

# SFSC's online classes means college is always open



**AVON PARK —** Through an expanding array of online courses, South Florida State College is turning the computer into the classroom and making it possible for students to complete the first two years of college at their own pace and on their own terms.

SFSC students can earn an Associate in Arts degree entirely by taking online courses. It's a way of expanding educational opportunities to people who need the convenience of making their college studies revolve

around their work and family lives.

Online courses also appeal to students who have been away from the classroom and want to determine whether they are ready to commit to continuing their education.

"SFSC's online courses are ideal for students juggling the demands of family life, busy work schedules, and other circumstances which may not allow them to attend college in the traditional setting," said Dr. Sidney Valentine, vice president for

Academic Affairs and Student Services.

Students who enroll in SFSC's online courses receive the same educational content, and interact via email with SFSC instructors who teach campus courses. Online classes start and end on the same dates as SFSC's regular fall, spring, and summer terms, and the tuition for online and regular classes is the same. Most importantly, students receive the same college credit that counts toward

the completion of a degree or occupational certificate.

SFSC also offers online courses geared toward students studying for entry into an occupation. A few of those courses are Introduction to Criminal Justice for law enforcement and Introduction to Teaching Profession for prospective teachers.

Select online courses are also available to students who have been accepted into SFSC's Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and

Management (BAS-SM) and Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) programs.

The complete list of online courses can be found at [www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu) under "Class Schedules."

Prospective students can get one-stop assistance by dropping by SFSC College Assistance Express Days, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 3, and Tuesday, Aug. 9. Stop by the Building B Welcome Center on the Highlands Campus and get help filling out a college

application and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in time to start fall classes.

For more information about College Assistance Express Days, call recruiter Summer Miller at 863-784-7447 or email [summer.miller@southflorida.edu](mailto:summer.miller@southflorida.edu). The list of documentation students need to bring with them can be found at [www.southflorida.edu/collegedays](http://www.southflorida.edu/collegedays).

Advisors are also available to assist students at all SFSC locations during their regular hours.



# SFSC appoints new health sciences dean

Dr. Michele Heston takes over for now-retired Rebecca Sroda

Special to Highlands Today

AVON PARK — Dr. Sidney Valentine, SFSC's vice president for Academic Affairs and Students Services, announced Tuesday the appointment of Dr. Michele Heston to the post of dean of the Division of Health Sciences.

Heston, currently director of Nursing Education, succeeds Rebecca Sroda, who retired earlier this month after 12 years of service to SFSC.

"After an informative series of interviews that stretched over three days, the selection committee came to agreement that Dr. Heston would lead the college's Health Sciences programs," Valentine said. The appointment was effective Sept. 1.

"Dr. Heston brings with her a wealth of knowledge not just about the health sciences, but about SFSC and its programs," Dr. Valentine said.

Heston graduated from SFSC

with a pre-nursing Associate in Arts degree. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of South Florida. Clarkson College awarded her a master's degree in nursing education.

While serving as an instructor and later as director of Nursing Education at SFSC, Heston earned a doctoral degree in leadership in education with a specialization in higher education administration from Barry University.

"I count it a privilege to serve as dean at the institution that shaped my career from its inception," Heston said. "My entire career has been interwoven with and supported by the comprehensive and supportive work of SFSC."

During Heston's tenure as director of Nursing Education, she oversaw the launching of the college's Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, which graduated its first class of BSN students in May. During the past two years, she shepherded the newly formed degree program through its initial national accreditation by

the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

In addition to the BSN program, the dean of Health Sciences directs SFSC's associate degree programs in nursing, radiography, and dental hygiene. The division also offers occupational certificate programs in practical nursing and dental assisting.

Heston shared that her family moved to Avon Park in 1977 to start a business and a new life. "I found myself at what was then South Florida Junior College as a 17-year-old undecided freshman," she said. "A love of the natural science courses offered at the college, coupled with a job opportunity at a local nursing home, laid the foundation for my career in health care."

Heston said in her nursing career she gained experience in acute care, primary care, and home health, including stints in supervisory positions. She started teaching nursing to SFSC students as a part-time instructor. She signed her first full-time employment contract with the college in August 1997.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Michele Heston is seen here in her office on the SFSC Highlands campus.

Now, nearly 20 years later, Heston said she recognizes the importance the health sciences dean plays at SFSC. "I cannot help but reflect that I feel prepared to take on this challenge," she said.

Heston lives in Avon Park

with her husband, Terry, who is a developer and sits on the Avon Park City Council.

"I look forward to watching Dr. Heston taking the SFSC Health Sciences programs to new areas and exciting directions," Valentine said.

# Professor brings warmth, innovation to dental education program



**AVON PARK** — Darlene Saccuzzo, a professor of Dental Education at South Florida State College, sat in her office on the first day of classes while her new students toured classrooms and lab spaces.

Now entering her 12th year teaching SFSC students dental instrumentation, pre-clinical dental skills and infection control, Saccuzzo's love for teaching and her students is itself infectious.

"Coming to work here gives me the feeling as if I walked into another family," Saccuzzo said. "For me, it's important for people to understand what a privilege and joy it is for me to work at SFSC."

The Baltimore native said the eagerness of her students' desire to learn and the esprit de corps among the Dental Education staff makes her job "too easy."

"Simply by her presence, Professor Saccuzzo brings a warmth to our program that endears the students and staff to her," said Dr. Deborah Milliken, director of the Dental Education program. "What's especially touching is how that warmth translates into student engagement with their studies, their motivation to succeed and the camaraderie among us all."

One sign of that student success: SFSC's 2016 class of dental hygiene graduates came out on top on their national board examinations, with a 100 percent pass rate.

Saccuzzo came to SFSC in 2005 at the urging of Rebecca Sroda, then an instructor in SFSC's dental program. It was Sroda who taught Saccuzzo dental hygiene at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Com-



COURTESY PHOTO

**Darlene Saccuzzo, right, reviews X-rays with an SFSC dental hygiene student in the SFSC Dental Education clinic.**

munity College in North Carolina. "When I finished my studies, Becky (Sroda) told me she wanted me to work with her teaching students," Saccuzzo said. "Becky moved to SFSC that year and talked me into following her."

First, as a part-time instructor, teaching only two days a week, then moving to four days a week, Saccuzzo scored a full-time position in 2006.

"I loved it then, and I love it even more now," Saccuzzo said of her role teaching students the basic of dental assisting and hygiene.

When Saccuzzo started her dental training at A-B Tech — the moniker by which her school is known — she was no stranger to dental assisting. She had worked in dental offices for 20 years, assisting dentists in caring for their patients.

Saccuzzo, who has a daughter and two adult grandchildren, had lived in central Florida with her husband for much of their marriage. But they dreamed of owning a log cabin in the mountains of North Carolina.

"We did build that log cabin," Saccuzzo said. "We found a perfect spot in Maggie Valley, outside

of Asheville, that offers the most amazing views."

Saccuzzo lost her husband to cancer. But she continued to call their mountain cabin home.

"I started my dental studies at Valencia College in Florida before my husband got sick, but I stopped to care for him," Saccuzzo said. "A-B Tech was a short commute from the cabin, so I finished up my two-year dental hygiene degree there."

In 2015, Saccuzzo's dedication to her students' earned her an endowed teaching chair from the SFSC Foundation, an honor that came with a financial award she used to enhance her instruction.

She used the award to acquire a video camera and monitors that has transformed the way she teaches.

"Imagine 12 students crowded around me at a dental chair to watch me demonstrate a procedure and return to their individual patient units to replicate what I just did," Saccuzzo said. "It's not the optimal teaching method."

