

13 East Main Street
Avon Park, FL 33825
863-453-3133

AND

Shakers

...inside
DONORS
AND *Shakers*



3 Thakkar Foundation helps nursing students master obstetric care by purchasing new SimMom.



5 Take Stock in Children scholar Benjamin Auyang has outstanding career at the University of Florida.



6 Foundation donors bring rooms back to life in Avon Park's historic 90-year-old Hotel Jacaranda.

It's a **New Beginning**

◆ THE SFSC FOUNDATION PROUDLY KICKS OFF ITS NEW SEASON WITH A **NEW NEWSLETTER.**

If you have ever been to a Friday night high school football game, you'll remember the excitement and energy as the crowds cheer on their favorite team. The passion, the drive, and the determination of those players make their coaches and their fans proud of the plays they just made. Imagine sitting in the bleachers, cheering on your son, encouraging him to tackle the opposing team and make that play . . .

while knowing that playing on the opposing team is the son of your dear friend and a member of the SFSC Foundation's board of directors! Oh, the joys of living in a small community.

Although we may be on opposite sides of the football stadium, this much is true: the passion that SFSC Foundation president Terry Atchley and I hold for our high school football teams is the same passion we share for our communities. As parents of high schoolers, we understand the importance of higher education and how it can transform lives, which is why we are passionate about South Florida State College.

At the kickoff of a new season comes excitement and anticipation of what's in store. Goals to accomplish. Ideas to be



Terry Atchley, president of the SFSC Foundation's Board of Directors, and Jamie Bateman, executive director, institutional advancement.

shared. New friends to get to know, and old friends to reconnect with. We would like to think of our SFSC Foundation newsletter, *Donors and Shakers*, to be a chance to share with you the changes we have made, the goals we have set, a few ideas we want to pass along, and the opportunity for us to connect with you.

We are excited about our newsletter and hope you enjoy getting to know more about our team.

Go team!

Terry Atchley
President,
SFSC Foundation Board of Directors

Jamie Bateman
Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

◆ YOUR **END-OF-YEAR GIFT TO THE SFSC FOUNDATION**
BUILDS A BETTER COMMUNITY THROUGH HIGHER
EDUCATION.

Take a walk with me on any of our South Florida State College campuses, and you'll meet people who are in the process of becoming the next generation of problem solvers: health care workers training to fight disease; teachers training to engage our youth; economists training to forecast the future; and police officers, firefighters, and first responders training to keep us safe. They are our students.

Look into the eyes of our students, and you will see determination, passion, and the drive to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. These goals are sure to impact not just their lives, but those around them. Imagine the impact they will have on our community.

A vision has the power to move us from what we are to what we aspire to become. Each student has a vision, and so do we.

It's an exciting time at SFSC as we continue the mission established more than 50 years ago. We are ensuring that each new generation of students has the opportunity to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and judgment so that they may serve our community as did those who preceded them.

To support that endeavor, the SFSC Foundation has set a goal of our own: to strengthen our unrestricted endowment so we can continue to support future students with scholarships and state-of-the-art teaching facilities that our district



has come to expect from its hometown college. Now we need you.

Your gift to the SFSC Foundation builds a pathway to education so that future generations can improve their circumstances and prepare for careers that give their lives meaning. We have enclosed an envelope for your convenience, and ask you to consider making an end-of-year donation.

Thank you for investing in our students and their future success.

Thank you for your partnership, your support, and your investment in SFSC's bright future.

We simply cannot say it enough. Thank you!

Jamie Bateman
Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement



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DONORS AND Shakers

IS PRODUCED SEMIANNUALLY BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC., TO INSPIRE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE. THE FOUNDATION RAISES AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF A SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE EDUCATION AND PROMOTES STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS, FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT, AND PROGRAM SUPPORT. BY SUPPORTING SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE, THE FOUNDATION ENDEAVORS TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF RESIDENTS IN OUR DISTRICT TO OBTAIN A COLLEGE EDUCATION.

Thakkar Foundation Donation

helps Nursing Students Master Obstetrics



Dr. Vinod Thakkar (left) and Dr. Tarlika Thakkar admire the new SimMom purchased for the SFSC Nursing Department through their \$50,000 donation to the SFSC Foundation. SFSC's Dr. Michele Heston said the SimMom is an invaluable teaching tool that nursing faculty can use to teach obstetric techniques to nursing students. Dr. Vinod Thakkar, an SFSC Foundation board member, is now working with Jamie Bateman to create a professional giving society for physicians that will support the mission of the Foundation.

