



Polk State College
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Spring 2012



Taking
Flight



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Soar, Eagles!!!!

These words — and the “taking flight” theme of this year’s report — beautifully capture the spirit of Polk State College as we transitioned from a phenomenal 2011 into an equally exciting 2012.

As you peruse the pages of this report, I think you’ll be as enthusiastic as I am about Polk State and the momentum we are sustaining on a daily basis. From the classroom to the gym, from clinicals in local hospitals to international science competitions... we have made an impact like never before. Whether you look at our dynamic academic departments, our impressive cultural offerings, or our championship intercollegiate athletics program, you’ll realize that we are truly soaring.

And, as always, the priority in all that we do has been the success of our students! They are the reason we exist, and in 2011 they “lined the nest” with honors, awards, and examples of excellence. As the College has expanded its programs, enhanced its facilities, and broadened its footprint, every single investment has been with students in mind. Because of this fact, we continue to be the very best place for donors to make an impact in the life of our community.

Now, on behalf of Polk State’s Board of Trustees, our faculty and staff, and tens of thousands of students, alumni, and supporters, I am proud to offer this report as one small snapshot of an incredible year at an awesome institution in an amazing place.

We are Polk.

Eileen Holden, Ed.D.
President



Eileen Holden
President
Polk State College





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Polk State's First Baccalaureate Program Exceeds Expectations, Readies for New Track



Polk State's Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management has far exceeded enrollment projections. Shown here are May 2011 graduates of the program.

The overwhelming success of Polk State's first baccalaureate program has prompted the College to launch a new track, and to develop yet another, to meet the community's demand.

With enthusiastic support from local employers clamoring for a more highly skilled work force, Polk State launched the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Supervision and Management degree program in January 2010. Based on extensive research performed during the program's design, the College anticipated an estimated enrollment of 90 students by the 2011-12 academic year.

In truth, the number was 372.

"Clearly, this was something our community needed, and we are here to meet the needs of our community," said Dr. Kenneth Ross, Vice President for Academic and Student Services.

The BAS degree program began with three areas of specialization. The Business Administration track was tailored to individuals seeking to work in large corporations such as Publix, GEICO, State Farm Insurance, and other local businesses. The Public Administration track provided skill sets for those seeking careers in city and county governments. The Public Safety track was designed for

those working in law enforcement and emergency medical services.

Polk State values the close partnerships it has formed with area employers and collaborates with various industry leaders when making workforce training, education, and development decisions. To that end, the College added a Healthcare Administration track in Fall 2011 based on demand expressed within the community. In mid-2011, the College also received approval from the Florida Department of Education to add a Business Information Technology track.

The Business Information Technology track will emphasize the use of technology to analyze data. This track has been developed using input from business partners including Badcock & More Home Furniture, Publix Super Markets, Inc., Florida's Natural, and MidFlorida Credit Union.

"There are a lot of people who know how to generate data, but this track is going to develop the critical-thinking skills that are needed to analyze that data," Dr. Ross said.

In 2011, there were 31 BAS completers, and this figure is expected to increase dramatically with these expanded offerings.



Polk State's New Logo

Colors Reflect Energy and Growth

Every eagle's flight begins with the dramatic takeoff. His piercing eyes determine his destination and he leaps from his perch. His muscles propel him skyward

as his shadow darkens the terrain below. He stretches his wings wide and, riding the force of the wind beneath him, soars.

For Polk State College, that moment of takeoff came July 28, 2011—and it's been soaring ever since.

In a pair of morning events at the Winter Haven and Lakeland campuses, Polk State President Dr. Eileen Holden announced that the College would rebrand itself as the Eagles and adopt as part of its identity a red and black color scheme.

The motivation, Dr. Holden explained, was to create a polished, united image for the College.

"Let's get the excellence right. Let's be the best. We stand on the shoulders of visionaries," she said.

The rebranding meant a new shield for the College as a whole, as well as

complementary logos for all of its various units — such as the Polk State Foundation and academic departments. Though there are now a myriad of marks, all have a look and feel that are quickly associated with Polk State College.

"We've changed mascots. That's big. We've changed colors. That's big. And, of course, we've rolled out a suite of new logos. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends will enjoy those changes, because they're bold and compelling — and fun," Dr. Holden said.

The process of overhauling the College's identity, needless to say, was a huge undertaking, involving many months of extensive research and development.

"We had to do right by the tradition of excellence at Polk State College," said David Steele, the College's Associate Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs. "Also, we knew the new brand had to reflect the College's limitless potential for the future."

Pivotal to the rebranding was to select a logo that would accurately represent the county served by Polk State—but what?

The Eagle soon emerged as the answer.

Not only is Polk County home to more than 200 bald eagle nests—just the local connection the

College desired — but eagles also symbolize the common ideals of freedom, opportunity, equality, power, courage, and integrity.

To jibe with the symbolism associated with the Eagle, the College settled on a bold color scheme — regal red and dominant black.

With the pivotal elements of logo and colors decided, it was time to create a shield — something that would reflect the College's brilliant past and bright future.

Among the elements included in the final product: The Eagle's body is made of three stripes to represent the College's phases as junior, community, and state college; the stripes form a "P" for Polk County; the Eagle's beak extends beyond the shield to convey optimism and assertiveness, while its tail feathers protrude from the left edge to represent creativity and progress.

Finally — but perhaps most importantly — the stripes in the bottom are open, representing the College's rich tradition and abiding commitment to public access to quality, affordable higher education.

A pair of new mottos completed the rebranding — "Soar, Eagles!" to express that students who study at Polk State know no limits to their success, and "We Are Polk," because Polk State is really but a microcosm of the community it serves.

"Our history is as simple and as grand as Polk County's, and our aspirations are inextricably linked with the future of our region," Dr. Holden said.

To preserve its new brand, the College has trademarked all marks, logos, symbols, nicknames, letters or words that can be associated with it, and can be distinguished from those of other institutions. Manufacturers who want to reproduce any of the College's marks must first secure a license.

The College's Office of Communications and Public Affairs (OCPA) is charged with protecting and promoting the new brand. The department came into existence when Steele was hired in late January 2011, and now includes designers Leah Bartholomay and Mo McCourt; Terrell Elliston, Sports Information Coordinator; Rachel Pleasant, College Information Coordinator; and senior administrative assistants Nixsa DelValle and Tammy Villanueva.

Whether it's designing billboards that thousands of drivers pass every day or distributing news releases about a single student's achievements, the OCPA is driven by one mission, Steele said.

"We want to become the region's premier brand," he said.

And with each use, the College's new brand — and the pride taken in it — only grows stronger.

"We've grown up," Dr. Holden said of the College. "We have the brand Polk deserves."





Continuity and Change:

Polk State's District Board of Trustees

Polk State College's District Board of Trustees in 2011 experienced a mixture of continuity and change.

In August, Governor Rick Scott announced the reappointment of Gregory Littleton and the new appointments of Dan Dorrell, Linda Pilkington, and Mark G. Turner. In November, a Senate subcommittee affirmed these appointments, with approval by the full Senate scheduled for 2012.

Gregory Littleton, President and Chief Executive Officer of Citizens Bank & Trust, graduated from Polk State in 1987. He went on to study at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee, graduating in 1989. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Assistant Treasurer of the Polk Museum of Art Board of Trustees. He also serves on the executive committee of Polk Vision and is its immediate past chairman; he also serves on the boards of the Florida Bankers Association and Statewide Passenger Rail Commission. He is also a past chairman of the Central Florida Development Council, Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce, and East Polk Committee of 100.

Dan Dorrell is a certified public accountant and partner at Cross, Fernandez & Riley, LLP, which specializes in the agricultural, medical, manufacturing, and legal industries, as well as other professional services. He was a member of Polk State's first graduating class and also holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University. His community involvements include the Sebring Utilities Commission, the Sebring Chamber of Commerce, the Highlands County Family YMCA (which he also helped found), and the Florida State University and Polk State alumni associations. He also serves on the board of SunTrust Bank and helped found the Highlands County Leadership Program.



Teresa Martinez

He is a veteran of the Florida National Guard. He succeeded Cindy Hartley Ross on the Polk State District Board of Trustees.

Linda Pilkington is Director of Physician, Community, and Government Relations at Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of the Philippines and a master's degree from New York University. She is a retired registered nurse and has extensive experience in nursing education and administration, healthcare marketing, and community relations. She has held leadership positions in higher education, healthcare, and manufacturing. She currently chairs the Board of the Polk State College Foundation. Her other community involvement includes memberships on boards and committees with Polk Vision, Polk Health Care Alliance, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Polk Works, Citizens CPR, Haines City Chamber of Commerce, Ridge Career Center, and other organizations. She succeeded Dr. Neriah Roberts on the Polk State Board of Trustees.

Mark G. Turner, Vice Chairman of the Polk State District Board of Trustees, is a partner in Straughn & Turner, P.A. He



Mark G. Turner

practices law in the areas of real estate, estate planning, probate and guardianship, business law, and civil litigation. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Florida and a law degree from Stetson University College of Law. He is a past president of the Polk State College Foundation and the Greater Winter Haven Area Chamber of Commerce. He has held leadership roles with the Community Foundation of Greater Winter Haven, Girls Inc., Main Street Winter Haven, the American Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity. He is a graduate of Leadership Winter Haven and Leadership Polk, and was a Florida Blue Key Leadership Honorary Member at the University of Florida. He succeeded Linda Ivell on the Polk State Board of Trustees.

Gregory Littleton and the newly appointed trustees are joined by Chairwoman Teresa Martinez, Ricardo Garcia, and E.S. "Ernie" Pinner.

Teresa Martinez owns the Institute of Spanish Communication, Inc. A native of Cuba, her family fled the country when she was 15 and relocated to Polk County. She is a 1975 Polk State graduate and also holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and English as a Second Language Education from the University of Central Florida. She produces and hosts "Comunidad



Dan Dorrell

Viva,” a daily Spanish talk show on Polk Government Television (PGTV) that also airs on Spanish-language radio stations WIPC 1280 AM and LAX 1460 AM. Her previous professional experience includes 11 years as a Spanish/ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher at Lakeland High School, and eight years in marketing with Orlando-based Gustafson & Associates, Inc. She is President of the Hispanic Club of Lakeland and heads the Hispanic Festival. She is a member of the boards of the Imperial Symphony Orchestra, and Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center. She is a former member of the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). She was selected as the recipient of NAWBO’s Women of Distinction Award and was also selected as the 1997 International Individual of the Year by the Central Florida Development Council. She has received the Governor’s Point of Light Award, and in 2006 the Polk County Board of County Commissioners proclaimed a “Teresa Martinez Day” in recognition of her contributions during the 2004 hurricane season. The Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce awarded Martinez’s Institute of Spanish Communication with the January



Ricardo Garcia

2011 Small Business of the Month Award. She is also the author of the bilingual book, *Success in Exile — Five Decades of Cuban Stories*.

Ricardo Garcia is owner and operator of Gulf Coast Avionics Corp. of Lakeland, Pacific Coast Avionics of Portland, Oregon, and Central Florida Avionics & Instruments of Leesburg. He is also the owner and operator of Sunstate Realty Investments Corp., and Polk Home Development Corp. He serves on the Sun n’ Fun Board of Directors and is Vice President of the Florida Aviation Safety Foundation and Chairman of the Florida Aerospace Resource Banner Center.

E.S. “Ernie” Pinner is Chairman, President and CEO of CenterState Banks of Florida. He is a 1969 graduate of Polk State College. He is a former member of the Polk State Foundation Board and past board chairman of Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center. He serves on the boards of the Polk Museum of Art, Heart of Florida Education Foundation, and Polk County Industrial Revenue Authority, and is a past board member of the Polk Museum of Art Board of Trustees, Imperial Symphony Orchestra, Polk Education Foundation, and Winter Haven Hospital Foundation.



Gregory Littleton



Linda Pilkington



E.S. “Ernie” Pinner



Polk State's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Exceeds Expected Demand

Polk State's Health Sciences programs are famous for maintaining close connections with the region's healthcare sector, carefully matching program delivery with community needs.

Because of this successful collaboration, the Florida Board of Education's decision in May 2011 to approve a new Polk State Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) was a natural outcome of true partnership.

However, even Polk State's high hopes were dramatically exceeded when the new program attracted more than 120 students during the fall semester — more than double the most optimistic projections.

"We knew this program would be a real game-changer for our region," said Polk State President Dr. Eileen Holden.

"This wasn't a random innovation in our curriculum. This was something we developed strategically, with our partners in the healthcare sector, in response to specific needs in our region. The incredible response to the program is further proof that a need exists, and Polk State is excited to play a role in filling it."

