

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## IN THE NEWS



November 15, 2008 - January 23, 2009

# Tallahassee Community College

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### Print Media

- |  |    |                                |    |
|--|----|--------------------------------|----|
| • American Classifieds .....           | 13 | • Monticello News .....        | 3  |
| • Business Suite Rental .....          | 4  | • Now Hiring .....             | 1  |
| • Chiles High School Newsletter .....  | 2  | • Pensacola News Journal.....  | 1  |
| • dBusinessNews.com .....              | 1  | • Tallahassee Advertiser ..... | 3  |
| • Family Forum .....                   | 1  | • Tallahassee Democrat .....   | 78 |
| • FAMUan .....                         | 4  | • The Havan Herald.....        | 15 |
| • Florida Capital News .....           | 2  | • UsAirways Magazine .....     | 1  |
| • FSView.....                          | 6  | • Wakulla Area Times .....     | 10 |
| • Gadsden County Times .....           | 16 | • WCTV .....                   | 10 |
| • lincoln High School Newsletter ..... | 1  | • Wolf Prints .....            | 1  |
| • Lincoln Log .....                    | 1  | • WTXL.....                    | 5  |

### Electronic Media

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Nov. 13, WCTV, Student Success Center spotlight                                     | • Dec. 1, WTXL, TCC employees receive pay increase                    |
| • Nov. 16, WCTV, PTLA hosts charity softball game                                     | • Dec. 2, WCTV, TCC's partnerships with state employees               |
| • Nov. 17, WTXL, Previewing the Manufacturing Job Fair                                | • Dec. 3, WCTV, ISO Auction   |
| • Nov. 17, WTXL, TCC basketball supports local food bank                              | • Dec. 4/5, WCTV, TCC students show off gaming talents                |
| • Nov. 17, WCTV/WTXL, International Education Week @ TCC (Parade of Nations)          | • Dec. 8, WCTV/WTXL, TG awards \$100k to TCC Foundation               |
| • Nov. 18, WCTV, International Education Week @ TCC (Parade of Nations)               | • Dec. 12, WCTV, Fire Academy students give back to Christmas charity |
| • Nov. 19, WCTV/WTXL, TCC/Quick Job Training Program assists Gadsden County residents | • Jan. 5, WCTV, Brian Anweiler leaves for job in Virginia             |
| • Nov. 19, TCC basketball   | • Jan. 6, WCTV, TCC basketball, TCC baseball                          |
| • Nov. 20, WCTV/WTXL, TCC hosts Manufacturing Job Fair                                | • Jan. 6, WCTV, Feature on student-athlete Bernard James              |
| • Nov. 22, WCTV, Model UN goes to China   | • Jan. 8, WCTV, New art exhibit unveiled at TCC                       |
| • Nov. 22, WCTV, Stem STAR Program  | • Jan. 10, WCTV, TCC students participate in Leisure Love Project     |
| • Nov. 26, WCTV, The economy's affect on enrollment                                   | • Jan. 20, WTXL, TCC hosts Scholarship Fair                           |

# **Manufacturing Job Fair**

**Thursday, November 20  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

*Tallahassee Community College EWD Building*



*Area manufacturing companies  
will be on-hand to fill positions  
with competitive pay and benefits.*

For more information call  
**(850) 201-8760**

**PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE**

# TCC's **QUICK JOB TRAINING PROGRAM**

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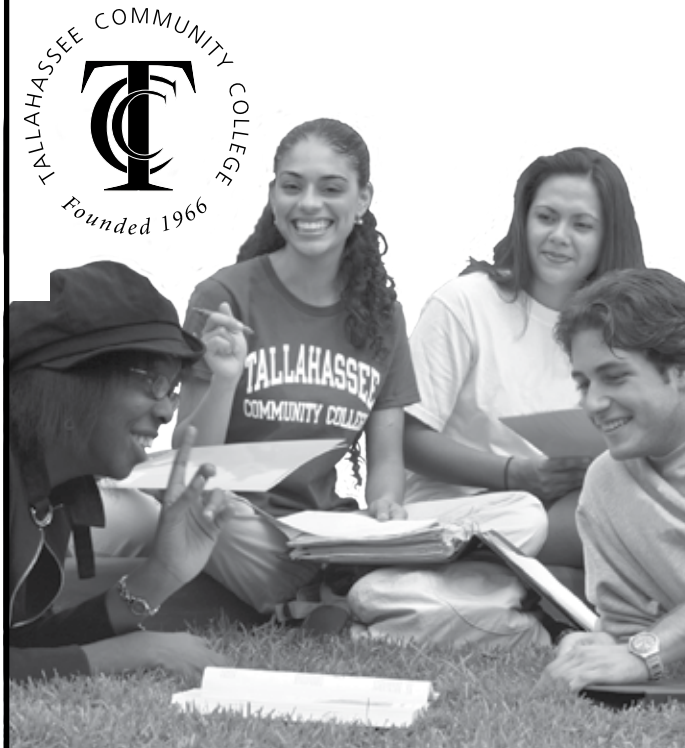
**Tuesday, November 18**  
**10:30 a.m. – Noon** *or*  
**7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

TCC's EWD Building, Room 123

**(850) 201-8760 | [www.QuickJobTCC.com](http://www.QuickJobTCC.com)**

# TAKE CLASSES AT TCC

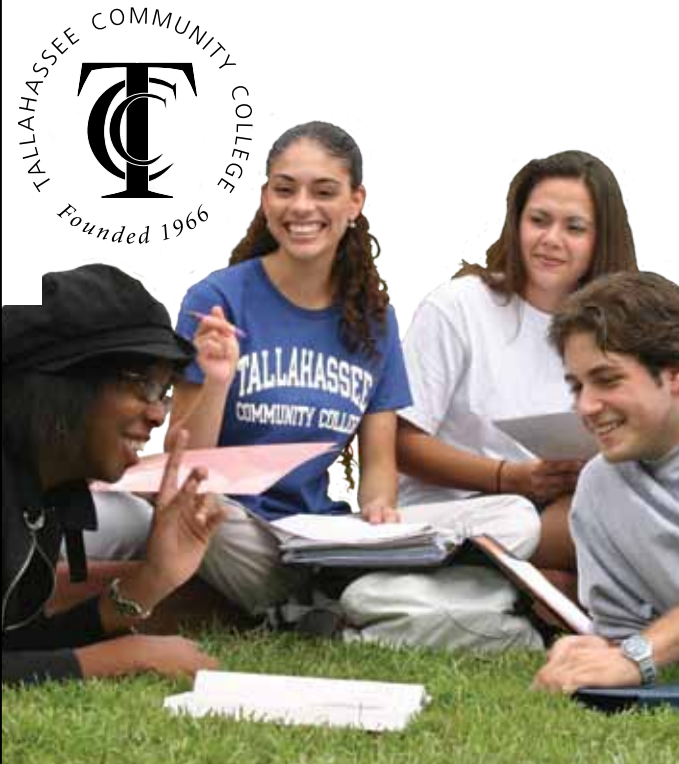
- > Flexible schedules and online classes
- > Come 2, 3 or 4 days a week – mornings, afternoons or evenings
- > Low cost/high quality education
- > Financial aid and scholarships available



Sign up for TCC Spring Classes today.

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- > Flexible schedules and online classes
- > Come 2, 3 or 4 days a week – mornings, afternoons or evenings
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Sign up for TCC Spring Classes today.

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## TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TCC debate team wins division championship: Tallahassee Community College's Speech and Debate team continued its winning ways during last weekend's trip to Peoria, Ill., for the annual L.E. Norton Memorial, hosted by Bradley University. Team TCC ran away with the JUCO Division Championship, winning the title for the fourth straight time. TCC captured the championship in 2004, 2005 and 2006 but did not compete in the 2007 tournament. The victory allowed TCC to maintain its perfect record during the 2008-09 season, winning all five tournaments it has entered. Pentathlon turned into TCC's signature event at Bradley, as Alexa Kyros, Erin Stack and Will Parente finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively at the novice (two-year) level.

TCC student receives achievement award: Tallahassee Community College student Lisette Shaw has been named one of four recipients of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women's Florida Achievement Award. The award honors women for their work in improving the lives of women and families in their communities. Shaw is being recognized for her work with the Guardian Ad Litem program. Other recipients of the Florida Achievement Award are Julianna Baggott and Betty Roberts of Tallahassee and Voncea Brusha of Gainesville. Shaw spends countless hours as a volunteer for the Guardian Ad Litem program, where she serves as a court-appointed advocate for children who are abused or neglected. She advocates for the best interests of children with the end goal of ensuring they are in a safe, stable and permanent home as soon as possible.

Third annual job fair on Thursday: Tallahassee Community College, in partnership with the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County's First Focus on Local Business existing industry collaborative, will hold its third annual area job fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at TCC's Center for Economic & Workforce Development. The job fair will connect potential employees with manufacturing companies in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties. Job seekers attending the fair will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from area manufacturing companies and gather information on both production and professional positions. Admission to the job fair is free to both employers and job seekers. For more information about the Manufacturing Job Fair, call (850) 201-8760.

SGA promoting print-media readership: Tallahassee Community College's Student Government Association, in partnership with USA Today, is working to promote print media readership throughout the College's student body. TCC students can enjoy free copies of USA Today, The New York Times and the Tallahassee Democrat as part of a national Collegiate Readership Program. The goal of the program is to enhance the learning environment on college campuses, by exposing students to the news in their living, learning and community spaces. For more information on the Collegiate Readership Program, contact Ishmael Mayhew at [sgasec@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:sgasec@tcc.fl.edu).



## TCC, manufacturers hold a free job fair Thursday

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Tallahassee Community College, in partnership with the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County Inc., will hold its third annual manufacturing job fair Thursday.

The free event takes place at TCC's Center for Economic & Workforce Development from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The job fair, a project of the EDC's First Focus on Local Business existing industry collaborative, will connect potential employees with manufacturing companies in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla counties.

Job seekers attending the fair will be able to meet with representatives from area manufacturing companies and gather information on both production and professional positions, TCC officials said.

"We believe this job fair is a tremendous benefit to the community and to manufacturing employers," said Beth Mann Pace, manufacturing technology project manager at TCC. "It is a great opportunity to link employers with recent graduates and motivated job seekers looking for positions in the manufacturing field."

To date, TCC has secured participation from eight companies for this year's job fair, all of which will have the opportunity to meet interested applicants. In each of the previous two years, the job fair has proved to be a way of discovering qualified applicants. As a result, some of the participating companies, including General Dynamics Land Systems, are returning to the event for the third time.

"The job fair is a great way to connect with local talent, and we appreciate our partnership with TCC," said Rob Cowan, human resource manager at General Dynamics Land Systems. "This relationship has resulted in connecting us with numerous qualified employees."

Travis Yelverton, the EDC's director of existing industry



Companies and prospective employees talk at the 2007 manufacturing job fair at TCC. The event has become a recruiting opportunity for area companies.

development, sees great benefit in the job fair as well.

