

## **SFSC hosts chamber lunch**

**SEBRING —**

The Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce Networking Luncheon will take place at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Island View Restaurant at Sun 'N Lake Golf Club. The lunch sponsor is South Florida State College.

Dr. Thomas Leitzel, president of SFSC, will be the presenting speaker to kick off the college's 50th anniversary celebration.

Lunch is \$10 per person.

RSVP to [information@sebring.org](mailto:information@sebring.org) or call the chamber at 863-385-8448. Open to chamber members and their guests only.

# Rock Legends The Coasters Perform At SFSC Monday

The national anniversary tour of "Smokey Joe's Café: The Songs of Leiber & Stoller" is coming to South Florida State College's Theatre for the Performing Arts on Monday as part of the 2014-15 SFSC Artist Series.

"Smokey Joe's" is directed by Tony Award nominee Chet Walker and features the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame group, The Coasters.

It is a tribute to legendary songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, who ushered in the era of rock 'n roll by penning numerous songs that rose to Billboard charts in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Stylistically, their songs ranged from humorous high-energy

tunes to more somber ballads – all grounded in rhythm and blues. As lyricists, the team became known for their storytelling ability and wit, as well as their depictions of teenage life during the era.

"Smokey Joe's Café" features 38 songs made famous by rock 'n roll pioneers like The Drifters and Elvis Presley. Show songs include "On Broadway," "Fools Fall in Love," and the show stopping "Jailhouse Rock."

"Smokey Joe's Café" made its Broadway debut on March 2, 1995, at the Virginia Theatre. During the show's milestone run of four years and 11 months, the production became Broadway's longest-running

musical revue, playing 2,036 performances.

The musical's soundtrack recording won a Grammy Award in 1996.

The Coasters recorded over 20 Leiber and Stoller songs including "Poison Ivy," "Yakety Yak," "Love Potion No. 9" and the ever-popular "Charley Brown." They were inducted into the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, fittingly alongside Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

Tickets start at \$36 and are available online at [www.sfs-carts.org](http://www.sfs-carts.org), by calling the Box Office at 863-784-7178, or visiting the Box Office at 600 W. College Dr. Avon Park.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Coasters perform in "Smokey Joe's Café: The Songs of Leiber & Stoller." The two wrote such famed rock hits as "On Broadway," "Jailhouse Rock," "Yakety Yak" and "Love Potion No. 9."

# SFSC Presents 2015 Jazz Series

The South Florida State College Jazz Series presents the finest regional, national and international jazz musicians.

The New Orleans Nighthawks open the series, this Saturday. Jazz Series performances are at 7:30 p.m. in the SFSC University Center Auditorium on the Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

Led by John Skillman on clarinet, the Nighthawks are veteran jazz musicians who have played nationally with some of the best Dixieland and swing bands. They play a variety of jazz styles from New Orleans to the ragtime music from the '20s to the '50s.

Next, jazz vocalist Ronnie Leigh and his smooth, mellow and multifaceted style will be showcased on Saturday, Jan. 24. Leigh has shared the stage with legends such as The Drifters, Pat Metheny, Spyro Gyra, and many more.

Jim Synder and The FloridaBoyz will be lighting up the stage with Dixieland classics on Friday, Feb. 6. Snyder is one of the busiest clarinetists in the business, with jobs ranging from sideman to soloist, jazz festivals, recording studios,

Bourbon Street nightclubs, theme parks, cruise ships and symphony halls.

Twins Peter and Will Anderson are virtuosos on clarinet and saxophone who studied at The Juilliard School in New York. On Feb. 19, The Andersons will play selections from the Great American Songbook, Latin, Dixieland, and jazz standards. They've headlined at NYC's Jazz at Lincoln Center, D.C.'s Blues Alley, Alfie in Tokyo, and many more.

Bill Prince & Co. stops by Thursday, March 12, for an evening of jazz standards featuring five other stellar jazz musicians. As a master of trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, piano and electric bass, Prince is a veritable one-man jazz band. He has played with many musicians, including the legendary Buddy Rich.

The Blue Crescent Syncopators bring their unique variety of Dixieland and swing tunes of the '20s and '30s on Friday, March 27. Led by Craig Gildner, the Syncopators play from the heart and will surprise you with their brilliant musical improvisations.



COURTESY PHOTO

**The series begins this Saturday night with the New Orleans Nighthawks and continues roughly every two weeks. The international jazz headliners The Anderson Twins (above) will perform Feb. 19.**

Jazz Series season subscriptions are available now and offer the very best value, starting at \$113 for all six performances.

Tickets are available online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org), by calling the

Box Office at 863-784-7178, or visiting the Box Office at 600 W. College Dr. in Avon Park. The Box Office is open Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

# New law impacts some SFSC students

Tuition residency changes benefit veterans, undocumented students

BY MARC VALERO  
Highlands Today

AVON PARK — The significant difference between paying in-state and out-of-state college tuition can impact a student's decision to pursue higher education.

But House Bill 851, which became law July 1, has helped some students meet the eligibility to pay lower in-state tuition fees.

South Florida State College Dean of Student Services Timothy Wise said House Bill 851 has affected more than a dozen students at South Florida State College.

Two students who are undocumented residents qualified for in-state tuition, and about 10 veterans benefited from the law.

Wise explained how the law helps veterans pursuing higher education: If someone in the military was discharged from a base in Georgia, he or she may write down "Georgia" as their state of residency, but if he moved to Florida, he would not be considered a Florida resident when enrolling in a college or university.

Many veterans don't know what state they are going to settle in, so they just write down wherever they were discharged, he said, and this was happening all over the country.

