Appleyard Drive and all of its service centers including the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy will remain open for the remainder of the week.

FAMU administrators have closed facilities and programs in Jacksonville due to the storm. FSU administrators closed campuses directly affected by the storms earlier this week. Dave Bujak, FSU's emergency management coordinator, said university officials will wait for word from the National Weather Center's 2 p.m. conference call before determining further action of this weekend's activities.

"We haven't begun any specific actions," Bujak said about FSU's main campus in Tallahassee. "Our main areas of concern will be the potential for flooding and flash flooding."

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

State Sen. Mike Haridopolos rails against government spending, takes government salaries

Steve Bousquet / St. Petersburg Times
Thursday, August 21, 2008

State Sen. Mike Haridopolos has crisscrossed Florida this summer, warning voters of the evils of a proposed tax swap that could be on the Nov. 4 ballot.

To the Republican lawmaker from Indialantic, who hopes to become Senate president in 2010, Amendment 5 is a hidden tax increase. That goes against the mantra he has preached during eight years in the Legislature: Government must shrink, not grow.

But what Haridopolos — the most visible opponent of Amendment 5 — doesn't mention on the road is that he is a longtime government employee, who in February got a big promotion to lecturer and internship coordinator at the University of Florida's Bob Graham Center for Public Service. He is paid \$75,000 a year.

Before that, Haridopolos was a Brevard Community College instructor. And for the past four years, his \$38,000 salary didn't require teaching, only that he write a book, still unpublished, about his political experiences and legislative history. During those years he also collected his legislative salary, now \$31,000.

Haridopolos sees no contradiction between multiple government salaries and his charges of runaway government spending.

"If I had changed jobs midstream, meaning if I was a real estate agent and then I became a college professor, I think that would be a valid argument," he said. "I was elected as a college professor. That's what I do."

In his final forum Monday at [Tallahassee Community College](#), Haridopolos made a single passing reference to his career as a teacher but did not describe how he earns his living. He got his latest job during a time of deep and painful budget cuts in the university system, prompting unwanted criticism in his hometown newspaper: "A sweetheart deal," Florida Today said in an editorial.

He has a bachelor's degree from Stetson University and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas, and said he has completed his coursework for a doctorate in history there.

Haridopolos said his real-world experience as a senator, committee chairman and political activist (he cited co-

chairmanship of Mike Huckabee's presidential campaign in Florida) are assets.

"You want to gain knowledge from a person who's been there and done it. My qualifications, I think, stack up pretty well there," Haridopolos said.

Next spring, he said, he will supervise UF political science students holding internships in Tallahassee while he is there attending to his Senate duties.

At Monday's forum, Haridopolos' teaching skills were on display, and he was well received by an audience of about 50. Most were residents of a retirement center represented by a trade group opposing Amendment 5.

His talk came just days after a judge stripped Amendment 5 from the ballot, calling its language confusing. The state filed an appeal, which the Florida Supreme Court will hear Sept. 8.

Haridopolos used colored sticks, one taller than the other, to drive home his point that the proposed cut in school property taxes — \$11-billion a year by his estimate — cannot be recouped without major tax hikes or taxing services. To an audience of senior citizens, he raised the possibility that funerals might be taxed.

"The bottom line is, the numbers have never added up," Haridopolos said. "At a minimum you'd have to have some kind of a massive tax increase."

A leader of the pro-Amendment 5 forces, Bradenton real estate broker and former Senate President John McKay, says Haridopolos conveniently ignores that Amendment 5 would allow lawmakers to count new revenue attributable to the property tax cut's stimulus toward school funding.

"I don't think you can forecast the amount of replacement revenue that will be required," he said, adding that lawmakers have broad leeway to eliminate sales tax exemptions, raise the sales tax, or increase taxes on items like cigarettes.

But McKay declined to discuss Haridopolos' income source: "I'm not going to say anything about him."

Times researcher Emily Rieman contributed to this report.

Colleges, universities remain open as Fay rolls in

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Administrators say Florida State and Florida A&M universities, along with [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Marianna's Chipola College, will be open for business today, despite the threat of Tropical Storm Fay.

The only area college that will be closed today is North Florida Community College in Madison.

The goal of weathering the storm, for Tallahassee's public universities, however, will depend on keeping an eye on some of the campuses' problem areas, administrators say.