"The continued interest that employers show by participating in the job fair reflects not only the quality of applicants, but also the quality of employment these companies contribute to our area with good wages and benefits," Yelverton said. "The manufacturing sector is a key component in the growth of our local economy."

All levels of manufacturing professionals, from students entering the workforce to veteran workers, are welcome at the job fair. Career-seeking participants should dress professionally and bring copies of a current resume. For more information, call 201-8760.

TheatreTCC! *presents*

# A Christmas Carol

November 20 – 22, 8:00 p.m.

December 4 – 6, 8:00 p.m.

**Tickets available at the door or call**

*FSU's Fine Arts Ticket Office*

**(850) 644-6500**

*www.tickets.fsu.edu*



Tallahassee Community College Turner Auditorium  
Fine & Performing Arts Center • 444 Appleyard Drive  
**www.tcc.fl.edu/theatretcc**

## Holocaust Survivor Helps Teachers Understand

“Never forget.” That’s the message holocaust survivors across the world continue to impart to younger generations. Oct. 27, one survivor helped local teachers understand the importance of spreading the “never forget” message to students. ABC 27’s David Taylor investigates.

In a Tallahassee Community College conference room, educators gathered to hear the story of Lisl Bogart. As a teenager in Czechoslovakia, Bogart was taken to the concentration camp at Terezin the Village, the Nazi’s infamously used to show the international Red Cross that genocide was not happening. Bogart escaped death on many occasions at Terezin, but the rest of her family was murdered.

“Because the hatred is still there, it’s going on all over the world. We have Darfur and other incidents where prejudice and hatred are in play. What we witnessed and what we lived through we don’t want to ever happen to anybody,” said Bogart.

“There are many different people all over the world and there are many ways we need to deal with each other and deal with problems, and to accept everybody as a human being. And everybody has a right to be here on this planet,” said Jaron Lawson, Rickards High School teacher.

As a survivor, Bogart bears witness to what hatred and prejudice can do. And, on behalf of the millions who were lost, she asks teachers to continue her work of promoting compassion and human rights and to never forget.

“Even at the elementary level it’s taught that they speak out for what’s correct, to be a good friend. And so it’s never really too early to start learning this,” said Rita Blank, Holocaust Education Resource Council.

“That’s one of the things we want to teach, we want to show them what can happen if you continue to follow the crowd, not take a stand and do the right thing it can end up with a disastrous effect,” said Allen.

To learn strategies for teaching young people about tolerance and justice and to learn more about the holocaust log on to [wtxl.tv](http://wtxl.tv) and click on the holocaust education resource council link operational starting next week.

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Apply Today!***

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or 201-6200**



## TCC Assists Gadsden County's Displaced Workers

Posted: Nov 19, 2008 01:24 PM EST

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (November 19, 2008) - A special workforce intervention fund was created on Monday, November 17, by the Tallahassee Community College District Board of Trustees in response to severe layoffs in Gadsden County.

The new initiative allows for up to \$50,000 to be allocated for a three-part proposal that offers assistance to the displaced workers. First and foremost, the College will provide access to the Quick Job Training Program at no cost to these individuals. Secondly, the program is moving towards ways to make the courses available to non-English speakers. Lastly, efforts will continue to enhance workforce preparation through GED classes and Ready to Work programs.

"We are working closely with our partners at the Gadsden County School Board, WORKFORCE plus and the Gadsden Economic Development Council to ensure that we serve as many people in an efficient and expeditious fashion," said Dr. John Chapin, TCC Vice President of Economic & Workforce Development.

In August, Tallahassee Community College launched its Quick Job Training Program as a way of offering quick and affordable training for displaced and under-employed workers in a series of in-demand jobs. From classes for health and information technology occupations to those in alternative energy and construction, the Quick Job Training Program has enjoyed tremendous success. According to TCC officials, 89 percent of those who completed their courses either retained employment or upgraded existing skills.

The next series of Quick Job Training classes is scheduled to begin in January 2009. Classes can be completed in 90 days or less, many carry national certification and each person who completes a course will be offered the Ready to Work credential as part of the package.

"Having TCC step up to assist these workers and their families is heartwarming. Watching Quincy Farms close its doors when it employs so many of our residents is difficult. At this time of year it is even harder. TCC's true sense of community is simply understated," said Gadsden County Commissioner and TCC Board of Trustee, Eugene Lamb.

The second series of Quick Job Training classes will offer courses in the following areas: Alternative Energy, Business, Construction, Health, Industrial, Information Technology and Public Safety.

For more information, including individual course dates and times, call (850) 201-8760 or log on to [www.QuickJobTCC.com](http://www.QuickJobTCC.com).

Contact:

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Tallahassee Community College

(850) 201-6085

[chaneyr@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:chaneyr@tcc.fl.edu)



## Add some new skills to that resume with one-night workshops

By Dave Hodges  
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

Just like the economic upheaval hit real estate and financial markets, now the shock wave has rattled the job market. Suddenly, you find that you know a lot of folks who are unemployed, not just a few.

And all of them will be on the hunt for new positions. If they can snare something in the same field, great. I suspect that many, however, will have to broaden their search to cover more areas. Competition is keen and anything you can do to distinguish yourself from others is a plus.

This week Tallahassee Community College announced that its popular Tech @ Night series of classes starts up Jan. 6. The one-night workshops cost \$25 and take place at each TCC campus. They cover the latest software and computer topics, so you get a chance to brush up on your skills or perhaps get an introduction to a brand-new program.

To its credit, TCC understands the dynamics of the job market and where training needs to be directed. Other workforce-development agencies in our community are dialed in to the same frequency. All their efforts will be more critical in the months ahead because workers will be searching for a way to retool in preparation for another job or maybe even a new career.

"There are significant numbers of employees who may be 'underemployed' and could benefit from upgrading technical skills through Tech @ Night to prepare them for their next career move," says John Chapin, who is vice president of TCC's Division of Economic and Workforce Development.

The next part of the course announcement caught my attention. I bet it did yours, too.

Of the 10 fastest-growing occupations in Florida, five are in the information-technology industry. Additionally, the IT industry has a projected growth rate of 7.84 percent for the period 2007-2015. The forecast is 13,440 jobs will be created over the next eight years in Florida alone.

Because of Tech @ Night's success, TCC is expanding the course offerings, based on the most sought-after skills. You can take either a single workshop or an entire series to really boost your skill level.

To sweeten the deal, TCC encourages those interested to

inquire about discounts and special pricing. And, if you register and pay for one of the eligible series of classes by Jan. 9, you get a free flash drive.

To register or view the schedule, go to [www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night). The number at TCC's Center for Economic and Workforce Development is 201-8760.

If you are one of those job hunters, I wish you success. Take advantage of every aid there is available and network constantly. Remember, someone out there is looking for a person with your skills, talent and energy.

Contact Democrat Business Editor Dave Hodges at (850) 599-2321 or [dhodges@Tallahassee.com](mailto:dhodges@Tallahassee.com).

Dave Hodges

Democrat Business Editor

## TCC offers job training for Gadsden County workers

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Trustees at Tallahassee Community College this week approved \$50,000 to be used for quick job training classes through its institution's Workforce Development Program.

The goal is to provide "short-term job specific training courses" that lasts about 90 days at no cost to those attending the classes, said John Chapin, TCC vice president of economic and workforce development.

"We're trying to help folks in Gadsden County who have lost their jobs or are going to lose their jobs," Chapin said about individuals who lost their jobs at the mushroom producer Quincy Farms.

Chapin explained that TCC will be working closely with partners of the Gadsden County School Board, Workforce Plus and the Gadsden Economic Development Council to ensure to serve as many people as possible.

"We felt that those who lost their jobs are in need," said TCC Trustee and Gadsden County Commissioner Eugene Lamb.

Lamb called TCC's initiative to help workers and their families heartwarming.

"Watching Quincy Farms close its doors when it employs so many of our residents is difficult. At this time of year, it is even harder," Lamb said.

The training is no guarantee for a job, Chapin said. But they will be training individuals for jobs in demand like heavy equipment operators, electricians and plumbers' helpers.

For more information, including individual course dates and times, call (850) 201-8760 or log on to [www.QuickJobTCC.com](http://www.QuickJobTCC.com).

Contact Angeline J. Taylor at 850-599-2382 or e-mail at [ajtaylor@tallahassee.com](mailto:ajtaylor@tallahassee.com).

## “A Christmas Carole”

Reporter: Heather Biance

Email Address: [heather.biance@wctv.tv](mailto:heather.biance@wctv.tv)

With Thanksgiving just a few days away and Christmas right around the corner, Tallahassee Community College is helping folks get into the holiday spirit.

Starting Thursday night Theatre TCC hit the stage at TCC’s Turner Auditorium with “A Christmas Carol.”

The piece captures the spirit of Christmas with a strong literary version of Charles Dickens’ timeless holiday classic.

“It really actually teaches them about how the holidays work and hot it’s not just about the money and the commercialism of Christmas but the spirit of Christmas over all and the good feeling everybody has towards each other,” says “A Christmas Carol” Director, Krystof Kage.

You can catch this production Friday and Saturday and December 4th through the 6th at 8 p-m.

For more information about this play, go to [www.tcc.fl.edu/theatretcc](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/theatretcc)



## Hundreds of People Show Up Looking for Employment

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

Tallahassee Community College held its 3rd annual manufacturing job fair Thursday, November 20th, to help students and people in the community find employment.

Organizers say hundreds have shown up this year, which is a record turnout. And they say the tough economic times are to blame.

"It has been very difficult because of the economy and also a lot of other factors as well. With a lot of the companies that are laying off people on a daily basis, I think it's making it even harder for people to find employment right now," said Monica Melton, who is looking for a job.

"Pretty worried. It's kind of hard. I've actually already got two jobs right now. And I still need another one just to stay up on my bills," said John Rozofsky, a TCC student who is graduating this semester.

People looking for employment say a job fair is a great way to meet employers on a more personal level and take the edge off a one-on-one interview.

## TCC student to be in DC for inauguration

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Danny Wagner, 19, has what people all over the country are seeking — an invitation to festivities for the presidential inauguration in January.

Wagner received his invitation back in March — long before Barack Obama became President-elect. He took part in the National Leadership Forum while he was a junior in high school and applied to take part in a conference for the inauguration. The conference will be one of many going on in the nation's capital.

According to the National Youth Leadership Forum Web site, the non-profit was founded as an “independent, educational organization established to help prepare extraordinary young people for their professional careers.”

As a inauguration conference attendee, Wagner will get to hear keynote speakers like Lance Armstrong and Colin Powell. He isn't sure if he will get a chance to meet the President-Elect. However, the whole reason Wagner wanted to apply for the conference was to get a step-up on his future.

Wagner, a Marine reservist, hopes to one day work in intelligence for the federal government.

“I wanted to network and make an impression,” he said about his plans for the conference.