Polk State has long been one of the region's primary producers of outstanding nurses. The College's Associate in Science (AS) in Nursing degree leads directly to licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN); additionally, its nursing students consistently score above the regional, state, and national averages on the licensure exam. Approximately 60 percent of Polk County's Registered Nurses are graduates of the College's Nursing Program.

"When I'm asked to characterize our program, the word I use is 'quality.' We know that our graduates are prepared to deliver quality care and to make a difference from their first day on the job," said Dr. Annette Hutcherson, Director of Polk State's Department of Nursing.

The profession of nursing, however, is increasingly demanding higher levels of training. Now, with Polk State's BSN, the region's nurses have a way to meet that trend.



Dr. Annette Hutcherson



Dr. Mavra Kear

"Hospitals are experiencing increased pressure to convert pre-baccalaureate nurses to baccalaureate status. In fact, more and more states are requiring that upgrade in training. Now nurses in Polk and surrounding counties have access to a convenient, affordable path to a BSN degree," Dr. Hutcherson said.

While Polk State's AS in Nursing is a "limited access" program that receives three applications for each available slot in every yearly cohort, the BSN degree conforms to an "open access" model. The sole requirements for admission are that the student has an associate's degree in nursing from a regionally accredited institution or a diploma in nursing from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, as well as maintain an active, unrestricted Florida license as an RN.

The courses in the BSN degree program are delivered in an accelerated, hybrid format that allows working students to complete requirements on either the Winter Haven or Lakeland campus within two years.

Dr. Mavra Kear, Coordinator of the BSN Program and Lakeland Regional Medical Center Endowed Professor in Nursing, said BSN graduates possess higher-level training that improves the care they provide patients.

"All of our RNs are prepared to excel and deliver quality care; however, the BSN Program focuses specifically on critical and creative thinking with a curriculum that produces a skill set that empowers nurses to make more sophisticated decisions," Dr. Kear said.

"Ultimately, these advanced RNs make an incredible difference in the efficiency and quality of healthcare. That's why the national trend is moving in the direction of baccalaureate training."

Dr. Holden said that in keeping with the College's emphasis on value, the BSN Program delivers quality instruction while preserving affordability for students.

"Nobody in our region outscores us on the licensure exam, and we're able to deliver this sort of quality at about half the cost of a state university and about a tenth of the cost of some private schools. That's real value," she said.



Student Life Takes Off in 2011

Student life was sweeter than ever at Polk State College in 2011, a year that included record-setting events, a new intramural flag football team, and even a lion!

Each fall, both the Lakeland and Winter Haven campuses host Welcome Week events to spread the word about student organizations and increase involvement.

In 2011, Winter Haven's event had a "Wild on SALO (Student Activities and Leadership Office)" theme, said Carlos Parra, Coordinator of Student Activities and Leadership on the Winter Haven campus. In keeping with the theme, Polk State hosted a petting zoo, an alligator, and a lion.

"For some of the students, that was their first time to see an alligator or a lion in real life," Parra said.

The Welcome Week event also included leadership development training presented by Winter Springs-based MG Success Services.

"We had more than 75 students come to learn about team-building and finding your purpose in life based on your passions," Parra said.

Rounding out the event, 20 students pitched in to build a house for Habitat for Humanity.

The event won the Florida College

System Student Government Association's Event of the Year Award.

Also in the year, Winter Haven SALO organized a free event for students to see the premier of *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn*. SALO rented a theater at Winter Haven's Cobb Grand 10 for a midnight showing.

"We packed the theater. We had 120 students show up," Parra said.

Winter Haven SALO's weekly bowling nights have also grown to attract more than 80 students, up from the usual 50.

"The levels of participation are much higher — and growing," Parra said.

Turning to the Lakeland campus, 2011 saw the establishment of an intramural flag football team; the existing intramural teams include kickball, softball, soccer, and extreme Frisbee.

About 20 students participate on the new flag football team and have played against other area colleges. In December, the team took on the Ultimate Indoor Football League's Lakeland Raiders in the first "Seven on Seven" Eagle Battalion Celebrity Flag Football game.

The event was attended by more than 200 students and members of the community, said Melvin Thompson, Coordinator of Student Activities and Leadership on the Lakeland campus.

Also in 2011, the Lakeland Student Government Association had its first online elections. Nearly 800 students logged on to vote and receive updates via Facebook and Twitter. Thompson said turnout was double that of past elections, in which students cast paper ballots.

Thompson said Lakeland SALO also adopted an art gallery located in the Lakeland Technology Building. Because of staffing limitations, the gallery couldn't keep regular hours. Thanks to student volunteers it is now open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Students have also staged events to generate traffic to the gallery, including "Jazz and Java," during which a jazz trio played and coffee was served.

Polk State students also hosted a clothing and food drive to benefit Meals on Wheels in which clubs and the Lakeland and Winter Haven campuses competed to see who could gather the largest donation. It was the first time the campuses had united in such an effort, Thompson said. Lakeland was the winning campus; additionally, it was the Lakeland Green Club who took the prize for the most generous donation in this event.

Other new events in Lakeland included a classic car show and an Arrive Alive event, in which students used a simulator to learn about the dangers of drunk driving and texting while driving.

"Overall, participation in clubs and intramurals is growing. SALO is trying to branch out. Our motto is 'World Domination,'" Thompson said in his characteristically joking manner.

At left, Polk State students encountered animals in a petting zoo as part of the "Wild on SALO" Welcome Week. Below, students and participants show off trophies after a classic car show that took place on the Lakeland campus.





From Dr. Maya Angelou to Monthly Events, Polk State's Devotion to Diversity Evident in 2011

Polk State College maintains a steadfast commitment to diversity — a commitment that in 2011 was proven by numerous leadership opportunities, partnerships, and events, including a visit by famed writer and poet Dr. Maya Angelou.

In January, Dr. Angelou, who has authored dozens of bestselling titles, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, appeared before a sell-out crowd at the Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre, where she led a characteristically candid and thought-provoking conversation on a variety of topics.

The event, a fundraiser benefitting the Women's Resource Center, had regional appeal, and offered the area a rare opportunity to connect with someone of Dr. Angelou's caliber.

"This was an historic moment for Polk County. Polk State was incredibly proud to host Dr. Maya Angelou and to offer attendees a precious evening with a true national treasure," said Winter Haven Provost Dr. Sharon Miller. "Anyone who was in the audience that evening carries with them memories they will never forget."

While Dr. Angelou's appearance at the College was headline-grabbing proof of its emphasis on diversity, its day-to-day devotion is proven by the Office of Equity and Diversity.

The Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) serves the College in two primary roles: providing leadership as the College promotes equity and diversity at the institution and within the community, and ensuring that the College is in full compliance with state and federal laws that

protect people from discrimination of any kind.

"Polk State is committed to the success of all students, faculty, and staff, and we emphasize the importance of diversity in our successes," said OED Director Val Baker.

In 2011, the OED enjoyed many proud moments, including the continued — and growing — strength of its ELITE Program (Exceptional Leaders with Innovative Talents and Excellence). ELITE provides professional development and leadership opportunities for the College's minority and female employees who aspire to advance their careers in higher education. In 2011, ELITE provided leadership opportunities for four employees. Since the program began in 2006, 17 individuals have completed the program and six more are currently participating.

As part of their ELITE experience, participants meet with legislators in Tallahassee, attend leadership conferences, and develop projects to enhance best practices at the College. In 2011, ELITE Program projects spanned various topics including developing educational plans based on students' abilities and interests, determining strategies to increase information literacy for new students to help with research, and creating an online orientation for new students that better prepares them for distance learning opportunities.

The OED also offers leadership development opportunities through local chambers of commerce, Polk Vision, Lakeland Economic Development Council, Florida College System Chancellor's Leadership Program, and other entities.

Beyond the ELITE Program, Baker is especially pleased by the number and quality of partnerships cultivated by the OED. The partnerships include the Polk State College Foundation, which provides scholarships that support cultural enrichment opportunities for students; and the Human Resources Department, which works with the OED to maintain compliance in diversity training for employees and to ensure equity in the hiring process.

The Human Resources Department and

the OED collaborate to ensure that new-hire screening committees are diverse and appropriately trained.

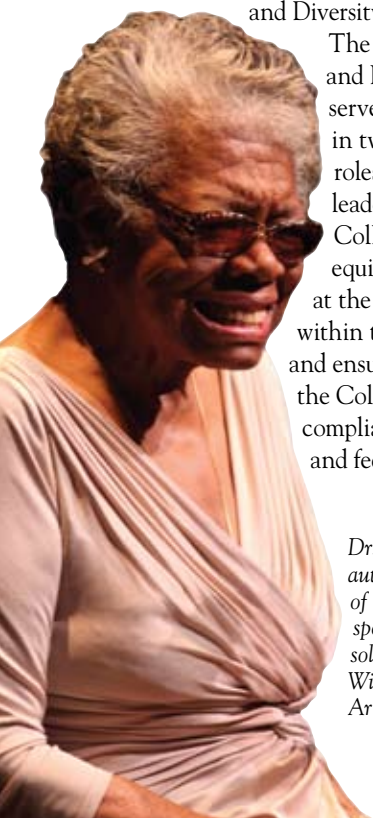
In 2011, Polk State filled 60 positions. Of those 60 positions, 35 percent were filled by women and 33 percent were filled by minorities. Additionally, the College expanded its advertising for open positions to include *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine*, the National Association of Asian American Professionals, and Latinos in Higher Education, among others.

The OED also partners with the Student Government Association/Student Activities Leadership Office, Music Department, and Theatre Department for cultural enrichment opportunities. It also collaborates with the Purchasing Department to encourage supplier diversity.

Through its numerous external partnerships including Winter Haven-based Pengeo, Inc., State Farm Insurance, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.'s Polk County Chapter, the OED staged a slew of events in 2011. Those events celebrated Martin Luther King Jr., Black History Month, Women's History Month, Diversity Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Disability Awareness Month. A new event, Vendor Day, offered networking opportunities for female, minority, and disadvantaged business owners looking to provide goods or services to local governments.

In 2011, the OED was also a partner in launching the Men of Distinction (MOD) Program on the Winter Haven campus; the College piloted the program on its Lakeland campus in 2010. The MOD Program aims increase the numbers of African-American and Hispanic male students in higher education, and empowers those males to assume leadership roles. The Winter Haven MOD Program focuses on five elements: academic success, personal/professional development, cultural awareness, mentoring, and networking.

"Each year, diversity becomes more woven into the Polk State College community. We are all living and breathing equity and diversity, and we are working every day to create a more inclusive environment," Baker said.



Dr. Maya Angelou, author of dozens of bestselling titles, spoke before a sold-out crowd at the Winter Haven Fine Arts Theatre.

Fine Arts Events

Get Community Buzzing

In 2011, Polk State's Fine Arts performers played from their hearts and stole the spotlight — and the community took notice. This led to a year of tremendous, unwavering growth.

Starting in the Polk State Music Department, Professor John Anderson said that in the Spring 2011 Term, for the first time in the program's history, all 21 graduates were accepted to a university music program. This is no small feat, considering that acceptance is based on a potentially nerve-racking audition.

"There's a real sense of enthusiasm. Music Department students are creating more and more beautiful music all the time," he said.

Anderson said that music students took part in more than 40 performances— on campus and beyond —making it the busiest year ever for the program.

The Music Department also took 40 students to the annual Florida College System Activities Association's Winter Music Symposium, which took place at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. It was Polk State's largest group ever to participate in the event.

"That level of attendance shows we're one of the larger programs in the state. Most programs come in cars or minivans, but we had a bus and a few cars," Anderson said. "Our students were featured all over the place during the event, in solos and group performances."

During the Symposium, Polk State saxophonist Zoe Weatherby received an Award of Distinction; Weatherby was also selected to perform with the Symposium Jazz Band. Pianist Anthony Stillabower and tenor vocalist Sergio Perez also received soloist honors, and several other students were selected to participate in

performances.

In this past year, the Music Department added a Jazz Guitar Ensemble, led by David Fisher; the Music Department's

other ensembles include Concert Choir, Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Combo, Jazz Band, Percussion, Brass, and Strings.

During the spring concert, "Masterworks of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," music students performed pieces they had written

and arranged. This was a first for Polk State's Music Department. As 2011 progressed, more students accepted the challenge, debuting original works during concerts.

"It's a whole new thing for the program. Writing and arranging music is way up there on the skill level," Anderson said.