Dave Bujak, FSU's emergency-management coordinator, said the facilities and maintenance departments have started preventive measures.

"Our facilities and maintenance (employees) have gone through and made sure drains are clear," Bujak said, referring to the effort to make water flow smoothly to prevent backups and the potential for flooding during the storm.

If flooding poses a problem, staffers will start using sandbags, Bujak said.

"Historically, we have had problems with flooding in parking areas," he said.

As a result, students have been asked to move cars from certain parking lots to parking garages, Bujak said.

FAMU's Police Chief Calvin Ross said the facilities staffers and emergency management team will also be on hand to keep watch over torrential rains that have been forecasted.

"Considering this system is slated to come in with no more than 30 mph wind gusts and 20 mph winds, the buildings are intact in terms of winds," he said.

Ross said employees are prepared to evacuate should flooding become a problem. Resident directors and assistants will also notify university administrators if problems present themselves.

"The resident directors and resident assistants are prepared to respond to any conditions to ensure students are safe," Ross said.



ANGELINE TAYLOR/Democrat

FSU students take a break from their first day of classes for lunch at the student union.

Fay passes; classes begin at FAMU, FSU and TCC

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Monday morning found Florida State, Florida A&M universities and Tallahassee Community College campuses filled with students as the first day of classes started on the heels of a dissipating Tropical Storm Fay.

Each institution reported problems with leaky roofs due to the amount of rain the storm dumped on Tallahassee.

FSU student Courtney Mickens, 18, said her dormitory roof leaked.

"It wasn't as bad as it could have been," Mickens said.

Dave Bujak, FSU's emergency management coordinator, said the University Center had a water-main break that affected the sprinkler system. There were minor leaks but the "most significant leak"

occurred in FSU's Fine Arts Building, he said.

Kendall Jones, director of the physical plant at FAMU, said the campus suffered from a combination of roof, door and window leaks. Jones said the roofs at the Science and Research Center, the Foster-Tanner Music Building and the food court all had leaks.

But students who live off campus were also affected by the storm.

"I had to wake up super early," said FSU's Jackie Boone, 20. "It flooded where I live."

Boone braved high waters in her Volkswagen Beetle on Sunday only to stall out the engine of her car 20 feet from the home she shares with other FSU students.

"I had to wake up at 7 a.m. for my 9 a.m. classes," she said of her Monday

TALLAHASSEE.COM

■ Go to Tallahassee.com to see a photo gallery of FSU students returning to school.

commute.

But that didn't stop her exuberance at seeing classmates and preparing for the first day at FSU. Fellow student and roommate Dave Colucci, 20, had a nail in his tire, perhaps from left over storm debris.

FAMU student Ric-Quan James, 18, didn't want anything to dull his first day of college classes. The broadcast-journalism student from Miami was decked out in FAMU gear from his Rattler glasses to his orange and green T-shirt.

"This is my first-day outfit," he said. "I had to make sure I looked presentable."

TCC Opens the Fall Semester with Record Enrollment

Posted: 3:14 PM Aug 27, 2008

Last Updated: 3:14 PM Aug 27, 2008

Email Address: news@wctv.tv

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (August 27, 2008) – According to a report released by the College’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning, 13,174 students had registered for courses leading to a degree or workforce certification – the highest number of students to register by the first day in the school’s 43-year history.

Monday was the first day of class for TCC’s traditional 15-week term as well as the first of three “Express Sessions” scheduled for the fall semester.

The number of students registered for courses for the fall semester is up 1.0-percent from last year’s first-day total of 13,046. Also on the rise is course activity by TCC students, who registered for 133,768 credit hours – up 3.7-percent from last year’s 129,056.

The enrollment report does not include dual-enrolled high school students or students who will take advantage of one of TCC’s Express Sessions that begin later in the term. According to TCC officials, enrollment should again surpass the 14,000 mark before the term ends on December 12. Last fall, 14,078 students registered for courses leading to a degree or workforce certification offered by the College.

“We are delighted with the enrollment increase. TCC is committed to keeping its open doors open even in these tough economic times,” said TCC president Bill Law. “Our dedicated faculty is committed to providing the highest quality education and our affordable tuition continues to make TCC a very attractive option for students.”