The statement perfectly describes Wagner's personality, said his mother. Ginny Wagner, a teacher of dental hygiene at Tallahassee Community College. She said her son is one who chisels at a goal until it is achieved. But he's no Type-A personality, she said.

He's learned how to be a “servant” after taking care of his ailing father — the late Bob Wagner “and it still hasn't held him back from doing what he wants to do,” Ginny Wagner said.

Wagner became an Eagle Scout as a 10th grader at Leon High School.

“He's very steady — consistent,” his mother said. “He was really excited when the invitation came.”



Danny Wagner, 19 (SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT)

## College Students Travel to International Conference

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

8 students from Tallahassee Community College were invited to China to attend the National Model United Nations conference.

This conference exposes students to international negotiations and cross- cultural communication.

“United Nations is important in international politics and also the relations between countries. So we are trying to emphasize the peaceful relations between those countries in China with Chinese students and international students,” said Bugra Demirel, the TCC Model United Nations president.

“It’s the best opportunity possible to push college students together, and get them working with one another. Something that I never had the opportunity to do and many of us never had the opportunity to do. We never foresaw this possibility,” said Richard Murgo, the Program Chair of Economics and Political Science.

Students from TCC’s Model UN program leave Saturday morning, November 22nd and return December 3rd.

This is the first international venue for the program.

11 colleges are participating in the conference, 3 are from the U.S. and TCC is the only community college attending.

## TCC charms with beloved 'Christmas Carol'

By Kati Schardl  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

You'd have to be an icy-hearted curmudgeon indeed to remain immune to the cheery charm of the TheatreTCC! production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

At Tuesday's preview performance, watching the play was akin to drawing up a big, comfy chair to the fire and listening to the beloved tale of the haunting of Ebenezer Scrooge for the very first time. Much of that delicious thrill is due to the theatrical adaptation of Dickens' 1843 novella by A. Thomas Cavano. Cavano has lifted chunks of Dickens' spry prose directly from the book, and it may come as a surprise to those who've never actually read the "ghostly little book" that aims to "raise the Ghost of an Idea" how warm, funny and moving the original is.

Some adaptations have erred on the side of sentimentality, which most likely would have appalled the august author. His aim was to celebrate the dignity, resilience and compassion of the human spirit, and also to gently prick the public conscience regarding the less fortunate members of Victorian society. Dickens was never mawkish and didn't seek to glorify poverty. He simply gave the humbler characters in his tales a wealth of inner strength and good humor that made them appealing and real.

Director Krystof Kage has taken the same approach with his actors, who brought a wealth of good cheer to the endeavor on Tuesday night. Assistant director Derek Nieves was a treat as Dickens, who served as an omniscient narrator for the action onstage.

As the crusty old miser Scrooge, Landon Hughes complained and muttered "Bah, humbug" with crabby conviction, which made his eventual transformation even more wondrous. Caleb Thomas was a wonderful, fresh-faced Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's much put-upon and abused clerk.

The spirits that haunted the old man were fantastic in appearance and delivery, from Joshua Bradt as Scrooge's departed partner Jacob Marley to Ashley Cohen as the lovely, ethereal Ghost of Christmas Past to Patrick Vaughan as the jolly Ghost of Christmas Present to Krissy Kosec as the spectral Ghost of Christmas Future.

And adorable Nicolas Nelson's Tiny Tim brought a lump to the throat and a tear to the eye when he piped the story's iconic line — "God bless us, every one!" — from his perch on his papa's shoulder.

Ken Fredrickson's ingenious set is a nice slice of Victorian London and is beautifully lit by Dan Porten. Crystal Nelson's

## IN THE **Limelight**



The ghost of Jacob Marley, played by Joshua Bradt, left, confronts Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Landon Hughes, in the TheatreTCC! production of "A Christmas Carol." (Caroline V. Sturtz/Special to the Democrat)

costumes are colorful and period-appropriate, and the incidental music is exceedingly well-chosen.

After this weekend's opening performances, the production will take a break for Thanksgiving before staging its final performances Dec. 4 through 6 — just in time to kindle the holiday spirit in us, every one.

Find out about other family-friendly holiday-oriented activities and chat about your favorite "Christmas Carol" memories in the Moms Like Me online forums.

Additional Facts  
if you go

What: "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, adapted by A. Thomas Cavano.

When: 8 p.m. today and Saturday; more performances are scheduled for Dec. 4-6.

Where: TCC's Turner Auditorium on Appleyard Drive.

Cost: Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens, \$5 for non-TCC students and children, free for TCC students with valid IDs, and free plus one for TCC faculty and staff.

Contact: Call 644-6500 or visit [www.tickets.fsu.edu](http://www.tickets.fsu.edu).

## High Turn Out At TCC Job Fair

Tallahassee Community College tries to help out the unemployed. TCC hosted a manufacturing job fair to help businesses find employees.

10 businesses were on hand. The job fair organizers were hoping for 300 job seekers, but by noon they had already reached that number. Job seekers say in this tough economy, having a lot of businesses in one place is a big help.

“As of today it’s very hard for the simple fact that the job market is really slow and when you have an opportunity like this to be able to come to one central location to get a job, I think it’s great,” said Marvin Perry, job seeker.

TCC held this job fair last year and hopes to make it an annual event.



## TCC Increases Scholarship Opportunities for Students

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

Students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are commonly referred to as “STEM” professions.

To help fuel students’ interest in these types of profession, the National Science Foundation awarded TCC with a \$460,000 grant.

“It helps us to sort of develop a relationship with the other schools that will be seeking those individuals going into those areas. It also helps us to increase the number of minorities that’s going into that area. So it can actually start with them when they’re coming in from high school into their freshman year,” said Wilbert Butler, the STEM Star Program Director.

Through the grant, 27 scholarships were awarded this year to students known as STEM Stars.

These students can also receive additional help through special orientation classes and internship opportunities.

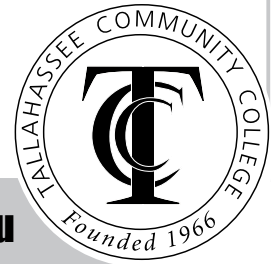
Volume 5  
Issue 2

# MAKE **TCC** YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR COLLEGE

*Attend Eagle Preview to learn more about TCC admissions, financial aid, career planning, degree programs and more!*

**February 3**  
**March 17**

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
*in the TCC Student Union Ballroom*



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

(850) 201-8555

[admissions@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:admissions@tcc.fl.edu)

## Colleges Prepare for New G.I. Bill

Reporter: Blaine Tolison

Email Address: [blaine.tolison@wctv.tv](mailto:blaine.tolison@wctv.tv)

With 2009 right around the corner, colleges are already gearing up for new G.I. Bill for post 9-11 veterans. In 2007, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs said more than 500,000 veterans used the current G-I Bill for education assistance.

The NEW G.I. Bill, going into affect in August of 2009, is said to have an improved package of educational benefits and more. Schools such as Tallahassee Community College say they are answering questions about the bill on a daily basis.

Delorise Robinson, with T.C.C.'s Veterans Affairs Department said, "The interest is there, but we don't have the full facts yet and until we get those facts in, the only thing we can tell them that it is coming and it is going to be a better bill than some of the G.I. bills that they're on now."

For information on the New G.I. Bill just click the convenient link to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs below.



# Big Bend leaders coordinate assistance for Quincy Farms employees

*Area readies for Quincy Farms layoffs*

By Will Brown  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The first 19 employees laid off by Quincy Farms will be departing in the coming days and the region is bracing for that impact, as indicated by a Monday meeting to determine what resources are available for displaced employees and their families.

More than two dozen people with backgrounds in workforce and economic development, government and social services met to plan the assistance.

“Our goal is to make sure we’re on the front line, information is available and individuals can access resources as needed,” said Kim Moore, CEO of Workforce Plus.

Nearly 92 percent of the 490 people who will be laid off in the next 60 days live in Gadsden County, which is why the push for regional collaboration was so great. And, because nearly two-thirds are Hispanic, there was an emphasis that services — or information about services — be disseminated in English and Spanish.

By the end of the week, a survey detailing the needs of the affected employees will be complete, as well as a list of the services to be made available.

David Gardner, executive director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce, has said that losing 500 jobs will be devastating to Gadsden County, but it’s important to seek replacement companies to diffuse the blow of losing the county’s biggest business, a mushroom growing and packing company.

On Monday, Gardner said the chamber is continuing to gather information about the land and building in the event another business is interested in purchasing the property.

“The attitude from Sylvan is it will be an asset sale,” Gardner said of the company that owns Quincy Farms. “We are looking at any and all opportunities, including mushrooms or agribusiness.”

Many ideas were bandied about during the 55-minute meeting, but one of the most concrete is the Quick Job Training program at Tallahassee Community College. John Chapin, TCC vice president of economic and workforce development, said the \$50,000 allocated specifically for former Quincy Farms employees may help the training program develop courses in Spanish.

“It’s exactly what we planned for when we started this program a year ago,” Chapin said about helping displaced workers. “We’re really pleased that we have some opportunity for people to get trained.”

Contact business reporter Will Brown at (850) 599-2312 or [wbrown@Tallahassee.com](mailto:wbrown@Tallahassee.com). For information on the assistance services, send an e-mail to [wfp@wfplus.org](mailto:wfp@wfplus.org).

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## Enrollment Up at Florida's Community Colleges

Reporter: John Rogers

Email Address: john.rogers@wctv.tv

College experts say across Florida, enrollment in community colleges increased 7.5% this year.

At Tallahassee Community College, enrollment shot up 2%, and officials say the economy takes much of the credit.

TCC President Dr. Bill Law says, "The biggest spikes in community college enrollment tends to be when people come back to us for additional training in tough times, so its not unanticipated but of course, we expect there will be more of it going forward."

Affordability may be another push.

Governor Crist has backed a plan to raise tuition at Florida's public universities by as much as 15% per year.

But, Tallahassee Community College plans to raise tuition only five percent a year.

## A human toll

*Our out-of-work neighbors need a hand*

In this government town where our universities and state agencies keep our work force relatively stable if not wealthy, some people, unbelievably, have yet to realize that many of our smaller private businesses and self-employed people are struggling — with little relief in sight.

Our historic insulation is gone; locally our unemployment figures are among the highest the Big Bend has ever seen, said Kim Moore of Workforce Plus.

In Leon County, unemployment is now at 4.9 percent; Wakulla's at 5.2 percent; Jefferson's at 5.5 percent; and Gadsden's at 6.8 percent. All the numbers are at least 2 percentage points higher than a year ago.

Talented men and women who labor in the building trades, for example, are depending on an economic turnaround that doesn't seem to be on the horizon. Employees of small businesses — stores, services, restaurants that are having to cut expenses — are anxious, even if employed for the time being, to see what the new year holds.

The biggest single job-loss strike has occurred in Gadsden County, where the first of 19 employees of Quincy Farms, which produces 15 million to 20 million pounds of mushrooms annually, are being laid off in the next few days.