In 2011, the number of music majors stood at 62 — up from just 15 when Anderson joined the College in 2004. This number is expected to increase substantially with the expanded options and opportunities provided at the College.

"We're one of the strongest programs in the state among community colleges," Anderson said.

The Theatre Department was also bustling in 2011.

Speech and Theatre Professor Paul Carbonell said the Theatre Department had 20 scholarship students in 2011 — the highest number yet for the department.

Having a larger number of students truly dedicated to studying the theatre makes for higher quality performances, Carbonell said.

"I'm hearing comments after the shows that the audiences are seeing improvement," Carbonell said. "Ultimately, both on the technical side of things and on the performance side,

things have really ramped up."

Additionally, Carbonell indicated that the Department is now attracting numerous directors for its shows.

"In the past two years, we did 11 shows and 10 had the same director," he said. "More recently, we had four shows with four different directors. That points to increased involvement."

Another sign of the growth of the Theatre Department is an increased faculty presence. The College has recently hired one full-time temporary instructor, Mark Hartfield, and four adjuncts.

"For a while, this was a one-man show," Carbonell said of his department.

Polk State's Winter Haven Fine Arts Gallery in 2011 hosted exhibits featuring the work of students and groups such as the Winter Haven Quilters and the Greater Florida LEGO User Group. The Lakeland Technology Building Gallery began following a regular schedule and hosted events such as "Jazz and Java," during which a jazz trio entertained patrons in a casual-sophisticated setting.



Polk State's growing Theatre Department staged several productions in 2011, including "Moonlight and Magnolias," a comedy about the making of the movie "Gone With the Wind."

Polk State Music Department student Amelia Ford performs with the College's Strings Ensemble.





PHOTO: WINTER HAVEN HOSPITAL

Polk's Robotic Surgery Credential Is

FIRST OF ITS KIND

Dr. Sijo Parekattil, Winter Haven Hospital's Director of Urology and Robotic Surgery, operates the controls of the da Vinci Surgical System. Dr. Parekattil will serve as Director of Polk State's new credential program for nurses and technicians who participate in robot-assisted surgeries.

In late 2011, Polk State College unveiled a program unlike any other in the country, establishing formalized, hands-on training for nurses and technicians who participate in robot-assisted surgery.

Doctors and patients are increasingly embracing less-invasive robotic surgery, but training options remain limited for the operating room nurses and surgical technicians who assist in such procedures.

Polk State College will revolutionize training in this field in 2012, with the onset of its robot-assisted surgery credential, which combines online instruction with intensive, hands-on training.

"We have known for years that robotic surgery represents one of the defining features of modern medicine; however, while the focus has been on amazing technological advances, we in higher education have been a bit slow to adapt to the implications of this fundamental transformation," said Polk State President Dr. Eileen Holden.

"Now we are very proud to position Polk State Health Sciences at the cutting edge, literally, of healthcare in this new era, as we work with our partners in the research and care-delivery sectors

to develop the appropriate training and certification paths to ensure that the nurses and surgical technicians involved in this dynamic new field are properly prepared. Of course, as has always been the case at Polk State, our approach leverages our extensive partnerships with the healthcare sector and our rich tradition of applied, hands-on training."

In addition to online studies, licensed registered nurses and technicians participating in the Polk State College credentialing program complete an intensive two-day workshop in which they will hone their skills using Winter Haven Hospital's da Vinci Surgical System. During the workshop, participants in the program will be able to practice procedures from start to finish, from properly positioning a patient for robotic surgery, to room turnover after an operation is completed.

Winter Haven Hospital President and CEO Lance Anastasio hailed the creation of the credentialing program.

"Winter Haven Hospital is proud to work with Polk State College in offering this one-of-a-kind credential. The credential will fill a glaring lack of training for nurses and surgical technicians who assist in robotic surgeries. This program is sure to draw medical professionals from far beyond our immediate area, as those nurses and surgical technicians seek intensive, hands-on training with the backing of two respected institutions: Polk State College and Winter Haven Hospital," he said.



Health Sciences

Continues Tradition of Excellence

Health Sciences has long been a cluster of excellence for Polk State, and as expected, 2011 was another year of achievements and recognitions. The following provides a snapshot of the most recent successes in the various Health Sciences programs.

Cardiovascular Technology (CVT)

Program: The CVT Program, which trains technologists to assist physicians during heart catheterizations, angioplasty, and stenting procedures, celebrated an extension of its accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The CVT Program, which received preliminary accreditation in 2010, has maintained 100 percent compliance; CAAHEP has therefore granted an extension of this accreditation through 2015. Program Director Kevin Ferrier said CVT is in the process of developing a new associate degree track for echocardiography and vascular sonography, as well as advanced technical certificate programs for medical professionals who want to specialize in those areas.

Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS)

Program: The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program, in which students train to collect ultrasound images, received its initial accreditation through CAAHEP. The accreditation means that graduates of the program are immediately eligible to take the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography (ARDMS) examination, a benchmark increasingly used by employers. Students of non-CAAHEP-accredited programs must typically work in the field for a year or more to gain on-the-job training to prepare them for the ARDMS exam, explained Program Director Merrybeth Etherton.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Program: This program prepares students for a career in out-of-hospital emergency medicine. In the past year, it broadened its reach by providing Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support training for Polk County Fire Rescue (PCFR). The agreement demonstrates one of many mutually beneficial partnerships Polk State shares

with the community, as it allows PCFR to save resources by outsourcing training, and enables the College to increase its offerings and outreach within the community.

Health Information Management (HIM)

Program: The HIM Program again received annual accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education. By maintaining accreditation, students can sit for the Registered Health Information Technician exam immediately after graduation, said Kelli Lewis, Clinical Education Coordinator for Health Information Management and Coding.

Nursing Program: In 2011, Polk State's nursing students again outperformed the state and nation on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, with 97.9 percent of first-time takers passing. Additionally, Polk State Nursing Professor Dr. Mavra Kear was elected President of the Florida Nurses Association (FNA), and student Lisa Fussell was elected President of the Florida Nursing Students Association (FNSA). This marks the first time in which representatives from one institution have led both the state's student and professional nursing associations simultaneously. Additionally, the FNSA selected Nursing Director Dr. Annette Hutcherson as its Director of the Year, and the Polk State Chapter of the FNSA was named Chapter of the Year.

Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)

Program: Students in the OTA Program train to help individuals with disabilities perform daily activities. Since the program's inception in 1999, graduates have consistently passed the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy exam on their first attempt, and have also consistently exceeded the national average scores. That streak continued in 2011, with graduates earning an average score of 519 the first time they took the exam — surpassing the national average of 491. Program Director Saritza Guzmán-Sardina added that for the past four years, the program has experienced maximum enrollment.

Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA)

Program: Students in the PTA Program learn to provide patients with hands-on treatment to relieve pain and improve function. In 2011, the program was commended during a reaccreditation visit by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education for having licensure pass rates that surpass state and national averages. In the three most recent cohorts, the program's licensure rate has been 92.3 percent. For the most recent graduating class, the licensure pass rate is thus far 100 percent. The program's completion rates also beat the state and nation. For the 2009-2011 cohorts, 83.3 percent of program students graduated. Additionally, all recent graduates report 100 percent employment in the field.

Radiography Program: The Radiography Program trains students to collect images that help physicians diagnose diseases and injuries. In 2011, the program was approved to offer an Associate in Science in Radiography degree (AS) in place of the former Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. Program Director Beth Luckett indicated that this change will make an enormous difference for students as the AAS is a terminal degree, and the new AS in Radiography can be applied toward the College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management degree program, enabling students more options to advance their education. Also, an AS degree is easier to apply to other advanced-modality training, such as nuclear medicine or radiation therapy. The AS degree will go into effect in January 2013.

Respiratory Care Program:

The Respiratory Care Program, which trains therapists to work with patients who have a variety of heart and/or lung disorders, continued its record of 100 percent employment for all graduates. Since the first graduating class in 2008, all completers of the program have secured employment. Program Director Kathee Ford said graduates have gone on to work at major local hospitals, including Lakeland Regional Medical Center and Winter Haven Hospital.



Additional Program Highlights

The **Employ Florida Banner Center for Advanced Manufacturing**, a statewide resource center based at Polk State College, continued to develop resources for manufacturing workers. These resources include a unified workforce preparation system that creates the training and educational programs, curricula, certifications, and educational articulation pathways necessary to deliver required manufacturing workplace competencies. As part of this initiative, the Center has provided manufacturing professional development opportunities and industry certifications to 106 educators from high schools, technical centers, colleges, and private training providers.

The College's **Business Program** increased its number of fully online and hybrid courses (those that use both online and in-person classroom formats) by over 50 percent in 2011. The program also added a healthcare track to its associate's degree, with a beginning enrollment of more than 30 students. The new track creates a pathway leading to the Healthcare Administration specialization of the College's Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management. A chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, a business student club, was founded as an initiative to retain students by engaging them in activities. The Business Program also entered into an articulation agreement with the American Society of Transportation and Logistics (ASTL), granting up to 12 college credits for students who hold the ASTL's Global Logistics Associate industry certification.

The **Computer Network Engineering Technology Program** began testing of the Linux Integration Networking Connections (LINCS) training program in 2011. The project was developed with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in partnership with local area businesses and the University of South Florida Polytechnic. The goals of the project are to design and test the effectiveness of new pedagogical methods for training advanced Linux network engineers.

In 2011, the **Computer Systems and Business Analysis Program** became

the Florida Department of Education's School of Ownership for similar programs, meaning that other state and community colleges will follow Polk State's outline, said Program Director Ernie Ivey. Ivey also directs the Digital Media/Multimedia Program at the College, which recently incorporated the use of student blogs into the curriculum. Students are now required to create a blog and post regular updates as part of their career preparation.

The **Criminal Justice Program** hosted 40 students from the Kathleen High School Criminal Justice Academy in late 2011 to provide an informational session on careers in law enforcement. The visit to the Winter Haven campus included a K-9 demonstration by the Polk County Sheriff's Office and a question-and-answer session with SWAT Team officers. Additionally, the College began the application process to offer a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. The College hopes to begin offering the degree program in late 2012.

The Polk State **Early Childhood Education Program** graduated its largest class ever in December 2011, with 32 individuals receiving either Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science in Early Childhood Education degrees, or child care certificates. The December total was double the number of graduates in previous classes, said Program Director Karen Greeson.

In conjunction with its **Educator Preparation Institute (EPI)**, in 2011 Polk State was approved to offer Professional Development Reading Courses. These courses allow teachers all over the state (and beyond) to earn their reading endorsement, qualifying them to teach Reading to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The EPI also used a \$25,000 grant to provide extra instruction in math to its students ages 50 and older. The grant, awarded by Civic Ventures, a San Francisco-based nonprofit think-tank on baby boomers, was also used to pay for meet-and-greet sessions for EPI's 50-and-older students. Additionally, the EPI has partnered with Polk County Public Schools to offer math, language arts, and professional education workshops

to school district employees over the past year.

In 2011, Polk State's **Engineering Technology Program** and the Corporate College began deploying courses from a \$2.91 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The three-year grant is being used by the program's Engineering Technology and Advanced Manufacturing (ETAM) initiative to build program capacity, create cutting-edge curricula, and provide training for 782 unemployed and dislocated workers, as well as for incumbent workers who need additional training to remain employed and competitive in the marketplace. Polk State has partnered with the Employ Florida Banner Center for Advanced Manufacturing, and State College of Florida and Tallahassee Community College — as well as their regional workforce partners — in the ETAM project.

Fire Science Technology Program in November 2011 invited firefighting graduates from Ridge Career Center to Polk State's Winter Haven campus. The 20 students received information on the College, the Fire Science Technology Program, and how their Ridge training can articulate to the Fire Science associate's degree offered by the College.

Recruits from **Polk State's Kenneth C. Thompson Institute of Public Safety (KCTIPS)** in late 2011 assisted the Lakeland Police Department in searching for a weapon used in the slaying of Officer Arnulfo Crispin. During the afternoon search, Polk State recruits located the gun in an apartment complex crawl space. Capt. Bill Mann,

Director of KCTIPS, said that recruits have also conducted fundraisers to benefit Crispin's family and Auburndale Police Officer Stacy Booth, who was injured when she was shot while on duty in September 2011. Polk State recruits passed the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's State Officer Certification Exam at an overall rate of 96 percent in 2011; the statewide rate was 87 percent. In the last quarter of 2011, Polk State's pass rate reached 100 percent.



Physical Transformations Modernize, Maximize Polk State's Facilities



Polk State students Amanda Smith, left, and Shahoganey Miller enjoy new picnic tables and benches installed outside the Lakeland Technology Building.