Law cited the efforts of TCC’s faculty and staff as a major reason for the College’s continued growth. The College’s Student Success Center shouldered much of the load as a record 4,100 students participated in new student orientation sessions between May 23 and August 20. TCC also targeted students who applied for admission but never enrolled. Through a call campaign, faculty and staff contacted students, offering one-on-one assistance with the “next steps” to becoming a student at TCC.

For prospective students still wishing to take classes at TCC in the fall, it’s not too late to apply and register. Express Session C, a twelve-week term, begins September 10 while Express Session B, an eight-week term, begins October 16.

New students can apply for admission by logging on to www.GoToTCC.com. To register for a class, log on to TCC Passport at tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu.

Galleries gear up for visual stimulation

By Kati Schardl
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee culture mavens normally have to wait for the First Friday gallery hop to get their fill of fine art.

Art-lovers can whet their appetites for next week's movable feast with shows opening this week at TCC, The Brogan, the Museum of Florida History and FSU's Museum of Fine Arts.

Here's a look at what you can look at:

'INTERNATIONAL' EDGE

More than 25 artists from around the United States and Canada made the cut to have their art included in the "Tallahassee International 23rd Annual Juried Competition" at the FSU Museum of Fine Art in the Fine Arts Building on the corner of Copeland and Call streets. This year's juried exhibit opens in conjunction with "The Fine Art of Drawing" at a free reception from 5 to 8 p.m. today.

"The Fine Art of Drawing" invitational exhibition is hung in the Walmsley and Lower galleries and includes South Carolina artist Heidi Jensen's slightly disturbing (yet amusing) rabbit-humanoid creatures reminiscent of Albrecht Durer's famous bunny.

The "International" exhibition spreads through the Upper Gallery and includes paintings, sculpture, installations and photography.

Call 644-6836 to find out more.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

The Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science on Kleman Plaza hosts three new exhibits that open with a free reception from 7 to 9 p.m. today.

Gems, jeweled artifacts and other eye-boggling objects from the Smithsonian's permanent collection dazzle in "Objects of Desire," which also features the work of San Francisco designer Sidney Mobell. Mobell is a master at taking ordinary objects and transforming them into incredibly crafted art pieces, such as a 14-karat gold sardine can adorned with 55 full-cut diamonds and Mobell's most famous work — a \$2 million, 23-karat gold-plated Monopoly game board with 18-karat solid gold dice.

Internationally known artist and FSU professor Ray Burggraf takes the sculptural form of the landscape and turns it into colorful abstractions in the "Orbits and Horizons" exhibit. Burggraf talks about his art at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Brogan also hosts "The Roswell Exhibit," which features artifacts and evidence gathered from Roswell, N.M. The alleged



"Blues This Morning" by Barbara Aleene Edwards is part of the Annual Art Faculty exhibit opening on Thursday at TCC.

crash of a UFO in 1947 in the desert near Roswell is one of the most controversial and talked-about UFO claims ever.

Call 513-0700 or visit www.thebrogan.org.

THE FACULTY'S FINE

The Art Galleries at [Tallahassee Community College](http://www.tcc.edu) in the Fine & Performing Arts Building on Appleyard Drive hosted an opening reception Thursday for the Annual Art Faculty Exhibit featuring works by Barbara Aleene Edwards, Julie Baroody, Ljiljana Obradovic-Edmiston, Ed Toner, Dominick Ghesling and John Richey. The exhibit hangs through Sept. 18. Gallery hours are noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and there's no admission charge.

Call 201-8713.

THE FABRIC OF FANTASY

Hand-crafted and machine-made quilts and wall hangings star in "Through the Looking Glass," the 27th Annual Capital City Quilt Show, which opened Thursday at the Museum of Florida History in the R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough St.

The exhibit features an "Opportunity Quilt," given away at the end of the exhibit, a silent auction, Cairo Tent Makers quilts and more. The exhibit will be on display through Nov. 9. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Call 245-6400.

TCC breaks enrollment records

Fall population is highest in college's 43-year history at 13,174 registered students

By Angeline J. Taylor
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College administrators say that a record 13,174 students registered for classes this fall — a 1-percent increase from last year and the highest fall student population in the college's 43-year history.

That figure does not include high-school stu-

dents who are dual enrolled at TCC or students who take advantage of the college's later term this year.