Now, Saccuzzo trains the camera on a model of a patient's mouth while performing the procedure.

Her movements and techniques appear on a video monitor at each of the 12 students' patient units, where they can replicate her manner while watching her in real time.

"This new modality has transformed the way we teach at SFSC," Saccuzzo said. "It has improved student performance and dramatically cut our reme-

diation rate.

"Our IT staff couldn't find any other colleges doing this. We're on the cutting edge here at SFSC."

The new academic year brought a fresh crop of students into the SFSC dental hygiene and dental assisting programs who will learn that Saccuzzo is a hugger. Joining them are returning second-year

dental hygiene students honing their skills on patients who visit the SFSC Dental Clinic for examinations, X-rays, and cleanings.

"We're all here for student success," Saccuzzo said. "We have a great teaching team, and we have great students. That's what makes it so easy. That's why it's a great job."



# DeSoto alum among 12 SFSC law enforcement grads

By **MANUEL CORTAZAL**

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

South Florida State College graduated 12 law enforcement officers on Aug. 30, handing them their diploma, challenge coins and advice as they prepare for their first assignments.

The 12 cadets of Basic Law Enforcement Class 248 filed into the SFSC University Center auditorium on the Highlands Campus for the 6 p.m. ceremony and stood at attention while a color guard presented the Stars and Stripes. The auditorium's seats were filled families, well-wishers and law enforcement officer from surrounding counties.

Before picking up their diplomas, the cadets heard a send-off speech from Chris Velasquez, chief of the Lake Wales Police Department. Velasquez got his start in law enforcement after he graduated from the SFSC Criminal Justice Academy more than 20 years ago.

"You cadets just completed one of the finest law enforcement programs in the state," Velasquez told the graduates. "But your training and education are only just beginning."

Velasquez observed that in his time as a law enforcement officer he has seen technology transform the profession.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**The 12 cadets of Basic Law Enforcement Class 248. From left: Brett A. Rich, Brian Williams, Dustin D. Baker, Brandon Wells, Cody Hoffner, Christian Northcutt, Ryan Brand, Norman Jackson, Tyler W. Haywood, Diego Serrano, Kalob Rickett and Justin Register.**

He said the cadets will see even more changes as automation and technology make further inroads into policing.

He sounded a note of caution in his remarks. He spoke of the vital role communications plays in fostering a cooperative relationship with the community.

"While a lot has changed in how we do our work, one thing hasn't: good

communications with the people you serve," Velasquez said. "We need to have the community behind us to do our jobs well and maintaining healthy communications with them is key."

Michael Huften, SFSC's coordinator of criminal justice training, then called up the 12 graduates to the stage to hand them their challenge coins, specially minted medallions that signify their

achievement and bond as future law enforcement officers. Erik Christensen, dean of Applied Sciences and Technology, presented the diplomas.

Graduating that night were: Dustin D. Baker, Ryan Brand, Tyler W. Haywood, Cody Hoffner, Norman Jackson, Christian Northcutt, Justin Register, Brett A. Rich, Kalob Rickett, Diego Serrano, Brandon Wells and Brian Williams.

Huften singled out four cadets for their achievements during the nearly six-month course. Brand and Register earned top honors for their academic excellence. Williams scored the firearms award for his work on the shooting range.

Haywood, who was tapped as class leader, has secured a position with the Sebring Police Department. The former U.S. Army military police officer stepped up to the lectern to single out each of his fellow cadets with a compliment before thanking all the families and friends who had supported the class during their 770-hour course.

For more information about the SFSC Criminal Justice Academy, which includes a program that prepares one for a career as a corrections officer, call the SFSC Advising and Counseling Center at 863-784-7313 or visit [www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu).



# Explore volunteer opportunities at MOFAC

Meeting, luncheon set for Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Special to Highlands Today

**AVON PARK** — The Museum of Florida Art and Culture at South Florida State College is looking for volunteer docents.

If you have an interest in Florida history, art, or archeology, then MOFAC invites you to attend a meeting and luncheon that will introduce volunteers to the role docents play at the museum and how they can contribute their time.

The event is 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday in the lobby of the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC.

A docent serves as a guide to visitors, helping them understand and better appreciate the art and items on exhibit.

"Our docents provide an interesting, entertaining and educational aspect to the viewing experience," Megan Stepe, MOFAC's curator, said. "They are an integral part of MOFAC and we rely on them to enrich our visitors' interaction with the collec-



HIGHLANDS TODAY FILE PHOTO

**South Florida State College's Museum of Florida Art and Culture will hold a volunteer meeting and luncheon for new and returning MOFAC volunteers at 11:30 a.m. Friday in the lobby of the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at its Highlands campus.**

tion."

Docents need not have in depth knowledge of MOFAC's collection. The museum will orient docents on the collection and provide training workshops.

Docents typically volunteer one hour or more a week during regular museum hours.

MOFAC is a cultural program of South Florida State College.

Those who have volunteered as MOFAC docents in prior years are also invited to attend.

The Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts is located on the SFSC Highlands campus, 600 W. College Dr., Avon Park. RSVP to MOFAC's curator, Stepe, by email at [stepem@southflorida.edu](mailto:stepem@southflorida.edu) or call (863) 784-7240.

# Anthropologist to open speaker series at SFSC

AVON PARK — The Kissimmee Valley Archaeological and Historical Conservancy will kick off its 2016-17 speaker series today (Thursday, Sept. 15) at 7 p.m. on the Highlands Campus of South Florida State College.

Dr. David Butler, the principal investigator at the Blueberry archaeological dig site in Highlands County, will offer an update on the results of current research at the site.

Butler's talk will also feature developments

related to his recent presentation at the Florida Anthropological Society and an update on Mound B at the Blueberry site. He will highlight the significance of findings at two points at the site, units TU 7 and 8.

SFSC will host this first

talk in a room different from the customary meeting location. Butler will speak in Building B, Room 112, which is directly across from the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts at SFSC.

Butler has more than

20 years of experience studying Florida archaeology. He taught anthropology and archaeology at the college-level before joining Full Sail University, where he teaches on the intersection of anthropology and the Internet.

Butler has designed a new website for the conservancy and will debut it during the meeting.

The Highlands Campus of SFSC is at 600 W. College Drive. For more information call Anne Reynolds at 863-840-3995.



# SFSC Dental Education offers free oral cancer screenings

SPECIAL TO  
THE HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

AVON PARK — South Florida State College's Dental Education programs will offer no-cost oral cancer screenings from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Dental Education Center on the SFSC Highlands Campus. The free screening is available to the public by appointment.

The screening is a painless process that takes about 15 minutes. After a brief medical history, patients receive a head and neck examination. When needed, the visual examination is followed by a VELscope

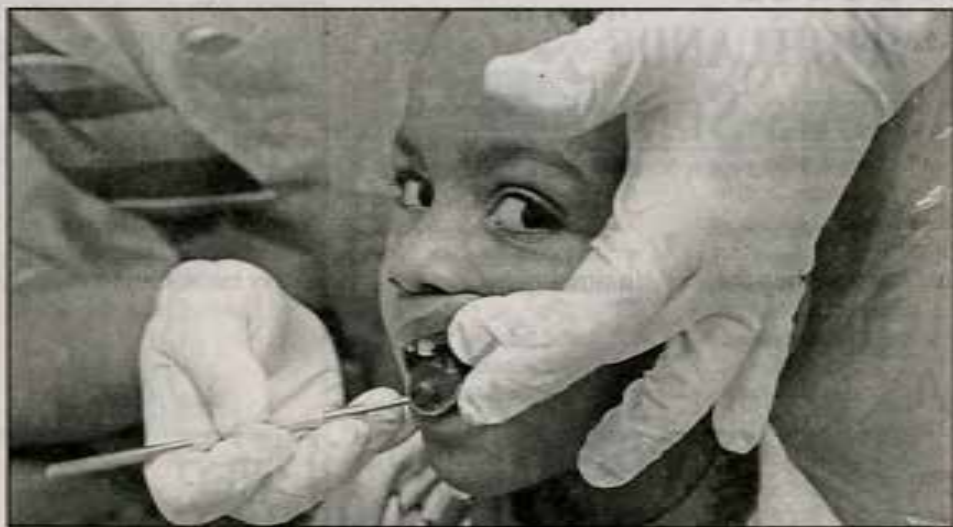
examination in which a florescent light is shown into the mouth to help to detect abnormal cells not visible to the eye.