Polk State College's buildings and grounds are in a perpetual state of improvement, be it small tweaks in a single classroom or sweeping changes to an entire campus.

In 2011, one of the most obvious upgrades to facilities was the installation of signage to reflect the College's new branding.

"The new signs provide for some commonality across the campuses," said George Urbano, District Director of Facilities.

The past year brought the creation of a new Student Mall on the Lakeland campus made with more than 61,000 square feet of woven, interlocking pavers. The pavers have created a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly walkway and replaced an unused roadway that stood at the campus's main entry point. Picnic tables and benches were added to encourage students to convene outdoors; tables and seating were also installed to create an outdoor lounge outside the Lakeland Technology Building.

"The Student Mall is like the rug that ties the whole campus together. The difference is night and day. It allows for a nice passage through the campus and it gives students a place to hang out," said Travis Altman, Project Engineer for Planning and Construction on the Lakeland campus.

Traffic is now directed around the existing parking lots, making the campus markedly safer for pedestrians. A new bus loop designates a place for drop-offs and pickups, further easing the flow of traffic in and out of the campus. Also, landscaping, palm trees and irrigation were added to the Winter Lake Road entrance, making it more aesthetically pleasing.

Other improvements on the Lakeland campus included converting an outdated TV studio in the Lakeland Learning Center building into 15 offices, combining four classrooms in the Lakeland Technology Building into two large auditorium classrooms, upgrading the emergency call system to fiber-optic technology, and installing new emergency

call equipment.

Altman added that a new pump house, which pumps water used for irrigation, was constructed to better complement the look of the nearby Lakeland Technology Building. The pump house was constructed with additional space to store equipment used by the Polk State Women's Soccer Team.

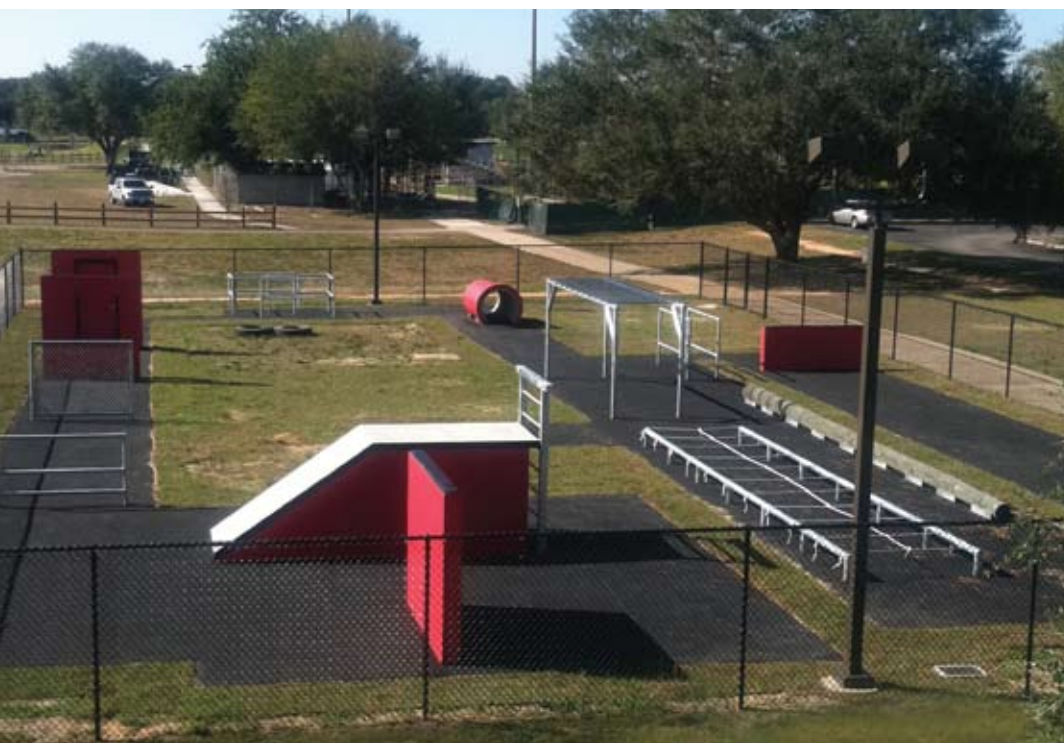
In Winter Haven, a city-funded project created three new soccer fields on the western edge of the College's campus. A paved track, dotted with exercise stations, was also installed, surrounding the new soccer fields and an existing baseball field.

The Winter Haven campus also added an Agilities Course for use by the Criminal Justice Program, explained Robbie Manikis, Project Engineer for Planning and Construction on the Winter Haven campus. The course includes 15 various physical challenges, such as monkey bars and a scaling wall.

The many improvements to the Winter Haven campus include the designation of a centralized area for accumulation of recyclables, creation of a new computer testing area, installation of a modular building to house the newly created Office of Communications and Public Affairs, and the development of a new digital photography studio with cutting-edge equipment.

Urbano said the College's relentless efforts to modernize and maximize its facilities is no small undertaking, and he credited Altman, Manikis, and Facilities Plant Managers John Sheffield and Keith Smith with keeping the jobs on track.

"It takes a big team working together to make the dreams happen," Urbano said.



The Winter Haven Agilities Course includes 15 physical challenges, such as monkey bars and a scaling wall.



Polk State Grows with Addition of Chain of Lakes, Arts Center Buildings

For tangible examples of growth and progress at Polk State in 2011, look to the new Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School building and the Polk State Lake Wales Arts Center.

In September, the College celebrated the grand opening of the Chain of Lakes building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by more than 500.

In addressing the crowd, which included local and state dignitaries, faculty, staff and students, Polk State College President Dr. Eileen Holden said the building is a huge step forward in enhancing the already outstanding educational experience Chain of Lakes provides.

"Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School has been awesome, and it just got awesomer," Dr. Holden said to the chuckling attendees.

"Polk State College is where dreams take flight and Eagles soar."

Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate is one of two public charter high schools the College operates, allowing students to simultaneously fulfill high school requirements and earn college credit. The school opened in 2006 and has a current enrollment of 270.

The new building was designed and built to meet the nationally recognized standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Environmentally friendly building materials were used, a self-sustaining

water usage system was installed, and the building was designed to capitalize on natural lighting.

Dr. Sharon Miller, Provost of the Winter Haven campus, likened the building's construction to planting and harvesting a crop — in this case, a crop of successful young adults.

Teresa Martinez, Chair of Polk State's District Board of Trustees, echoed that sentiment.

"I can only imagine what the class of 2012 is going to do out of this building," she said.

Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center

Just a month after celebrating the new high school building, the College announced an innovative collaboration involving the historic Lake Wales Arts Center building.

In October, the Lake Wales Arts Council's Board of Directors unanimously agreed to transfer title of the building to Polk State; the College's District Board of Trustees unanimously accepted the title in November.

In exchange for the building, Polk State assured the Arts Council that the structure, now known as the Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center, will undergo minimal modifications intended to bring the building up to applicable codes and standards. The building will be maintained by the College, and arts and

cultural programming at the facility will continue.

"It's a classic 'win-win' situation. The Council transferred stewardship of a precious, historic resource to the College in order to maintain the viability of the facility and preserve community access to a beautiful structure and an array of important culture and arts events," said Dr. Holden.

Dr. Miller, Provost of Polk State's Winter Haven campus and direct supervisor of Polk State's Lake Wales operations, expressed unreserved enthusiasm for what she described as a "wonderful opportunity for our community."

Dr. Miller cited Polk State's experience in renovating and operating the JD Alexander Center, housed in another historic Lake Wales landmark, as a basis for her excitement over the agreement.

"We have seen how important historic preservation is to Lake Wales, and we have also seen how much this community values education and the arts," said Dr. Miller. "Our collaboration at the Arts Center will further solidify the partnership we have enjoyed with the community, and it will certainly expand access to opportunity — a value Polk State holds dear."

Dr. Miller added that Polk State's existing Lake Wales facility is operating "at or near capacity, and we have been

Polk State College celebrated the official opening of its new Polk State College Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September.



desperate for more space. Now we will be able to serve this community even more effectively.”

Barbara Connor, President of the Arts Council’s board of directors, was also pleased about the change.

“Polk State has already shown they have a strong commitment to Lake Wales and to historic preservation. Our board is pleased with the opportunity to attach the College to our building, giving us the opportunity to focus more specifically on programming.”

The LWAC will continue to organize the Lake Wales Arts Show, the Student Art Show, the Marilyn Newell Youth Music Festival, Chorale, and other performances, exhibits, and events at the Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center.

The Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center will be owned and operated by the Polk State College District Board

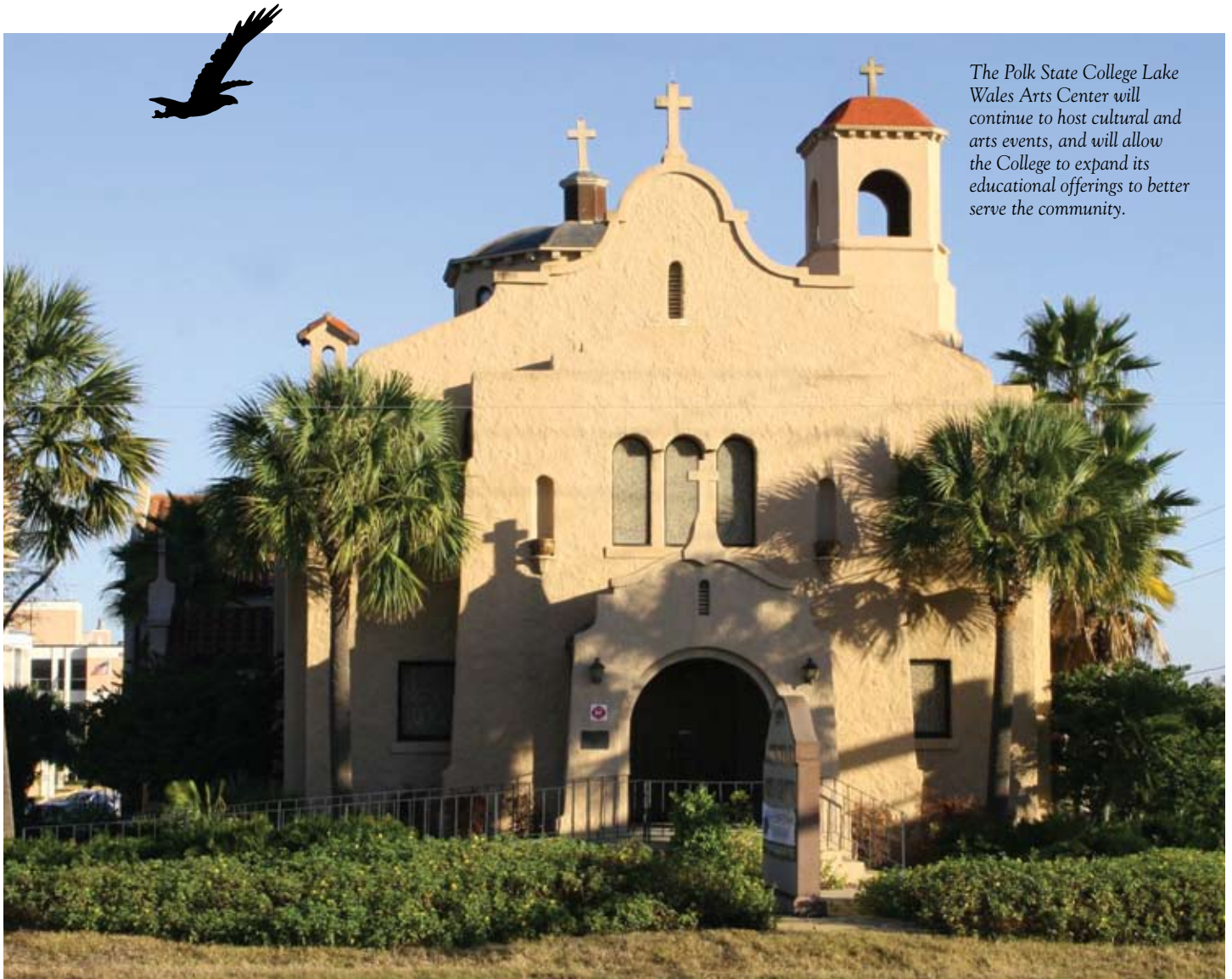
“We are honored by the trust they have placed in us, and we are energized by this new opportunity in Lake Wales,” Dr. Holden said.

of Trustees and will also include an advisory board, consisting of six members appointed by the Polk State Trustees and five members appointed by the Arts Council.