At the August board of trustees meeting, TCC President Bill Law said he expected more students to be enrolled since many state universities and colleges had to freeze freshman enrollment because of budget cuts. However,

TCC is projected to surpass 14,000 students by December — much like the college did last year with its 14,078 students.

"We are delighted with the enrollment increase," TCC President Bill Law said in a news release. "TCC is committed to keeping its doors open even in these tough economic times."

Law told trustees about a \$2.3-million cut from the 2008-2009 budget. In September, trustees are expected to vote on those budget-reduction issues. To ensure students can attend classes of their choice, administrators will have to weigh options.

"We're increasing class size," said Barbara Sloan, TCC's vice president of

academic affairs. "We're adding up to five to six students to a class."

TCC spokesman Rob Chaney said it isn't too late for students to register. TCC offers two other terms this fall. Session C begins Sept. 10 and Session B begins Oct. 16.

■ Contact Angeline J. Taylor at 850-599-2382 or e-mail at ajtaylor@tallahassee.com.

TCC fighting joblessness

Tallahassee Democrat • September 2, 2008



PHIL SEARS/Democrat

Josh Adams teaches an Introduction to Thermal Solar Hot Water Heating class Thursday at TCC's Center for Economic & Workforce Development. The school offers an affordable Quick Job Training Program for 10 in-demand jobs.

Quick Job Training Program helping unemployed

By Will Brown
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS WRITER

From the dreadlocked to the bald; from professional attire to plaid prints; young people and not so young people are among the 7,200 people in Leon County who are unemployed.

With unemployment rates at the local, state and national levels on the rise, those who are unemployed or partially employed said finding full-time work is becoming a tougher task.

In the latest figures available, July's unem-

KEEP TALKING

■ Go to Tallahassee.com and keep the conversation going.

ployment rate was 5 percent for Leon County, 6.1 percent for Florida and 6 percent nationwide. This is a steep jump from six months ago, let alone July 2007, when figures were 3.5 percent locally, 4.4 percent at the statewide level and 4.5 percent nationally.

Last week, nearly 80 people attended an information seminar at Tallahassee Community College

about its Quick Job Training Program that provides training in various fields. Attendees ran the gamut, but shared a willingness to obtain skills that would make them desirable to potential employers.

"With our courses, it's not like (what) you find with other TCC courses where they start on a certain date," said Rick Frazier, director in the college's Center for Economic & Workforce Development.

Please see TCC, 2A

TCC

From Page 1A

"We operate on a semester basis, but if you take to us we're year-round, that's why we're able to offer so many courses."

Because this particular TCC program is self-supporting, participants must pay before beginning classes. Costs can range from a few hundred dollars to just under \$2,000. This is a reason why Tallahassee resident C.C. Cantley said the program is not readily affordable for someone who is unemployed.

Cantley is willing to take the course, but she has just about "vanquished"

her savings supporting herself, as she is currently between jobs. Though she has been in the workforce for 40 years, Cantley has never had problems finding a position as an office administrator, or something of the sort.

"When CareerBuilder is listing the same jobs every two weeks, you know things are tight," Cantley said about the online jobs service that connects job seekers like her with employers. "I check CareerBuilder every night and I don't see listings. I check Employ Florida every night and thankfully there are some listings there."

This summer the Center for Economic Forecasting and Analysis at Florida

State University recorded a quality-of-life estimate for the Tallahassee-Leon Economic Development Council. Among the things this comprehensive estimate found is this area ranked 45th among 66 metropolitan statistical areas studied for job churning, which measures both the creation and destruction of jobs in the economy at a point in time.

"The universities combined with the large presence of the Florida capital's state employees translate into a very large segment of the population employed in state service and a stable employment base and relatively low job churning," said director Julie Harrington in an e-mail interview.

In previous conversations with the *Tallahassee Democrat*, Kim Moore, chief executive officer at Workforce Plus, has said this region's lower unemployment rate is because Tallahassee has numerous state employees along with two universities and a community college. With so many educated people around, Moore said there is the possibility that one's education has them over-qualified for a position.

Tameeka Williams was too modest to say she is overqualified for any job, but with bachelor's degrees from FAMU and FSU, she may fit the mold.

In 2006, the former analyst for the Department of Health and Department of Community Affairs,

resigned from her post to care for her ailing mother. Williams began looking for full-time employment earlier this year as either a state employee or in the private sector. Williams' education may have opened some doors for her in her search, but submitting her resume to Workforce Plus has given her networking opportunities that were unbeknownst to her.