"Even people who wear dentures should have an oral cancer screening every year," said Dr. Deborah Milliken, department chair of dental education. "Dental hygienists and dental assistants tend to be community-minded individuals and oral cancer screening is only one of the many ways they serve their communities."

Approximately 48,250 people in the United States will be newly diagnosed with oral cancer in 2016, according to the

Oral Cancer Foundation, the college said in a news release. An intra-oral screening helps to detect early stages in many cases. When oral cancers are found in their early stages of development, patients have an 80 to 90 percent recovery rate, the news release added.

Those at risk for oral cancer include alcohol and tobacco users, those with frequent exposure to the sun, and people who have been infected with certain strains of human papilloma virus (HPV), which presents a five-times increase in occurrence in people under the age of 40. Still, up to 25 percent of people who



FILE PHOTO

South Florida State College's Dental Education programs will offer no-cost oral cancer screenings on Thursday, Oct. 13, 3:30 – 6 p.m., at the Dental Education Center on the SFSC Highlands Campus. The free screening is available to the public by appointment.

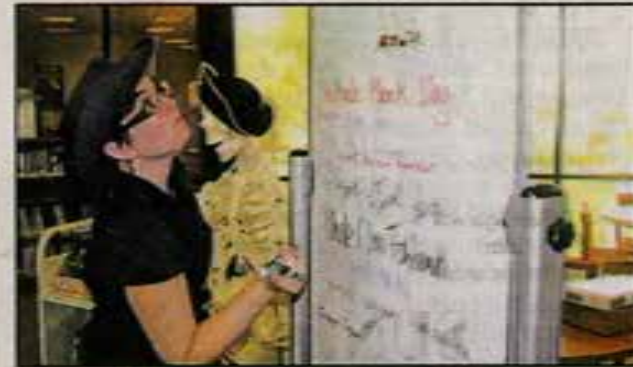
develop oral cancer have no risk factors.

To make an appointment, call the SFSC

Dental Education program at 863-784-7020.

# Arghh!! Getting into pirate talk

The South Florida State College Library celebrated "Talk Like a Pirate" Day on Monday with staff donning pirate garb and offering booty for those testing their smarts with pirate trivia. International Talk Like a Pirate Day, first celebrated in 1995, is a parody holiday held annually on Sept. 19.



MARC VALERO/STAFF

SFSC librarian Claire Miller uses her initials to determine her pirate name from a list of words Monday



MARC VALERO/STAFF

The South Florida State College Library celebrated "Talk Like a Pirate Day" on Monday with staff donning pirate garb, such as SFSC librarian Claire Miller.



## **South Florida State College Skins Game**

The Skins Game: a two-person skins game to benefit South Florida State College athletics will take place at Sun 'n Lake Golf Club on Saturday, Nov. 19, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration deadline is Nov. 12. The tournament is flighted by two-person handicaps and each flight will have its own skins pot. Entry fee is \$75 per player and includes range balls, lunch and SFSC hat or visor. For more information contact Andy Kesling at 385-4830 or Rick Hitt at 784-7036.

## Concealed Weapons Permit course at SFSC

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) is offering a Concealed Weapons Permit course, required to carry a concealed weapon in Florida. Topics to be covered include Florida Statutes, use of deadly force, carry restrictions, and live fire exercises.

The course will be Saturday, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$55, and the course number (CRN) is 11501.

The CJA is on SFSC's Highlands Campus, Avon Park. For information contact coordinator Michael Huften at 863-784-7285 or visit [www.southflorida.edu/publicservice](http://www.southflorida.edu/publicservice). Register at any SFSC Campus or center; pre-registration is required.



# SFSC library joins Banned Books celebration

AVON PARK — The South Florida State College library will observe Banned Books Week with activities intended to draw interest in books that have been banned through the decades and into today.

The librarians at SFSC challenge readers to visit the

library housed in the Tutoring and Learning Center on the SFSC Highlands Campus to check out a banned or challenged book. The books will be wrapped in brown paper, so the title will remain a mystery until it's checked out by the borrower. Readers, though, will still

have the option to choose their own title from a list of banned books.

Every year, persons or groups attempt to ban, or challenge, books from the shelves of libraries, bookstores, and schools. Often, they object to the books' controversial

language, themes, or perceived threat to a prevailing viewpoint.

## Trivia contest

Students from SFSC's Brain Bowl team will square off against college faculty and administrators in a

banned books-themed trivia match. The contest is set for Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 12:20-12:50 p.m. in Building B, on the SFSC Highlands campus. The public is invited.

For more information, contact [Claire.miller@southflorida.edu](mailto:Claire.miller@southflorida.edu) or 863-784-7305.

# Register now for SFSC's second Fall Flex session

AVON PARK — Although fall academic term classes at South Florida State College started last month, students don't have to wait until January to get on campus or online and into a class.

Students, and folks who want to be students, can register for SFSC's second Fall Flex session, an eight-week "mini-term" that starts Oct. 17 and runs through Dec. 14, offering an opportunity to take elective courses and start earning college credits without having to wait for the next academic term.

Returning students can register and pay for classes through the college portal, Panther Central. New students can apply for admission to the college by clicking the "Apply Now" button at the top of

SFSC's home page at [www.southflorida.edu](http://www.southflorida.edu). The Second Fall Flex schedule of classes is available online at [www.southflorida.edu/current-students/class-schedules](http://www.southflorida.edu/current-students/class-schedules).

SFSC's Advising and Counseling Center accepts walk-in registrations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. Students can register in Building B on the Highlands Campus in Avon Park, at the Hardee Campus in Bowling Green, at the Lake Placid Center in Lake Placid, or at the DeSoto Campus in Arcadia.

SFSC offers two-year associate degree programs and numerous occupational training programs for people who wish to enhance

their employability skills through shorter courses of study. The college offers a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Supervision and Management (BAS-SM), a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program.

Financial aid is available to those who are qualified. For more information about financial assistance and scholarships, contact the SFSC Financial Aid Office at 863-784-7134.

For further information about registration call the Highlands campus at 863-453-6661, the Hardee campus at 863-773-3081, the DeSoto campus at 863-993-1757, or the Lake Placid Center at 863-465-3003.



# Schools' AVID Program Creates Success Stories

By FAITH HODGES

Herald-Advocate Intern

Advancement Via Individual Determination has proved to be a successful program for the Hardee County School District.

AVID is a global nonprofit organization that operates by holding students accountable to the highest standards, providing intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creating a positive group environment and developing a sense of hope for personal achievement.

It started in Hardee County on a grant for five years to try out. The program was implemented in Hardee Senior High for a group of sophomores and has now blossomed into a program for all of the high school and junior high.

Two past AVID students, Alex Lopez and Felise Ehrenkauffer, have begun to reach their goals set through the program and are still heavily involved in it by tutoring current AVID students. AVID helped them become more successful adults, and now they return to help the next group of students follow in their footsteps.