House Bill 851 fixed that set of circumstances for the veterans, Wise said.

It also helped undocumented students who had three years in a Florida school system and graduated from a Florida high school qualify for the much-lower Florida resident tuition rates. When they graduated from high

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## Tuition

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school, they didn't have to prove they were U.S. citizens, Wise said.

There are some areas of the state where this has had a big impact such as Miami and Tampa, he said.

"The larger cities, I think, have been able to open the doors to this broader spectrum and provide educational opportunity for folks," Wise said. "Prior to House Bill 851 those students weren't coming to state schools. I am unsure of whether they were going to private schools or not, but a lot of them just weren't getting any education beyond high school."

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There is a "huge difference" between in-state and out-of-state tuition, Wise said. In-state tuition is about \$1,200 to \$1,500 per semester, while out-of-state tuition is about \$4,500.

"It took a while for folks to understand that our rules had to be adjusted and only the state can adjust residency rules; we are not allowed to make up our own," Wise noted.

From a public policy standpoint, "the more educated your populace is, the better," he said. "I think that was the underlying sense behind it. House Bill 851 was trying to create a more educated populace here, and better economic development for the individual and the community."

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel said it is a great opportunity for veterans to have their tuition covered regardless of residency and acquire the skills they need to move beyond what they already have.

"We are so grateful for their service and this is just an opportunity for us to give back for all that they have done to serve our country," he said.

In 2012, Florida ranked third in the nation with an estimated 950,000 undocumented immigrants, according to the Pew Research Center.

To qualify for the out-of-state fee waiver, an undocumented student must:

- ◆ Have attended a Florida secondary school for three consecutive years immediately before graduating from a Florida high school.

- ◆ Submit an admissions application to a Florida College System institution within 24 months of high school graduation.

- ◆ Submit an official high school transcript that provides evidence of meeting the aforementioned requirements.

# Enrollment up after 'orange' campaign

## SFSC formally ends 'Experience Orange' marketing

BY PAUL CATALA  
Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Xavier Archbold said he thought the campaign was unimpressive and "not attractive." However, Katherine Norman thought it caught people's attention and was key in a slight increase in enrollment.

Those South Florida State College students had just two of what are probably thousands of opinions on SFSC's fall-winter marketing campaign: "Experience Orange."

Launched July 1, 2014, and officially ended Aug. 21, "Experience Orange" was South Florida's marketing effort to help increase awareness of the institution, a state college of about 4,000 students with campuses in Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee counties.

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HIGHLANDS TODAY FILE PHOTO

South Florida State College's "Experience Orange" marketing campaign included billboards, such as this one on U.S. 27 in Sebring, and radio and cable TV advertising.

## Orange

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Noted for its bold white lettering superimposed over a background of orange and an underlying orange splash, the seemingly ubiquitous logo and motto could be found on everything from posters, fliers and billboards, to the college's website background.

"I believe it drew a lot of attention from people because of the way they had it set up. I think it was a good campaign because it probably attracted them (prospective students) to the college to find out what it ('Experience Orange') is all about," said Norman, 19, a sophomore from Sebring.

No matter the opinion on the relevancy or success of the marketing campaign, the numbers showed it to be on target in its goal of attracting more notice from a variety of demographics to what SFSC has to offer.

From her Avon Park campus office Thursday, Deborah Latter, SFSC director of community relations and marketing, said figures from the office of admissions showed the number of applications to SFSC increased 23 percent from July through August 2013 to the same period in 2014. In addition, fall enrollment saw a 2 percent increase — from about 975 to 995 students — in full-time enrollment from 2013 to 2014.

Latter explained enrollment is a "moving target" and varies throughout the year depending on what campus students are counted and the time of year. She said 12 percent of high school students in SFSC's service area — a primary target of "Experience Orange" — go to college, and one of the main thrusts of the campaign was to get those students



PAUL CATALA/STAFF

Sharon Jones, left, South Florida State College community relations coordinator, and Deborah Latter, SFSC director of community relations and marketing, look over materials and statistics from the college's recent "Experience Orange" marketing campaign. Jones got a first-place award in the poster category at the 2014 Association of Florida Colleges Convention in Sandestin.

other 88 percent of high-school students who might not otherwise consider going to college," she said. "I believe we did that."

The "Experience Orange" campaign was conceived and designed by World Design Marketing, a full-service marketing and publicity firm based in Orlando, and cost about \$36,000 to implement, said Latter. Wayne Johnson, WDM senior partner, said the concept was conceived by spending time with SFSC administrators and based on the "pride students have for SFSC" and the "incredible experience" the school offers.

"We're extremely happy for the college and it (the campaign) will continue to pay dividends over time," said Johnson, calling from WDM's Hilton Head, South Carolina, office.

In addition to its success in attracting students, from Oct. 29-31 at the 65th annual Association of Florida Colleges Convention in Miramar Beach, "Experience Orange" garnered awards for SFSC's community relations and marketing department, including first place in the website category and Display/Presentation Board category and second place

director, said the marketing push encompassed the use of billboards, posters and printed materials and print and broadcast advertisements, all designed to draw people to the "Experience Orange" website. She said it was hard to measure the impact of the broad advertising campaign but the goal was to attract attention.

"The goal was to get people interested and get them to want to know more about the college and what it has to offer, said Jones, in her 10th year working for SFSC. "I think it was a success; all of our enrollment figures are showing there was an increase. It was one of the most extensive campaigns we've done around a specific theme. It was all meant to come together in a big way."