"They are giving you a referral," Williams said about Workforce Plus. "In a sense it's been a lot easier. The employers know that if you have been screened by Workforce Plus you have the qualifications for that job, versus going out there yourself and applying online."

Cantley is currently working part time in a job that is broadening her skills, something she believes will help her find full-time employment by her Oct. 22 deadline — which is her father's 87th birthday. Though she has been laid off numerous times in the past five years Cantley is confident her optimistic outlook will lead her to a position that suits her.

"When we lift one another up, I believe we accomplish more than when we don't," Cantley said. "Even people I know who are unemployed, I give them leads about jobs I feel they are qualified for. We've shared resumes and I share with them anything I know."



Tech@Night

Technology Workshops

The TCC Capitol Center* and
TCC's EWD Center will premier
different training workshops

Sept. 8 through Dec. 12, 6–9 p.m.

\$25 each workshop

Schedule & registration online at
www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night
or call **201-8760**

*Also available at TCC Quincy House, Pat Thomas
Law Enforcement Academy and TCC Wakulla Center

TCC In Wakulla



Dr. Mary Wolfgang
Director of Ecotourism Institute

Part I. New Green Guide Certification Class is starting this month

September is the time for the new Green Guide Certification Classes to start at the TCC Wakulla Center. On September 21, 2008, the fifth Green Guide Class will kick off its program with a Sunday afternoon open house starting at 2 p.m. Members of previous classes will provide an overview of the program, including the learning experiences, friendships and new business ideas they have formed. Class 3 is pictured with David Moody of St. Mark's Wildlife Refuge, who is explaining the necessity of prescribed burning and the wonders of the many natural areas found in St. Marks.

Interested participants will experience weekend field trips to Wakulla Springs, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Leon and Wakulla Sinks, The Gulf Coast Specimen Laboratory, and The FSU Marine Laboratory. Evening classes inform the class members of the birds, wildlife, ecosystems, trees and plants, local history, archeology, and geology and the ethics of ecotourism. Also provided are a series of basic business and

marketing presentations, including web-marketing. Each class has formed valued friendships based on a shared love of our natural environment, and developed during the adventure of searching for unique species, such as pitcher plants or red cockaded woodpeckers, in remote areas of our county. Since its creation in 2006, the Green Guide Program has graduated 60 enthusiastic adults ranging in age from 20 to 75 years.

The public is welcome to come to the open house and individuals are welcome to attend a single class such as local landscaping, or a six-pack of classes or field trips or the entire 90 hour certification program. For more information on the program call the TCC Wakulla Center at 922-6290.

Part II. A New Green Guide Girls Program is accepting applications.

TCC has been awarded a grant from the Motorola Foundation to provide young women with hands-on learning about environmental and related scientific issues, introducing them to career opportunities in the sciences, including environmental fields. There will be a series of free Saturday workshops and field trips in October and November and a second series in the spring. Parent-daughter teams will be encouraged to apply.

High school students ages 14-18 will be recruited through their science classes and senior girl scout groups. Green Guide Girls will also learn about wildlife biology, and science careers, and they will have a chance to meet and interact with local women who work in Wakulla



County and nearby areas as scientists, rangers, park and National Wildlife Refuge managers, women foresters, and wildfire firefighters, wildlife rescue leaders, and archeologists. Volunteer opportunities in nature related settings will be introduced to the girls, in which they can earn community service hours for scholarships and gain valuable work experience for future job possibilities.

Pictured are Green Guides Sara and her mother, Helen Roth, who participated in the 3rd Green Guide Class last fall, and inspired the college staff to seek grant funding from Motorola to provide an enriching, scientific, natural, educational experience for more young women and their parents where possible. For program information, please call the Green Guide Girls' Instructional Leader, Jo Barksdale at 509-7063, and for application information, please call the TCC Wakulla Center at 922-6290 or email us at WakullaCenter@tcc.fl.edu. ▲▲▲



A two-year degree from Tallahassee Community College opens doors to universities

Getting an Associate's degree and transferring to a Florida university is the best way to succeed in Florida's higher education system. At TCC we have excellent transfer relationships with our neighbors, Florida State and Florida A&M, as well as several other universities.

At TCC you can complete a two-year degree and transfer to a university or you can receive training for in-demand jobs.