"AVID was new to our school, we'd never had it before. Some of the requirements to be in it was good grades, continuously being in school, having at least one honors class, and every year we would add one more. The requirements got higher as you elevated in AVID," Lopez said.

"The reason they picked people is because they felt like they were the ones that would slip through the cracks. The ones that had the potential to go somewhere, but that wouldn't have the motivation to get there," Ehrenkauffer said.

The program had a different positive influence on each of the students.

"AVID, for me, was actually fun," Ehrenkauffer, described. "We had to sit with everyone,

get to know everyone and you became more of a family because you learned with them."

"It was," Lopez said, "very exciting, helpful and AVID, for me, was more of a guidance that really prepared me and pushed me to take initiative. It taught me various skills such as leadership, responsibility, respect and integrity. It really pushes you to do everything on your own."

The program helped these two current AVID tutors, who are now students at South Florida State College, get to where they needed to be.

"We learned how to fill out the applications for scholarships, how to interview with people and just gave us a chance to really build up to what we were going to need to do in college. We learned teachers aren't always going to be there to talk to you, so you have to use friends as help and work together," Ehrenkauffer said.

The work in the AVID class was writing-based. Their teacher, Daphne Hays, who is still involved at the school with AVID, also implemented ACT prep questions, article reviews, community projects, Socratic seminars, and in-group work.

Now, there are more teachers, more classes and more tutors, such as Ehrenkauffer and Lopez.

"We were chosen (to tutor) because we have more experience inside the program, as a student. They'll look at your grades and see if you're a person who can maintain focus and do what you're supposed to do," Ehrenkauffer said.

"Not only were we chosen because the experience," Lopez added, "but because we know the impact that it makes on our lives and we want to be able to create a nexus between our experience and the AVID students now."

The tutors help AVID students by linking into groups of four or five and having them

bring homework of any subject that they have problems with. The students fill out a form, describe in detail their point of confusion and list the steps they're taking to finish the problem.

Rather than tell the students the answer, the tutors are instructed to ask the students questions in order for them to figure it out by themselves.

"It ranges from math to English to life. Some kids would have problems because they would work afterschool and so some of their questions were 'how do I stay organized' and 'how can I manage my schedule and time.' But ultimately, our job isn't to give them the answer, it's to ask questions and help them figure it out individually," Lopez said.

Much like the students they help, the tutors have had to learn how to manage their time in order to be successful. AVID has helped them do that.

"I get up in the morning, take my brothers to school, go to college, I get home for about 20 minutes, go to work and then find time for homework. On other days, I tutor," Ehrenkauffer said, describing her busy schedule.

"Currently I'm working three jobs. I work at the YMCA, I'm the assistant band director at the high school and I'm an AVID tutor," Lopez said. "One thing AVID really showed me is that you have to work hard in order to get where you want to be."

They're doing just that.

The students who learned so much from being in the AVID program are taking their knowledge and instilling it into the minds of the new AVID students.

"AVID has greatly impacted our lives and I'm sure every other AVID student," Lopez said.

"After high school, life begins. The skills we were taught through AVID, we still use today."



## SFSC BRIEFS

### Advanced Driver Improvement class

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State College's Corporate and Community Education Department is offering a 12-hour Advanced Driver Improvement Course for drivers who have a suspended license or who have too many points on their license.

The course will be held from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 18, 19, and 20 at the SFSC Highlands campus, Avon Park.

Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$150. Register in Building B on the Highlands campus or at any SFSC campus or center.

For more information, contact the Community Education office at (863) 784-7388, or email [CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu).

### Alcohol Drug Accident Prevention Training

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State

College's Corporate and Community Education Department is offering a series of Alcohol Drug Accident Prevention Training (ADAPT) courses for first-time driver's license applicants.

The four-hour courses will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1 at the SFSC DeSoto campus, 2252 N.E. Turner Ave., Arcadia; and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 at the SFSC Hardee campus, 2968 U.S. 17 N., Bowling Green.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$50 and may be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Register in Building B on the Highlands Campus or at any SFSC campus or center.

For more information, contact the Community Education Department at (863) 784-7388 or email [CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu).

### Yoga classes available

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State College's, Community Education Department is offering yoga classes.

In Yoga, learn how to reduce stress, improve circulation, calm the emotions, and stimulate weight loss and re-align posture. The class is offered 5:30-7 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 11 through Nov. 1. The cost is \$36, and the course number is (CRN) 11391.

Register in Building B at the Highlands campus or any SFSC campus or center. Registration can also be paid over the phone by calling (863) 784-7405.

For more information on this or any other Community Education classes, call (863) 784-7388 or email [CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu)

### Safe Driving Accident Prevention Program

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State College's Corporate and Community Education Department is offering a series of Safe Driving Accident Prevention Program (SDAPP) courses for drivers who have received a traffic citation, were court ordered to

attend, or were involved in a traffic accident and issued a ticket.

The four-hour courses will be held from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct 5 at the SFSC Desoto campus, 2252 N.E. Turner Ave., Arcadia; from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 15 at the SFSC Highlands campus, 600 W. College Drive, Avon Park; and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 at the SFSC Hardee campus, 2968 U.S. 17 N. Bowling Green.

Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$50 and may be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Register in Building B on the Highlands campus or at any SFSC campus or center.

For more information, contact the Community Education Department at (863) 784-7388, or email [CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu](mailto:CommunityEducation@southflorida.edu).

### Security Guard Certificate Course

**AVON PARK** — The South Florida State College Criminal Justice Academy (CJA) is offering a Security Guard certificate course.

This course is required to become a state of Florida licensed security guard. Topics to be covered include Florida statutes, and those mandated by the Department of Agriculture, patrol techniques, first aid, and terrorism. The course will be offered from 6-10 p.m., Monday through Friday, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 8-21. The cost is \$200 and the course number (CRN) is 11532.

Preregistration is required. For more information, contact program coordinator Michael Huften at (863) 784-7285 or email [michael.huften@southflorida.edu](mailto:michael.huften@southflorida.edu).

### TAG offers spring classes

**AVON PARK** — South Florida State College's The Artists' Group (TAG) is offering spring classes in its studio at the Hotel Jacaranda, 19 E. Main St., Avon Park.

In Acrylic Painting, participants will paint subjects of their choice or work on a project with the instructor. Two paintings will be completed during the

session. This class will be held from 12:30-4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Oct. 5 through Nov. 2. The cost is \$120 and the course number is (CRN) 11403.

In Creations in Clay/Ceramics, participants learn to use clay and pottery techniques for this sculptural medium. This class will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays, Oct. 26 through Dec. 14. The cost is \$135 and includes supplies. The course number is (CRN) 10858.

In Watercolor Painting, participants learn how to paint their own subjects or participate in a project demonstrated. The application of color theory elements and principles of design will be discussed and implemented into the class project. This class will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Thursdays, Nov. 3-17. The cost is \$65 and the course number is (CRN) 11404.

Register in Building B at the Highlands campus or at any SFSC campus or center. For more information or to obtain class supply lists, contact The Artist' Group at SFSC at (863) 784-7376 or email [tagstudioart@yahoo.com](mailto:tagstudioart@yahoo.com).



# SFSC aims for affordable textbooks



KILE BREWER/STAFF PHOTO

South Florida State College sophomore Rebecca Smith sits outside the bookstore on campus Monday afternoon while studying for one of her math classes. Smith rents her textbooks as a cheaper alternative to buying the books each semester.

By **MARC VALERO**  
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — New, used or rented textbooks are a significant expense for college students, but new state legislation may help to keep costs down.