Sustainable funding for Polk State’s newly acquired facility has been provided by the State of Florida, thanks to the efforts of Sen. JD Alexander.

“Florida recognized that we have been good stewards of historic architecture and that we have an unmatched commitment to providing access to educational and cultural activities throughout our service area. We are honored by the trust they have placed in us, and we are energized by this new opportunity in Lake Wales,” Dr. Holden said.

The Arts Council was incorporated as a membership organization in 1972 and began raising funds to save and preserve the Arts Center in 1989. The renovated building opened to the public in 1991 as a site for arts and cultural events.



The Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center will continue to host cultural and arts events, and will allow the College to expand its educational offerings to better serve the community.



Polk State Honors Program Reaches New Heights

In April, the Polk State College Honors Program had a recognition ceremony for the members of its largest graduating class to date.

Members of the class included:

Back row from left:

LaDonna Gleason, Robert Hendrix, Justin Bean, Farouk Elkhayat, Stormy Knight, Lloyd Michael Wells, Alexandria Wilson; and

Front row from left:

Alex Gomez, Kristen Kent, Marissia Nichols, Olivia Newton, MyCah Pleasant, and Jade Parry.



Polk State's Honors Program continued to grow in 2011, and its participants tackled new and exciting challenges.

By the end of the year, 309 students were participating in the program, the highest number since it began in 2005. During the course of the year, 26 graduated from the program.

"The level of growth is excellent. It shows that the students at the College wanted the opportunity to take courses in the Honors Program and that we're fulfilling a need," said Lakeland Honors Program Director and History Professor Brad Massey.

To qualify for the Polk State Honors Program, students must meet certain GPA requirements or score highly on tests such as the ACT or SAT. Those who are accepted into the program enjoy smaller classes, field trips, priority registration, and numerous scholarship opportunities. To graduate from the program, students must complete at least 18 credit hours with the Honors Program designation. Graduates receive the Honors Program designation on their transcripts, recognition at graduation, and the Honors Program seal on their diplomas.

At the end of 2011, the first Honors Program Academic Showcase was staged. Students gave 15-minute presentations during the event attended by faculty, parents, and students; presentation topics included a proposal for a meditation room at the College, the effects of cigarette smoking, and microbiology, to name just a few.

The year also saw the formation of an Honors Program Student Council on

both the Lakeland and Winter Haven campuses. The group meets via video conferencing, and two students from each campus serve on the Honors Program Committee, which also includes faculty and advisors who work with the Honors Program.

Representatives from the Honors Program also made several trips during the year, including a visit to the Florida Collegiate Honors Conference in Jacksonville in February, and the National Collegiate Honors Conference in Phoenix in October.

In April, the Honors Program Recognition Ceremony took place in the evening for the first time, allowing students' families to attend. An Honors Program faculty member spoke on behalf of each of the students.

In May, Honors Program faculty held a retreat attended by more than two dozen professors. During this event, Dr. Valerie Burks, Director of the Honors Program at Valencia College and former Director of the Palm Beach State College Honors Program, shared her best practices.

During the course of the year, Honors Program students also traveled to The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Downtown Lakeland, Ybor City Museum, and MOSI in Tampa.

Going forward, Winter Haven Honors Program Director Ana Maria Myers expects great things for the program.

"Not only are the numbers increasing, but the quality of the students is getting better. That shows me we're attracting really good students who want to learn in a different way," said Myers, also a professor of Spanish and Humanities.



POLK STATE
Lakeland Collegiate
High School



POLK STATE
Chain of Lakes
Collegiate High School

Collegiate High Schools

Celebrate Test Scores, Student Achievements

Each year is better than the last at Polk State's collegiate high schools, and 2011 was no exception.

The College operates Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate in Winter Haven and Polk State Lakeland Collegiate as public, charter high schools, allowing students to fulfill requirements for their diplomas while also earning college credits — all at no cost.

Since the establishment of these quality-driven educational programs — Polk State Lakeland Collegiate in 2004, and Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate in 2006 — each has followed an upward trajectory in test scores, graduation rates, and associate degree completion rates.

Among 2011's highlights were the schools' scores on the state's FCAT Science exam.

Both schools serve only high school juniors and seniors who have already cleared all of the FCAT requirements except for the Science portion. Until 2011, this exam was administered in the 11th grade; it has since been eliminated as a requirement for that grade level. Nonetheless, in 2011 Polk State Lakeland Collegiate and Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate had the highest and second-highest scores respectively among all Polk County schools.

"We have consistently maintained a level of excellence, but in 2011 we stretched out and set our bar a little

higher," said Polk State Lakeland Collegiate Director Sallie Brisbane, who added that when Polk State Lakeland Collegiate was established, it was only the second charter high school in the state.

Both schools also shined on the SAT and ACT, exceeding national and state averages; Polk State Lakeland Collegiate was one of only five schools in the County to improve in all three areas of the SAT.

Student success at the schools wasn't limited to standardized tests. During the 2010-11 Academic Year, Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate graduated 100 percent of its seniors, the only public high school in Polk County to do so; Polk State Lakeland Collegiate was a close second, graduating 98 percent of seniors.

Also in 2011, both high schools had their highest number of associate's degree-completers yet: 40 of 131 graduates at Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate, and 33 of 113 graduates at Polk State Lakeland Collegiate.

Among the individual success stories at Polk State Lakeland Collegiate was that of Alex Manjarres, who was 12 when he was accepted early in the year. Manjarres is the youngest student to ever be served by the College. He is on track to graduate with his associate's degree at just 15 years old.

At Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate, several students had noteworthy accomplishments during the year, including Roxana Aguilar, who

won the Teen Trendsetter Excellence in Leadership Award for her work with a reading program for elementary-school students; Jordan Bontrager, a regional winner of Tobacco-Free Kids Advocates of the Year Award; Trevor Monroe, who was a fourth-place winner at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles; and Christine Winward, the first recipient of the school's National Honor Society Amber Shaw Memorial Scholarship. Students also established a tutoring program for children served by the Winter Haven Housing Authority and continued a number of other service-learning projects.

"This was truly a year to remember in terms of the outstanding accomplishments of so many of our students. I couldn't be prouder," said Polk State Chain of Lakes Director Bridget Fetter.

Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate also experienced physical growth — both in terms of its new building that opened on the Winter Haven campus and its enrollment, which increased by 20.

With a successful 2011 completed, directors of both schools say they eagerly anticipate a bright future.

"We are becoming the poster child for a successful charter high school program," Brisbane said. "We're going to continue to soar even higher than before."



Polk State's Corporate College Launches Animated Tutorial



"If you're not using gaming and animation, you will miss the boat," Clancey said.



Tucker Stiles is the star of the animated "Introduction to Supply Chain Management," a four-part online tutorial created by Polk State's Corporate College.

At Polk State's Corporate College, 2011 was the year of Tucker Stiles.

Each year the Corporate College trains nearly 12,000 members of the Polk County work force, equipping them with certifications and updated skills in fields as diverse as child care and advanced manufacturing.

Now, with its animated "Introduction to Supply Chain Management," a four-part online tutorial that stars the affable Tucker Stiles, the Corporate College is training workers in other states and countries.

Development of "Introduction to Supply Chain Management" began in 2009 after Corporate College Director Rob Clancey attended a conference that discussed the future of higher education.

"What most stood out is that in the next 10 years, it's all about gaming and animation," Clancey said.

Clancey returned to Lakeland and started searching for grant dollars that could be used to develop an animated instructional tool. The Supply Chain Management Institute within the Corporate College soon stepped forward with available funding.

"Supply Chain Management was one of the best fits for animation because there are a lot of younger workers in the field who are just starting out in their careers. They've grown up with gaming and

animation," Clancey said.

The College contracted with Raleigh, NC-based Digital Elixir Studios to create the online tutorial. Matt Kane, President of the College's Supply Chain Management Institute Advisory Council and Manager of Integrated Business Planning and Change Management for The Mosaic Company, wrote the curriculum.

"Introduction to Supply Chain Management" begins on the most basic level, explaining how supply chains start with raw materials and end with a product on the shelf. With each chapter it becomes more complex, delving into management details.

Tucker walks students through a user-friendly, easily integrated program filled with clever jokes. To gauge understanding and retention, the program is peppered with interactive quizzes and activities — it even gives users their scores compared to national averages.

The 8-hour tutorial took on a new level of importance in the summer of 2011, when the American Society of Transportation and Logistics (ASTL) adopted it as part of its Global Logistics Associate Certificate, an internationally recognized program.

The ASTL is the premier professional organization for transportation and logistics, and employees at various

companies seek the Global Logistics Associate Certificate to upgrade their skills. In Florida, the tutorial translates to 12 credit hours for users who want to pursue an associate's degree in Supply Chain Management.

"The ASTL is using us exclusively as a supplement to their program all over the world," Clancey said.

Going forward, Clancey said the Corporate College is seeking to incorporate animation and gaming in the curriculum of its other institutes.

"If you're not using gaming and animation, you will miss the boat," Clancey said.

The Corporate College was established in 2002 and is located at Polk State's Airside Center in Lakeland. It trains incumbent workers through 10 institutes including Advanced Manufacturing; Agribusiness/Technology; Child Care; Contractor Safety Training; Design, Construction and Sustainability; Insurance; IT/Computer; Professional Development; Real Estate; and Supply Chain Management. The Corporate College aims to continually upgrade the skills of Polk County's work force. To that end, the Corporate College regularly partners with area employers to create industry- and company-specific training programs to meet their immediate needs.



Marcia Conliffe



Martha Santiago



Saul Reyes



Donald Painter, Jr.

Key Hires, Promotions Made in 2011

Several newly hired and promoted employees are now putting their ample experience in education to work for Polk State College.

The employees' posts vary widely, from academic affairs to student financial services, but the philosophy behind each of the hires and promotions is the same—leveraging their expertise to take the College to the next level.

Among the hires made in 2011 was **Marcia Conliffe**, Director of Student Financial Services, who brings more than 20 years of experience in higher education to the College. She previously worked as Director of Financial Aid at Florida A&M University, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Financial Services at Broward College, and held fiscal positions at Florida Atlantic University and Florida State University. Conliffe holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University.

In her new position, Conliffe is using not only her previous financial aid experience, but also experiences in veterans' services, disability services, international student admissions, enrollment management and even athletics. By putting that range of work to use, she is building a more well-rounded Student Financial Services Department.

"There are many special populations of students who have their own needs. I am so glad that I have all of these experiences in other areas and am able to create something that is more than your typical financial aid office," Conliffe said.

An additional new hire is **Dr. Martha Santiago**, Dean of Academic Affairs on the Winter Haven campus, who brings to Polk State 31 years of experience in education and administration, having most recently worked as principal of Boone Middle School in Haines City.

She also previously worked for Polk County Public Schools as Director of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and World Languages. In 2006, she started her own after-school tutoring program that served five counties; in 2009, she sold the business and returned to the public schools.

Dr. Santiago also served as a member of the Polk State District Board of Trustees from 1999-2009.

She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Bayamon of Puerto Rico, a master's degree from International University of Miami, and a doctorate from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Santiago said her knowledge and familiarity with the public school system is serving her well in her new position.

"I have a good understanding of the educational process. I know how our students started and know where they came from," Dr. Santiago said.

"My experience helps me bridge the transition to college for our students, helping them to be successful in their educational endeavors."

Staffing changes in 2011 also included the promotion of **Dr. Saul Reyes** to Dean of Student Services on the Winter Haven campus. Reyes first joined Polk State in 2009 as manager of the JD Alexander Center in Lake Wales. He previously worked as a graduate academic advisor at the University of South Florida Polytechnic and a director of the career center at Florida Southern College. His prior experience also includes work at Jacksonville University, Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, the University of Connecticut, and Bethany College and Bethany, West Virginia.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts, a master's degree from

West Virginia University, and a doctorate from the University of South Florida.

In his new post, Reyes said his 25 years of professional experience in higher education is helpful, but he is also drawing on his personal experiences.

"I am the son of Cuban immigrants and I was the first in my family to attend college. I am aware of the challenges faced by first-generation college students. More importantly, I know the difference that supportive staff, programs, and services can make in encouraging students to complete their degree," he said.

Also promoted was **Donald Painter, Jr.**, who is now Associate Dean of Academic Affairs on the Lakeland campus. Painter joined Polk State in 2006 as a professor of speech communication, later becoming coordinator of the English department on the Lakeland campus. Prior to joining Polk State, he was an adjunct instructor at St. Petersburg College, Hillsborough Community College, and the University of South Florida. He has a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of South Florida, where he is also a doctoral student.