For more information about TCC, visit GoToTCC.com or call (850) 201-TCCI

Three Tallahasseeans take on the journey of a lifetime

Hikers traverse all 2,175 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail

By Kati Schardl
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

For three daring Tallahasseeans, the challenge of hiking the 2,175 miles that make up the Appalachian National Scenic Trail will be worth the journey.

Sam Stewart and Logan Doll, both 20, and Logan's brother Jarrod Doll, 22, began their hike from Springer Mountain in Georgia on May 5 and should finish sometime at the end of this month at Mount Katahdin in Maine.

After four and a half months, they will have crossed more than 14 states and joined about 350 who completed the trail in one continuous hike.

The trio have been through issues with weather changes, equipment failure, boredom and even a 24-hour stomach flu.

Walking seven to eight hours each day, it is that very end that keeps them moving, day in and day out.

"I think a big part of it is finishing," Logan said. "There are a lot of people that wouldn't finish. If I wasn't with those two I wouldn't finish it."

Each hiker chose a trail name, saved up a few thousand dollars for food and gear and finished off their spring semester of school while preparing for their journey.

Stewart, whose trail name is "The Highlander" because he wears a kilt, is a sophomore at [Tallahassee Community College](#) and plans to attend Florida State University next spring to study information technology.

Logan, known as "Remy" on the trail (a reference to main character in the film "Ratatouille"), is studying history with a pre-med emphasis and a minor in band at the University of Florida.

Jarrod, called "Socrates" after a character in "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure," recently graduated from UF with a degree in philosophy and French and turned in his last paper the day they left.

All of their parents were happy about the trip, feeling secure that the boys would be safe and that it would be a great adventure. A few of them actually walked part of the trail with their sons.



"The Highlander" on McAfee Knob in Catawba, Va. This is the picture that inspired Sam Stewart to hike the Appalachian Trail. Logan and Jarrod Doll are making the hike with him. (Special to the Democrat)

"We had our concerns" said Mark Stewart. "We were concerned about how long he would be from home and how he would survive and make it. We are very proud of him to go this far."

"You have to be pretty determined," said Fred Firman, an Appalachian Trail conservancy volunteer who hiked the trail in 1995. "That is the key. There have been people who have lost as much as 80 pounds, but even for a fit person it is difficult. You need a lot of persistence."

Even though they are ready to be back home to their favorite restaurants, their friends, family and their futures, they know that what is important right now is not giving up.

"I can't come home until I finish," Sam said. "As much as I want to get home, I'm OK taking my time finishing."

College Town Times Three

It May Be Home to State Government, But FSU, FAMU and TCC Give Tallahassee Its Punch

By Dorothy Clifford

Tallahassee Community College: Educating Our Community

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law delights in enumerating all the ways his students and graduates may affect your daily life.

Heaven forbid, but if your day begins with a car collision, the first person you see is likely to be a police officer who trained at TCC's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. That fire truck that arrives is probably driven by a firefighter who received training at TCC. If you're taken to the hospital, you'll most likely be admitted by a TCC health care graduate, and a TCC technician will take your vital signs, along with your medical information, and prepare you to see the doctor.

Law is proud that the Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education is under way, with a groundbreaking recently on a site near Tallahassee Memorial Health-Care. Donations from the Ghazvini family, TMH, the community and the college make it possible to build a state-of-the-art training facility to meet the need for more health care professionals. (By 2020, Florida will need 61,000 more nurses than are currently projected to be available, according to estimates from the National Center for Health Work Force Analysis.)

The new center will cost approximately \$35 million, including \$2 million for the design of the facility, \$20 million for the first phase of construction and nearly \$6 million for equipment.

That's just the beginning. President Law loves to talk about the computer and technology departments, the TCC arts and literature departments, the splendid sculpture scattered around its carefully landscaped campus and the four-year degree it has offered students since 2000.

He is dedicated to work force development, student success and retention and community outreach.

Law is proud of his open-door policy and his TCC Board of Trustees meetings, which are open to the public. (If you care to show up, they begin at 4 p.m. on the third Monday of the month.)

TCC has increased enrollment in programs to meet community employers' needs, emphasizing the arts and global

studies on campus, and leading on behalf of the Council on Community College Presidents by working with the Florida Legislature. Law also has served as chairman of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County.

