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AND

Shakers

...inside
DONORS
AND *Shakers*



3 A scholarship benefiting SFSC's automotive students is established in memory of Annett Bus Lines mechanic.



5 Biology, math, and dental assisting faculty are presented endowed teaching chairs.



6 Alumnus Eric Bautista encourages SFSC students with his time and financial support.



Darrell Jensen, vice president of the SFSC Foundation's Board of Directors, and Jamie Bateman (right), SFSC's executive director of institutional advancement, induct Joan Hartt into The Legacy Society. Hartt was honored for her exemplary contributions to the College and the Foundation.

Joan Hartt is Inducted into Legacy Society

During the South Florida State College (SFSC) Foundation Legacy Showcase and Fundraiser on Oct. 24, Joan Hartt was inducted into the Legacy Society for 2020 for her service to the Foundation and to the College. Jamie Bateman, executive director of institutional advancement, and Darrell Jensen, Foundation vice president, made the presentation.

"Because of our donors, we have been able to provide countless scholarships and other means to support SFSC," said Bateman. "The Legacy Society was established to recognize those donors who have gone above and beyond in supporting SFSC and our Foundation."

This is the second year that such an

honor has taken place. Joe Davis Jr. and his wife, Gloria Davis, were inducted into The Legacy Society in 2019.

Hartt has served the Foundation and the College for several years. In 1999, she was appointed to the SFSC District Board of Trustees, a position that she held until 2011. She currently serves on the SFSC Foundation Board of Directors.

"I can't think of anybody more deserving for this wonderful recognition than my dear friend Joan Hartt," said Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius, SFSC president emerita. "She's been such a stalwart supporter of our College for 35 years or so. She gives of her time, she gives of her talent,

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Perserverance Shines Through in Year of Challenges

THIS YEAR SURELY HAS HAD ITS CHALLENGES, BUT WHAT STANDS OUT MORE TO ME IS THE COMRADERY AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY. EVEN WITH ALL OF THE DISTRACTIONS THAT WE FACED, WE OVERCAME.

This year has certainly been a year we will not likely forget.

For me, there are many areas that I will forever hold dear to my heart and hope to remember.

I witnessed firsthand how staff and faculty across our three counties came together to ensure our students were taken care of. I saw how compassion and care overcame fear and uncertainty. How our students adapted to a new way of learning and achieved their goals for a degree or certificate in higher education, not letting their surrounding circumstances stand in their way.

I saw students willing to continue on with the next chapters of their lives, embracing the new norm but doing so with a determined heroic attitude. Making it known that nothing was going to stop them.

I witnessed our community coming together to support our students by making sincere donations that will continue to impact lives for generations



to come.

And now, my team and I are witnessing how our amazing community is still reaching out to help by showing their devoted

support of our upcoming events that will benefit the College.

Families connected on a greater level. Students shared their support for one another and encouraged each other to press on. And colleges across our state found new and innovative ways to help keep those dreams of a degree alive.

This year surely has had its challenges, but what stands out more to me is the comradery and sense of community. Even with all of the distractions that we faced, we overcame.

Now we look to the future knowing that no matter what life throws our way, one thing is certain. Don't get in the way of a student who has a dream to achieve, for nothing can stop our students from achieving their goals, and for that I am so proud.

Here's to the future and all of the possibilities we have to embrace.

You're Ready. We're Set. Let's Go!

Jamie Bateman
Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement

Christmas Season Begins with Jacaranda Jubilee

You're invited to the Jacaranda Jubilee, when the SFSC Foundation opens the holiday season with a Christmas tree lighting, a Santa sighting, and delicious hors d'oeuvres in the Joan Hartt Lobby and Dining Rooms of the Hotel Jacaranda. This year's Jubilee begins at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 30. Tickets are \$50 each for adults and \$35 each for youth. Reservations are limited to accommodate social distancing. Call the Foundation at 863-453-3133 to purchase your ticket.