Painter said that it is helpful for him to have worked his way up through the ranks at Polk State.

"I have valuable background information and relationships within the College, and those relationships are strengthening every day," he said.

According to Human Resources Director Jill Hall, the College hired 20 faculty members and 48 staff members in 2011.

"Every single one of these additions to our team makes us stronger," she said. "You can't help feeling excited by the momentum these new faces and talents create."



Polk State Athletics

Make History in 2011

DOMINANCE.

Just the one word is needed to describe 2011 for Polk State athletics.

In fact, at one point, all of Polk State's athletic teams — baseball, basketball, cheerleading, soccer, softball and volleyball — were defending champions.

Here is a look at what will be remembered forever in record books and highlight reels.

BASEBALL

The celebrations were nonstop for Polk State Baseball in 2011. The team set a school record for the greatest number of consecutive wins — 22, and the greatest number of wins in a season — 43. It also had more wins than any other team in Florida Junior College (JUCO) baseball. Thirteen student-athletes won All-Conference honors.

The squad went on to win the Suncoast Conference Championship, its first since 1992. The team finished third in the Florida College System Activities Association (FCSAA) Baseball State Tournament. During the season, the team climbed as high as No. 1 in the state rankings and No. 4 in national rankings.

The stellar season led to seven scholarship signings in late 2011: centerfielder Ryne Knuth, Southeastern

University; right-handed pitcher Brian Johnson and left-handed pitcher Steve Burnham, Florida Southern College; right-handed pitcher Alec Asher and outfielder Mike Danner, University of Tampa; right-handed pitchers Kevin Gude and Chris Waltermire, Bethune-Cookman University. All will begin playing for their new teams at the start of the 2012-2013 season.

The team was honored at the Polk County Sports All-Sports Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet, where it was named Male Collegiate Team of the Year. Coach Al Corbeil earned Conference Coach of the Year honors, and the team received the Florida Collegiate Umpires' Sportsmanship Award.

"We really saw the dividends of a lot of hard work. It was a really close-knit group of players; we did a great job of feeding off each other," Corbeil said of the season.

BASKETBALL

Head Basketball Coach Matt Furjanic in 2011 led the Eagles to yet another Suncoast Conference Championship, his third in the past four seasons, and fifth in the last nine seasons.

The Eagles advanced to the Region 8 State Tournament and finished the season ranked No. 5 in the state with an overall record of 17-14.



In December, Furjanic celebrated his 500th coaching victory — a 55-47 win over Daytona State.

Polk State forward Robert Gilchrist is well on his way to an outstanding career as well, having signed late in the year to play for Florida State University starting in the 2012-2013 season.

CHEERLEADING

Polk State Cheerleading in 2011 won the Universal Cheerleaders Association National Cheerleading Competition in Orlando. The team also placed first at the State Fair Competition in Tampa, and first at Spirit Cheer All American Nationals in Orlando.

Head Coach Brittany Carson said the program is growing and getting stronger by the day.

"The program has been doubling every season. When I came three years ago, I had 16 students try out. Now I'm getting more than 75. The program is growing quickly and it's really exciting," she said.



SOCCER

Polk State Soccer won the Region 8 Championship and was the District F runner-up. The team finished its season ranked No. 15 nationally.

Two players — Jill Maykut and Nicole Lehman — were named All Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Players Caitlyn Currie, Elena Atenza, and Gloria Gomez were named to the NJCAA Region 8 Soccer Team. Gomez also made the All-South Squad, which includes 12 states, and was named an All American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

Gomez and teammate Delaina Archer signed to play for Webber International University starting in the 2012-2013 season.

Coach Bill Read said the team's success boiled down to one of the most basic elements of sports.

"You've got to work together as a team. We had a lot of synergy as a team in 2010-2011," he said.

Also during the season, Read got his 100th coaching victory in a win over South Georgia College.

SOFTBALL

Polk State Softball ended its season with a record of 44-17, securing the Suncoast Conference Championship. It was the second consecutive year that Head Coach Jeff Ellis led the

team to a 40-win season.

The Eagles advanced to the FCSAA Fast Pitch Softball State Tournament. The team came just one game shy of advancing to the NJCAA Division 1 Softball Championship, but still ended the season on a high note, ranked as No. 6 in the final FCSAA Softball Coaches' Poll.

Two players, Kenshyra Jackson and Catherine Floyd, were named NJCAA First Team All Americans, the first softball players in the College's history to earn that title. Both earned scholarships to play

at the next level. Jackson signed with the University of South Florida and Floyd signed with Colorado Mesa University.

Floyd was named FCSAA Pitcher of the Year, and Ellis was named Suncoast Conference Coach of the Year.

"It was definitely the most successful season in the history of the softball program here at Polk State, and we're looking forward to bigger and better things," Ellis said.



VOLLEYBALL

Polk State Volleyball truly made history in 2011.

The team, which had experienced just one winning season in the 10 previous years, ended with an overall record of 25-12. The team went on to win its first Suncoast Conference Championship, with a 7-1 record.

Former Head Coach Ruth Ann Rogers was named Suncoast Conference Coach of the Year, the first time that title has been awarded in the team's history.

Five players were named to the FCSAA All-Conference First Team Women's Volleyball Team including Dianne Riviera-Romero, Kahoriz Feliz, Ileanushka Maldonado, Stephanie Harris, and Rachel Aguilar. Yaritza Santiago was named to the FCSAA All-Conference Second Team Women's Volleyball Team.

The team ended its season by advancing to the FCSAA District Championship, another first for the College.





Eagle-Branded Merchandise Soaring Off Shelves



With its rebranding complete, the College rolled out a suite of new merchandise at its Lakeland and Winter Haven bookstores — and the cash registers immediately started ringing.

“Everyone loves the new colors and logo,” said Jennifer Henry, manager of the Winter Haven bookstore. “People are very happy.”

Among the best-selling items are hooded sweatshirts and long-sleeved t-shirts. Short-sleeved t-shirts, travel mugs, pens, key chains, stuffed bears and dogs, lanyards, and other items are also available.

Strong sales have meant that the two stores have had to completely restock all Eagle-branded merchandise every six weeks. Previously, the stores would have to restock particular items only once every three to four months.

“Everyone is really excited and they’re proud of the new branding. Polk State is moving forward and it’s a force to be reckoned with — and our customers want to wear clothes and own merchandise that show their pride in Polk State,” said Lakeland bookstore manager Julia Fracarossi.



WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Supporting Flight

Polk State College is truly a great place to work. So often, I am fortunate enough to experience the reward of witnessing students' relief because our scholarships have made it possible to continue their dreams of a college education — these moments are positively overwhelming. It's just not possible to have a bad day at Polk State because of the difference we know we are making in the lives of our students. This positive transformation is due, in large part, to the generous donations caring individuals, corporations, and foundations make to the Polk State College Foundation.

The Board of Directors and team of the Foundation recognize how fortunate we are that our community embraces the importance of higher education—not just for the transformational difference it makes for individuals, but also for the beneficial economic impact the College has on Polk County through its employees, students, and graduates. Because of Foundation donors, our students spread their wings, and as alumni, take flight, helping our entire community to soar.

In 2011, the Polk State College Foundation was able to award more than \$1.4 million in scholarships to

approximately 1,250 students! I want to express my wholehearted appreciation to **all** of the Foundation donors who have made this incredible feat possible. As with every nonprofit organization, donation levels vary from \$10 to more than \$1 million, but each and every donation is needed and valued by Polk State College students. Scholarships are often **the** deciding factor in making an educational journey financially possible.

In recent years, we have begun to reach out to our more than 35,000 Alumni and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. I, too, am a product of a Florida community college, and fully recognize that I would not be where I am today had I not had my start in the Florida College System. Thankfully, Polk State Alumni take tremendous pride in their experience and have been paying it forward to help current and future students.

On behalf of the students who benefit from your past, current, and future philanthropy, as well as the Foundation's Board of Directors and team, I express to you deep gratitude for the meaningful and significant difference you make at Polk State, as well as your inspirational example throughout our wonderful community.

In 2011, the Polk State College Foundation was able to award more than \$1.4 million in scholarships to approximately 1,250 students! I want to express my wholehearted appreciation to **all** of the Foundation donors who have made this incredible feat possible.



Tracy M. Porter
Executive Director
Polk State College Foundation

Mission Statement

The Polk State College Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt corporation whose purpose is to provide Polk State College with resources for the advancement of the College, its students, faculty, staff, and other constituencies in fulfillment of the College's mission.

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Tracy Porter
Executive Director
Polk State College Foundation
Ex-Officio

Polk State College Foundation Introduces the Philanthropic Advisory Council

In 2011 the Polk State College Foundation formed the Philanthropic Advisory Council. The Philanthropic Advisory Council is comprised of professional advisors, such as certified public accountants, estate planners, and financial advisors in Polk County. These professional advisors provide knowledgeable advice on planned giving and give recommendations to the Foundation Board and staff on best practices for engaging donors and their peers with the College's philanthropic mission.

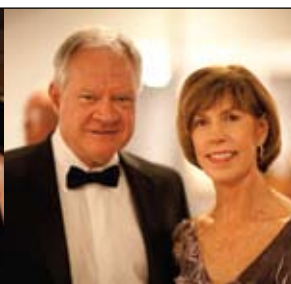
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A Sold-Out Success!

Following the success of the inaugural Wine for Wisdom fundraiser in 2010, community and corporate leaders determined that this eagerly anticipated event would have to become a Polk State College tradition. The 2011 event, Wine for Wisdom: The World Tour Begins, provided an evening of elegance with themed tastings and ambiance inspired by France and the Paris cityscape.

From the color palette reminiscent of a Toulouse-Lautrec painting, to the light-projected Arc de Triomphe along the event hall wall, the sold-out event provided guests with a masterfully prepared gourmet dinner and wine-pairing experience. Funds raised from the evening will be used to help Polk State College students attain the goal of a higher education through Foundation scholarships.

Plans are underway for this year's event, scheduled for September 13, 2012.



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DONATEURS
Making a Meaningful Difference in the Lives of Polk State College Students.
The Wine for Wisdom Host Committee, Polk State College Foundation Board of Directors, Polk State College District Board of Trustees, and the students who benefit from your generosity express their sincere gratitude to the following sponsors whose philanthropy is helping to elevate lives through the power of a Polk State College education.

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Thank you to all attendees of Wine for Wisdom for making a difference in the lives of Polk State College students.



Donor Appreciation Luncheon



Polk State College students Tyler Heverly and Amanda Burton-Coleman participated in the annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon, which honors donors of endowed scholarships.

Each year, the Donor Appreciation Luncheon provides an opportunity for the Polk State College Foundation Board and team members, as well as scholarship recipients, to recognize and thank the generous donors of endowed scholarships.

This year's event took place in November and was presented by Progress Energy. During the event, donors heard the stories of students who have greatly benefitted from their financial assistance. For many students, a donor's generosity is **the** determining factor in their ability to achieve the dream of a college education.

One such student, Amanda Burton-Coleman, spoke to the audience about

her determination to become a physical therapist with a focus on rehabilitation for children. Her scholarship has assisted her academic pursuits as she juggles raising her daughter, working part-time, and participating in the Polk State College gospel choir.

At this truly special event, donors are able to hear about the dreams that are fulfilled when students are able to focus on their studies rather than the challenges of funding their education. Likewise, scholarship students are moved by the generosity of donors and inquire how to establish scholarships when they are able to "pay it forward."



Polk State College alumni Bill Dorman and Cindy Baker, with Jack Barnhart, and Foundation Board Immediate Past President and Polk State alumna Loretta Mervis.

Wise & Witty Women and Many Magnificent Men

Former nursing professor-turned-humorist Karyn Buxman entertained guests at the 2011 Wise & Witty Women and Many Magnificent Men luncheon. Now in its fifth year, the popularity of this event has allowed the program to expand, with luncheons held on both the Winter Haven and Lakeland campuses. Held in conjunction with Women's History Month, guests chatted and laughed over lunch while also supporting scholarships for Polk State College students. Buxman performed at both luncheons, encouraging each audience to smile and search for the humor in every challenging situation.

Women make up 63 percent of Polk State College's student body. There is a

tremendous need to support these aspiring young women as they work to balance education, work, and — in many cases — families. The Foundation is grateful to presenting sponsors Clear Springs, SunTrust, Tampa Electric, and CEMEX, as well as the table sponsors and individuals who made each of these events a success.