The law now requires colleges to post textbook costs. Before, colleges had to identify information of at least 95 percent of all textbooks and instructional materials required and recommended for each scheduled class, 30 days before the start of an upcoming term. That notice period is now at least 45 days.

The amended statute also requires colleges to track the percentage of textbooks that remain in use for more than one term and to share the results with academic department chairs and program staff for review. The goal is to reduce the cost of required textbooks and instructional materials.

South Florida State College sophomore Rebecca Smith said she paid about \$600 for books last year. She is currently renting one textbook for \$230. "I have a loan so I don't actually have to pay for it," Smith said. "Well I have to pay for it, but later on."

Sophomore Mario Hernandez

said his books weren't as expensive as he thought they would be.

His costliest textbook was about \$300 for a computer programming class.

"I know a few people who spend a lot more for books," Hernandez said. "I was on the lucky side of my books not being as expensive."

SFSC President Thomas Leitzel will present data on textbook affordability at today's meeting of the college's board of trustees

The information shows 100 percent of the college's textbook adoptions are in place for more



# SFSC

FROM PAGE 1

than one term. But due to the requirement of an access code, workbook or similar one-time use component, actual continued use of the entire package for more than one term is not available to student for

15 courses. SFSC adheres to an internal procedure, where adopted textbooks and instructional materials are in use for at least three years or until the edition changes, whichever occurs first.

Vice President of Academic Affairs & Student Services Sidney Valentine said with the advent of computer technology, many textbooks

now have an access code, allowing students to go online to practice and go deeper into the course while they are at home.

But, when a student buys a used book that code is invalid, he said. Otherwise, one code would be passed from student to student and the textbook company would make no money.

Health Sciences Dean

Michele Heston added that through the access code students' progress is tracked for their own self approval.

More faculty members at SFSC are looking into using Open Educational Resources as the primary textbook, which generally is free to students. Currently, 20 faculty members are using this resource as the primary textbook for their courses.

Dean of Applied Sciences & Technology Erik Christensen said the college is working with 11 other institutions around the country to promote online open educational materials the instructor can adopt at no cost to students, who can print what they need.

At Purdue or MIT (more expensive universities) textbook expenses are a smaller percentage compared to the tuition cost, he noted. "But, here it is a big portion," of taking a college course.

Dean Student Services & Student Compliance

Officer Timothy Wise noted the college works to maintain the same textbook over a period of time so students are not faced with not being able to resell a book because the college changed editions.

Interim Dean Arts & Sciences Lynn MacNeil said sometimes even if there is a new edition, they will stay with the previous one if it is still available. "Textbooks have become

outrageously expensive," he said.

Christensen noted that some topics, such as political science, change frequently, but calculus or physics still uses many of the laws from over 100 years ago.

Valentine feels what is of paramount importance is student success.

"We want to make sure the students have all the materials at their fingertips to be the most successful," he said.



KILE BREWER/STAFF PHOTO

The campus store sells new, used as well as renting textbooks to students on the South Florida State College campus.

# The Artist Group offers spring classes at SFSC

AVON PARK — The Artists' Group (TAG) is offering spring classes in its studio at the Hotel Jacaranda, 19 East Main St. TAG is affiliated with South Florida State College.

In *Acrylic Painting*, participants will paint subjects of their choice or work on a project with the instructor. Two paintings will be completed during the session. This class will be held on Wednesdays from Oct. 5 through Nov. 2. Class times are 12:30-4:30 p.m.

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The application of color theory elements and principles of design will be discussed and implemented into the class project. This class will be held Thursdays, Nov. 3-17 from 1-4 p.m. Cost is \$65, and the course number is (CRN) 11404.

Register in Building B at the Highlands Campus or any SFSC campus or center. For more information or to obtain class supply lists, contact TAG at SFSC at 863-784-7376 or email tagstudioart@yahoo.com.



# Interest in science opens career path to pharmacy for SFSC grad



Courtesy photo

**Hong Nguyen with her family after graduating from pharmacy school.**



**Hong Nguyen holding her pharmacy school diploma.**



AVON PARK — Hong Nguyen started the summer on a high note. Her family was on hand to watch her pick up her doctor of pharmacy degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

But her studies didn't come to an end with graduation, now a doctor in name only. Nguyen had to pass her board examination before she could practice pharmacy.

Nguyen's career path to pharmacy took shape at South Florida State College, where she not only started college, but finished high school.

"While at Sebring High School, I chose to try my hand at the dual enrollment program at SFSC," Nguyen said. "Going through the rigors of the program, and taking college courses while in high school, prepped me for my time at university and graduate school."

The SFSC dual enrollment program offers high school students the option to complete courses for their diploma while earning college credits at SFSC.

After earning her high school diploma, Nguyen enrolled full time at SFSC and was admitted to the SFSC Honors Program.

Nguyen said she always knew she would work in the medical field and settled on pharmacy while completing her associate degree at SFSC. Her science courses at SFSC played a big part in her decision to study pharmacy.

"I give a lot of credit to my physics professor at SFSC, Erik Christensen," Nguyen said. "Under his guidance, I immersed myself in studying science, which steered me ever more firmly toward pharmacy."

In addition to the regular physics class Nguyen took with Christensen, she enrolled in a course he taught open only to students in the Honors Program.

"We spent an entire academic term focusing on global warming, giving us an opportunity to study a science topic in depth," Nguyen recalled. "We presented our findings at a conference in Gainesville, and this experience had a big impact on confirming my interest in science."

Recalling to mind Nguyen's time on the SFSC Highlands Campus, Christensen heaped praise on her. "Throughout a year of almost daily observation and interaction in both the classroom and the laboratory,

...

Hong impressed me," Christensen said. "She was an engaged student who was always eager to learn new material."

Nguyen completed her undergraduate degree in biomedical sciences at the University of South Florida.

"There's a benefit to starting at a smaller school like SFSC because you can interact regularly with the faculty," she explained. "Students who start at a large school see the professors as a distant figure and don't seek help from them, which wasn't the case for me based on my experience at SFSC."

Although she's from an immigrant family—Nguyen's family moved to Florida from Vietnam when she was 3 years old — she is not the first in her family to graduate from college. Her older brother completed his Associate in Science degree in dental hygiene at SFSC.

Nguyen started her pharmacy graduate studies immediately after earning her bachelor's degree at USE. She interned and worked for the CVS retail chain while completing her studies.

"I'll continue to work for CVS for the near term," Nguyen said. "I'm laying the groundwork for my future in pharmacy, and I need the experience."

Looking forward, Nguyen plans to enter hospital-based pharmacy practice once she has built up her resume.

Nguyen noted that pharmacy is a broad field, not one just centered on serving patients in a retail setting. Pharmacists perform high-level work in hospitals and conduct research at major academic health sciences

centers in the United States.

Her plans are on solid ground now. In late August, she got the news she had passed her board examination. "Learning I had passed the examination was a great way to end the summer," Nguyen said. "Now I can breathe and relax."

When she is not consumed with studying, Nguyen said she enjoys traveling and playing tennis, a sport she played while at SFSC.

With a career path in pharmacy now open to her, Nguyen said students entering college should look at opportunities in the field.

"Pharmacy can be a great career and one I found many of my peers didn't even consider," Nguyen said. She recommends students at colleges like SFSC to visit the career development department to explore the many career paths open to them.

"That's what I did at SFSC," Nguyen said. "Young people preparing for a career can't eliminate any of their options before even considering them."



# Who is the smarter one?

## Professors, students test their knowledge on banned books

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**  
CORRESPONDENT

### AVON PARK —

Librarians nationwide are celebrating Banned Books Week through Oct. 1. South Florida State College lead librarian Lena D. Phelps found a creative way to celebrate Wednesday afternoon.