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is produced semiannually by the South Florida State College Foundation, Inc., to inspire charitable contributions in support of South Florida State College. The SFSC Foundation raises awareness of the value of an SFSC education and promotes student success through scholarships, facilities development, and program support. By supporting SFSC, the SFSC Foundation endeavors to enhance the ability of residents in our district to obtain a college education.

Randy Allwood's Last Wish Comes True

SFSC'S AUTOMOTIVE STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP THAT REMEMBERS THE LATE ANNETT BUS LINES MECHANIC.

The South Florida State College (SFSC) Foundation, Inc. recently created The Randy Allwood Memorial Automotive Scholarship as a tribute to Randy Allwood, a lifelong auto mechanic who resided in Sebring.

Funds from the \$50,000 endowed scholarship will be used to provide tuition and fees for students currently enrolled in the SFSC Automotive Service Technology Program or the SFSC Auto Body Repair and Refinishing Program. The first scholarship of approximately \$500 will be available beginning spring 2021, with preference given to applicants demonstrating financial need and a strong commitment to completing their respective program. An applicant must be a resident of DeSoto, Hardee, or Highlands County.

Allwood worked for Annett Bus Lines as director of maintenance from October 1986 until his death from lung cancer last March. According to David Annett, vice president of Annett Bus Lines, "Randy stood for the safe operation of more than 50 buses which traveled nearly 2.5 million miles per year during his 34 years with the company."

"My husband kept saying, 'I want to do something for kids,'" said Randy's wife, Janet. After speaking with Brian Annett, president of Annett Bus Lines, about establishing a scholarship for future auto mechanics, Janet went to Randy's room in hospice and got his OK.

"At 1:40 the next morning, Randy passed away," she said. "So, it was literally the last thing he wanted to do." With the assistance of Brian and David Annett, Janet approached the SFSC Foundation to establish a scholarship.

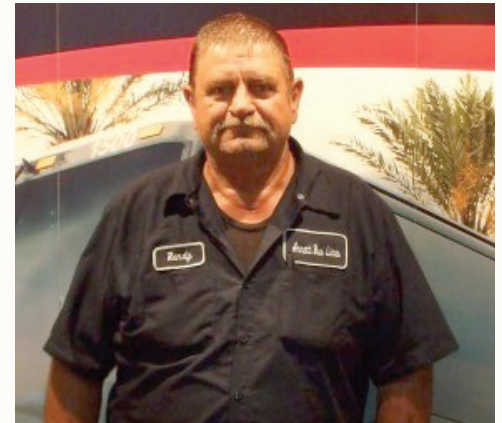
"Randy always loved auto mechanics," Janet said. "He was a fabulous mechanic, and he wanted to help other people get established in that career. When he was able to work, he mentored mechanics working under him. That way, he helped to further their education and get them trained."

Originally from Wauseon, Ohio, Randy's family purchased the A&M Union 76 gas station in Sebring in 1966. "He was about 16 years old when he started working on motor vehicles," Janet said. "He loved learning what made them work and, if they didn't work, why not." Randy graduated from Sebring High School in 1972 and was the mechanic at Union 76 for five years until his parents sold the business.

According to Janet, Randy knew little about maintaining motor coaches when he went to work for Annett Bus Lines. "He taught himself by reading their 8-inch thick manuals and dissecting things." Soon, he was teaching other mechanics. In fact, two of his mentees were Brian and David Annett.

Janet said that Brian and David Annett were like adopted sons to Randy. They worked with Randy when they were teenagers, and they learned the

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Randy Allwood

bus business through him. "When he was ill, David and Brian would come by every week and talk with Randy for several hours," she said. "Randy was not very responsive much of the time, but as soon as the boys came to visit him, he would perk up. He would talk all about the buses. He was still very much involved with the business up until two weeks before he passed. It gave him something to look forward to."