Modern technology is not only transforming health care but also how nurses learn essential skills.

Thanks to a \$50,000 gift from the Drs. V. & T. Thakkar Foundation, South Florida State College's nursing faculty have access to the latest patient simulation technology: a full-body SimMom with the anatomy and functionality of a real expectant mother. It is becoming an invaluable tool for teaching obstetric techniques to students.

"Nurses play an essential role as members of today's interdisciplinary health care team using advanced technology," Dr. Vinod C. Thakkar said. "To fulfill that role, nurses must be highly trained, so educating them with the latest simulation technology is of the utmost importance."

For Dr. Michele Heston, SFSC's dean of Health Sciences and a nurse, simulation technology is a dynamic teaching tool.

"Simulators allow us to teach critical skills without affecting patient safety,"

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Heston said. "Our students benefit from a learning environment that is as close to real life as possible."

Dr. Thakkar is a gastroenterologist who maintains a private practice and attends to patients at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center. His wife, Dr. Tarlika V. Thakkar, is an anesthesiologist. They established the Thakkar Foundation to direct their philanthropy to numerous local organizations.

The Thakkar Foundation's \$50,000 gift was the first donation to the SFSC Foundation's Partnership Project. This five-year capital campaign, the largest fundraising effort in SFSC's 50-year history, aims to raise \$10 million.

All gifts to the Foundation's capital campaign are tax-deductible. Pledges can be paid over five years.

DR. THAKKAR ORGANIZES GIVING SOCIETY FOR PHYSICIANS

DR. VINOD THAKKAR IS USING HIS POSITION AS A MEMBER OF THE SFSC FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ESTABLISH A GIVING SOCIETY FOR PHYSICIANS WHO WISH TO COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION'S WORK.

THE PHYSICIANS GIVING SOCIETY IS EXPECTED TO BE THE FIRST OF MANY PROFESSIONAL GIVING SOCIETIES IN WHICH ITS MEMBERS CAN JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION IN ITS ENDEAVORS.

"IN SHORT ORDER, DR. THAKKAR AND THE SFSC FOUNDATION WILL UNVEIL THE GIVING SOCIETY TO THE COMMUNITY," SAID JAMIE BATEMAN, SFSC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT.

"IT WILL OPEN AVENUES FOR OTHER PROFESSIONS TO PARTNER WITH THE SFSC FOUNDATION, GIVING OUR STUDENTS EVEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PHYSICIANS GIVING SOCIETY OR OTHER GIVING OPTIONS, CALL THE FOUNDATION AT 453-3133 OR EMAIL FOUNDATION@SOUTHFLORIDA.EDU.

STRIVING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW

Partnership Project *Begins Second Year*

The Partnership Project is a five-year SFSC Foundation capital campaign initiative designed to raise \$10 million toward an unrestricted endowment that will enable SFSC to meet the ever-changing needs of our students for the next 50 years and beyond.

With this endowment, we will be able to offset the costs of new programs and technology that are not funded through traditional means. This will allow the college to expand in areas important to our community.



We are in our second year of the Partnership Project and are halfway to our goal. We've made many new friends and received donations in support of this capital campaign, but we need your help. We're excited about the upcoming year as we offer naming opportunities at the college and look for friends, old and new, to join us as we work to ensure new educational opportunities for the generations to come in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. Won't you partner with us?

Alumni Association *Welcomes Your Involvement*

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAIR

I am extremely excited to be the new chair of the South Florida State College Alumni Association. This is an incredibly dynamic time to be involved with SFSC as we grow!

During my tenure, I would ask each of you, as alums, to do one thing: Come back. Come back to see, hear, and feel the atmosphere of your alma mater.

Come back to see the beauty of the campus, from the glistening lakes and beautiful foliage to the new Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts.

Come back because it is still your college, and there has never been a better time to renew your pride in all that it represents to our local community! If it's been awhile, let us know you're coming and we'll welcome you.

Panther spirit has a whole new meaning these days, and it's time that you felt it also. Our alumni association is only as strong as the sum of its



parts. Many opportunities are available to strengthen our alumni association as well as campus to community connections. I ask you to get involved! Whether it is joining me as a founder, participating in events, or even student outreach, each alum can contribute to strengthen our Panther pride.