Phelps helped organize the bi-annual Brain Bowl in the rotunda at SFSC Wednesday. Questions in the trivia competition between SFSC faculty versus students were all based on books that have been targeted for removal in libraries and schools.

SFSC students compete against students from other Florida colleges in FCSAA quiz bowl tournaments around the state, region and nation. Their FCSAA season starts Saturday in Lake

City. There are around six tournaments over the next two semesters, some playoffs, and the FCSAA Brain Bowl State Championship starts March 30 in Panama City.

Even though the Panther Brain Bowl team made it to the regional championship game last season (and also won the regional championship in 2004 and 2007), they have historically been no match against their professors.

The FASTeam has won the bi-annual competition the past 10 times, Phelps said. The FASTeam (Faculty, Administration and Staff Team) crushed the students in knowledge about banned books 190-80 Wednesday.

"They got slaughtered," said Phelps, who, on top of being SFSC lead

librarian, is also head coach of the SFSC Brain Bowl team. "They didn't want to upstage their instructors."

Think you have what it takes? Here is a sample question about banned books from the fall semester Brain Bowl Cup at SFSC:

• "Three kids living in a small town are forced to cope with reality. Their mysterious neighbor is an alleged freak, and the father of two of the kids is a lawyer defending a black man accused of rape. What is the name of the novel?" The choices are 1) The Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison; 2) A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry; 3) To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee; and 4) I know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou.

The answer is at the bottom of the story, don't cheat. Bonus question: What literature prize did this work of art win?

SFSC junior marketing major George Perez got a few answers right Wednesday. Perez said he has competed in around 15 matches across the state so far and that he helped his team win seven or so matches. The Panther Brain Bowl team was FCSAA West-Central Regional Champions for 2004 and 2007 and regionals runner-up in 2015.

The Panther team won FCSAA West Central Regionals here in Avon Park Feb. 13 with three wins and two losses. The team traveled to Atlanta and lost in the regional championship tournament soon after.

This season the team includes: Logan Boyd,



Courtesy photo

The South Florida State College student Brain Bowl team, regional runner-up champions last season in FCSAA action, has not beat a SFSC faculty team for around five years. From left are Jose Sanchez, George Perez, Melissa Garcia and Mathew Daniel.

Garrett Edenfield, Christian Pena, George Perez, Ashleigh Prieto, Christian Reitnauer, Jose Sanchez and Summer Xiong.

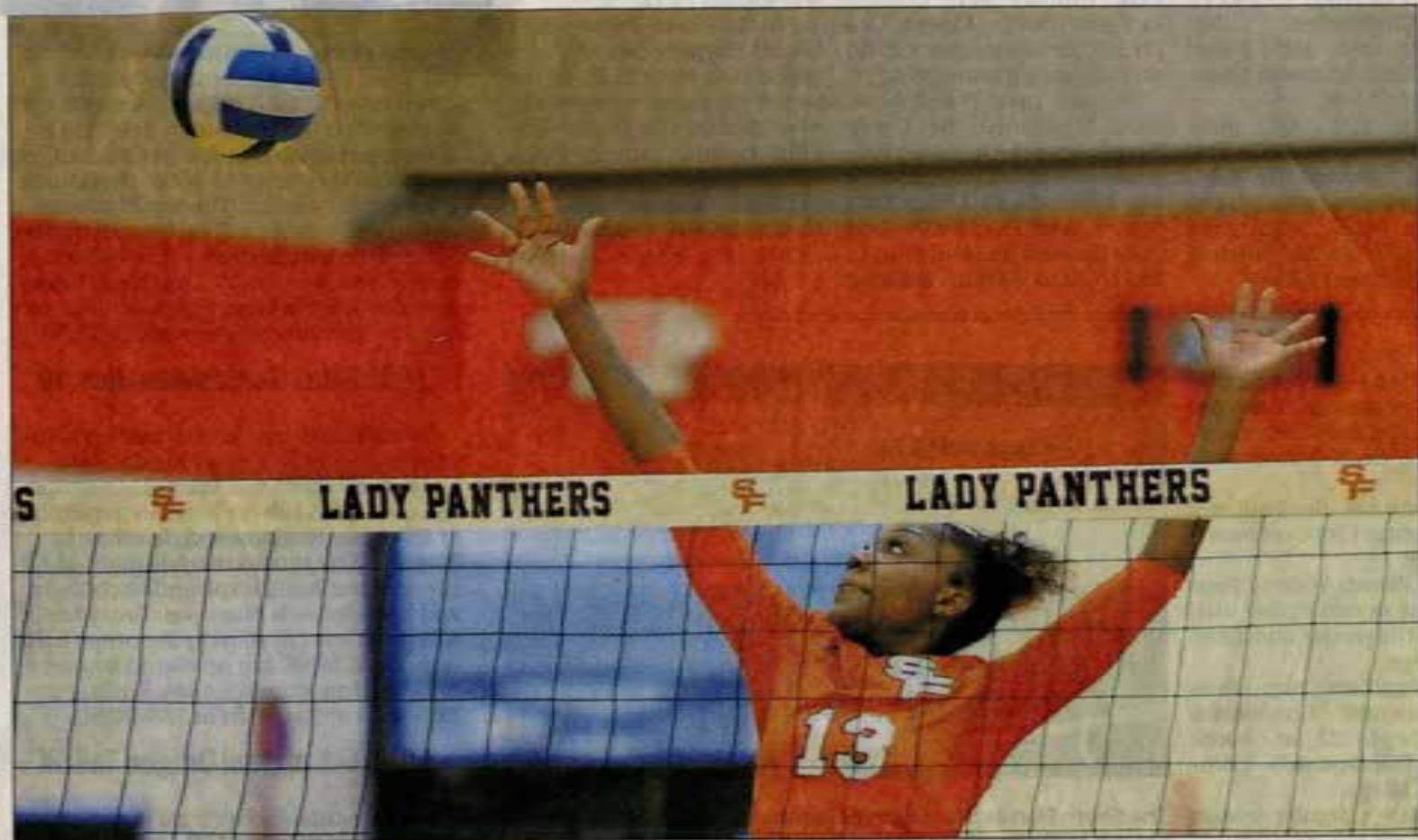
Competing against the FASTeam Wednesday were: Mathew Daniel, Melissa Garcia, George Perez and Jose Sanchez.

Playing for the FASTeam were: Kim Bello, Mary von Merveldt, Dr. James Hawker and Marcy Everest.

The answer to the

sample question above is 3) To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Lee won the Pulitzer Prize for the work.

According to the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association, in 2009 To Kill a Mockingbird was removed from the St. Edmund Campion Secondary School (Canada) classrooms because a parent objected to language used in the novel, specifically a racial word.



CHARLES BAKER III

South Florida's Shadaisha Summerall had 11 offensive points and four kills in Wednesday's straight-set loss to Warner University.

# Royals trump Panthers



## SFSC volleyball team puts up fight against tough opponent Warner University

BY CHARLES A. BAKER III

Highlands Today Correspondent

AVON PARK — In the third set of a losing volleyball match against the Warner University Royals, the father of one of the South Florida State College volleyball players said head coach Kim Crawford told him this was one of the best teams she has ever had.

"Why aren't they winning?" Roland Boudrias asked himself. "It's like they have a missing piece. They took Santa Fe to five sets. It was unbelievable."

The Lady Panthers lost to Santa Fe, one of the best teams in Florida according to Crawford, on Sept. 3, during a Tri-Match in Melbourne.