Although the campaign has officially ended, Latter said she and Jones' department expect the marketing effect to carry over through fall 2015, and its logo will continue to be used through the end of spring 2015.

Past SFSC marketing campaigns from the late 1990s through early 2000s have included "Down Home Friendly," "World Class Quality" and "Dis-

# HIGHLANDS TODAY

AN EDITION OF  
THE TAMPA TRIBUNE  
and The Tampa Times



**The little expo that could**

The 11th annual U.S. Sport Aviation Expo starts on Wednesday. Look for our special section detailing event information and highlights inside

HIGHLANDSTODAY.COM

INFORMING TODAY, SHAPING TOMORROW

SUNDAY, January 11, 2015



## SFSC

turns

# 50

Much has changed over college's last half-century

BY MARC VALERO  
Highlands Today

**A**VON PARK — South Florida State College will soon kick off a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary of being established by the Florida Legislature.

The institution had humble beginnings as South Florida Junior College when it served its first students in August 1966 in renovated buildings in downtown Avon Park.

The classrooms and facilities have changed dramatically over the years since the college's first professors held classes in a former hotel, while an empty supermarket served as the college library and a movie theater parking lot was available for students, employees and visitors.

The college has grown from serving about 300 students in its first year to nearly 6,000 students in a year.

### Otters on the hill, but no computers in the classrooms

Oral Communication Professor Lynn MacNeill started teaching at the college in the fall of 1972 in what he called "a very simple set of buildings," on a campus that would look miniature compared to today's set of buildings.

There was no auditorium, B Building (Cornelius Student Services Complex), University Center, Health Science Building and no new library building, he said.

"We used to sit and watch otters come across the hill between the two lakes. The hill is where the auditorium is sitting now," MacNeill noted.

Did the college have any computers

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**Top:** A student examines a skull model in an anatomy class in this undated file photo from South Florida State College. The college opened a new health and science building in 2007. **Above:** Dean Griffin, left, dean of vocation, technical and continuing education; then-president William Stallard, center, and Wil Beumel, dean of instruction on campus during the 1970s. Stallard was the first president of South Florida State College. **Above right:** A group of madrigal singers at South Florida State College, led by Doug Andrews, the former dean of cultural programs. **Below right:** A construction worker works on building a new fire training building.



RYAN PELHAM/STAFF



## College Highlights

A few highlights in the history of South Florida State College follows:

- SFCC established in 1965 by the Florida Legislature.
- On Dec. 4, 1969, the college held a dedication of its nine-building permanent site on College Drive in Avon Park.

- In August 1978, the 1,500-seat South Florida Community Auditorium was completed at a cost of \$1.3 million.
- On Dec. 4, 2002, The Museum of Florida Art and Culture (MOFAC) opened on the Highlands Campus.
- In August 2003, DeSoto Campus officially opens.

- In October 2003, Hardee Campus officially opens.
- An 11-month renovation project transformed the 31-year-old auditorium into the SFCC Theatre for the Performing Arts.

## SFSC

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back then?

"We had absolutely no computers," MacNeill said. "In fact, the president [William Stallard] didn't think we needed them.

"That changed immediately upon getting our second president [Catherine Cornelius]."

Everything was hard-copy paper, he said.

MacNeill was hired to teach speech classes, but due to his background he also taught theater history and acting.

But by the mid to late '80s, the college had grown so much that he taught strictly speech classes.

Finishing his 43rd year at the college, MacNeill said, "This a great place to work."

Even though the college has grown significantly, there continues to be a camaraderie among the staff and supportive relationships between the divisions and departments, he said. It's very community and family oriented.

needed to get the records converted into computer rather than just in paper files. They were stored in cardboard boxes."

The college was very small at that time and didn't have a big budget, so it didn't have the luxury to do the things that other colleges were doing, Cornelius said. "But we got it done and little by little whittled away on some of the needs that we had."

Many people didn't know about the college, so the focus changed from being "inward" to an "outward" focus so people would know what the college offered and could take advantage of those opportunities, she said.

"It was amazing how the response from the community was," Cornelius said. "When we did the Cultural Series that was a way to get people on cam-

pus so they could see what we had."

The college's Cultural Series, later known as the Artist Series, opened its first season in December 1984 with six programs.

Cornelius noted that when she started at the college its total annual budget was \$3.2 million and when she left in 2002 it was \$32 million. Student enrollment tripled during her tenure from 1,000 to 3,000.

### A new president, name and continued growth

Norm Stephens Jr. became the college's third president on Sept. 3, 2002.

Looking back at his 11 years at the college, Stephens said one of the most significant milestones was introducing the bachelor degree programs and going through the required

accreditation process to offer four-year degrees.

Stephens gave credit to Cornelius and noted current president Thomas Leitzel in the college's ongoing effort to hire "truly outstanding faculty.

"If you have outstanding faculty then your students are satisfied, the community is satisfied and people learn."

Stephens noted significant improvements in the college's facilities.

"When I arrived, I felt our science and health facilities were not up to what they needed to be," he said.

Stephens noted that he has a chemistry background so when he checked the college's chemistry lab it looked good by 1970s standards but not for the 2000 decade.

Also, the nursing program was in cramped

quarters, so the college was able to get the funding to build a state-of-the-art facility for the sciences and the STEM program (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), he said.

Classes started in the Health and Science Education Center in August 2007. The center is now named in Stephens' honor.

Stephens also noted the renovation of the college's auditorium as a major highlight of his tenure.

### 50th anniversary celebration

Thomas Leitzel became the college's fourth president on July 1, 2013.