While visiting the College, Buxman also spoke with current students in the Nursing Program to tell them about her path from the nursing profession to public speaking. She shared with the students that using humor builds rapport with patients, decreases their stress, and hastens patient recovery.



Speaker Karyn Buxman keeps the crowd laughing during her presentation on using humor in the workplace.



Endowed Teaching Chairs

During the 2011 academic year, two Endowed Teaching Chairs were awarded by the Polk State College Foundation.

The Endowed Teaching Chair Program rewards full-time instructors for outstanding teaching and service to the College and community. Each Endowed Chair recipient receives a stipend of \$5,000 to be used to further enhance his or her professional performance.

Since 1996, 58 Endowed Teaching Chairs and approximately \$330,000 in grants have been awarded to enhance the classroom experience for students through this professional development program. To be eligible for this award, faculty members and professional/technical instructors must have a minimum of three years of continuous full-time instructional status at Polk State College. Recipients are selected by a committee comprised of representatives from the Polk State College Foundation Board of Directors and College faculty members. This is the first time that the 2011 recipients, Lorrie Jones and Brad Massey, have been honored with an Endowed Teaching Chair award.



Professor Lorrie Jones is the recipient of the Lakeland Regional Medical Center and Winter Haven Hospital Endowed Teaching Chair. She has been a professor at Polk State College for nine years, and has been the coordinator of the Maternal Child and Women's Health course. She is a graduate of Polk State College's Nursing Program, and holds Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing degrees from the University of South Florida. She is also a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner as well as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. Additionally, she is a Certified Nurse Educator through the National League for Nursing.

Jones is currently working toward the completion of 400 residency hours in nursing simulation and travels to various institutions to assist with their simulation centers. She hopes this exposure to different instructional methods and equipment will be useful as the College's Nursing Program continues to integrate simulation in its curriculum. Her current research at Winter Haven's Regency Medical Center involves the use of simulation and rapid-cycle testing to develop a post-partum hemorrhage protocol. The protocol will eventually be implemented to streamline treatment regimens and improve maternal outcomes. She will graduate from the University of Florida in May 2012 with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

Jones' Endowed Teaching Chair award has been applied toward the completion of her residency and research. She also purchased an iPad to allow for increased student interaction and to help students better understand the material.



Professor Brad Massey has been awarded the Banking Endowed Teaching Chair. He has served as a history professor at Polk State College for five years, and is the Humanities Department Coordinator and the Honors Program Director on the Lakeland Campus.

Massey holds a master's degree in history from George Mason University and is currently a doctoral student in the American History Program at the University of Florida. He served as the Architectural Historian on the city of Tampa's Historical Preservation Commission from 2006-2010, and was the winner of the 2009 Leland Hawes Prize in Florida history for his essay, "The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of a Modern Florida Landmark: A History of Tampa's Floridan Hotel," which was the featured article in the 2009 edition of *Tampa Bay History*.

While at Polk State, Massey has been awarded four travel grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend teaching conferences, and his article "Making it Different: Teaching Early American History Honors at a Community College," was published in the March 2011 edition of *Perspectives on History: The Newsmagazine of the American Historical Association*.

Massey will use his award to travel to Spain this summer, where he will take an intensive Spanish language immersion course. He also plans to visit the Spanish archives to conduct research related to the Spanish exploration and occupation of Florida in the 16th century.



Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient Ron Garl

In May, Polk State presented its Distinguished Alumnus Award to internationally renowned golf course architect Ron Garl.

Garl earned his Polk State Associate in Arts degree in 1966 as a member of the College's first graduating class, and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in Turf Grass Science from the University of Florida in 1967.

An avid golfer at a young age, Garl received the first full-ride collegiate scholarship from the Florida State Golf Association; in 1979, he became the association's youngest president.

After graduating from UF, Garl worked as an apprentice with national golf design firms, and spent three years working in the Bahamas.

In 1973, he established his own firm — Ron Garl Golf Design in Lakeland. One of his first course designs was Cypresswood Golf Course in Winter Haven.

Since then, he's designed more than 250 courses around the world, including more than 100 in Florida. He has also directed remodels of numerous courses and owns golf courses in several countries.

He also recently planned the format for five oceanfront courses; this is a striking element of his outstanding career, as most firms never have the opportunity to design a course of this nature and complexity.

Many of Garl's designs have been selected as sites for the PGA, Senior PGA, Canadian, and European tours.

Garl is active in the golf community even beyond his personal work, serving as president of the Florida Golf Alliance and a founding board member of the International Network of Golf. He also co-authored the Urban Land Institute's *Golf Course Development in Residential Communities*.

He has received acclaim for his environmental work at the Indian River



Club in Vero Beach, the first course to receive Audubon International's highest award, the Audubon Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Status.

In 2003, he received the University of Florida's Distinguished Alumnus Award, and in 2009 he was inducted into the Polk County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient Rita S. Smith

The December recipient of Polk State's Distinguished Alumnus Award was Rita S. Smith, Executive Director of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Smith graduated from Polk State in 1974 with an Associate in Arts degree in Psychology. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Michigan State University in 1976.

Smith's first job after college graduation was working in a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children.

After gaining counseling experience in that position, she went on to work at a battered women's shelter, a job that served as her introduction to the issue of domestic violence.

Because none of her previous experiences — professional or academic — had prepared her to help victims of domestic violence, she learned her new role on the job. One of the most powerful lessons she learned was that large-scale

problems can ensue when individuals do not feel safe at home, and it is vitally important to make homes safe for vulnerable children.

Inspired by her work at the battered women's shelter, Smith decided that she would devote her career to ending domestic violence.

In 1992, Smith was hired as the conference coordinator for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). A year later, she was named executive director.

Today, the Denver-based NCADV is a national nonprofit that works at a grassroots level to prevent domestic violence. As the Executive Director of the NCADV, Smith builds corporate partnerships and secures donations for the organization. She is often interviewed about domestic violence, and has appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* and national news broadcasts.



Her responsibilities also include working on legislation at the federal level. She has been to the White House during the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations, and in 2010 was present in the Oval Office when President Obama signed the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act*.

Smith dreams that one day Winter Haven will have a domestic violence shelter.

Alumni Notes



Brian Boyce ('99) is a Vice President/Senior Client Manager for TD Bank. He is part of the Regional Commercial Banking Group, serving the Heartland region which includes Polk, Highlands, Desoto, and Hardee counties. He has been in commercial banking for more than 10 years, and has worked throughout Central and South Florida. He is a current board member and past board chairman of the Polk/Highland Chapter of the American Red Cross, and serves on the boards of the Florida Club and the Polk County Industrial Development Authority. He and wife Jennifer ('99) reside in Winter Haven and have two children.

Peter Chichetto ('97) is a licensed real estate associate with Collany Properties. He serves as Vice President for the Boys and Girls Club, is on the board of the East Polk Salvation Army, and is a member of the Winter Haven Rotary Club. Elected to the Winter Haven City Commission (Seat 3) in September, Peter was sworn in and took office in October 2011. Peter's wife Becky ('89) is a store manager for Publix Super Markets, Inc. The couple has one daughter and lives in Winter Haven.

Teresina (Tina) Hill ('85) is Manager of Support Services for the Polk County Clerk of the Circuit Courts. In this role, she is responsible for the operations for jury service, evidence, records, and information processing. She also oversees the mail room at the Polk County Courthouse. She is an adjunct professor for the Polk State College Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management degree program. She serves on the Community Investment Team for the United Way of Central Florida, and is a program director for the Florida Records Management Association.

Martin Lance Holden ('78) is a shareholder with Brennan, Holden, & Kavouklis, P.A. in Winter Haven, where he specializes in wrongful death, malpractice, and serious injury cases. He is the immediate past president of the Polk State College Alumni Association. Holden is also part of a three-generation connection to the College: his father, Clarence, was a former faculty member; his three siblings are also all alumni; his son is a graduate of Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School, and his daughter is currently enrolled at the high school.

Kathryn Koch ('87) is a Vice President at Lanier Upshaw, an independent insurance agency in Lakeland. She is a member of the Citrus Center Kiwanis Club and holds positions on the boards of many other organizations. She is the current Vice President of the Polk State College Alumni Association. Last fall, she competed in the Polk Education Foundation's "Stepping Out for Education" dancing event, where she placed second for the amount raised individually, and helped to generate \$70,000 in donations for scholarships.

Katy Martin ('00) is a Communications Specialist for Lakeland Regional Health Systems. She is responsible for the planning and production of internal and external hospital publications. She also assists with media relations and produces website and social media content. Her husband Clint ('02) works at the Florida Department of Transportation. The couple lives in Lakeland with their two children. Katy recently completed her first half-marathon.

Carole McKenzie ('01) serves as Executive Director for the Polk County Farm Bureau. As the leader of one of the largest county farm bureaus in Florida, her responsibilities include representing the association in political, public, and educational forums. She has been involved with a number of organizations throughout Polk County, including serving on the board of directors for the Polk State College Foundation and the Corporate College.

J. Ellis Straughn III ('02) is a Senior Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. He has earned the designation of Certified Special Needs Advisor. He is a partner with the Straughn Group, helping clients throughout Polk County with their financial-planning and wealth-building strategies. He is also a member of the Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group.



Socials Bring Together Old and New Alumni

The Polk State College Alumni Association started a new tradition this year by launching a series of gatherings to connect alumni who live and work in Polk County.

In April, evening wine socials took place in Winter Haven, Lake Wales, and Lakeland. Alumni, faculty, and staff attended the events to mix, mingle, and network. The gatherings attracted both long-time alumni and recent graduates.

During the fall, seven "Coffee with Classmates" events took place at area coffee shops. These events were held in the morning and in the afternoon at locations across the County to better accommodate alumni wishing to reconnect with the College and their peers.

One of the coffee events was held at Ms. Margie's Coffee Shop, located within Winter Haven Hospital. According to Robert Clark, President of the Polk State College Alumni Association, "The Alumni Board recognized that many of our graduates work in the healthcare field, so it just seemed like a great fit for one of the events to be at our local hospital." To accommodate the shift-change schedule of the hospital, the event started at 6:30 a.m. More than 30 alumni stopped by to support their alma mater.

Each alumnus who attended the social received a Polk State Alumni pin, a car magnet, and small thank-you gift. Feedback for the events was enthusiastically favorable, and more events are planned for 2012.

To find information about upcoming Polk State alumni events, and the latest news from the Alumni Association, please visit www.facebook.com/polkstatealumni.



Alumni gather to reminisce at the wine social held at Chalet Suzanne.

Polk State College Alumni Association

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Polk State College Foundation's Planned-Giving Program Provides Opportunities for the Future

People often mistakenly believe that the joy of philanthropy is a privilege only for the wealthy. In truth, with a little planning, people of all ages and backgrounds can create a legacy by providing a gift in perpetuity to the students of Polk State College.

Designating a planned gift may enable a person to make a more significant donation than he or she could otherwise currently provide. Planned gifts allow for a balance between the desire to be generous and one's financial, philanthropic, and estate-planning goals. There are endless ways to individualize a planned financial gift. Bequests are the most common type of planned gift; however, all major gifts should include thoughtful consideration and consultation with a professional advisor.

Your passion for helping students achieve their dreams of higher education can be part of your life's legacy through a planned gift to the Polk State College Foundation. All levels of philanthropy are accepted and appreciated. Endowed scholarships that assist students in perpetuity begin at \$17,000.

Providing for the needs of others can be part of your philanthropic priorities without negatively impacting your current income and financial reserves. To learn more about this program, please contact the Polk State College Foundation at 863-292-3703.

Working together with individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community, the Polk State College Foundation is able to help many students achieve their academic goals. Last year, the Foundation awarded more than 1,250 scholarships and loans to students with unmet financial needs who demonstrated academic excellence and leadership qualities. In addition, the Polk State College Foundation provided Endowed Teaching Chairs for outstanding professors and supported major Polk State College academic programs through the purchase of equipment and technology.