A total of 490 people will be laid off in all by Sylvan Inc., which owns Quincy Farms and is shutting down entirely in January. Though the company is trying to get people through the holidays, according to executive vice president Dan Lucovich, he said the decision to end production there has been "extremely hard."

We appreciate the work that Tallahassee Community College is doing now, investing \$50,000 in a quick-job training courses through its Workforce Development Program. It will develop courses in Spanish with the Gadsden County workers in mind. And while there are no job guarantees, individuals will be trained for in-demand jobs like heavy equipment operators, electricians and plumbers' helpers.

Coordinating with Workforce Plus, TCC and other organizations may help soften the blow and the transition for those who will be seeking other work in this region, including nearby towns such as Cairo, Ga., where a good many Hispanic workers are employed in a large commercial nursery, manufacturing and regional food distribution plants.

The human fallout is brutal; more so because our economy had been so strong for quite some time. It seems hard to imagine now, but for many years, the capital city has had the reputation of being uninterested in growth.

But growth has always been fundamentally about creating jobs. Good jobs quite simply help people organize their lives so they can feed, clothe and educate their children, maintain a home and, in turn, support and give back to their community.

Of course you want growth that sustains itself; that is, we don't want to kill the goose that lays the golden egg — here that means the beauty and quality of life and environment that draw and hold people.

But we are now finding out that fighting growth is a luxury battle. It's what you do when money is flowing and the comfort level is high; not when things turn around — as invariably they do in all matters.

Now we struggle not to grow, but to sustain. Each other.

## Number of students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, math on the rise

Democrat Staff Reporter

The number of students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics –commonly referred to as STEM professions – is on the rise.

Through a grant awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Tallahassee Community College is fueling students' interest in STEM professions by offering an increasing number of scholarship opportunities.

In 2006, the NSF awarded TCC a \$460,000 grant to help increase the STEM workforce by recruiting, mentoring and supporting academically talented but financially disadvantaged students.

Scholarship recipients must plan to earn either an Associate of Arts degree with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in a STEM area or an Associate of Science degree in a STEM area followed by plans to enter the workforce. Through the NSF grant, TCC can also partner with employers to facilitate job placement for its students.

Return to [Tallahassee.com](http://Tallahassee.com) for more details.

## Project Annie Donation

Reporter: Krystin Goodwin

Email Address: krystin.goodwin@wctv.tv

Students of Tallahassee Community College are giving back to the Tallahassee community in light of Turkey Day.

They brought donations for their "Project Annie" contribution Wednesday morning.

Students from TCC's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy gave the donations in French town Wednesday morning.

TCC faculty members say the Basic Recruit class chooses one community project a year to participate in, and this year they chose to help out Annie Johnson.

Every year Johnson cooks a dinner for those in need to make sure everyone has a holiday feast.

Students and faculty unloaded turkeys, hams and canned foods in time for Annie to prepare for the big day.

"We won't be there when she actually serves the food, but we will know when we're sitting with our families, work, or wherever we are on Thanksgiving Day, that we helped somebody less fortunate than we," said Corrections Coordinator, Andrea Blalcok.

Organizers say this year's project has been one of the most rewarding experiences.

Miss Annie says she will work all night on the feast.

She will begin distributing the goodies on Thanksgiving morning at 11 o'clock.

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### CAPITAL CAMPUSES

Florida State University offers 41,000 students more than 300 degree programs. Its arts offerings — music, dance, film, and theater — rank among the finest in the world. And as you might expect at a school with the "Flying High Circus," campus life is festive and friendly.

Across town is Florida A&M University, a historically black college that opened in 1887. Today, it's the nation's No. 1 producer of bachelor's degrees among black students. The school is also famous for its Marching "100" band.

Tallahassee Community College aims to meet workforce needs. Next year, it will open its Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center to train students in electronics technology and alternative energy technology. — *Julie Hatfield*

## TCC scholarships fuel interest in 'STEM' professions

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Twenty-seven students have received scholarships this year as part of the growing popularity of what Tallahassee Community College officials call the STEM professions.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The students received the scholarships with the help of a \$460,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that was initially awarded to TCC in 2006. However, program organizers hope that they can increase the number of scholarships from this year's 27 students to 40 for the fall 2009 semester. The deadline to submit applications is May 1.

"TCC is fueling students' interest in STEM professions by offering an increasing number of scholarship opportunities," said TCC Communications Specialist Rob Chaney.

Scholarship recipients who meet course and grade requirements can receive the \$2,500 award for up to two years. They also receive support through orientation classes, guest lecturers and internship opportunities. Chaney said this year's recipients are studying marine biology, environmental science, forensic science, math, computer, biomedical and chemical engineering and graphic design.

Sixteen of the 27 students are from the Big Bend area, Chaney said.

"The majority of the students are in engineering," said Wilbert Butler Jr., STEM Star Program Director. Butler said last year quite a few of the STEM "stars" had internships.

"Seven (students) had internships last year, which is really uncommon for a two-year school," Butler said.

The program will renew next school year and award about 40 STEM scholarships, he said.

Scholarship recipients must plan to earn either an associate of arts degree with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in a STEM area or an associate of science degree in a STEM area followed by plans to enter the work force. Through the NSF grant, TCC can also partner with employers to facilitate job placement for students.

For more information contact Butler at 201-8114 or e-mail [butlerw@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:butlerw@tcc.fl.edu).



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## TCC giving 'budgeted employees' a pay raise

*Increase will amount to \$750 or 2.5 percent, whichever is higher*

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Tallahassee Community College employees will receive a 2.5-percent raise or \$750 salary increase — whichever is higher, President Bill Law said.

Trustees unanimously approved for all "budgeted employees" to receive the increase before the Christmas holidays. However, there was some concern that faculty increases would be even higher. Law is negotiating with faculty about making salaries more "market competitive" — an issue that didn't originally sit well with one trustee.

"You have a different set of rules for the faculty than you do for staff and others," said trustee Bill Hebrock. "It's not a one-time deal for the faculty. But it is a one-time deal for the people who make less around here."

Law explained that two years ago he and his administrative team did the same pay increase for non-faculty employees. Now, the tables have turned and faculty will likely receive more of an increase due to negotiations with administrators, Law said.

"We are handling people differently," Law said. "I don't think anyone is being handled wrongly or rightly. I think we have different conditions of employment. I'm trying to do the right thing."

Hebrock said he supported the increase. He wondered if non-faculty members would be concerned that they were treated unfairly.

Contact Angeline J. Taylor at 850-599-2382 or e-mail at [ajtaylor@tallahassee.com](mailto:ajtaylor@tallahassee.com).

## Local College Students Create Computer Games

Reporter: Tara Herrschaft

Email Address: tara.herrschaft@wctv.tv

For 16 weeks several students at Tallahassee Community College have been learning how to design and create their own computer game.

The students learned all the basic core concepts in the first class of its kind at TCC.

And Thursday, December 4th, their peers, faculty and staff got a chance to test it out.

“You know you don’t think of yourself as like a game designer, it’s just kind of you know, what I did. I’m just kind of speechless right now I guess is the best word to say,” said Adam Brown, a TCC student who made his own game.

“We had a careful planning process which I think helped produce these games and they went from there. They went wildly beyond my expectations, I’m very very proud of them,” said Stephanie Spike, the Computer Technology Assistant Professor at TCC.

Since the class is a special topics class, it’s offered as a web- based program next semester, but it may not be offered in the future. It all depends on demand.

## TCC's Tech @ Night classes begin Jan. 6

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

Tech @ Night, Tallahassee Community College's innovative information technology training series, will begin its 2009 schedule of classes Jan. 6 at the college's Capitol Center.

Other offerings begin at TCC's main campus Jan. 13, the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Jan. 26, the Quincy House Jan. 15, and the Wakulla Center Jan. 2.

Tech @ Night's spring classes will continue through June 30.

Since its launch at the TCC Capitol Center in September 2007, Tech @ Night has become a popular choice for residents of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties who seek short-term, one-night training sessions in multimedia, current software and upcoming computer technologies. Customized, instructor-led workshops provide basic to intermediate level training in such popular programs as Photoshop, DreamWeaver, QuickBooks and SharePoint Designer, in addition to Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007.

"There are significant numbers of employees who may be 'underemployed' and could benefit from upgrading technical skills through Tech @ Night to prepare them for their next career move," said Dr. John Chapin, vice president of TCC's Division of Economic and Workforce Development.

Of the 10 fastest growing occupations in Florida, five are in the IT industry. Additionally, the IT industry has a projected growth rate of 7.84 percent for the period 2007-2015. It is anticipated that 13,440 jobs will be created over the next eight years in Florida alone, according to TCC.

Due to Tech @ Night's success, TCC continues to expand course offerings, based on the most sought after skills. Participants can take either a single workshop or an entire series to gain the necessary skills.

"This program offers something for everyone," said Beverly Smith, Tech @ Night coordinator. "It's for the individual who wants to learn more about computers, the employer who wants to upgrade employee skills and the employee who wants to improve skills for a current or future job."

Individual classes are \$25 per session. The College is also offering a special promotion for designated series of classes. Participants who register and pay for one of the eligible series of classes by Jan. 9 will receive a free flash drive.

To register or view a copy of the complete spring schedule, visit [www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/tech@night). For additional details, call TCC's Center for Economic and Workforce Development at 201-8760.

## \$100K TCC Grant

Reporter: Lanetra Bennett

Email Address: lanetra.bennett@wctv.tv

Officials at Tallahassee Community College are financially assisting older students who may not have the opportunity to begin or complete their post secondary education.

Texas Guaranteed (TG) Public Benefit Grant Program, a philanthropic initiative of TG, awarded a \$100,000 grant to TCC.

The funding will aid nontraditional and adult learners from low-to-moderate-income families who are at least 24 years old.

TCC Director of Financial Aid Bill Spiers said, "This is an opportunity to get them back into the system and help them to fulfill dreams and to help them fulfill what's needed for them to progress to the next level."

The goal is to establish a pilot program at TCC for nontraditional learners by awarding at least one hundred scholarships of up to \$2,000 each.

Anyone who think they are eligible should check with TCC's website regularly at [www.tcc.fl.edu](http://www.tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC Foundation Receives \$100,000 Grant to Advance Nontraditional/Adult Learners Success

For those interested in starting or continuing a college career, listen up!

The TG Corporation has awarded Tallahassee Community College 100 thousand dollars in federal grant money. TCC will use the windfall to fund scholarships for non-traditional students, defined as students who are over 24-years old, from low income families.

TALLAHASSEE, Florida - [December 8, 2008] - Texas Guaranteed (TG) Public Benefit Grant Program, a philanthropic initiative of TG, awarded \$100,000 to the Tallahassee Community College Foundation to help fund efforts that will lead to greater student success in preparing for and earning a college degree.

To qualify for the award, TCC declared its intent to use grant funding to improve access to, or participation in, postsecondary education, college retention and student success, with a special emphasis on the project's benefit to nontraditional/adult learners who are from low- to moderate-income families and are at least 24 years old.