As he welcomed students Wednesday at the start of the Spring Semester, Leitzel said the 50th anniversary is exciting and a big year for the college.

Student enrollment looks strong and the college has "good momentum going on."

The college's website lists about a dozen events hosted by SFSC and the SFSC Foundation to mark the 50th anniversary milestone.

The first event is a Family Fun Day, Feb. 7 at the DeSoto Campus in conjunction with the DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council's annual Art of the River Show.

Leitzel noted that the celebration at the Highlands Campus starts on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, with family activities in conjunction with a softball/baseball double header at Panther Field.

Check online for a listing of 50th anniversary activities at: [www.southflorida.edu/foundation/50thanniversary/](http://www.southflorida.edu/foundation/50thanniversary/)

### Name change, new leader and new focus

South Florida Junior College became South Florida Community College in March 1984 with Peggy Shackelford, chairman, District Board of Trustees stating at the time, "This name change more clearly identifies the college with its objectives in serving as a community-related institution throughout the three-county college district."

Catherine Cornelius said recently that when she became the college's president, in July 1984, it had about 78 employees.

"The state was finally starting to move into the computer age, and I was coming from a school that was computerized, Daytona [Daytona Beach Community College]," she said. "I knew that we needed to get that done and we also



COURTESY PHOTO

Students receiving the Edward K. Roberts Book Scholarship this spring were, from left: Araceli Marquez Diaz, Mariana Becker, and Heather Oyola. Second row: Alexis Drzewucki, Katherine Oyola, Nicole Darder, Christina Gourley and Victoria Warren. Third row: Christian Reitnauer, Patrick Swafford, James Pinkney, Gary Gergen, Mathew Estima and Tyler Whalen. Not pictured: Breighly Bolton, Hannah Cribbs, Isabela Gonzalez and Stella Enchautegul.

# SFSC honor students receive scholarships

Twenty students awarded money to help buy textbooks

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Twenty students in South Florida State College's honors program were recently awarded the Edward K. Roberts Book Scholarship to assist with purchasing textbooks.

Students receiving the scholarship this spring were: Tyler Akins, Mariana Becker, Nicole Darder, Alexis Drzewucki, Matt Estima, Gary Gergen, Christina Gourley, Harrison Havery, Katelynne

Leman, Stella Maldonado, Araceli Marquez Diaz, Heather Oyola, Katherine Oyola, Keysha Pecor, James Pinkney, Christian Reitnauer, Christopher Robbins, Ieshia Spencer, Patrick Swafford and Victoria Warren.

The merit-based scholarship awards \$500, \$250 in fall and spring terms to each student admitted to and in good standing with SFSC's honors program. Any student receiving the scholarship must also be enrolled in at least one honors course during the academic term in which the scholarship is received.

Returning students

must achieve a 3.30 cumulative college grade point average and continue to make satisfactory progress toward the honors Program Associate in Arts degree.

The program offers students intellectual development, cultural enrichment, smaller classes, scholarship opportunities and special recognition at the graduation ceremony as well as an honors endorsement on their associate in arts degree and transcript.

For more information, contact Charlotte Pressler, director of the SFSC honors program, at (863) 784-7247.

## SFSC Briefs

### Motorcycle safety and awareness class offered

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Community Education is offering a motorcycle awareness and safety class.

In conjunction with SFSC, ABATE of Florida Inc. is offering a motorcycle safety and awareness class for all motorists, whether they ride a scooter, motorcycle, car or truck. It is open to anyone interested in safety on our roads and is not an instructional riding course.

The class is offered 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 24. Cost is \$15.

Register at any SFSC campus or center. To register over the phone with a credit card, call 784-7405.

### QuickBooks workshops scheduled

LAKE PLACID — South Florida State College's Corporate Education Department is offering QuickBooks classes for the 2015 spring term.

In Introduction to QuickBooks 2013, learn how to create a new company file, work with lists, set up your items, track customers and sales, track vendors and expenses and track sales tax. This two-day workshop will be offered 7-9 p.m. April 9 and 16 at the SFSC Lake Placid Center, 500 E. Interlake Blvd. Cost is \$149; the course number is 21502.

In Intermediate QuickBooks, learn how to track time, set up and use pay-

roll, pay liabilities and taxes, purchase and manage inventory, build inventory assemblies, track sales orders and back orders. This two-day workshop will be held 7-9 p.m. April 23 and 30 at the SFSC Lake Placid Center, 500 E. Interlake Blvd. Cost is \$149; the course number is 21503.

Training software provided for both workshops is QuickBooks 2013 Accountant, which allows you to toggle between all the other versions of QuickBooks: Premier, Pro and industry-specific versions.

Register at any SFSC campus or center. For information, contact Corporate Education at 784-7033 or CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu.

# SFSC professor joins prestigious association

Charlotte Pressler one of 6 nationwide from 2-year college

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Charlotte Pressler, a professor of English and philosophy and honors program director at South Florida State College, has been elected to a three-year term as a special-interest delegate of the Modern Language Association of America's delegate assembly that starts Jan. 15 and ends Jan. 15, 2018.

Pressler is one of six representatives nationwide from a two-year college. The MLA delegate assembly consists of 278 members, 54 of which are special-interest delegates elected by a general vote from MLA membership.

Founded in 1883 to strengthen the study and teaching of language and literature, the MLA serves as a platform for English and foreign language teachers to share scholarly findings and teaching experiences. The association holds a yearly convention to discuss issues that are



COURTESY PHOTO

SFSC's Charlotte Pressler, a professor of English and philosophy and honors program director, has been elected to a three-year term as a special-interest delegate of the Modern Language Association of America's delegate assembly.

critical to these academic fields. The MLA has nearly 28,000 members in 100 countries.