David Annett best explained Randy's passion for passing along his know-how to auto mechanics. "Randy was most comfortable and most satisfied around young learners of the trade, particularly those he knew he could start off right," Annett said. "He spoke often about the younger generation and seemed genuinely interested in passing along knowledge. Though it seems like a losing proposition to those who knew Randy, he had an incredible drive and desire to see others know what he knew—particularly, young mechanically inclined and curious future mechanics."

5 Ways You Can Support the Work of the SFSC Foundation

1. Make the SFSC Foundation your favorite charitable organization at Amazon Smile, and go to smile.amazon.com when making future purchases. Learn more at <http://amzn.to/2g9Ku0P>.

2. Become a Friend of SFSC by setting up an online recurring donation

of \$25 or more per month: <http://bit.ly/2Fi3fx2>.

3. Sponsor an SFSC fundraising event, such as the Legacy Showcase, the Jacaranda Jubilee, the Christmas luncheon, or the the Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout.

4. Give stock or securities. For information, call 863-453-3133 or email foundation@southflorida.edu.

5. Join the SFSC Heritage Society by including the SFSC Foundation in your will or trust, or name us as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

New Advisory Council is Appointed



The SFSC Alumni Association is pleased to announce the appointment of our Advisory Council officers and members.

These individuals

were nominated and selected by their fellow SFSC Alumni to lead the Association on a path of expansion and growth.

- Lena Phelps, chair of the Advisory Council, Highlands County
 - Eric Bautista, vice chair of the Advisory Council, DeSoto County
 - Asena Mott, secretary of the Advisory Council, DeSoto County
 - Katherin Kinzel, member of the Advisory Council, Hardee County
 - Christina Martin, member of the Advisory Council, Hardee County
- “Our Advisory Council is

comprised of community leaders among our three communities: DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands. These individuals are committed to building relationships with SFSC alumni and expanding the network, which ultimately provides a bigger and better benefit to our members,” said SFSC Alumni Association Coordinator

Anastasia Saunders. “I am excited to be working with this team to put their ideas and energy into furthering the goals of the SFSC Alumni Association.”

As the Advisory Council moves forward, members are looking at different opportunities to engage our alumni in reconnecting with the College. Their focus is revolving around building relationships with one another and expanding as more and more alumni take advantage of the networking events and communications. In our digital world, the Council may find that the connection is made via Zoom networking meetings as well as at in-person networking gatherings. The future of the SFSC Alumni Association under the leadership of this Advisory Council, no doubt, will help to identify, cultivate, and recruit future leaders and alumni members.

If you are an SFSC alum and would like to become more involved, call the Alumni Association coordinator at 863-453-3133 or email alumni@southflorida.edu. *You're Ready. We're Set. Let's Go!*

Lena D. Phelps

Chair, SFSC Alumni Association
Class of 1984

Thank You, Annual Sponsors

GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius



Help Us Raise Funds on #GivingTuesday

We have 24 hours ... Let's make them count!

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that annually falls on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The year 2020 has thrown a curve ball to all of us, including our students at South Florida State College. It is inspiring to see them adjusting to the unexpected changes from this spring and to push through with classes into summer and fall 2020. Our students have faced adversity and

challenges that are preparing them for the future. And their future is starting right here at SFSC. On Dec. 1, will you join us on #GivingTuesday and give a gift that will allow a student to have a brighter tomorrow? Any dollar amount makes a difference in the lives of our students and what the College can provide. Together we will rise to the challenge. Together we will show support. Together we can help educate.

Visit the SFSC Foundation website,

southflorida.edu/foundation, and make your donation online. Then, spread the word of your support to encourage others to donate as well. For example, post a selfie on your social media page with the words, “I support the SFSC Foundation. Will you help support, too? #GivingTuesday?”

Your donation to the SFSC Foundation yields life-changing returns. *You're Ready. We're Set. Let's Give!*



Jamie Bateman presents endowed teaching chairs to (from left) Bob Sconyers, Endowed Chair in Dental Education, James J. Moye, Carol Emery Endowed Chair in Mathematics, and Amy Bohan, Norm and Laurie Stephens Endowed Teaching Chair.