"The goal of this project is to improve access to postsecondary education by establishing a pilot program at TCC to assist nontraditional/adult learners by awarding at least 100 scholarships of up to \$2,000 each," said Dr. Bill Law, TCC President. "TG's generous investment will have a strong, positive influence on the education of these students, and the enrichment of our community."

TG's support will be matched by TCC and will double the amount available for scholarship awards to \$200,000 over a two-year period.

"Our nation's future depends on our ability to inspire students to achieve all that they're capable of accomplishing," said Sue McMillin, president and CEO of TG, a Texas-based, nonprofit corporation that provides federal student loan guarantees to help ensure access to higher education for millions of students across the country each year. "We're pleased that TG can help change the future for individual students, families and society as a whole by providing funds for the TCC program for nontraditional/adult learners."

The TCC Foundation is one of 53 nonprofit organizations selected for funding. Overall, TG awarded more than \$5.6 million for projects in 2008-2009.

TCC will provide support services to scholarship recipients to



strengthen their academic success. Each recipient will meet with a TCC adviser to develop an Individualized Learning Plan that identifies the student's academic goals and an effective strategy to achieve these goals. Each student's progress will be tracked through TCC's innovative student portal system, and the student will also be enrolled in TCC's College Success course, which nearly doubles a student's chances of graduation according to the College's research.

Scholarship recipients must be 24 years of age and older and have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) over \$4,140 for the Federal Pell Grant and Florida Student Assistance Grant eligibility. Students who are interested should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to have their EFC determined. TCC will begin giving eligible students awards beginning with the Spring 2009 semester that starts in January.

Further information about the new scholarship program may be obtained by contacting Angela Isaac, TCC Scholarship Coordinator, at isaaca@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-8411.

### About TG:

TG is a public, nonprofit corporation that helps create access to higher education for millions of families and students through its role as an administrator of the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Its vision is to be the premier source of information, financing and assistance to help all families and students realize their educational and career dreams. Additional information about TG can be found online at [www.tgslc.org](http://www.tgslc.org).



# TCC In Wakulla



**Dr. Mary Wolfgang**  
Director of Ecotourism Institute

December is a time for celebrating, for giving, and for remembering. The True Meaning of Christmas provides clear reasons to celebrate, to remember and to give. Even in our workday lives, we can celebrate, remember and give. In this month of December, the TCC Wakulla Center will be celebrating, remembering and giving in some special ways.

**Celebrating.** The Green Guide Certification Program will be celebrating its 5th graduation on December 7, 2008 at 2 PM at the TCC Wakulla Center. Another dozen persons who love our local natural beauty will complete their 90 hour program and will provide brief

presentations on the businesses they will build or on the satisfying ways that they will use the knowledge they have gained. The public is invited to attend.

**Remembering.** Green Guides will be remembering Wakulla County's own Buddy Page this December. Buddy was a 5th generation Wakulla County native, graduate of the first green guide class and the first president of the Florida Green Guide Association. (top left in photo) This time last year he was celebrating life with his fellow green guides but in January, he suffered an untimely death. In remembrance of Buddy, his family, friends and fellow green guides contributed to a scholarship fund in his name. This December, two scholarships to the Spring Green Guide Program will be awarded in Buddy's name. To apply for the scholarships, go to [www.tcc.fl.edu/greenguides](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/greenguides) or email [Wakullacenter@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:Wakullacenter@tcc.fl.edu) or call 850-922-6290 to get the application form.

**Giving.** A scholarship to the green guide program is one form of giving that the TCC Wakulla Center will be practicing this December. We would also encourage you to give a gift of nature to



your family and friends provided by a Certified Green Guide, such as a special kayak or fishing trip, a guided hiking or biking tour, nature-themed pottery, photography, or watercolors, this holiday season. For local sources of such natural treats go to [www.tcc.fl.edu/greenguides](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/greenguides) or email [Wakullacenter@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:Wakullacenter@tcc.fl.edu) or call 850-922-6290.

The TCC Wakulla Center wishes you a very happy holiday season this December, as you celebrate, remember and give in your own lives. ▲▲▲

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## TCC Ends Fall Semester With a Surge in Spring Enrollment

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (December 12, 2008) –As of Friday, December 12 more than 10,600 students have already registered for the upcoming Spring semester, with course enrollments that are running 6.4% ahead of the same period last year.

Dr. Bill Law, TCC's President said, "Across the state, community college enrollment continues to grow, especially in the face of severe economic times. While we at TCC remain firmly committed to keeping the open door open, I have some concerns about being able to meet individual needs as we get to the start of the semester in January. We're working diligently to create flexible class schedules – including greatly expanded online course offerings - which maximize opportunities for students to attend class, but growth at this level will challenge even our best efforts. My guidance is to register now if you plan to attend TCC in the spring."

The College is open next week from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with advising sessions available and the Admissions Office prepared to help with the enrollment process.

While the College is closed December 20 through January 4, perspective students may apply for admissions online and TCC students may continue to register for classes online.

Classes for the spring semester begin January 7. For more information call (850) 201-8555 or log on to [GoToTCC.com](http://GoToTCC.com).

## SCORE chapter is planned for Tallahassee

By Dave Hodges  
DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

Jelly bean maker Jelly Belly Candy Co., Vera Bradley Designs and the Vermont Teddy Bear Co. all have something in common — a SCORE volunteer counselor helped them out on their way to success.

Since the Service Corps of Retired Executives was started in 1964, more than 8 million business owners have received such assistance. Plans are taking shape right now to make SCORE services available here in Tallahassee.

Recently, Bob Sheppard from the Orlando SCORE chapter helped establish a steering committee to serve the Tallahassee area. The effort is being directed through the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Tallahassee program. The local chapter will be responsible for finding members who'd like to be counselors and for promoting the program.

SCORE is unique in that it offers a resource that entrepreneurs might not otherwise have: the knowledge of another experienced business owner.

Maybe you have thought about being a mentor. If so, here's your chance to share your success with others. SCORE volunteers will be having free business counseling sessions and workshops that will be free or at a very low cost. As a SCORE counselor you'll share your real-world expertise through confidential one-to-one mentoring and team counseling. You might also provide online counseling directly from your home or office.

Remember, too, that small firms are the essence of our local business economy. The better they perform and the more success they have, the more the community benefits.

The plan is for SCORE counselors and members to have the chapter based at Tallahassee Community College. As a partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE provides aspiring entrepreneurs and established small business owners and nonprofit organizations an accessible network of individuals with real-world knowledge.

If you're interested or you want to explore this further, plan on attending the organizational meeting set for 1-4 p.m. Monday at TCC in the Economic and Workforce Development Building, Room 207. Contact Sunny Phillips at [sunnyphillips@comcast.net](mailto:sunnyphillips@comcast.net) or Bruce Prevatt at [bprevatt@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:bprevatt@admin.fsu.edu) to RSVP. SCORE's Web site is [www.score.org](http://www.score.org).

Contact Democrat Business Editor Dave Hodges at (850) 599-2321 or [dhodges@Tallahassee.com](mailto:dhodges@Tallahassee.com).

Dave Hodges

Democrat Business Editor

## Campus Notes

### TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### **Health care grads pinned:**

Graduating students in Tallahassee Community College's health care programs participated in pinning ceremonies this week, symbolizing the completion of their respective program. On Wednesday, seven students graduated as part of the college's first diagnostic medical sonography class. TCC handed out the following awards: Veronica Benjamin — Clinical Award; Janet Byrd, Amber Crum, Maria Dorman — Academic Award; Ruth Joiner, Sheila Jones and Mariam Turley. Pinning ceremonies were also held for TCC's radiologic technology program on Wednesday. The following students were recognized: Melvin Adams, Elizabeth Baker, Tammy Garcia-Urena, Sharley Hevner, Nakesha Houston, Samantha Johnson-Person, Meyer Lauren, Brandi Pearson, Steven Pearson, Chase Peavy and Cheryl Porgal.

#### **Nursing graduates 30:**

On Thursday evening, the TCC nursing program graduated 30 students and handed out the following awards: Louise Weyler leadership award, presented by Archbold Memorial Hospital to Billie Duncan; bedside award to Marcus Fountain and Amanda Folsom Miles; professional colleague to Sarah Creel and Colleen Cahill Murray; highest GPA (on nursing courses) to Jolan Cruzado.

#### **Fire academy graduates fourth class:**

Members of the Tallahassee Fire Academy's fourth class are in the midst of 450 hours of course instruction. Celebrating the spirit of the holiday season, Tallahassee Fire Academy Class 004 is supporting the United States Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots campaign. On Friday, members of the class purchased more than \$700 of toys from The Learning Express, in the Killlearn Shopping Center, 3491 Thomasville Road. The class will also present checks to The Children's Burn Camp of North Florida and the Tallahassee Community College Foundation.

## DOE grant aims for higher ground

*Money will help Big Bend students prepare for post-secondary education*

By Angeline J. Taylor  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Students from low-income families who are interested in going to college just received help courtesy of a federal grant awarded to Florida's Department of Education.

The \$18 million grant is to provide students in sixth through 12th grades with early college awareness and preparation activities in 10 schools throughout Leon, Gadsden and Jefferson counties. The program is known as the Gear Up Grant and it's designed to expose students to advanced-placement and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes.

"It's going to help prepare students to enter or succeed in some type of postsecondary education," said Iris Wilson, the Florida Department of Education's deputy chancellor of student achievement.

Wilson serves as the program's project director. She said the competitive grant received for the Gear Up Program is considered a flagship program of the U.S. Department of Education.

"Postsecondary instruction is an essential component for success in today's highly competitive global marketplace," said Florida Education Commissioner Eric Smith. "The Gear Up grant will help build dreams and provide the means for students to consider a college education."

Wilson added that the project will be implemented through partnerships with several institutions, including Florida State and Florida A&M universities and Tallahassee Community College. The area schools that will take part in the project are FAMU Developmental High, Rickards High and Nims Middle schools in Leon County; Jefferson Middle/High School in Jefferson Co. and Carter-Parramore, Shanks Middle, Havana Middle, East Gadsden High and West Gadsden High schools in Gadsden County.

## Dems want Sansom to come clean

*Sunshine Law may have been violated in school dealings*

Jim Ash

News Journal capital bureau

TALLAHASSEE — Democrats turned up the heat Monday on Republican House Speaker Ray Sansom, demanding that he answer questions about taking a \$110,000-a-year job at Northwest Florida State College after steering more than \$30 million to his alma mater over the past two years.

House Democratic leader Franklin Sands ended his silence with a polite but firm press release.

“Our caucus members are troubled by news accounts that suggest the normal and open budget procedures may not have been followed in some circumstances in the last two years,” Sands said. “We do not aim to embarrass a colleague. But we think the speaker should address these reports. If left to fester, the allegations may cast a haze over the Legislature and its work.”