"It is a great honor to be elected to represent English and foreign language faculty in two-year colleges on the national level," Pressler said. "We two-year faculty have many issues and concerns, from the 'adjunctivization' of

the profession, bringing with it the loss of academic freedom, to the slow erosion of humanistic education in colleges serving rural and lower-income students. As a member of the Delegate Assembly, I hope to bring these concerns to the attention of the entire membership of the Modern Language Association."



# Thakkar Foundation helps SFSC kick off capital campaign

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK —The South Florida State College Foundation, Inc. received a \$50,000 donation as a capital campaign kickoff recently at the Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce luncheon from the Drs. V & T Thakkar Foundation, Inc.

In conjunction with the college's yearlong 50th anniversary celebration, a new initiative is underway to raise funds for the purpose of positioning the college to face the unknown challenges of the next half century. The \$50,000 kickoff



Courtesy photo

Don Appelquist (left), executive director for the SFSC Foundation, Inc., and Dr. Leana Revell (right), vice president of educational and student services at SFSC, accept a \$50,000 donation for SFSC's capital campaign from Drs. Vinod and Tarlika Thakkar at the Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on Jan. 8.

donation is just the beginning of a state-wide effort to create

a \$10 million endowment fund intended to support technological

advances in the coming years.

"Drs. Vinod and Tarlika Thakkar have a long standing relationship with our college and for many years have been generous in supporting Nursing Education and other projects," said Don Appelquist, executive director of the SFSC Foundation, Inc. "This lead gift, to initiate the Endowment Campaign, is just another example of the extraordinary philanthropic spirit of these wonderful friends of our college. We believe that this kind of lead gift will set the tone

for our campaign and allow us to better address the future educational needs of our community."

Launched this month, the \$10 million capital campaign, named the "Partnership Project" is the largest fundraising effort in the 50-year history of the college. All gifts to the foundation's capital campaign are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law and pledges can be paid over as much as five years.

Founded in 1965, SFSC is a public, two-year college that provides a wide range of educational

opportunities at campuses in DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. The SFSC Foundation was established in 1984 as a non-profit educational trust to provide expanded resources for the college's growth and development. The foundation enhances the community's awareness of the college, encourages, solicits and accepts gifts, receives bequests, and accounts for and manages cash and non-cash gifts donated to the foundation. To learn more, visit <http://support.southflorida.edu/pages/cm/foundation>.

# QuickBooks class set for SFSC's Lake Placid Center

LAKE PLACID – South Florida State College's Corporate Education Department will offer QuickBooks classes for 2015 spring term at the SFSC Lake Placid Center, 500 East Interlake Blvd.

In Introduction to QuickBooks 2013, students will learn how to create a new company file, work with lists, set up items, track customers and sales, track vendors and expenses, and track sales tax. Offered as a two-day workshop on Thursday, April 9,

and Thursday, April 16, class times will be 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$149, and the course number (CRN) is 21502.

In Intermediate QuickBooks, students will learn how to track time, set up and use payroll, pay liabilities and taxes, purchase and manage inventory, build inventory assemblies, track sales orders and back orders. The two-day workshop will be Thursday, April 23, and Thursday, April 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$149, and the course number (CRN) is 21503.

Training software provided for both QuickBooks workshops is QuickBooks 2013 Accountant, which allows users to toggle between all the other versions of QuickBooks: Premier, Pro, and even industry specific versions.

Register in Building B at the Highlands Campus or any SFSC campus or center. For more information, contact Corporate Education at 863-784-7033 or by emailing [CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu](mailto:CorporateTraining@southflorida.edu).

## Tony Pace brings music, comedy to SFSC

**AVON PARK** — Tony Pace will be perform for the SFSC Matinee Series on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the Theatre for the Performing Arts. Pace has been called “The Man with the Voice... who just happens to be funny.” Pace combines powerful pipes with his quick wit and hilarious impressions for an incredibly entertaining show. It’s been said that Tony Pace is equal parts Andrea Bocelli, Sammy Davis Jr., and Billy Crystal.

Tickets start at \$16. For more information, visit [performances.southflorida.edu](http://performances.southflorida.edu)



## **SFSC offers Stained Glass Workshop**

**SEBRING** — Learn how to create a beautiful stained glass window with artist Coye Brenner-Mann from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 16 and 23, in Building A, Room 16, at South Florida State College, Highlands Campus. The cost of the two-session workshop is \$75 per person and includes all materials.

Artists of all abilities are invited to participate.

The workshop will introduce participants to the art of stained glass. Each participant will design and create an 11-by-14-inch stained glass window. Participants are encouraged to bring simple designs and ideas to the first session. Pre-made patterns will be available.

At session one, Jan. 16, participants will work on simplifying designs for windows, gather desired materials, cut glass, fit to pattern, and grind pieces. During session two, Jan. 23, participants will complete the assemblage, foiling, and soldering of their stained glass window.

Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch. Participants can download a registration

# On stage this week at SFSC

## The State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico

### AVON PARK — The State

Symphony Orchestra of Mexico will be on stage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the SFSC Theatre for the Performing Arts. Since its inception in 1971, this world-renowned orchestra has toured the Americas, Europe, and Asia. It will present a program of well-known selections, including Enrique Granados' "Three Spanish Dances," Ponce's "Piano Concerto 'Romantic,'" and Brahms' "Symphony No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 68."

Tickets start at \$33. Visit <http://performances.southflorida.edu/> for more information.