Three Faculty Become Endowed Chairs

Three South Florida State College (SFSC) faculty have been appointed to endowed chairs with funds donated through the SFSC Foundation.

Bob Sconyers, dental assisting professor, was appointed as the Highlands County Health Facilities Authority (HCHFA) Endowed Chair in Dental Education. Amy Bohan, biology professor, was appointed as The Norm and Laurie Stephens Endowed Teaching Chair. The Carol Emery Endowed Chair in Mathematics went to James J. Moye, mathematics professor.

Endowed teaching chairs receive \$5,000 per year for two years, with half going toward equipment, professional development, or to attend a conference related to the their discipline of study. The other half is a salary stipend.

Bohan will continue working with students on an undergraduate research

- AWARDS HELP PROFESSORS
- UPGRADE SPECIALIZED
- EQUIPMENT IN THEIR LABS AND
- CLASSROOMS.

project dealing with canine congestive heart failure. The chair funds will be used to purchase the equipment necessary to continue the project such as reagents and testing equipment. This will allow her to prepare students for a university degree, enhance the status of SFSC as the students learn, and present at future scientific expositions.

Moye teaches math at the Hardee and DeSoto campuses. He will use his award to purchase technological improvements such as touch boards and document cameras for classrooms at these campuses, helping to bring them in line with technology available at the

Highlands Campus.

Sconyers will use his year one award to add a third dental camera to the two cameras already in use. This will allow three classes to run simultaneously using one camera for each class. He will also complete educational courses in the use of these cameras. The following year, Sconyers will purchase additional models, anatomical heads, and oversized models of teeth as equipment that will enhance the training process by introducing models that are currently used in local dental clinics.

The idea of endowed teaching chairs at state and community colleges came from research chairs at universities.

“The Teaching Chair program gives us a way to show appreciation for excellence in teaching,” said Jamie Bateman, executive director of institutional advancement at SFSC.

Remembering Two Key Supporters, Nida Roquiz and Ben Hill Griffin III

Nida Roquiz

Nida Roquiz was a dear friend and SFSC Foundation board member who served with enthusiasm from 1995 until her recent passing. Her personality lit up a room, and her passion for higher education was evident in the way



she promoted the College. She enjoyed witnessing our students succeed and celebrated those moments with us. We remember her beautiful smile and the way she called our names when we saw her, but her infectious compassion is what we will miss the most.

Ben Hill Griffin III

Ben Hill Griffin III was well known for his lifelong impact on Florida’s citrus industry and for his passion

for philanthropy. His generosity to education, especially to SFSC, made a lasting impact on our students. Ben will be remembered as an outstanding corporate citizen, a supporter of education, and a friend of the Foundation.

The SFSC family sends our thoughts and prayers to the Roquiz and Griffin families, along with our gratitude for their invaluable support of our mission and students.

Alumnus Eric Bautista Employs His Passion for Education

Eric Bautista was the first person in his family to graduate from college and understands the struggle that students can face at home and



financially. As an alumnus of South Florida State College (SFSC), he wants to change people's lives and build leaders. Because of his passion for education and sense of community, Bautista has helped dual enrollment students in DeSoto County continue their education and intends to do much more in the future.

During summer 2020, 12 dual enrollment students from DeSoto High School wanted to continue their college courses at SFSC. SFSC's dual enrollment program allows eligible students in grades 6 through 12 the ability to simultaneously earn high school and college credit toward a degree or certificate. The students receive free college tuition and free textbooks.

Asena Mott, director of the SFSC DeSoto Campus, said, "We have a conundrum regarding our high school seniors whenever they want to finish their education. All through their dual enrollment experience, their classes have been paid for — books, tuition, fees, everything. But they may need to take summer classes to finish up their degree, whether it's vocational or credit classes."

In 2020, the SFSC summer session began on May 4 and the dual enrollment students wouldn't graduate from high school until May 26. Because their college classes continued beyond their high school graduation date, the students were no longer eligible for dual enrollment funding. Federal financial assistance was not available to them because they had not officially received their high school diplomas.