It came in the wake of the latest revelations in a weekend story by the Miami Herald/St. Petersburg Times. Citing House e-mail, the papers reported that Sansom worked behind the scenes with Northwest Florida State College President Bob Richburg to suppress public attendance at a meeting between lawmakers and the school’s board of trustees.

Like many of his colleagues whose legislative fate rests in Sansom’s hands, Sands has previously declined to comment on the controversy.

Sansom last year was speaker designate and the powerful House budget chairman when he quietly increased a \$1 million construction appropriation for the school to \$25 million. On the same day Sansom was officially installed as speaker, the college announced his new vice president’s job.

A spokeswoman for Sansom did not respond to requests for an interview. Richburg said earlier this month that there was no quid pro quo and that the job offer could not have been discussed at the time because the opening only occurred after the legislative session.

Sansom, who has a master’s degree in education, is qualified for the job, Richburg said.

Sansom and Richburg also pushed a controversial bill that expanded the ability of community colleges to offer four-year degrees.

The bill put Northwest Florida State College and two others at the center of a pilot program. Six other community colleges, including Edison Community College in Fort Myers, eventually joined in. Not all colleges were convinced it was a good idea.

Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law said Monday that he attended a March 13 meeting with Sansom and a handful of other presidents, but was not interested in joining the pilot program.

TCC students already have easy access to Florida State University, and Law still thinks it’s a better idea for his school to stick to its core mission.

“It’s a little unfortunate about the controversy because it’s a worthy policy discussion,” Law said.

Pensacola Junior College former president Tom Delano also did not support the idea and did not attend the meeting, said Martin Gonzalez, an interim vice president. Recently, the school began considering whether to offer a baccalaureate degree in its nursing program, Gonzalez said.

“We hate to see something like that questioned because of what has happened at one institution,” he said.

## Boyd welcomes tone being set by Obama

By Eun Kyung Kim  
DEMOCRAT WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama has promised to go through the budget of each federal agency with a fine-tooth comb, and that gets fiscal conservatives like Rep. Allen Boyd excited.

In fact, pledges made by the incoming administration remind him of the last time a Democrat occupied the White House.

“The Clinton administration went in and cut every agency there was. Government spending actually declined. Most people have forgotten that, but the numbers speak for themselves,” said Boyd, a Monticello Democrat. “When you cut spending, you gain the confidence of the American people that you’ve got an efficient government doing what it’s supposed to be doing and doing it well.”

Boyd expressed optimism that Obama will set a tone in Washington that will encourage cooperation and productivity from both parties in Congress.

“We didn’t have that in the last two years, when we’ve had a divided government,” he said, referring to the Republican White House and the Democrat-controlled Congress. That shows, he said.

Congress is wrapping up a year that will be most remembered for the numerous financial bailout packages and a dearth of any other type of bill.

Federal lawmakers began the year on an optimistic note, supporting legislation intended to stimulate the economy through rebate checks to taxpayers. However, recipients failed to spend the extra money as hoped, forcing Congress into rescue mode, first trying to save struggling homeowners, then the financial industry and finally, domestic automobile makers.

Although he considered the bill flawed, Boyd voted for a historic \$700 billion measure to rescue the financial sector. However, he opposed a \$14 billion loan package for the nation’s top three automakers.

“You’ve got an industry getting waxed by competitors around the world, because their cost of production and what they’re producing is different from what it should be. And the market’s got to work that out for them, not the government,” he said.

Although critics have described the congressional year as long on bailouts and short on any other type of bill, Boyd touted

several House accomplishments that affected North Florida, including:

\$8.5 million in appropriations for various military-related research projects conducted by Florida State University.

\$12.4 million for similar national defense-related projects at Florida A&M University.

\$11.6 million for the construction of a new Air Control Squadron Operations Training Complex at Tyndall Air Force Base.

\$800,000 million for Tallahassee Community College to establish a Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Center. Boyd acknowledged Congress punted other big-ticket budget items such as health care and Social Security issues to the next year.

Also ahead: A decision on whether Boyd will run for the Senate seat that will be vacated by U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez, an Orlando Republican.

Boyd said he enjoys being a congressman, particularly for a region where generations of his family grew up and where he represents “people I’ve known for all my life.”

But he said he also feels compelled to pursue public service to a further level.

“That’s a decision I have to make now — where is the best platform to do that,” he said. “Is it to stay in the U.S. House of Representatives, where we have worked for 12 years . . . or do we go into the smaller body, with only 100 members, start all over in terms of pecking order and move up.”

Boyd said he and his wife, Cissy, will use the holidays to make a decision. He expects to make an announcement in January.

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## TCC bids a fond farewell to beloved Anweiler

*Athletic director taking different position at Northern Virginia CC*

By David Sáez  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

As athletic directors go, Brian Anweiler hardly fits the description.

Even he admits that his athletic achievements ended on the Tallahassee Parks and Recreation Department's T-ball and soccer fields back in the '80s.

Seated at a local coffee shop earlier this week, Anweiler looked down at his body as if to say, "Do I look like an athlete?" With a chipmunk grin and rosy cheeks he accentuates the point: "I joke, but I'm athletic by title only."

This is true. Since 2002, the 34-year-old has held the title of athletic director at Tallahassee Community College.

On Jan. 5, his last day at TCC, Anweiler will leave that title behind. He has accepted a new position as the college-wide coordinator of student activities at Northern Virginia Community College, a six-campus institution with 66,000 students. He leaves more than a title, though.

He is leaving his home. Of his 34 years, Anweiler has spent 17 of them working in some capacity at TCC, particularly the 18-year-old athletic department.

His connection to the TCC athletics program began in 1992 when he became the volunteer videographer for the men's basketball team.

That opportunity came about because then-coach Mike Gillespie was a regular customer at what was the Food Lion in Killbuck. Anweiler worked there as a grocery clerk when the two struck up a friendship.

It was Gillespie who invited Anweiler to help the team.

Since he planned to attend TCC after graduating from Lincoln High in 1992, it seemed to fit nicely with his plans. But it hardly ended there.

Even after he'd finished at TCC and was attending Florida State for his four-year degree in media communications, Anweiler worked part-time for the athletic department assisting with game management and writing press releases and pieces for media guides.

After graduating from FSU in 1997, he was hired as a TCC communications specialist. In that role he worked on non-



Tallahassee Community College athletic director Brian Anweiler will be leaving his post after 17 years of service at the college.

athletic and athletic public relations. His experience working with athletics at TCC led him to pursue a master's degree through the FSU sports administration program.

He did so while working at TCC, and he graduated from that program in 2001. Shortly thereafter, at the age of 28, he was promoted to athletic director.

Through Anweiler's 17 years at TCC, the Eagles have changed coaches and athletic directors several times. In fact the only head coach remaining on staff from Anweiler's first year at TCC (1992) is baseball's Mike McLeod.

"He's a real supportive guy," McLeod said. "You never felt anything but that. And he really had the student first in his mind.

"It wasn't about wins and losses with him. It was, 'What can I do to help you, to make life more comfortable?'"

Unlike the athletic directors at four-year universities who supervise coaches, the TCC position is more administrative in nature. In his position, Anweiler handled scholarship administration, academic eligibility, media relations, travel planning, and other office-related duties.

"He handles all the stuff we don't like to do or don't have time to do," McLeod said.



Replacing Anweiler will be Rob Chaney, also a former volunteer helper and now TCC communications specialist. Chaney and Anweiler worked together for 10 years.

“He’s kind of like the mayor,” Chaney said. “Everybody knows him.

“He’s gone the extra mile to help the coaches’ jobs a lot easier. He takes on the burden of the grunt work that would occupy their time. Not to do their job, but to be extra hands and feet so they can focus on the coaching aspect.”

For Anweiler, it has been all part of the job.

“I kind of viewed my role as making sure the trains ran on time, making sure everything goes smoothly,” he said. “I just want to support the coaches in what they do and see them be successful and see the students graduate, move on, get their four-year degree, be on the national stage, and just excel.”

Over the years he helped establish the TCC Hall of Fame and the TCC Athletic Department Golf Tournament fundraiser. Though he never played college or high school athletics, he says accompanying TCC teams to their respective national tournaments as memorable moments.

“Believe it or not, I’m not the world’s biggest sports fan,” he said. “But I liked helping students and being around students.”

But 17 years is a long time, and he said it’s just time to leave. Nothing confirmed that more for Anweiler than the comments of a TCC police officer.

“I always see you walking around,” the officer told Anweiler. “It’s not going to be the same.

“He said I couldn’t leave because I was part of the scenery,” Anweiler added. “That was a good sign that it was time to go. If that doesn’t sound like it’s time to go . . .”

## Surge in enrollment forces TCC to be creative with a tight budget

By Angeline J. Taylor  
Democrat Staff Writer

Tallahassee Community College will start classes Jan. 7 with 10,000 students already registered and a 6.4-percent increase in class enrollments, said Susie Hall, director of communications.

Hall said administrators began to see enrollment increases before the college closed for winter break. However, the population boom puts administrators in a compromising position of providing as many classes as possible during a time of severe budget cuts.

“Across the state, community college enrollment continues to grow, especially in the face of severe economic times,” TCC President Bill Law said. “While we at TCC remain firmly committed to keeping the open door open, I have some concerns about being able to meet individual needs as we get to the start of the semester in January.”

Law said growth at the level TCC is seeing “will challenge even our best efforts.”

He added that administrators are working to create flexible class schedules, including expanded online course offerings, to accommodate what will perhaps be record enrollment. The college’s student population has exceeded 14,000 in past semesters.

As of the middle of the month, more than 10,600 students had registered for the spring semester.

The college will be closed through Jan. 4.

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## No layoffs expected at TCC

By Doug Blackburn  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

While the state's fiscal crisis could force Florida State University to lay off more than 200 members of its faculty and staff, Bill Law does not expect any layoffs at Tallahassee Community College.

Law, TCC's president, said that because the school was proactive and trimmed its budget by \$2.32 million — or 7.5 percent — in September, it is well positioned to endure whatever happens during the current legislative session.

"We have not laid off any one and we have made a commitment to not do that," Law said. "I'm very comfortable with what I'm seeing. That commitment is very strong through the end of this year."

The Legislature, meeting in a special session to attempt to close a \$2.3 billion revenue shortage, has targeted education as one of the areas for cuts.

"Nobody feels good about any of this," Law said. "We haven't heard the final news on community colleges."

"The thing that is helping TCC is our business model is much, much less complex than a university business model. We literally don't have that research overhead."

TCC's spring semester gets under way Wednesday. As of this morning, 11,579 students had enrolled for the semester.

Law said he expects the final number to be close to 12,000, up 2-3 percent from the fall semester.

## TCC's Quick Job Training Program gears up for second series

TALLAHASSEE, FL - In August, Tallahassee Community College launched its Quick Job Training Program as a way of offering quick and affordable training for displaced and under-employed workers in a series of in-demand jobs. From classes for health and information technology occupations to those in alternative energy and construction, the Quick Job Training Program has enjoyed tremendous success.