## Ronnie Leigh

### AVON PARK — The SFSC

Jazz Series will feature Ronnie Leigh on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the SFSC University Center Auditorium. As a jazz vocalist, Ronnie Leigh has a smooth, mellow, and multifaceted style. Leigh has shared the stage with legends such as The Drifters, Pat Metheny, The Yellowjackets, David Benoit, Spyro Gyra, David Sanborn, Tom Scott, Etta Jones, and Jon Hendricks. Leigh will perform with a five-piece band.

Tickets start at \$25. Visit <http://performances.southflorida.edu/> for more information.



## Savannah Jack

### AVON PARK — The

SFSC Matinee Series on Tuesday, Jan. 27, will bring Savannah Jack to the Theatre for the Performing Arts at 1:30 p.m. They've opened for the likes of John Fogerty and Vince Gill. They even opened for the legendary Kenny Rogers' 2009 Artist Series performance. Savannah Jack's extraordinary three-part vocal harmonies, superior musicianship, and fresh new sound captivate audiences from the very first note. They play pop, country, and everything in between.

Tickets start at \$16. Visit <http://performances.southflorida.edu/> for more information.



Wednesday, January 21, 2015 | NEWS-SUN

## Honor Band Concert is Jan. 29

SEBRING - The 18th annual Honor Band Concert will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, sponsored by the Heartland Educational Consortium in cooperation with its member districts of Highlands, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry and Okeechobee counties. The performance will be at South Florida State College auditorium and is open to the public free of charge.

At 6:45 p.m., the doors of the auditorium will be open for public seating. At that time, seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis until seats are filled. The program will last one hour.

## Concert Band opens 38th season

SEBRING — Highlands County Concert Band celebrates 38 years of great music when it opens the season at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, at South Florida State College in Avon Park. The 60-person concert band is under the direction of Vic Anderson.

Enjoy a selection of marches, Broadway music, swing and symphonic selections for a donation of \$7. Tickets are available from band members or at the door.

Call 863-386-0855.

## Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Class offered at SFSC

AVON PARK — In conjunction with South Florida State College, ABATE of Florida, Inc., Inerstate Chapter is presenting two Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Classes for all motorists. Whether you ride a motorscooter, motorcycle, or drive a car or truck, this course is open to all citizens interested in safety on our roads. This class will be offered from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at South Florida State College in Avon Park, and a second time from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 at South Florida State College Lake Placid Campus.

Instructing the class will be Ernie Gelinias, president and long-time safety director of Inerstate Chapter of ABATE of Florida, Inc. Gelinias will be assisted by several other members of Inerstate Chapter. This course is intended to offer safety and awareness information for all motorists and is not an instructional riding course.

Cost of the course is \$15 per person. For enrollment information call 863-784-7388 or email [communityeducation@south-florida.edu](mailto:communityeducation@south-florida.edu), and ask about the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Course.

# *Pilates Coming To SFSC*

Be more flexible and build strength at the new Pilates class being offered on the Hardee Campus of South Florida State College.

Pilates will help you learn a series of stretches and moves that also will leave you feeling

relaxed.

This class is held Mondays and Wednesdays, from Feb. 2 to Feb. 23. It runs from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$35, and the course number (CRN) is 21449. Drop-in fee is \$5 per class.

Register for classes at any SFSC campus or center. For more information on any Community Education class, call (863) 784-7388 or e-mail [communityeducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:communityeducation@southflorida.edu).

The Hardee Campus is located at 2268 U.S. 27 N., just south of Bowling Green.

# McCoo, Davis Jr. performing at SFSC

## Grammy Award-winning duo set to appear Saturday

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., Grammy Award-winning couple and founding members of the legendary group The Fifth Dimension, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at South

Florida State College in the Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Relive hits from yesteryear with songs from The Fifth Dimension like "Up, Up & Away," "Aquarius/Let The Sunshine In," "Wedding Bell Blues" and "Stoned Soul Picnic."

After a decade with The Fifth Dimension, McCoo and Davis left the group and established themselves as a duo. They had imme-

diated success with the single, "You Don't Have to be a Star (To be in My Show)." They're currently celebrating over 40 years in the entertainment business with a musical tribute to hits and productions that have made up their multi-faceted careers.

Tickets start at \$33 and are available online at [www.sfscarts.org](http://www.sfscarts.org) or by calling the box office at 784-7178.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., formerly of The Fifth Dimension, will perform Saturday at SFSC.**



# SFSC's Highlands campus reaches out to young men

Program preps them for admission and to graduate

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — More than 36 male students from Avon Park High School visited South Florida State College's Highlands County campus Jan. 22 for the first College Bound Male Initiative.

The event, for high school males in SFSC's district of DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands counties, was recently created to provide "comprehensive programs, services and encouragement to young men that will prepare them for admission into and graduation from institutions of higher education," the college said.

"When I realized we had a cri-

sis in our community of young men not pursuing higher education and dropping out, I had to do something," said Eddie Cuencas, coordinator of SFSC's Panther Youth Program. "With the help of Andy Polk, student life coordinator and assistant baseball coach, and Rob Hampton, veterans services adviser, we developed the College Bound Male Initiative. This event was a first step in providing these local young men the skills, support and foundation they need to succeed in higher education."

The program featured several guest speakers, including Polk, who explained why young men should go to college; keynote speaker Rob Hampton, who discussed the process for applying to college; and Rick Hitt, SFSC athletic director and head baseball coach, who spoke on the

road ahead.