So, Mott approached the DeSoto County Education Foundation (DCEF) to see if it could assist the students financially. Sarah Walker, DCEF director, contacted donors and received \$6,281.52. Of that amount, approximately \$3,500 came from Bautista.

"I was introduced to the dual enrollment program when I was in high school," Bautista said. "So I know how beneficial it is for high school students."

Born and raised in Arcadia, Bautista was a dual enrollment student from DeSoto High School and graduated from SFSC with an Associate in Arts in 2012. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in economics from the University of South Florida (USF) in December 2014. Currently, he is the vice chair of the SFSC Alumni Association.

Bautista became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and spent four years working as a risk advisory consultant in the Tampa office of Ernst & Young, an international accounting firm.

Currently, he is the vice president of a local roofing company. He said that he wants to do more for the community, such as create more jobs. "Each job that's provided is a local family that's being taken care of," he said. "And the money stays in the community."

His concerns for the community extend to educating young people. "I know the benefits of an education and the job opportunities I got. I want to let them know that 'you can get the degree, you can get a better job if you aspire to it and stay motivated. Let me encourage you, let me walk you through it. If you need someone to listen to you, I'll be that person. I'll help bounce back ideas. I want to be a role model and a friend to them. If they come to me with questions, I'm available and I can help."

Bautista recently became involved with Take Stock in Children. He has also provided four scholarships of \$500 each to students in the last two years. He has convinced his employer to partner with the DCEF in providing young people with educational scholarships. "Between myself and my employer, we've sponsored 19 kids," he said. "So, that's about \$10,000 in scholarships in the last two years."

"We have to make a better environment for all of our kids," Bautista said. "Education gives you the opportunity to exchange ideas, learn, and grow. I'm a first generation college graduate and my education has helped my family tremendously."

JOAN HARTT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

she gives of her wonderful advice, and also, of course, her financial contributions have been a great asset to the College. Joanie also provides all the decorations for the Foundation Christmas Luncheons and the Galas and the other activities here that benefit the College, the students, and the Foundation. In addition to all her other wonderful donations, she has established a scholarship in memory of her son, Ralph."

But Hartt's most visible contribution has been the time and care she has taken in decorating the Hotel Jacaranda. Since 2007, Hartt, her daughter-in-law, and a team of volunteers have transformed the hotel into a holiday wonderland at Christmastime and continued that labor of love into the fall and spring. In 2015, Hartt and her daughter-in-law began re-decorating 20 guest rooms on the second and third floors of the hotel. Each room has been decorated with its own theme.

"My mother-in-law loves this hotel," said Sheila Hartt, who assists in

decorating the Jacaranda. "When she was growing up, her father was a hotel manager in Sebring. I think this has always been in her blood. She just loves it, and it brings her a lot of joy to make people smile."

"We're blessed to have Joan Hartt decorate the Hotel Jacaranda," said David Bruns, Hotel Jacaranda general manager. "We have tons of guests who come by to see the different changes of season. Everyone comes in and takes holiday pictures with their families. It's all because of Joan and her helpers."

TSIC Seeks Guest Speakers to Motivate College-Bound Students

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Take Stock in Children (TSIC) has been challenged with finding alternative ways of delivering top-notch service to its scholars. When the local office of Take Stock learned in early August that volunteer college success coaches would not be allowed in the schools until at least January, it immediately launched a plan to ensure that mentor sessions could continue in accordance with clear and concise mandates from Take Stock's state office.

"In less than a week, we had to totally rethink how we were going to meet the Florida Department of Education's required 15 mentor sessions per student in a virtual world, as many of our mentors have no prior experience with Zoom or WebEx and would be apprehensive about using them," said Danielle Ochoa, student services coordinator for Take Stock in Children.