After winning the first two sets 25-17 and 25-23, they lost the final three 20-25, 14-25 and 11-15 in the tiebreaker. SFSC lost in straight sets to Eastern Florida College 17-25, 16-25 and 20-25 during the mini-tournament.

Wednesday, the Panthers lost to a team ranked No. 30 in the nation by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics according to Warner University volleyball head coach Chrissy Moskovits. With 20 matches left to play in the regular season, the Panthers are now 1-4. They lost to the Royals in straight sets 20-25, 22-25 and 20-25.

After the match against Warner on Wednesday, Crawford said Boudrias was right, this was one of the best teams she has ever had. When asked why she thinks her team has lost four straight matches, Crawford said it's still early in the season. All five of these matches were non conference play, two against ranked teams.

"From a coaching standpoint, it's tough when people ask how the game went," Crawford said. "It's still a big L."

Crawford said her team is young and hungry to learn and



Rob Hampton was honored with the first serve Wednesday night. Hampton, an academic adviser at SFSC, is studying for his master's degree in business management from Warner University.

# Panthers

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that she is struggling to figure out how to get the next win.

The Lady Panthers had 29 team kills Wednesday and 16 errors on offense. Makayla Root and Kayla Wood led the team in kills with eight apiece. Setter Sarah Castillo had 23 assists. Kaelyn Mahoney and Leigha Reynolds had 11 and 10 digs, respectively.

The Panthers competed in the Pasco-Hernando tournament Friday and Saturday,

going 1-1 on Friday, falling to the host team and then defeating Cape Fear Community College from Wilmington, N.C.

On Saturday, the Panthers fell to Kansas City Community College.

South Florida State College hosts a tri-match Friday with Webber University and Eastern College.

The Panthers play their first Suncoast Conference match Sept. 22 at home against Hillsborough Community College.

The team's regular season ends Oct. 25.



CHARLES BAKER III

The South Florida State College Panthers watch a ball sail over the net in Wednesday's loss against Warner University.



# Panthers working toward spring

SFSC softball team looks to make the most of fall season

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**

CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — With just two weeks of practice, shortened by Hurricane Hermine rains, the Panthers softball team played their first fall exhibition games of the 2016-17 last week against a high school-aged travel team from the Sebastian area south of Orlando.

Neither head coach was keeping score when asked.

For visiting head coach Mike Coffey, the game was about giving his team some college-level experience and exposure.

SFSC assistant coach Amanda Byers asked about a couple of the high school players and in between innings Coffey tried to motivate his team by reminding them of the opportunity to showcase talent.

For Panthers head coach Carlos Falla III, it was about learning more about his young team. Six of the 17 players on the team are freshmen this season. He seems to be used to that, this being the first game of his 12th season with SFSC.



**FALLA**

# PANTHERS

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"It's always a brand new team at a two-year school," Farla said after game one of the double-header.

The Panthers finished 24-25 overall last season but 6-14 in Division I Suncoast Conference play and missed the playoffs. Of the 24 teams in NJCAA Region 8, the Panthers had the fourth worst offense with 194 runs scored. The team allowed 291 runs against which means most games were close pitching battles.

Statistically, freshman Amanda Ross, out of St. Petersburg, had the best year of any player on the team. Last season she led the team in batting average (.350) and ERA (1.84) on eight appearances. Ross had the most hits (36), doubles (9), RBIs (24) and slugging percentage (.495). Ross only struck out three

times last season.

Sophomore Haley Penterich had the second best batting average with .333 and even though she led the team in innings pitched, she kept her ERA at 2.18.

Former Ft. Meade High School standout lefty Evangeline Futch pitched the second most innings. Futch pitched 200 strikeouts in her senior year in high school and was named to the 2015 state all star team before she arrived at SFSC. She finished last season 6-4 on 13 appearances with a 3.60 ERA.

Center fielder ShaVonda Howard graduated from Ft. Meade with Futch. While Howard has yet to hit a home run in college, she hit dozens in high school.

Saturday SFSC won game one easily, but they let the Steelers travel team score four runs and SFSC committed at least three errors. They put together only one double play and had a three up-three down



SFSC softball head coach Carlos Falla III is entering his 12th season in January when the regular season starts.

in one of the late innings. "It wouldn't have been a runaway win like this one if we were playing a college

team," Falla said after game one. "We made a lot of mistakes and we need to do better against travel teams



CHARLES A. BAKER/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

Vangie Futch recorded 200 strikeouts as a senior in high school and was named to the state high school all-star team in the spring of 2015. She posted a 3.60 ERA in her first 13 appearances playing softball for South Florida State College.

like that."

The Panthers don't play their next scrimmage until

Oct. 1, at home against Pasco-Hernando State College.



# Panthers looking for missing parts to puzzle

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
CORRESPONDENT

## SFSC volleyball team playing with lineups before conference play starts

AVON PARK — With a 2-8 record going into Friday night's scrimmage matchup against Webber's JV volleyball team, South Florida State College head coach Kim Crawford decided to shake up her roster. Her two co-captains were the only starters not on the bench for the first set.

SFSC freshman and Sebring's own Elizabeth Tauchen traded in her clipboard for a volleyball and played from start to finish in the straight-set scrimmage victory, 25-14, 25-17 and 25-12. Tauchen has been helping

assistant coach Tymesia Ellis keep stats on the sidelines through the first 10 games.

South Florida State College hosted a Tri-Match with Webber International University JV and the Eastern Florida State College Lady Titans. In the day game Friday, the Lady Panthers lost to the Lady Titans (11-5) for the second time this season in straight sets,

20-25, 21-25 and 21-25. Two of those five Titan losses were to Polk State College.

The Lady Panthers have no more time to practice. Their first conference game is at home Thursday night against Hillsborough Community College (11-4, 2-1 on the road). HCC was ranked sixth nationally in an early September NJCAA division I

volleyball poll. Saturday afternoon the Lady Panthers play their second conference game of the season at home against Polk State College, (11-1, 1-0 on the road) ranked third in the same poll.

Head coach Kim Crawford and more than one in the crowd have used the words "missing piece" to describe the Lady Panthers this season. The problem is not on defense. Co-captain Brook Westphal has nearly 200 digs in the first 10 games. The second defensive specialist, Kaelyn Mahoney, is tied for second in team digs with 103. Neither has committed an error so far

# PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 1

this season.

The problem is not sophomore outside hitter Mary Beth Boudrias either. Boudrias is second on the team in kills (60) and tied for second with team digs (103), meaning she is active offensively and defensively up front near the net.

So the missing piece is either at middle blocker or the other starting outside hitting position. In addition to Sebring freshman outside hitter Elizabeth

Tauchen getting to play all three sets against Webber JV, so did freshman middle blocker Christina Torres out of Miami and sophomore setter Paola Castro out of Pembroke Pines.

Co-captains Mary Beth Boudrias and Brook Westphal played two games apiece. Middle blocker Makayla Root leads the team in kills with 68 but did not play. Coach Crawford played briefly and successfully with two middle blockers, Torres and freshman Shadaisha Summerall.

Sebring's Tauchen played aggressive both with and without the

ball, much like how Boudrias plays. She finished the match with three aces on 14 serve attempts, five kills, seven errors and seven digs. She is competing against two other freshmen for the second starting outside hitter slot, Leigha Reynolds and Kayla Wood. Neither Reynolds or Wood played in the scrimmage game Friday night.

While it was a scrimmage against a JV team, Webber is a four-year university with a strong volleyball program. Their JV team is simply freshmen and sophomores just like those

on SFSC. The team committed 63 errors against Eastern Florida State College with all the starters playing.