On the heels of a triumphant debut, the College is gearing up for its second Quick Job Training series, which begins Wednesday, January 7 when TCC offers an A+ Certification Prep Course, part of the program's emphasis on Information Technology occupations.

The Quick Job Training Program was designed to address those in TCC's tri-county service district who have been impacted by ongoing state and local government budget cuts as well as down-sizing or closure of local businesses, said Dr. John Chapin, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development (EWD).

"The intent is to provide opportunities for people who have been squeezed out of their jobs and for incumbent employees who don't have enough work," said Chapin. "We are offering this format for the classes because so many people are unemployed or underemployed."

Quick Job Training classes can be completed in 90 days or less, many carry national certification and each person who completes a course will be offered the Ready to Work credential as part of the package.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Quick Job Training Program should plan to attend one of two upcoming information sessions - Wednesday, January 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon or Thursday, January 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Both sessions will be held in Room 123 of TCC's Center for Economic and Workforce Development.

For more information, including a complete class schedule, call (850) 201-8760 or log on to [www.QuickJobTCC.com](http://www.QuickJobTCC.com).

## The Village Square creates a place for civilized conversation

*Faith is the topic for Tuesday's panel*

By Sharon Kant-Rauch  
DEMOCRAT FAITH EDITOR



TCC President Bill Law, left, and City Commissioner Allan Katz have different views but find common ground through mutual respect and trust. The two are co-chairs of The Village Square.

When Pastor Rick Warren was invited to give the invocation at President-Elect Barack Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration, gays and others on the left raised a loud and vociferous chorus of protest about Warren's opposition to gay marriage and abortion.

Some on the right were also offended — they say Warren isn't conservative enough and shouldn't share the stage with someone who supports a woman's right to choose.

It's exactly that kind of political polarization that Liz Joyner and The Village Square, the group she helped found, hope to break. For more than a year, Joyner has brought Democrats and Republicans together every quarter for dinner and what she calls "civilized" conversation — no name-calling and yelling allowed, just thoughtful, engaged discussion.

At Tuesday's dinner, a bipartisan panel will tackle a particularly thorny topic: Faith in the Public Square.

"We seem to be living in a time when we've stopped talking to people we disagree with . . . and we aren't having good conversations about things that matter," Joyner said. "I think we can do better than that."

On Tuesday, Joyner said, she is going to tell the panelists to fight like the Founding Fathers.

"Have a real discussion, but do it with civility and grace."

The relationship between the co-chairs of The Village Square — City Commissioner Allan Katz and Tallahassee Community College President Bill Law — provides one example of the possibilities for dialogue. Katz, a Democrat, and Law, a Republican, have different views on how to solve social problems, but during periodic jogs together and informal monthly get-togethers, they've learned to respect and trust one another's judgment.

"We come from different places, but we realized that just sitting down together with our talking points wasn't going to get us anywhere," said Katz, who will act as moderator for Tuesday's panel discussion. "We had to be willing to really listen to what the other one was saying."

Lea Marshall, a Republican who has attended all of The Village Square dinners, said she goes to listen to the speakers she supports. But she often comes away with some truth from the other side.

During the last dinner, for example, which took place before the election, one speaker said that people who believe that only "their guy" could save the country were verging on idolatry.

"That made me look at the election differently," Marshall said. "The take-home lesson didn't come from the person I originally went to hear."

Ken Connor, one of Tuesday's panelists, said it was important to create a calm atmosphere where people have a chance to listen to the merits of an argument. Connor, an attorney, is the former president of Florida Right to Life and the author of "Sinful Silence: When Christians Neglect Their Civic Duty."

"If the volume is loud and the face is red, there is little opportunity to convince and persuade one another," Connor said. "Sounds to me like what The Village Square is saying is 'Look, we want people to have equal access to the marketplace of ideas.' I think the outcome of that discussion will demonstrate that some ideas are better than others."

Connor's fellow panelists include:

W. Dexter Douglass, an attorney who has practiced Florida law for half a century, was the lead counsel for Al Gore in the infamous "Florida Recount" of 2000 and is a 16-year member of the board of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.

The Rev. Allison DeFoor, who served as vice chairman of the Republican Party of Florida from 2002 to 2006, is an Episcopal priest who works in prison ministries and an environmental consultant who has served as director of the Florida Audubon Society and president of the Florida Land Trust Association.

Leo Sandon, a professor emeritus of religion and American studies at FSU, longtime religion columnist for the Tallahassee Democrat and ordained Presbyterian minister.

## Campus notes

### · FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Biochem professor awarded for mass spectrometry work

Alan G. Marshall, the Robert O. Lawton Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Florida State University and director of the Ion Cyclotron Program at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, has been chosen by the Governing Board of the Eastern Analytical Symposium Inc. (EAS) to receive the 2009 Award for Outstanding Achievements in Mass Spectrometry. The award, which consists of a plaque and honorarium, will be presented at a half-day symposium during the EAS meeting, scheduled for Nov. 15-18 in Somerset, N.J. Marshall is the third person to receive this award, which marks his 14th national/international award during his 15 years at Florida State.

### · TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DOE, TCC, Apple team up for educational workshop: On Tuesday, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), Tallahassee Community College and Apple Inc. will host an iPod Think Ahead Technology Workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP Grant. This event will be held at Tallahassee Community College's Turner Auditorium from 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. This workshop for students will kick off the use of iPods to help plan and deliver invigorating instruction for students and teachers in Gadsden, Leon, and Jefferson counties. The students will "think ahead and be able to accelerate ahead" with this learning tool, the Apple iPod Touch.

### · FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Former Miss FAMU Kimberly Brown Selected to Participate in the 2009 Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant: Kimberly Brown, a Florida A&M University graduate and Miss FAMU 2005-06, was recently selected as the reigning Miss Black Alabama USA 2009. She will serve in the Miss Black U.S.A. Pageant in August in Washington, D.C. Competing in this National Pageant will give Kimberly an opportunity to vie for \$20,000 in scholarship funds, which would help her enroll in a doctoral program in history in the fall of 2009. Brown, 24 and a Montgomery, Ala., native, obtained both her Bachelor's of science in public relations and master's of applied social science in history at FAMU.

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## The Brogan shows off its 'Body' during a preview

By Mark Hinson  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Patricia McCaul, 8, stood before a specially preserved human cadaver Wednesday morning during a sneak preview of the "Our Body: The Universe Within" exhibition at The Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science.

The cadaver had been stripped down reveal every muscle — some of which were flayed in such a way as to resemble little flesh wings.

"I didn't know the body looked like that," McCaul said. "I wonder if the eyes are real?"

Then a chill ran through her body as she said, "Ewww."

Expect more expressions of wonder and "ewww" when the collection of nine bodies, bones, skulls, brains, organs and other assorted bits opens to the public on Saturday. The Brogan is banking it will be a big hit with educators and students.

"Initially, it is weird," county commissioner and Brogan board member Bob Rackleff said. "Then it's fascinating as you get drawn into it. You keep saying, 'I didn't know that. I didn't know that.'"

The 6,000-square-foot show — which is a modified version of blockbuster shows in Tampa and Orlando — was installed in the circular gallery space on the Brogan's third floor. It's a space where paintings and fine art are usually displayed.

"Our Body" begins with a history of anatomical science, starting with Egyptians and ending with the invention of the CAT scan. Each room of the gallery then focuses on a different system of the body — the muscular, the reproductive, the respiratory, the nervous and so on.

"These really are works of art," Rackleff said. "The capillaries around the corner are awesome."

"You can't imagine how incredibly challenging it's been (to install the show)," Brogan director Chucha Barber said. "There have been a lot of late nights for our staff. . . . We went from having no ticketing system to having two ticketing systems to handle the demand."

Tickets to "Our Body" exhibit range from \$12 to \$24. Those attending the exhibit must also pay the regular admission to the Brogan — \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

Thanks to a special grant from the AETNA Foundation, 400 students from FAMU's pharmacy, nursing and other science-related programs will get in to "Our Body: The Universe Within" for free. So will 400 students who are studying the human sciences at Tallahassee Community College. Every medical student from Florida State University will have the admission fee waived.

"With the economy the way it is, many families are staying closer to home and visiting museums that are close to home," Tallahassee Museum director Russell Daws said. Daws is also the president of the Florida Association of Museums.

"We hope this show shines a light on all Florida museums and what they provide," Barber said. "Florida museums rock. We're totally on the cutting edge of what's happening in the rest of the country. People should know."

Contact senior writer Mark Hinson at (850) 599-2164 or [mhinson@tallahassee.com](mailto:mhinson@tallahassee.com)

Additional Facts  
If you go

nWhat: "Our Body: The Universe Within"

nWhere: The Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science, Kleman Plaza, corner of Duval and Pensacola streets

nWhen: Opens Friday and runs through May 25; during the "Our Body" show, the Brogan is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday

nCost: \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children for regular admission to the museum; additional tickets to see the "Our Body" exhibit range from \$12 to \$24

nContact: For individual tickets, call (866) 349-7825 or visit [www.thebrogan.org](http://www.thebrogan.org); for group tickets, call (800) 840-1157 or visit [www.ticketsforgroups.com](http://www.ticketsforgroups.com)

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## Explore 'Weeki Wachee'

*Author will give insider's view of park*

By Kathleen Laufenberg  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

It's an ancient fascination, one almost as delicious to indulge in as chocolate fudge. And it's not even fattening.

Author Lu Vickers doubtless knows more about the mermaids' power to entice than most. A teacher at Tallahassee Community College, Vickers wrote the recently released "Weeki Wachee, City of Mermaids: A History of One of Florida's Oldest Roadside Attractions" (\$34.95, University Press of Florida).

A marvelous coffee-table book, its 220 photographs of the kitschy roadside park in Hernando County were compiled by Sara Dionne.

Tonight at Apalachicola's Dixie Theatre, Vickers will share some of her insider's knowledge about this more than 60-year-old mythical kingdom of mermaids and mermen. Created in 1947, it was the brainchild of Newt Perry, a champion swimmer, movie stunt man and trainer of World War II frogmen. Perry's wild scheme to create an underwater world of beautiful mermaids — who performed 20 feet below the surface in 72-degree water by taking gulps of oxygen from hidden air hoses — captivated the public's imagination. Celebrities from Esther Williams to Don Knotts to Elvis Presley dropped by to have their photos snapped with the park's fish-tail inhabitants.

In later years, however, the park fell into disrepair as it struggled to compete with Disney's Magic Kingdom and other mega-attractions. About two months ago, the park finally came under the state's control and was designated as an official Florida park.

In her book, Vickers takes her reader on a fun, quirky — and thorough — ride through the park's history. She even takes note of the giant sloths and mastodons that once roamed the land around the spring, and discusses that state's first people, an ancient Indian tribe that considered water a "liquid God."

Vickers' book is part of a Florida History and Culture series that also includes books on the state's environment and politics.