Polk State College Foundation

Summary of Revenues and Expenses

For the Year Ended December 31, 2010

OPERATING INCOME

Operating Revenue:.....	\$6,376,030
Operating Expenses:.....	\$2,319,602
Net Operating Income (Loss):.....	\$4,056,428

NON-OPERATING INCOME

Investment Income:.....	\$377,085
Unrealized Investment Gains:.....	\$10,331
Net Non-Operating Revenue (Loss):.....	\$387,416

OTHER ADDITIONS (DEDUCTIONS)

Additions (Deductions) to Permanent Endowments:	\$1,716,751
Increase in Net Assets:	\$6,160,595
Net Assets Beginning of Year:.....	\$28,890,881
Net Assets End of Year:	\$35,051,476

SCHOLARSHIPS

Value of Scholarships and Loans Awarded by the
Polk State College Foundation in 2011:

Endowed:	\$523,856
Private/Restricted:	\$670,283
Hospital Partnership Program:	\$252,108
Total:.....	\$1,446,247



POLK STATE
COLLEGE



Overview

Polk State College, established in 1964, is a multi-campus institution serving over 20,000 students with Bachelor of Applied Science, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Science, and Associate in Arts degrees, as well as a wide range of certificate and workforce training options. The College also operates two highly rated charter high schools. Polk State's advantages include small class sizes; hands-on learning; dedicated faculty; day and night classes; online options; affordable tuition; excellent financial aid; a diverse community and a vibrant student life, including fine arts opportunities, clubs, and intercollegiate athletics. *We are the perfect place to soar. We are Polk.*

SCALE	
Total Annual Budget (All Sources)	\$66,264,984
Number of Employees	1,426
Degrees Awarded ¹	1,311
Academic Programs	127
Certificates and ATDs	536
Square Footage Under Roof	718,470
Acreage Overall	232
Number of Campuses	2
Number of Centers	2
Planned New Campuses ²	2
Annual Tech Investment	\$2,500,000
Grants Received	\$9,501,576
Foundation Scholarships	\$1,792,453
Title IV Federal Financial Aid ³	\$17,241,498

¹ AY 2010-2011

² Bartow, Haines City

³ AY 2010-2011

STUDENT PROFILE	
Total Students Served	20,881
Degree-seeking students	15,015
Average age	26.1
Females	62.7%
Males	37.3%
Part-time	72.6%
Full-time	27.4%
Polk County residents	95%

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	
Polk State Lakeland Collegiate HS	225
Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate HS	270
	495



IN MEMORIAM:

Charles Lyle II

In May, Polk State College mourned the untimely loss of Charles Lyle II, Dean of Student Affairs on the Winter Haven campus, who died of bile duct cancer at 41.

Lyle is remembered within the College community as a friend, calming influence, proponent of student activities, and avid supporter of athletics.

A native of South Florida, Lyle began his higher education at Broward College. It was there that he learned firsthand how open access to affordable higher education improves lives.

"Charlie knew that education changes the entire trajectory of not only an individual's life, but the direction of a whole family unit," said Peter Elliott, Polk State's Vice President of Administration and Chief Financial Officer, and a longtime friend of Lyle's. "He was a true believer."

Broward proved to be just the beginning of Lyle's academic career — he went on to receive a bachelor's from Florida International University and a master's from Florida Atlantic University. At the time of his death, he was a doctoral candidate in the Higher Education Administration program at the University of Florida. Before he died, he received a certificate of completion from the program.

It was also at Broward that Lyle began his professional career in higher education — starting as a student worker. He was later promoted to Director of Student Life and then Associate Dean of Students.

He came to Polk State College in 2006, excitedly achieving his goal of becoming a dean.

"Polk State College was everything to him," said Patricia Sullivan, Lyle's wife of 15 years and a teacher at Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate High School. "He wasn't here for a job. He was here for the students. He felt that even if he had to do it one at a time, he could help them all."

For Lyle, one of the ways he felt he could most help students was to improve student life. As a student worker at Broward, he got his initial taste of the value student activities, clubs, and events have on a college campus.

"He knew that student life was necessary for retention. If a student has things to do in between classes, he or she is more likely to stay on campus, go to class, and graduate," Sullivan said.

Lyle enthusiastically supported the creation of the Student Activities and Leadership Office (SALO), which has branches on both the Lakeland and Winter Haven campuses. The College hired Lyle's former Broward student worker, Carlos Parra, as Coordinator of Student Activities and Leadership on the Winter Haven campus.

Under Lyle's supervision, the Winter Haven SALO took root, club participation increased, and the campus began to buzz with the excitement of new student events.

Lyle especially enjoyed an event now called Black Out, an annual event staged during the last home basketball game of the season. During this event, SALO leadership arranges contests and giveaways, packing the gym with fans.

"He absolutely loved those events," Parra said.

During the March 2011 event, which drew record attendance for a men's basketball game, Lyle's two daughters sang the national anthem, his son served as water boy, and hundreds of fans wore "We Love Dean Lyle" t-shirts. At halftime, Parra, athletes, and coaches presented Lyle with a poster signed by every athlete as the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

Parra said Lyle was also especially proud when the College installed a sound system

outside the Winter Haven Student Center, creating a more vibrant atmosphere for students.

Lyle also is credited with bringing better organization to the College's graduation events, and was also a constant presence at the College's various athletic events.

"He treated the athletes as his own children. It wasn't just once in a while, it was every day that he was at an athletic event," Parra said.

Though he reveled in events that drew hundreds, it was on a one-on-one basis with students that Lyle was especially impactful, said his former administrative assistant Tracy Tanner.

"Students would come to him and they would be ready to drop a class or to quit school. Just one visit with Charlie would change them," Tanner said. "He would tell them that he used to not be a good student, and that it took him a long time to get through college. He would put his own personal experience out there and explain that students have the ability to make things happen."

Students, faculty, and staff members alike will never forget Lyle's "Charlie-ness," Tanner explained.

"He really loved his job, and he made every effort to make other people happy," said Tanner, now Exam Coordinator for Child Care Training at the College.

Tracy Porter, another of Lyle's friends from his days at Broward, echoed Tanner's sentiments.

"Charlie was genuinely caring. If you had challenges, he would help you through them," said Porter, District Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Polk State College Foundation.

"He was people's rock and go-to guy. He was the calm in the eye of the storm. If you needed a shoulder to cry on or needed to talk something through, his sense of calm helped you keep things in perspective."

In addition to Sullivan, he is survived by his children Donna, Jonathan, and Veronica.



IN MEMORIAM:

Dr. Maryly VanLeer Peck

Polk State College paused in 2011 to mourn the loss of former President Dr. Maryly VanLeer Peck, whose legacy includes a heightened presence for the College and its dynamic athletics program.

Dr. Peck, 81, died in November in Palm Beach Gardens.

Inaugurated as the second president of Polk State — then Polk Community College— in 1982, Dr. Peck was one of the first females to lead an institution of public higher education in the state.

“It is an honor to walk in her footsteps,” said Polk State College President Dr. Eileen Holden. “Maryly was a true pioneer, and I know that she helped blaze a path that has certainly impacted my own career, as well as the prospects for many other leaders within Florida’s systems of higher education.”

While becoming one of the first females to lead a public higher education institution in Florida is significant, it also was not the first time — or last — that Dr. Peck would make history.

At a time when many colleges and universities didn’t admit women, Dr. Peck was determined to achieve the highest levels of education. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Vanderbilt University in 1951, becoming its first woman to earn an engineering degree. She went on to earn both a master’s and

a doctoral degree in engineering from the University of Florida, becoming the first woman to earn those degrees in the university’s history as well.

She began her career in the aerospace industry as a research engineer for the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and Rocketdyne Corp. in California.

Her interest in academia eventually prevailed, however, and she became the first female dean of the College of Business and Applied Technology at the University of Guam, and founder and dean of what is now Guam Community College. She also held positions at Arizona’s Cochise College, Campbell College in North Carolina, the University of Florida, and the University of Maryland.

She took the helm of Polk State during a time of high unemployment in the county and declining enrollment at the College. Undaunted by those challenges, she embraced Polk State’s ambitions of creating a campus in Lakeland, and during her inauguration announced plans for a joint-use campus off U.S. 98 South that would be shared with the University of South Florida.

The first building on the Lakeland campus was completed within the next several years, and by the College’s 25th anniversary, the Lakeland campus served



more than 1,900 students.

The opening of the Lakeland campus contributed to a period of bustling growth at the College as a whole, and in 1989 Dr. Peck announced that total enrollment stood at more than 6,000, the highest in the College’s history.

Under Dr. Peck’s leadership, the College greatly expanded its educational opportunities for students, including adding allied health offerings through the Health Information Management, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Occupational Therapy Assistant programs.

Dr. Peck also focused her efforts on bolstering the College’s financial standing. She was instrumental in raising money for the Polk State Foundation and seeking state and federal grants. The College’s first successful capital campaign was completed during her 15 years as president, and the number of Polk State scholarships also increased dramatically.

A former competitive swimmer who often spoke about the importance of sports, Dr. Peck was also a passionate

“President Peck remained committed to the transformative power of education, and she understood how the generosity of scholarship benefactors changed the storyline for so many of our students here in Polk County. Just a week before her death, I wrote another thank-you note to her. She was giving right up until the very end.”

– Dr. Holden



supporter of Polk State's athletic programs. She oversaw the College's adjustments to abide by the 1984 Education Equity Act, which required equal athletic opportunities for men and women. Four years later, the College's athletics offerings included men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, and men's baseball. Softball was also established during her time as president.

In addition to expanding the athletic options for students, Dr. Peck also aimed to improve the facilities used by the teams. She helped to form a partnership with the City of Winter Haven to create a softball complex on College-owned property, and she pushed to have lights installed at the College's baseball complex. She also steered more money to the athletics program, recognizing that increased funding would aid in recruiting efforts.

“Maryly VanLeer Peck got us an athletics program,” said Athletic Director Bing Tyus. “She took the steps to make us competitive. Now we're not just competitive, we're winning.”

For her support of the College's athletic programs, she was inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

Dr. Peck, described by many at Polk State as a trailblazer and visionary, also led the way for technological advancements at Polk State. She oversaw the introduction

of computers to students and staff members, the opening of the Teaching/Learning Computing centers on both the Lakeland and Winter Haven campuses, and the establishment of Polk State's website, www.polk.edu.

Her retirement from Polk State in 1997 was far from the end of her involvement in education. She worked for two years as the headmaster at All Saints' Academy, and established numerous scholarships at the College.

Dr. Holden praised Dr. Peck, not only for her successful tenure at the helm of the College, but also for the legacy she nurtured in retirement.

“President Peck remained committed to the transformative power of education, and she understood how the generosity of scholarship benefactors changed the storyline for so many of our students here in Polk County. Just a week before her death, I wrote another thank-you note to her. She was giving right up until the very end,” Dr. Holden said.

Dr. Peck was also active in the Polk community, and was the first female member and first female president of the Winter Haven Rotary. She served on the boards of the Polk Economic Education Council and Girls Inc. of Winter Haven. She also served on a national committee for Girls Inc. that worked to encourage

girls to study science, math, and engineering. She supported the United Way of Central Florida, Theatre Winter Haven, and was an active volunteer for the Boy Scouts.

Staying true to her roots, Dr. Peck was the first woman to preside over the Society of Women Engineers. She also organized most of the student chapters of that organization, and served as national vice president. She also served on the Chemical Engineering Advisory Council at the University of Florida and was a fellow of the National Science Foundation.

Her list of honors is long, including being named one of *Life* magazine's “100 Most Important Young Men and Women in the United States” in 1962, and a University of Florida Distinguished Alumnus in 1991. Her other honors include: the 1995 She Knows Where She's Going Award from Girls Inc., the 2002 Community Service Award from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Golden Plate of Achievement from Dale Webb, a Tau Beta Pi Women's Badge, and the Girl Scouts' Woman of Distinction Award. She was also listed in five *Who's Who* publications.

In 2007, Dr. Peck was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.



Above: Graduates march into the Winter Haven Health Center during the December 2011 commencement ceremony.

Below: Dr. Holden addresses the graduates and attendees of the ceremony.

Record-Setting Commencements

The College will forever remember 2011 as a landmark year. A new brand. Unprecedented athletic dominance. Runaway growth.

It's only fitting then, that the year's commencements also broke new ground for the College.

In May, 290 students marched to the stage to receive their degrees — the College's largest commencement ever. The ceremony was moved to the Lakeland Center Arena — another first for the College — to accommodate graduates, their guests, and members of the public.

The record-setting ceremony included an address by then-Chancellor of the Florida College System, Dr. Willis N. Holcombe.

Approximately 700 students were eligible to march in May, with 73 percent receiving Associate in Arts degrees, 20 percent receiving Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science degrees, 3 percent receiving Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, and the remainder receiving workforce-related program certificates.

Seven months later, the College hosted another sizable commencement when 240 students marched during the ceremony at the Winter Haven Health Center. LEGOLAND Florida General Manager Adrian Jones was the guest speaker. More than 1,200 were eligible to participate in the commencement ceremony, with 68 percent receiving Associate in Arts degrees; 19 percent receiving Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science degrees; 3 percent receiving Bachelor of Applied Science degrees; and the remainder receiving certificates.







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