To reduce the number of face-to-face sessions Take Stock scholars must hold with their mentors, the state office of Take Stock is allowing individuals who are not mentors to make guest presentations on virtual platforms. As a result, the local Take Stock office created the "Mentor Moments" series and is now recruiting friends, mentors, and South Florida State College employees to make presentations through Zoom and WebEx. Potential topics could include courses of study, college clubs and organizations, supplementary programs that benefit students, health and wellness, money management, how to

IN THE ERA OF COVID-19, NEARLY 40% OF TAKE STOCK SCHOLARS HAVE BEEN ATTENDING VIRTUAL "MENTOR MOMENTS" SEMINARS THROUGH ONLINE FORUMS. TAKE STOCK IS BOOKING SPEAKERS FOR THESE SESSIONS THROUGH APRIL.

file your tax return, travel and leisure, reducing stress, time management, juggling priorities, or career planning.

"Our first meeting was two days after learning we would be providing services completely online. Lenisa Ragoodial, a current mentor and registered behavioral technician, was scheduled to share her college and career path and her passion for working with children on the autism spectrum in a 30-minute presentation," says Ochoa. "The two staff members for Take Stock texted and emailed all of our students to attend on WebEx. That afternoon, 37 students attended. With each electronic ding from WebEx, a familiar face popped on the screen. Since then, nearly 40% of our students have consistently attended the weekly mentor session."

Anastasia Saunders, coordinator of institutional advancement and alumni development, requested guest speakers through the SFSC Foundation's channels and stepped in as a guest speaker. Kenneth Hancock of Hancock Law, P.A., a friend of Take Stock and current mentor, agreed to present on the five principles of success that can keep students moving forward. Another presenter includes a 2017 Take Stock and SFSC graduate in his final year of nursing school at Florida Gulf Coast University, who wants to discuss his time as a student in DeSoto County.

Scholars are also being educated about college programs. Linda Roman, college success coach for TSIC, said, "We thought this was a great opportunity for program directors to share news about the outstanding work going on in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. This influences Take Stock scholars to pursue their dreams locally or to inspire a friend or family member to embark on an SFSC experience." Speakers are now scheduled to discuss the SFSC Foundation, Panther Youth Program, nursing program, and the Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management program.


To participate as a guest speaker for Mentor Moments and discuss the relevance of your topic, call Danielle Ochoa at 863-245-7343. Speakers are being booked through April.

Take Stock in Children is a statewide program that provides at-risk children with a mentor and a college scholarship. In return, Take Stock scholars sign contracts in which they promise to remain drug-free, to avoid behavior that would get them into trouble with law enforcement, to attend school regularly, and to earn satisfactory grades. The SFSC Foundation serves as the lead agency for Take Stock in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties.

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

Sunday-Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET
Southern-fried chicken - our specialty!
Special Entrees ❖ Soup and Salad Bar ❖ Dessert

 Monday-Thursday Buffet \$10.49	 Friday Seafood Buffet \$10.99	 Sunday Grand Buffet \$13.49
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Limited seating is available to accommodate social distancing.


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South Florida State College
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On the Calendar

Foundation Events

The Jacaranda Jubilee

MONDAY, NOV. 30, 2020
6:30 p.m., The Hotel Jacaranda
Santa sighting and Christmas tree lighting.
RSVP required.
Limited space available for social distancing.

#Giving Tuesday

TUESDAY, DEC. 1, 2020
southflorida.edu/support-sfsc/givingtuesday
All day

Annual Christmas Luncheon

THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 2020
11:30 a.m., The Hotel Jacaranda
RSVP required.
Limited space available for social distancing.

4th Annual Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, JAN. 14-17, 2021
Sun 'N Lake Golf Club
No reservations or tee times required.

Board Meetings

Board Meeting

TUESDAY, JAN. 12, 2021
Noon, SFSC Highlands Campus Board Room or Virtual

Executive Committee Meeting

TUESDAY, FEB. 9, 2021
Noon, Hotel Jacaranda or Virtual

SFSC Events

2020 Commencement

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, AND THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 2020
Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts
SFSC Highlands Campus

Annual and event sponsorships are available. Please contact the Foundation for more information.