### Additional Facts

If you go

What: Presentation by author Lu Vickers on Weeki Wachee attraction

When: 7:30 p.m. today

Where: Dixie Theatre, 21 Avenue East, Apalachicola

Admission: Free

Details: (850) 653-3200; [www.dixietheatre.com](http://www.dixietheatre.com)

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or

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TCC's EWD Building, Rm 123

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## SMARTHINKING Inks Deal With Florida College System

*The Florida College System Uses Portion Of College Access Grant To Fund Online Tutoring And Academic Support*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – SMARTHINKING, Inc. ([www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com)), the market leader in providing online tutoring and academic support to students, has announced that The Florida College System (FCS), formerly the Division of Community Colleges, has elected to use a portion of its College Access Grant to assist in funding the cost of SMARTHINKING for its colleges. Using the grant dollars, FCS will supplement the cost of SMARTHINKING services to state colleges in Florida who use the service this year. This will provide all schools with a discounted rate and allow the state's small schools to receive the same services as large institutions, for the same price. FCS will supplement a portion of the cost for the first 34,000+ hours purchased statewide through July 31, 2009. This plan takes into consideration the annual growth in usage expected by Florida colleges during the 2008 fiscal year.

Studies by Florida colleges have shown that students who use SMARTHINKING's online tutoring services achieve higher grades than those who don't. This success has led to increased usage. FCS has been looking for a more affordable way for its colleges to cover the cost of the program and this grant will allow colleges to continue offering this successful service. Currently 21 of the state's 28 community colleges utilize SMARTHINKING to provide supplemental tutoring to both on-campus and online students, as well as expand their ability to meet the ever-growing needs of their students for academic assistance outside the classroom. For more information about SMARTHINKING, visit [www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com).

### Related Links:

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

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

### Quotes:

"Applying grant funds to expand our relationship with SMARTHINKING is timely for faculty and students in Florida," said Dr. Judith Bilsky, Executive Vice Chancellor, Florida Department of Education, Florida College System (Formerly Division of Community Colleges). "We are excited to offer this opportunity for every institution that is part of the Florida College System throughout the state, to continue or even expand their use of SMARTHINKING Online Tutoring. This will allow them to meet the ever-growing academic support needs of students both on and off campus and enhance their learning experience."

"Tallahassee Community College is pleased to be able to help not only our students, but students throughout the state, by managing the grant funds for the Florida Department of Education's Division of Community Colleges. The access to SMARTHINKING's quality educators anytime, anywhere complements our own academic services providing students help when they need it most," said Dr. Barbara Sloan, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Tallahassee Community College.

"Broward College began using SMARTHINKING in 2005 as a means of enhancing our students' access to tutoring services, especially during evenings and on weekends. Broward students and faculty have embraced these high quality tutoring resources, especially those for math and writing. In addition, our in-house tutors use the SMARTHINKING platform to provide tutoring in our health-related courses and programs. And, since Broward College now offers nine fully online degrees, SMARTHINKING is a critically-important resource for our online students as well," said Russ Adkins, Associate VP of Instructional Technology, and Janet Sturdy, Associate Dean of Learning Resources, in a joint statement.

"This expanded relationship with the Florida Department of Education enables all campuses, large and small, within the Florida College System, to continue to offer outstanding academic support to their students and we are proud that SMARTHINKING is a part of their success," said

Burck Smith, CEO of SMARTHINKING.

### About SMARTHINKING:

SMARTHINKING is the market leader in providing online tutoring and academic support to students. Their services were honored with the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) CODiE award for Best Instruction Solution for Students at Home. Schools, colleges, universities, libraries, government agencies, textbook publishers and other education providers partner with SMARTHINKING to increase student achievement and enhance learning. SMARTHINKING connects students to e-structor®-certified tutors for assistance in math, writing, science and business, up to 24/7, on any Internet connected computer. SMARTHINKING's corporate office is located in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.smarthinking.com](http://www.smarthinking.com).

## TCC “Big Read” Kick-Off

Reporter: Christina Kremer

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Students are finding out that knowledge and the desire to read spreads like wildfire with the book “Fahrenheit 451”.

Tallahassee Community College kicked off the national “Big Read” initiative to get students talking and turning the pages of influential novels.

February is “Big Read” month, but they started Thursday by handing out copies of the Ray Bradbury book “Fahrenheit 451”.

“But the Purpose is to get the whole campus reading, talking, communicating and then really understanding what the focus of the book is” says Head Librarian, Janys Barnidde

TCC president Doctor Bill Law and Fire Chief Cindy Dick helped jump start the event that they hope will involve the whole campus.

Throughout February there will be read-ins, book discussions, and give-aways to ignite interest in reading.

## Local college students gather to watch, cheer Obama's inauguration

By Doug Blackburn and Elizabeth M. Mack  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITERS

Jude Rosilien walked out midway through his Calculus II Recitation class at FSU late this morning. He had a date with history.

Rosilien left class to go to the lounge on the second floor of Oglesby Union to watch the inauguration ceremony for Barack Obama.

"It's something I really want to watch," the sophomore from Miami said. "I want to be a part of it."

Rosilien, like thousands of college students at Florida A&M, Florida State and Tallahassee Community College, took a break from the classroom to gather in a designated public area to witness the swearing in of Obama.

Kendra Cash, a junior from Jacksonville majoring in finance and real estate at FSU, raced out of the union lounge the moment Joseph Lowery finished the convocation in order to make it to her 12:30 p.m. class.

"Personally, I think class should be canceled today," Cash said. "This is a historic moment. It's the first African-American president."

Students filled the lounge for the noon-time event. Late-arrivals found themselves taking a seat on the floor.

Club Downunder, rarely open during daytime hours, also had special viewing of the inauguration. And all monitors at the Leach Recreation Center were tuned in to CNN and live coverage of Tuesday's inauguration. Take that, ESPN.

Nearly a thousand students, faculty, and campus visitors gathered in FAMU's Lee Hall to watch Obama become the 44th president of the United States.

"This was a tremendous opportunity for our students to witness the 44th president being sworn in and to hear the commander-in-chief live," said Dorothy Bland, FAMU journalism division director.

As Obama arrived for the ceremony, the crowd began a series of exuberant chants.

Three buses of FAMU students traveled to Washington, D.C., to witness the inauguration — in addition to the marching band's nine buses — but students who missed out on that opportunity were appreciative to watch on campus.

"I wish I was able to be in D.C., but being able to still watch it here is great," said Octavia Coleman, a 22-year-old biology senior from Tampa. "This is history in the making and I'm overjoyed to be a part of it."

Other students watched feeling for their elders that today was a great day in history.

"This is phenomenal," said Kiel Redding, 26-year-old public relations senior from Miami. "It feels good because my grandparents always spoke about being able to see something like this, and today we are actually doing it."

Said Phillomae Tyrell, a retired nurse from New York watching with her grandsons: "This is something I never dreamed I'd live to see."

At TCC, the Student Union Lounge was filled to capacity during the live telecast of the inauguration. The school had encouraged students, staff and faculty to gather in the union.



## TCC Foundation receives grant from Knight Creative Communities Institute

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation has been awarded a grant the college is describing as “significant.”

Creative Communities Institute is awarding TCC the grant at a formal press conference this morning.

The grant is part of KCCI’s initiative to make Tallahassee a more vibrant community. The institute strives to foster community engagement and workforce development through strong partnerships.

TCC’s Foundation will be developing a specific pilot project in connection with those goals.

Come back to [www.tallahassee.com](http://www.tallahassee.com) this afternoon for an update on this story.

## TCC hosts scholarship fair; plenty of dollars available for qualified students

By Christine Thomasos  
DEMOCRAT WRITER

A nationwide recession should not stop anyone from getting an education, says William K. Spiers, director of financial aid at Tallahassee Community College.

Proof of that will be provided at the annual Scholarship Fair today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the TCC Student Union Ballroom.

The college has \$39 million to award to eligible students interested in pursuing higher education. Despite the country's economic issues, Spiers said the school has more money available this year than last year.

"The amount of money is pretty stable," he said.

Spiers said he expects the recession will cause an increase in people attending events like today's fair.

"We have about 65 percent of our students currently receiving aid," he said. "We do expect a larger number of people applying because their families are in need of the funds to attend school. There will probably be people from different economic backgrounds than we've seen in the past."

Giorvanni Merilis, 19, a past recipient of the STEM Star scholarship, encourages his fellow students to seek scholarship opportunities. "I used to work, and I realize that the scholarships really help out financially," Merilis said.

The STEM will be awarding 40 \$5,000 scholarships available, program director Wilbert Butler said.

## TCC institute to draw young professionals to Tallahassee

*\$500K Knight Foundation grant will fund program*

By Doug Blackburn  
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

The Knight Foundation's commitment to making Tallahassee a vibrant community for young professionals just became a half-million dollars more serious.

A new institute is being created at Tallahassee Community College, thanks to a five-year, \$570,000 Knight Foundation grant.

It is an out-growth of the Knight Creative Communities Institute, which produced the year-old Tallahassee Film Festival, the environmental group Sustainable Tallahassee and the Get Gaines Going project.

Mike Pate, the national Knight Foundation's program director for Tallahassee, explained at a Thursday news conference at the TCC Capitol Center that the new institute's goal is to come up with ways to retain college graduates.

"We don't want them to be our No. 1 export," Pate said. "The Knight Creative Communities Institute will be a cornerstone of our work, by creating a sense of place in the community that will attract and retain college graduates and young professionals."

A part-time executive director and an administrator assistant will be hired to run the new institute. It won't begin to take shape until September, when 30 or so community members take part in a series of workshops designed to give the institute an identity.

This is similar to the way the KCCI's first program took root in 2007.

The institute will be charged with launching three to four projects each year over a five-year period, Pate said.

"It's a great opportunity for the Knight Foundation, it's a great opportunity for Tallahassee Community College, but it's an especially great opportunity for the Tallahassee community," Pate added.

TCC was selected as the site for the institute, according to TCC President Bill Law, because it is well-suited to provide administrative and other support services. TCC is also the host institution for Whole Child Leon, among other community organizations.

"This is a good role for a community college, having a support role," Law said. "The Knight Foundation has done a whole handful for this community, but this grant gives us some continuity over a number of years."

Some young professionals were decidedly upbeat when told about the grant and new institute.

"This is such an important development for our organization, as well as for the future of Tallahassee," said Valerie Wickboldt, public-relations and marketing chair for the Tallahassee Network of Young Professionals. "Retaining and attracting talented young professionals proves imperative for a community's success and sustainability."

"We are excited to see the results and will surely find it beneficial to us in our planning."

April Brown, a board member with Tallahassee 25, an all-volunteer nonprofit that helps underprivileged youth in the community, welcomes more ways for college graduates to connect with the area beyond the universities.

"I definitely think that for young professionals in Tallahassee, unless you're really committed to getting involved, it can be difficult," she said. "Any way to make it less complicated and more obvious for young professionals in the community is awesome."