The event featured a student panel of graduates from SFSC's district high schools who spoke about their challenges and how they overcame those with the support of family, college staff and faculty, and resources available at SFSC. Those resources are the TRIO program, Panther Youth Program, CROP program and campus student activities. The SFSC student panel included Ricky Sherrill, Greg Rawlings, Jose Torres, Alfred Brown and Rashaud Williams.

SFSC is already preparing for its next College Bound Male Initiative, set for early March. The college hopes to have high school males from all high schools in SFSC's district in attendance.

For information, contact Cuencas at 784-7161 or Eddie.Cuencas@southflorida.edu.

# Third annual art show set for Feb. 6-7

By **KAREN SMOKE**  
DAHC

The third annual Art of the River fine art show and Rio de la Paz Festival celebrates the Peace River and our Florida way of life. DeSoto Arts and Humanities Council hosts the event at the DeSoto Campus of South Florida State College on Feb. 7. The show features more than 100 pieces of art by more than 35 artists from across Florida.

The art show and festival promote awareness of our natural resources as inspiration and solace for artists and communities. "Since there is already a Peace River Art Festival in Punta Gorda, we went with the Spanish name for our event," said DAHC president Jane Hilton.

Cash prizes of over \$1,500 will be awarded. The show judges are Mollie Doctrow, curator of MOFAC — the Museum of Florida Art and Culture at SFSC, Avon Park — and Mark Renz, a well-known photographer and expert on Florida fossils. Most of the art in the show will be for sale with artists donating 20 percent of sales to the art council.

The Art of the River art show opens with a private reception for artists, sponsors and art patrons from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6. Persons interested in attending the reception should email [desotoartscouncilinfo@gmail.com](mailto:desotoartscouncilinfo@gmail.com) or call 863-703-0373.

The Rio de la Paz Festival is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 7. Admission is free; there is a \$3 charge

for parking with proceeds benefiting the art council and SFSC student groups.

SFSC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the SFSC Foundation will be working with the art council to make the outdoor festival even more attractive to the public. Environmental groups and businesses will have displays as well as many local authors and fine craftsmen. Entertainment and activities for youth, including a castle bounce house, obstacle course, rock climbing and more will round out the day, along with live music.

It's a chance for families to experience the campus in a fun way and learn what the college offers and how the college benefits the community. There will also be a student art show, and art activities for youth.

The college is located two miles east of downtown Arcadia off State Road 70 at 2251 Turner Avenue, Arcadia. For more information about the art council, see [www.desotoartscouncil.org](http://www.desotoartscouncil.org), or call 863-703-0373.



ARCADIAN PHOTOS BY SUSAN E. HOFFMAN

County Commissioner Jim Selph poses next to the painting "Old Timers" by the late Guy LaBree, which was awarded first place for two-dimensional art in 2014.



Visitors to last year's Art of the River exhibit examine a fabric quilt created by Patricia Anderson Turner, who won an honorable mention prize in the three-dimensional category.



Gordon "Mac" Martin, left, photographer Rhett Butler, and County Commissioner Bob Miller pose in front of Butler's photo of the Peace River Bridge in DeSoto. Martin and Miller purchased and donated Butler's photo to the county, now on display in the County Administration Building.

## **Motorcycle safety, awareness class offered at SFSC**

LAKE PLACID —

Motorcycle safety and awareness is not just for motorcycle riders, it's for all drivers and riders of any vehicle who share the use of our roads. In conjunction with South Florida State College, ABATE of Florida, Inc., Inerstate Chapter is presenting the second of two Motorcycle Safety and Awareness classes

for all motorists on Saturday, Feb. 7.

The class will be from 9 until 11 a.m. at the Lake Placid campus of SFSC. Instructing the class will be Ernie Gelinas, president and longtime safety director of Inerstate Chapter of ABATE of Florida, Inc., assisted by several other members of the chapter.

This course is intended to offer safety and awareness information for all motorists and is not an instructional riding course. Cost is \$ 15 per person, and for enrollment information call 863-784-7388 or email [CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu), and ask about the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Course.

Information is also available on the Inerstate Chapter website, <https://sites.google.com/site/abateinerstatechapter/>, and click on the Chapter File Cabinet tab.

# SFSC's EMS program earns national accreditation

## School meets high standards set by commission

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — South Florida State College now offers the only nationally accredited emergency medical services program in its service district of Highlands, Hardee and DeSoto counties.

The program received initial accreditation through Jan. 31, 2020, from the largest programmatic accreditor in the health sciences field, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

CAAHEP accreditation is a mark of distinction, certifying that an EMS program adheres to the highest national standards of education. Notification of SFSC's EMS program accreditation came to Dr. Thomas Leitzel, SFSC president, on Jan. 16 in a letter from CAAHEP President

Dr. Thomas Skalko, congratulating the college on its achievement and commitment to continuous quality improvement in education.

SFSC's site visit report listed no deficiencies and 100 percent compliance with CAAHEP standards and minimum outcomes thresholds. The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions will regularly monitor the program's compliances with the outcomes assessment threshold through the program's annual report as well as other documentation that may be requested.

To be accredited, programs must meet a set of nationally established standards and undergo an intensive process that includes a peer review and on-site visitations conducted by the CoA EMSP and CAAHEP's board of directors.

Those standards encompass

not only faculty but also administration, resources, facilities, equipment, progress and competency, and clinical partnerships related to the accredited program.

To become a certified paramedic in Florida, students must attend an accredited program and pass the state of Florida paramedic certification examination. Graduates are also eligible to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Skills Examination and Computer Based Test. While awaiting the full accreditation, graduates of the SFSC's EMS program have been eligible to take these exams thanks to a Letter of Review from CAAHEP.