Law is engaged in his job and engaging. He is proud of TCC, the accomplishments of his outstanding predecessors, his own successes and campus life in general. He's generally smiling and wearing a bow tie, although he says his collection falls way short of former FSU President Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte.

Law reached out to local governmental and civic leadership when he first joined TCC, seeking enhanced opportunities for state employees to advance through TCC educational programs. With the opening of the Economic and Workforce Development Center, TCC began to reach its full potential in this service to business, industry and area workers.

He also led an aggressive building program and land acquisition initiative to transform the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy into the nation's premier law enforcement training center. In addition, he encouraged development of anti-terrorism training help agencies respond to homeland security needs.

Law is pleased with TCC's outreach in Gadsden and Wakulla counties. To date, TCC has helped secure nearly \$5 million in direct support for Gadsden County, and has submitted applications for more than \$11 million to public and private sources.

The TCC Gadsden Center now is one of the best-known after-school programs in the area, thanks to partnerships with Gadsden County Schools, nonprofit organizations and parent groups. One hundred and fifty students have received expanded FCAT preparation and other academic services through weekly and Saturday sessions at the Quincy House.

In addition to helping raise academic standards, TCC is strengthening work force certification programs leading to employment of high school and college-age residents.

The Wakulla Center is TCC's newest service center. Opened in January 2006, the center is the college's first service center for residents of Wakulla County, offering professional training and development. What started 28 years ago as a small fund to help Wakulla graduating seniors continue their education has now reached the \$1 million plateau – raised by a partnership between the Wakulla County Academic Boosters Association and the Tallahassee community.

Other services include partnerships with FAMU and FSU to improve health care education.

Under Law's leadership, the TCC Foundation attracted its single largest gift for scholarships and launched a \$10 million capital campaign.

TCC is one of the top 10 producers of A.A. graduates in the nation. The largest feeder institution to Florida State, TCC also has an excellent relationship with Florida A&M and other universities in Florida. Nearly three-fourths of TCC graduates transfer into the State University System the next year, the highest percentage among all Florida community colleges. Studies also show that TCC transfers make grades as good as those of students who started at the university.

Nationally, TCC ranks 14th among two-year institutions in the total number of associate degrees awarded during the 2006-2007 academic year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Of the top 15 associate degree producers that year, TCC is one of only six who enjoyed an increase in the number of degrees awarded from the previous year. TCC also earned a No. 8 ranking among two-year institutions in the number of associate degrees awarded to African-American students – 526 in 2006-2007, compared with 488 the previous year.

The windfall Florida's lawmakers dropped on two-year colleges this session – allowing them to offer four-year degrees – won't affect TCC. The college already is partnering with Flagler College, Barry University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Saint Leo University to give TCC graduates the opportunity to pursue bachelor's and graduates degrees without leaving the Appleyard Drive campus.

Ironically, FSU President T.K. Wetherell opened up that access for a four-year degree with Flagler College in 2000 while he was president of Tallahassee Community College. Wetherell served TCC from 1995 to 2001.

When he took office at TCC, Wetherell initiated an aggressive building and renovation program, instituted a major endowment program for the college foundation and raised the college's visibility. He also worked with the business community and was a leading advocate for the community college system before the Legislature.

Law sums up what he sees as TCC's mission:

"We measure ourselves by our ability to improve the lives of others," he says. "I believe that community college education has an ever-increasing role in our communities in assisting citizens to change their lives for the better." ■

Turnbull's Leadership Driven By Community Involvement

One of Tallahassee's most respected leaders, Marjorie Turnbull has dedicated much of her adult life to serving others through her roles as community leader and elected official.

Turnbull was elected as a county commissioner and state representative; has served on boards too numerous to list that include the Gadsden Arts Center, Children's Home Society, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, United Way of the Big Bend and the Downtown Improvement Authority; and

has won awards from more than 25 organizations. She has worked in a number of capacities throughout her career, but perhaps none was more impactful than her role with the Tallahassee Community College Foundation.

"Tallahassee Community College was blessed to have Marjorie Turnbull creating and developing our foundation," said TCC President Bill Law. "Marjorie's life-long commitment to our community made her the perfect advocate for telling the 'TCC Story' to business, social, civic and elected leaders throughout of district. Thousands of students who may never know her name have been the beneficiaries of her commitment and great works."