I'll be looking for you at our upcoming meetings and events!

Patricia Manderville, Chair
SFSC Alumni Association

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



SFSC Alum *Completes Doctorate in Pharmacy*

Hong Nguyen's career path to pharmacy took shape at South Florida State College. She began her studies as a dual enrollment student from Sebring High School and earned her associate degree as a member of the SFSC Honors Program. She went on to complete an undergraduate degree in biomedical sciences at the University of South Florida and a doctor of pharmacy degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pa. To learn more about Dr. Nguyen, visit the Web page: <http://www.southflorida.edu/news/interest-in-science-opens-career-path-to-pharmacy-for-sfsc-grad>.

Take Stock Scholar *Succeeds at UF*

◆ THE SFSC FOUNDATION IS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN IN DESOTO, HARDEE, AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES.

Recent University of Florida (UF) graduate and 2012 Avon Park High alumnus Benjamin Auyang is all smiles as he considers how far he has come since his days as a Take Stock in Children scholar, when getting a college education was a goal to pursue. In June, the aspiring speech therapist earned his bachelor of arts degree in linguistics from UF and is now pursuing his master's degree in communication sciences and disorders while completing clinicals at an outpatient clinic for children.

Being a Take Stock scholar in middle school and high school exposed Auyang to opportunities a young student from Avon Park might not otherwise have had. Scholars are selected in the seventh grade and promised scholarships to college or vocational schools. In return, they agree to remain drug- and crime-free and maintain satisfactory grades throughout high school. Take Stock matches scholars with mentors who meet with them at least 30 minutes a week. Scholars also get opportunities to participate in workshops and activities that prepare them for college. The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for Take Stock in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties.

As a Take Stock scholar, Auyang appreciated bouncing ideas off his mentor, pharmacy owner Robert Duncan, and getting support from his college success coach, Irene Castanon. He networked with other Take Stock scholars in his district and developed friendships that he maintains today. He benefited from workshops on financial aid and practice sessions for the ACT and SAT college entrance exams. By



Take Stock in Children scholar Benjamin Auyang earned his bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Florida in June and is now back at UF studying for his master's degree.

touring state universities in high school, he observed college life firsthand and realized what the future could hold. This exposure "made college seem more attainable and the possibility of even attending a four-year university more realistic," Auyang said.

Auyang made the most of his UF experience. Along with being a member of the UF cheer team, he was selected to the Freshman Leadership Council (consisting of the top 50 freshmen of every class), and was an orientation leader for Preview Staff, a team of 42 students who assisted with the transition of over 6,500 new students to UF. He was the official ambassador

of Florida Cicerones, a group of 240 students who lead forums and college tours for prospective UF students, and was a member of Florida Blue Key, an honorary organization that serves UF and the state.

Auyang's accomplishments demonstrate that Take Stock gave him the vision and ability to succeed. "Even back in sixth grade, it was evident that Benjamin was destined to achieve whatever he set his sights on," said Linda Roman, Take Stock college success coach and former Avon Park Middle School language arts teacher. "I'm glad to see his path to greatness is ongoing."

Hotel's Glory is Restored Through Decorating Project

When the Hotel Jacaranda opened her doors 90 years ago, she was the queen of Avon Park.

The three-story brick building boasted luxury rooms, a grand dining room, and an arcade with fine shops. During the roaring 1920s and early 1930s, she played host to Clark Gable, Babe Ruth, and the St. Louis Cardinals during their spring training.

But after nearly a century, the Highlands County's longest-serving commercial enterprise was in need of a tuck here and a spruce up there. Fortunately, friends were eager to step up and lend a hand in helping the hotel regain its grandeur.

Joan Hartt, who sits on the board of directors for the SFSC Foundation, began selecting guest rooms for a complete makeover.

"This hotel holds so many memories and means so much to so many people that I felt compelled to get involved by giving a select number of rooms individualized attention with new furniture, decorations, and accessories," Hartt said.

Joined by her daughter-in-law Sheila and friend Shelly Parton, Hartt selected rooms on the hotel's second floor for renovations, adding new furniture, lamps, and decorative accessories.

The idea caught on with other Foundation supporters. Longtime friend Betty Carlisle sponsored a room renovation. Retired Foundation executive director Donald Appelquist and wife Jane Hancock redecorated a room themselves. Anna Vilkaitis, Phyllis Lovelace, and SFSC president emerita Dr. Catherine P. Cornelius also contributed their talents.

