2019-20 ICUF Presidential Fellows program

The 2019-20 ICUF Presidential Fellows program was another successful effort. With one of the largest cohorts to date, 38 undergraduate students from 20 ICUF institutions advocated on behalf of their schools and the EASE voucher. After attending an orientation session at either Stetson University or St. Thomas University, these students wrote letters to their legislators and Governor DeSantis and launched awareness campaigns on their campuses. The program culminated with the ICUF Legislative Day at the Capitol on January 22. Here, they met to discuss EASE with numerous legislative leaders, including Representatives Cummings, Mariano, and Rodrigues; and Senators Diaz, Passidomo, Stargel, and (Senate President) Galvano. Fellows also attended the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee meeting where they were formally recognized. They were also introduced during the Senate Session. After the Legislative Day, several Fellows returned to Tallahassee testify in committee and others wrote opinion letters to local media outlets. Many thanks to these students and their supportive presidents. There is no doubt such face-to-face and personal advocacy makes a positive difference!
Palm Beach Atlantic Trustees Appoint University’s 9th President

Palm Beach Atlantic University trustees have named Dr. Debra A. Schwinn the university’s ninth president. An accomplished higher education academic leader, innovator, scientist and physician, Dr. Schwinn served as associate vice president for medical affairs, dean of the Carver College of Medicine, and professor of anesthesiology, pharmacology, and biochemistry at the University of Iowa. Timothy S. Sotos, chair of the Search Committee and new chair of the Board of Trustees said, “Dr. Schwinn impressed the search committee and the board with her understanding and appreciation of PBA’s deep Christian commitment, highly regarded academic reputation, and legacy of growth and innovation. She is an exceptional leader with great interpersonal skills. Creative, energetic and a person with a deep and passionate faith, she enjoys music and ballet and plays the violin. We are excited to welcome Dr. Schwinn and her family to the PBA community.”

Beacon Student Artist’s Peeks into Human Machine Picked for Local Exhibition

Jonah Bienhoff, who is studying studio arts and anthrozoology at Beacon College, had three of her pieces accepted for the “Womanmade” exhibit at three galleries in Lake County, Fla. This will be her first art exhibition outside of school. “Being pushed to apply to the show, and it happening — being accepted — was kind of mind-blowing to me,” Bienhoff said. “It’s almost that moment like, ‘I’m a real artist!’”

Russ Bellamy, chair of Beacon’s studio arts department, said Bienhoff has grown a lot as an artist the past few years and has taken on bigger challenges. “Her work pushes boundaries and touches on relatable conceptual ideas that are depicted in a way that forces empathy and self-reflection,” Bellamy wrote in an email. “Her sculptures are amusing, provocative and aesthetically touch upon bodily processes, the human machine and ask us to question our perception and interpretation of beauty.”

Stetson Selects New Director for Art Center

Stetson University has appointed James Pearson, MA, as the Homer and Dolly Hand Art Center’s new director. Pearson was the director of the Southeast Museum of Photography in Daytona Beach. “I really want to raise the profile of Stetson University through the use of the Hand Art Center,” said Pearson. “I also want to be able to use the Hand Art Center as a way to not only broadcast the university’s mission to a larger audience, but to help emphasize and magnify the offerings that are already here and contribute to the university’s history and reputation, which is extremely exciting.”

Pearson’s background includes being the curator and collections manager of the Wright Museum of Art at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, and having a curatorial fellowship at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia.
Ringling College Alumni Part of Hollywood's Biggest Night

Since 2002, the Academy Awards have presented an Oscar for Best Animated Feature and each year since, at least one of the nominated films in that category has included the work of Ringling College of Art and Design alumni. This year, 25 former students from the school’s Computer Animation program worked on three of the five nominees for animation’s top prize. Those films include Toy Story 4, The Missing Link, and How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World. Last year, more than 50 Ringling alumni worked on Oscar nominated films such as Incredibles 2 and Ralph Breaks the Internet. Additionally, this year the Sarasota college has former students that worked on other nominated films like Avengers: Endgame and Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.

Paul Downs, a Ringling alum and instructor at the college, says the reason why hundreds of students find success after graduating has everything to do with their rigorous education. "To perform at that level, they have to have a deep understanding of character, body mechanics, facial expressions, just every aspect of the human being," he said. “That's what they're putting into every one of those characters so that when a shot plays, it's a hundred percent believable that that thing exists.”

University of Tampa President Named ‘Outstanding Citizen of the Year’

The Tampa Metro Civitan, a local volunteer service club, has named University of Tampa President Ronald Vaughn ‘Outstanding Citizen of the Year’.