Her leadership roles evolved organically, according to Turnbull, from her desire to serve others. "My time in leadership and public service was an outgrowth of my community involvement," she said. "The idea of being a servant leader is always the way I view leadership. When you put service first, leadership will follow. I never strived for leadership for the recognition or position, I just wanted to have a chance to do something for our community and leave it a better place."

There are plenty of opportunities for others to follow in her footsteps, Turnbull said. "Tallahassee has such a wide variety of programs and organizations to get involved with, and it thrills me to see how this community nurtures leadership. The intangible rewards from putting others ahead of yourself are enormous.

"This award is an tremendous honor that I didn't expect to receive. I am truly humbled by it."



Marjorie Turnbull
Lifetime Leadership Award Recipient

EDUCATION

**TCC, UCF Teach
Solar Tech**



As "green" building becomes a driving force in residential and commercial construction, Tallahassee Community College and the University of Central Florida have joined forces to teach the industry how to use alternative energy technologies.

The partnership is part of the Employ Florida Alternative Energy Center, a statewide training program. This fall, TCC will provide training to building contractors and existing construction workers in two areas, solar electricity and solar hot water and pool heating.



Green recovery

Sustainability should power economic rebound

When clean-energy advocates cite the need for more green-collar jobs, they're not just talking about designing electric cars or more efficient offices and houses that meet the most stringent green building codes. They're also talking about loggers, truck drivers, roofers and electricians whose jobs may be saved because of investment in a new green economy.

And they're not just referring to green jobs in places where unemployment is a double-digit crisis. Their talking about job creation in Florida, where unemployment, though at its highest rate in 13 years, is still only 6.1 percent statewide. This includes the Big Bend, which is suffering less than other regions of the state from the worst effects of the housing-related economic downturn but remains sorely in need of economic growth and diversification.

Advocates for green jobs — several of whom spoke Tuesday in Tallahassee in conjunction with a national initiative to retrofit the U.S. economy — understand that no effort to substantially reduce carbon emissions can succeed unless its job creation component is emphasized at least as much as its environmental advantages.

Blending environmental stewardship and economic growth is the whole idea behind a proposed \$100 billion national investment in green jobs. Projected impacts: nearly 124,000 new jobs in Florida if the nation pursued a two-year "rapid green economic recovery program" that would create 2 million jobs nationally and leave the U.S. economy "in a better position for sustainable prosperity."

That's according to a study by the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. PERI recommends combining tax credits and loan guarantees for private businesses in addition to direct public spending and a carbon "cap-and-trade" program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Green investment advocates include representatives of the public and private sectors as well as nonprofits. They say focusing on six strategies related to the work force would, in effect, be a down payment on a long-term economic overhaul.

These include: building retrofits to improve energy efficiency; expanding mass transit and freight rail systems; building "smart" electrical transmission systems; wind power; solar power; and next-generation biofuels.

That's where [Tallahassee Community College](#) expects to play a central role in this region.

John Chapin, vice president for economic and workforce development at [TCC](#), said it will be critical for the community college to expand training programs for jobs in a new green economy. [TCC](#) already offers job training for solar, hot-water and photovoltaic installation, he said, but hopes to offer an even broader array of programs in six to 12 months.

Green jobs, Mr. Chapin added, represent the region's "best opportunity" for economic development — training not only young workers just starting their careers, but also work-force veterans whose positions in the old economy may be threatened.

He and other green-economy advocates are trying to send a loud and clear message that we're in the midst of an economic sea change that could either float our boat or sink it. How we proceed here in the Big Bend and across the country will shape our economy and environment long after the current generations of professionals and laborers have left the work force.

"It's like creating a whole new industry throughout the world," City Commissioner Allan Katz said.

We'd best catch the wave.

Wakulla Ecotourism

INSTITUTE

TCC Wakulla Center

Green Guide Certification

Classes Begin September 22

The Green Guide Certification Program provides 90 contact hours of classroom and field-based training designed to:

- *Create a nature-centered network of guides*
- *Enable guides to provide tourists with environmentally and socially responsible experiences*
- *Educate businesses and provide technical advice*



NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Join us for an information session at the TCC Wakulla Center on **September 21** from **2-4 p.m.** to learn more.

(850) 922-6290 | WakullaCenter@tcc.fl.edu | www.tcc.fl.edu/greenguides