"The newly renovated rooms draw out the splendor that is the Hotel

◆ VIEW THE HOTEL
JACARANDA'S NEWLY
DECORATED ROOMS AT THE
**RENOVATING THE PAST
OPEN HOUSE SHOWCASE**
ON THURSDAY, NOV. 10,
5-7 P.M.



Jacaranda," said Jamie Bateman, SFSC's executive director for Institutional Advancement. "Hartt and the Foundation supporters who followed her have set in motion a wonderful undertaking of affection that's giving new life to the hotel."

Recognizing its historical significance, the SFSC Foundation acquired the Hotel Jacaranda in 1990. The rooms on the south side are open to the public. The rooms on the north side serve as a residence facility for SFSC students.

Bateman said seven more second-floor rooms have been renovated and need sponsors. "We hope that Foundation supporters will recognize the importance the Jacaranda plays in

the life of our students and the history of Avon Park and SFSC."

Donors can decorate a room or sponsor a room through a financial contribution. A plaque affixed to the door recognizes the sponsor or a loved one.

The room renovations will next move to the hotel's third floor, where 16 rooms have been selected for renovations next year.

.....◆
BE A ROOM SPONSOR

You can make a donation to sponsor a room renovation by calling the Foundation at 453-3133 or emailing foundation@southflorida.edu.

FAST FACTS

about South Florida State College

Enrollment: 5,404

UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE: 12

AVERAGE STUDENT AGE: 23

Students in College Credit Classes

Males: 36% | Females: 64%

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO: 11.21

Scholarships Provided by SFSC Foundation:

\$190,766

GRADUATION RATE:

14% HIGHER THAN STATE AVERAGE

Students Obtained Jobs in Their Fields:

2.4% Higher Than National Average

92% of local employers

were satisfied with SFSC graduates' skills.

99%

of SFSC students are satisfied that they attained their educational goals.

98%

of SFSC students are satisfied that SFSC met or exceeded their college experience expectations.

Explore Planned Giving

You can give to South Florida State College while ensuring that you and your loved ones benefit. These giving options are called "planned gifts," because with thoughtful planning, you create win-win solutions for you and the college.

Many appealing ways of giving are available to you. For example:

Name SFSC in Your Will. Make us part of your family. A gift through your will or estate is the easiest gift you can make.

Put Your IRA to Work for SFSC. Avoid the potential double taxation on your retirement savings that could result if you leave your IRA to your heirs.

Support SFSC in Creative Ways. You can include a gift to SFSC in your trust. Your bequest can be unrestricted or directed toward a specific purpose. You can indicate a specific amount or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate or trust.

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT GROWS



In September, on behalf of the parishioners at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Father Nicholas McLoughlin (right) and Marilyn and Jim Conroy presented a check to Jamie Bateman for the Sarah McDonald Scholarship. For more information about SFSC scholarships, go to: www.southflorida.edu/scholarships.

Shop Amazon and donate to the SFSC Foundation

You can help the SFSC Foundation by shopping online at Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com and enter the SFSC Foundation as your sponsored charity. Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchases to the Foundation.

On the Calendar

NOV 10 : *Renovating the Past, 5-7 p.m.*
Come to the Hotel Jacaranda's open house and see the newly renovated hotel rooms.

NOV 28 : *Jacaranda Jubilee*
Watch the Avon Park Christmas Parade from the veranda of the Hotel Jacaranda. Call 453-3133 for more information or to purchase tickets.

DEC 08 : *Christmas Luncheon*
Join us as we celebrate the season with food, fun, and friends at the Hotel Jacaranda! Call 453-3133 for more information or to purchase tickets.

APR 29 : *Annual Spring Gala and Fundraiser*
Celebrate with us at our 33rd Annual Spring Gala and Auction at the Island View Restaurant. Call 453-3133 for more information.

Board of Directors Meetings

- Nov. 8, 2016, Health and Science Education Center SFSC Highlands Campus
- Jan. 10, 2017, Hotel Jacaranda
- March 28, 2017, Hotel Jacaranda
- May 9, 2017, Hotel Jacaranda

Executive Board Meetings

- Feb. 21, 2017, Hotel Jacaranda
- April 11, 2017, Hotel Jacaranda



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