Vaughn worked as a lifeguard and a barista as a young man and helped put himself through college by selling Sarah Coventry jewelry. A longtime interest in marketing eventually put Ronald Vaughn in a job that business leaders recall was financially risky. When Vaughn became the president of the University of Tampa in 1995, the student body numbered 1,500, school finances were shaky and the buildings on the small campus badly needed repair. In the 25 years since, he has built the university into a bustling hub of 10,000 students who live and study in a collection of modern buildings as well as historic ones on a 110-acre campus and produce an economic impact of more than $1 billion per year. It was for his leadership of the university along the Hillsborough River across from downtown Tampa that Vaughn received the Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Vaughn, 73, was surprised about receiving the award and seemed pleased. “I’ve been coming for many years and normally I’d be sitting out there trying to guess who this is,” he said. “I have to say we’re fortunate to live in this great community, this great state,” Vaughn said. “I’m proud to be here. I’m happy to do whatever I can to help advance our community and of course the University of Tampa.”
Florida Southern Students Awarded First Place in MBA Case Competition

A team of MBA students from Florida Southern College were awarded first prize in the 6th Annual Southeastern Region Strategic MBA Case Competition. It was the second year in a row in which FSC had received this honor. Nine teams of graduate students from seven college and university programs participated in the two-day competition, which was hosted by FSC’s Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise. For one month prior to the competition, teams were tasked with identifying new market trends and developing strategic plans in response to a live case study supplied by the JBT Corporation’s Lakeland division, primary site of the company’s citrus operations. Teams then anonymously pitched their proposals to a panel of judges from the company, with each of the proposed strategies being eligible for real-world implementation.

Winning Team Members

Bethune-Cookman Alumna Appointed to the SHRM Board of Directors

Jennifer Adjetey is a 2014 alumna of B-CU from Cotonou, Benin. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from B-CU and obtained a Masters in Human Resources Management in 2016 from Walden University. Most recently, Adjetey was appointed as Vice President of Finance for the Volusia/Flagler County Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Board of Directors. SHRM is an international professional human resources association that promotes Human Resources as a profession. The organization empowers human resources professionals through education, certification, and networking. Read more.

Saint Leo Elevates Historian to Dean

Saint Leo University has announced that Heather Parker, PhD, has been named dean of The College of Arts and Sciences. She had been serving as interim dean of the college since November 2018. Dean Parker is a professor of history. She joined the Saint Leo faculty in August 2006 as an assistant professor of history. Her past administrative roles include serving as chair of the Department of Social Sciences and then as associate dean of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Parker has also remained active in research. Her recent work has concentrated on interethic religious interaction and the political implications of these relationships in Florida. She has also been researching the ways in which college administrations and faculty can provide effective mentoring for both traditional and non-traditional minority students.
Florida Tech Names VP for University Relations

William “Bill” Jurgens, who has served as athletic director at Florida Tech since 1976, has been promoted to vice president for university relations, effective this May.

During his 44 years as the guiding force behind the university’s athletics programs – a tenure that makes him the longest-serving athletic director in Sunshine State Conference history – Jurgens helped build Florida Tech’s 18 varsity sports involving more than 500 student-athletes.

Jurgens has been at the university for over 50 years, arriving in 1969 when he was hired as the first head crew coach. He is also an alumnus, earning his Master of Science Education degree at Florida Tech in 1979. “Bill has demonstrated sustained excellence for five decades,” said Florida Tech President Dwayne McCay. “He has helped shape generations of scholar-athletes, strengthening minds as well as bodies, and forged important relationships on the Space Coast and beyond. We look forward to watching him excel in his new role.”

New Trustee Appointed to Flagler’s Board

Darnell Smith, market president for the north Florida region at Florida Blue, was selected for the Flagler College Board of Trustees. His board term begins in March, and he brings experience in growth management as well as customer service excellence. His work at Florida Blue encompasses a period of industry-leading customer service satisfaction for the company. Smith grew up in St. Augustine. He received his bachelor’s from Florida State University in electrical engineering. He’s also a graduate of the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program and of the University of Michigan Advanced HR Executive Program. Smith has been actively engaged in the northeast Florida community for over three decades.

Hodges Names Dean of the Johnson School of Business

Dr. Todd Katz has joined Hodges University as the Dean of the Johnson School of Business. His responsibilities include overseeing the existing degrees and programs, in addition to creating new degrees and programs that help fulfill the workforce needs of organizations and corporations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. “Dr. Katz brings extraordinary, real-world experience that will take our business school to a new level of excellence,” said Dr. John Meyer, President of Hodges University. “His expertise and enthusiasm will ultimately benefit the students we serve.”