As a result, students who graduate from CAAHEP-accredited institutions are more readily accepted into other advanced degree EMS programs and have broader employment opportunities — nationally and internationally.

# SFSC holds first College Bound Male Initiative

AVON PARK — Three dozen male students from Avon Park High School visited South Florida State College's Highlands Campus on Jan. 22 for the inaugural College Bound Male Initiative.

The event, for high school males in SFSC's district of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties, was recently created to provide comprehensive programs, services, and encouragement to young men that will prepare them for admission into and graduation from institutions of higher education.

"When I realized we had a crisis in our community of young men not pursuing higher education and dropping out, I had to do something," said Eddie Cuencas,



Courtesy photo

SFSC's male student panel shared their challenges and answered questions from the audience during SFSC's College Bound Male Initiative on Jan. 22. The student panel included Ricky Sherrill, Greg Rawlings, Jose Torres, Alfred Brown, and Rashaud Williams:

coordinator of SFSC's Panther Youth Program. "With the help of Andy Polk,

student life coordinator and assistant baseball coach, and Rob

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Hampton, veterans' services advisor, we developed the College Bound Male Initiative. This event was a first step in providing these local young men the skills, support, and foundation they need to succeed in higher education."

College Bound Male Initiative featured several guest speakers including Polk who explained why male students should go to college; Hampton, who discussed the process for applying to college; and keynote speaker, SFSC athletic director and head baseball coach Rick Hitt who spoke about the road ahead.

The event featured a student panel of graduates from SFSC's district high schools

who spoke about their challenges and how they overcame those with the support of family, college staff and faculty, and resources available at SFSC.

Those resources are the TRIO program, Panther Youth Program, CROP program, and campus student activities. The SFSC student panel included Ricky Sherrill, Greg Rawlings, Jose Torres, Alfred Brown, and Rashaud Williams.

SFSC is already preparing for its next College Bound Male Initiative to take place in early March. The college hopes to have high school males from all high schools in SFSC's district in attendance.

For more information, contact Cuencas at 863-784-7161 or email Eddie.Cuencas@southflorida.edu.

January 29, 2015, The Herald-Advocate

# SFSC Cosmetology Clinic Open for Appointments

The South Florida State College Cosmetology clinic is open for public appointments now at the Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

The clinic offers hair design, haircuts, perms, coloring, facials, makeup, eyebrow arching, and manicures. The services are performed by SFSC Cosmetology students at low cost.

Clinic hours are by appointment, Tuesday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. To

schedule an appointment, call (863) 453-4949.

"The clinic is an excellent opportunity for students to learn the required technical skills to be successful in the industry," said Timothy Johnson, cosmetology program manager and instructor. "Clients time and time again say how much they like the salon environment and the fact that the students take their time to complete the services they render and that the instructor is always near if

needed."

The cosmetology program at SFSC is a 10-½ month course that focuses on careers in hair design, nail services, and skin care. Following completion of the program, students receive an occupational certificate and are eligible to register as a skin care specialist with the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation.

For more information on the program, call Johnson at (863) 784-7143.



PHOTO BY MARIA TRUJILLO

**Wildcat senior pitcher/infielder Cody Spencer has already made his choice. Spencer signed Monday morning with South Florida State College in Avon Park. He is flanked by his parents Chris and Lisa Spencer, while Head Coach Steve Rewis supports the decision.**

## Spencer To Play At SFSC

By JOAN SEAMAN

Of The Herald-Advocate

Wildcat leader Cody Spencer hasn't even started his senior baseball season.

That doesn't begin until next week's pre-season tournament at Fort Meade. Nevertheless, Spencer has already firmed up his plans for playing baseball next year.

He signed with South Florida State College, where he will play for longtime coach Rick Hitt. The Panthers, who are in the Suncoast Conference of the Florida College Student Activities Association (FCSAA) open their 2015 season on Friday.

Hitt said Spencer was one of six recruits already signed for the 2016 season. Only Matthew Portis of Sebring and Spencer are local signees.

"I'm excited about signing Cody. We will use him a pitcher and position player on the left side of the infield. As he grows and gets stronger, I expect him to improve on the mound and improve his volume and speed," said Hitt.

"I'm excited Cody chose to become a Panther and is coming in with our recruiting class. I'm also excited as we start the season on Friday and expect some good things," concluded

Hitt.

Spencer, who has excelled in swimming and baseball, accepted an academic and athletic scholarship with South Florida State College early Monday morning with Head Coach Steve Rewis and family members who came in for the occa-

sion.

Present also were his parents, Chris and Lisa Spencer, sister Shelby Kay Spencer, paternal grandparents David and Joy Spencer and maternal grandmother Wanda Altman. Grandfather Lester Altman was unable to attend.

## SFSC hosting star viewing parties

AVON PARK — Erik Christensen, South Florida State College physics and astronomy professor, invites the public to two star parties in February. Telescopes will be provided.

Deep sky objects, which are stars and galaxies outside of the solar system, will be viewed 8-9 p.m. Feb. 12 and Feb. 26.

Star parties are highly weather dependent and will be canceled in the event of heavy cloud cover or rainy weather.

Check the current status at <http://sfcc-astronomy.wiki> foundry.com.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs and should dress accordingly.

Star parties meet near Ridge Area Arc, located along College Drive, 1 mile east of SFSC or just off Memorial Drive.

Parking is on Baltimore Street.

For information, contact Christensen at 784-7363 or [christee@online.southflorida.edu](mailto:christee@online.southflorida.edu).