Dr. Katz brings over 25 years of professional experience as a senior financial services executive. His achievements include developing, growing, and leading financial services companies in fast paced, high growth, dynamic environments. Additional strengths include business development, relationship and risk management, strategic planning, credit, sales leadership, employee motivation, corporate finance, including capital raising and merger and acquisitions, recruiting and developing high performing management teams.
Saint Leo to Construct New Wellness Center at Residential Campus

Saint Leo University President Jeffrey D. Senese announced the university will build a 59,000-square foot Wellness Center on its residential campus, directly overlooking the picturesque Lake Jovita. The purpose of the facility is to create an environment for holistic health and well-being that integrates student recreation, fitness, health services, counseling services, and campus ministry.

Fitness areas will include space for group exercise, spinning and yoga classes, and a large community fitness center. In addition, there will be two indoor basketball courts, a healthy smoothie bar, and a recreational pool with a lakeside infinity edge, as well as a relaxation terrace and garden. Several multi-purpose rooms are planned that could be used as space for meditation, specialty classes, and gaming.

At the formal announcement, University President Senese said, “We are creating an iconic building for Pasco County, Tampa Bay, and Florida. It is our vision that this building will take your breath away.” Construction is slated to begin this spring and university officials hope for a Fall 2021 opening of the Wellness Center.

Baptist Health South FL Manages St. Thomas On-Campus Health Clinic

Baptist Health South Florida now manages an on-campus health clinic at St. Thomas University (STU) providing students, faculty and staff with medical care including annual physical exams, sick visits, chronic disease management, lab draws on-site and annual flu vaccines. “At St. Thomas University, we strive to be student-centered and give our students access to best services available,” said David A. Armstrong, J.D., president at St. Thomas University. “By partnering with a prestigious institution, such as Baptist Health, we are providing them with access to top-level healthcare that will enhance their university experience.”

In addition, Baptist Health will offer programming to STU faculty and staff including sponsored lectures on health and wellness, and initiate a step challenge. They will collaborate with the STU School of Nursing on health promotion initiatives, such as educating employees on healthy weight and blood pressure parameters and offer monthly blood pressure checks and weigh-ins, and work with university experts to identify additional opportunities to promote health and wellness on-campus.
45,000 Florida resident college students receive the Effective Access to Student Education Grant (EASE)

These students receive the grant to attend one of 30 independent Florida colleges and universities

They travel to Tallahassee every year to thank Legislators and the Governor

EASE provides Floridians with choice and opportunity!
Harvard Jolly, Inc.
2714 Dr. ML King Jr. St. North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704
www.harvardjolly.com

Primary Contacts:
Mrs. Gina Tercilla,
Sr. Associate/Marketing Dir.
(561) 478-4457
marketing@harvardjolly.com

Founded in 1938, Harvard Jolly Architecture is one of the largest architectural firms in Florida, offering services in architecture, landscape architecture and interior design. With 8 offices throughout the state, they have designed over three million square feet of higher education projects with a professional team of over 90 employees.

Guardian Angel, LLC
3467 Apex Parkway
Apex, NC 27502
www.theguardianangel.com

Primary Contact:
Mr. Jayson Wilson,
Chief Commercial Officer
(919) 267-2510 x132
j.wilson@theguardianangel.com

Guardian Angel, LLC is a Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned, full service global risk management and mitigation consultancy providing schools with travel risk management solutions through its mobile application and providing emergency management and campus safety oversight through its HawkEye platform that is supported 24x7 by its Global Security Operations Center.

Ameresco
2202 N. West Shore Blvd.
Suite 2000
Tampa, Florida 33607
www.ameresco.com

Primary Contact:
Mr. Richard E. Kohrs
Senior Account Executive
(727) 247-4900
rkohrs@ameresco.com

Ameresco, Inc. is a leading independent provider of comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for facilities throughout North America and the United Kingdom, delivering long-term value through innovative systems, strategies and technologies. Ameresco can modernize a single facility or provide comprehensive campus-wide energy management systems, built from best-in-class, energy-efficient and renewable energy solutions, financed entirely with capital collected from campus energy conservation. With an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC), higher education institutions can get the energy infrastructure upgrades they need now and stabilize ongoing utility costs to develop a source of capital in the future.

Click HERE for a listing of all our ICUF Preferred Vendors