"We had a lot less errors in that game," said assistant coach Ellis after the scrimmage that rotated three players who have either played very little or not at all.

Ellis said she has attended a Hillsborough Community College game to scout the team and that she is looking forward to seeing how her team will do in the conference games. Head coach Kim Crawford made no statement Friday night.

# Indian River surges past SFSC

## First loss of season for Lady Panthers

By CHARLES A. BAKER III  
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK – The Lady Panthers were undefeated and the Indian River Lady Pioneers were 0-4 going into Thursday night's game but you wouldn't know it from

the results.

After winning set one 25-22, SFSC got behind in set two before rallying and tying the score at five.

The Lady Pioneers went on the offensive from that point on and swept the remaining sets 17-25,

17-25 and 10-25.

"(Indian River) finally got off the bus in set two," said SFSC head coach Kim Crawford after the game.

Crawford said the team will be working

INDIAN | 5



Charles A. Baker III/Highlands News-Sun

Freshman Shadaisha Summerall from Georgia showed some skills in the middle Thursday night, but this ball got chipped over her head.



# INDIAN

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heavily on serving at practice in the coming weeks as the team was having trouble holding serve.

Somebody in the stands noticed that the Lady Panthers stopped smiling sometime in set three. Mary Beth Boudrias wasn't one of them. Her father drove all the way from Ft. Pierce and asked for a picture of his daughter to put up on the wall at home before the game. After, he managed to get coach Crawford's attention to ask about Mary Beth.



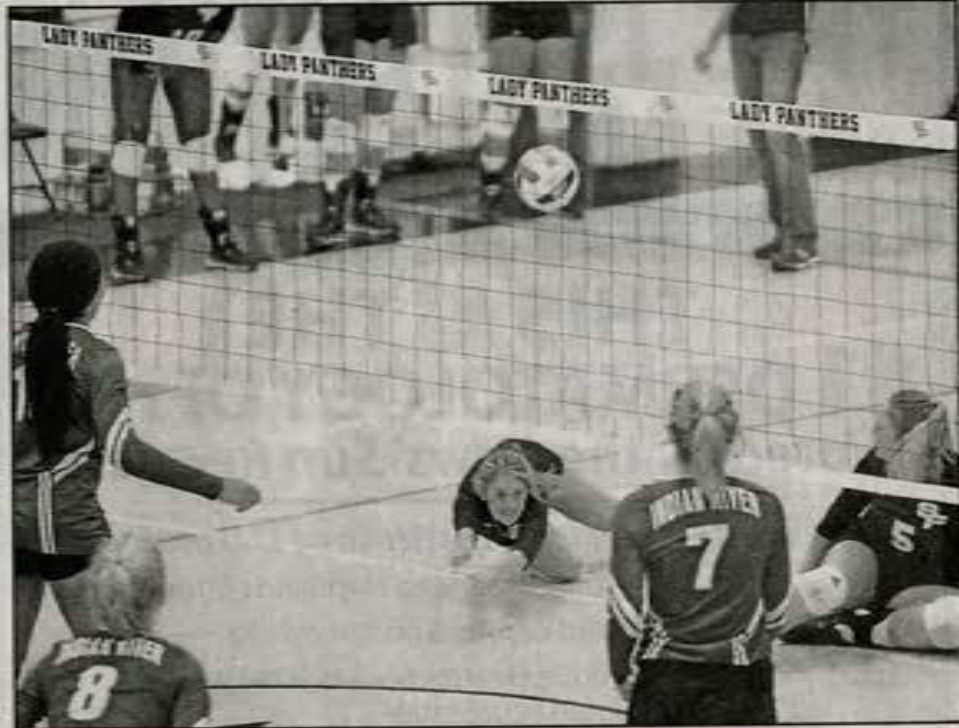
Charles A. Baker III/Highlands News-Sun

SFSC volleyball team co-captain Emily Swenson exhibits some emotion after losing to Indian River Thursday night.

"She's definitely become a leader this year," Crawford told him. "She had 14 kills in our first game."

A few minutes later Mary Beth was still smiling like she had won.

Hurricane Hermine reportedly will not stop a three-team tournament at Eastern Florida College in Melbourne starting today (Saturday) at noon. The Lady Panthers will play



SFSC was on defense quite a bit Thursday night. Here, Kaelyn Mahoney dives for another dig.

Santa Fe and Eastern Florida then SFSC

returns home to Avon Park to play Warner

University Wednesday September 7.

# Panthers fall to Hillsborough

## Hawks soar past South Florida State College

By **CHARLES A. BAKER III**  
NEWS-SUN CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — The team that finished third in the nation at the 2015 NJCAA Division I National Volleyball Championships came to Avon Park and swept the Lady Panthers in straight sets 25-9, 25-21 and 25-16 Thursday night.

Hillsborough Community College (15-5) is currently ranked seventh in the nation according to a NJCAA poll released Tuesday, Sept. 20.

The Panthers have lost four in a row and now own a record of 3-9. Their next opponent is the conference leader, and the fifth ranked team in the nation according to the same poll, Polk State College (12-3).

After the game SFSC head coach Kim Crawford was overheard telling her players, "I'm still trying to work on the rotation. It's crappy that we lost but keep chipping away."

Crawford seems certain on who to play but not how to rotate them during play. Before the match Crawford was asked if she was using any of her bench players and she gave an emphatic no.

A few minutes after the game Crawford said, "There are five teams in our conference and two of them went to nationals last year. But our girls played well." They did play good defense Thursday.



CHARLES BAKER/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

**Makayla Root (7) and Leigha Reynolds (3) attempt to block a shot against HCC Thursday night.**

The NJCAA statistic that likely best describes the 2016 Panther season to date is digs per set. Team co-captain Brooke Westphal has the second most digs (211 in 30 sets) in NJCAA Region 8 (23 teams). In volleyball a dig is keeping an opponent's attempted kill shot from hitting the floor. Westphal has been averaging around seven digs

per set and she had 18 in three sets Thursday night.

Kaelyn Mahoney and Mary Beth Boudrias are tied for 19th in digs per set. Leigh Reynolds is ranked No. 31 with just under three digs per set. Not one player on Hillsborough



# PANTHERS

FROM PAGE 1

Community College has a player in the top 50, meaning they don't play as much defense. The Lady Panthers had 48 digs to the Lady Hawks 38 Thursday night.

Compare that to kills, the Lady Panthers had 26 kill shots and the Lady Hawks had 43. It's hard to win games on defense, even playing great defense. With four Lady Panthers in the top 50 for digs per set, they are playing great defense.

Hawks outside hitter Abigail O'Farrell leads NJCAA Region 8 in kill shots with 216. There are no Lady Panthers in the top 50. O'Farrell led all players with 11 kills Thursday. Lady Panther Kayla Wood rode the bench in a scrimmage game last week against Warner JV. But Wood led SFSC with 10 kills Thursday.

In all three sets, the Lady Panthers kept it close at the start and then fell behind. Set two was competitive up until the end when the Lady Hawks finished dominantly.

South Florida State College players face Polk State College at home Saturday at 2 p.m.

It is not likely to be an easy game. The fifth ranked team in the country didn't even make it to the championship game as host of their own mini tournament September 17, losing two matches in the process. They had won nine in a row prior to hosting their tournament.

Polk State College leads NJCAA Region 8 in points per set.



CHARLES BAKER/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

SFSC middle blocker Shadaisha Summerall sends the ball over the net in the straight set loss against HCC, the seventh best team in the nation according to a recent NJCAA poll.



CHARLES BAKER/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

Left: Makayla Root (7) and Leigha Reynolds (3) attempt to block a shot against HCC Thursday night.



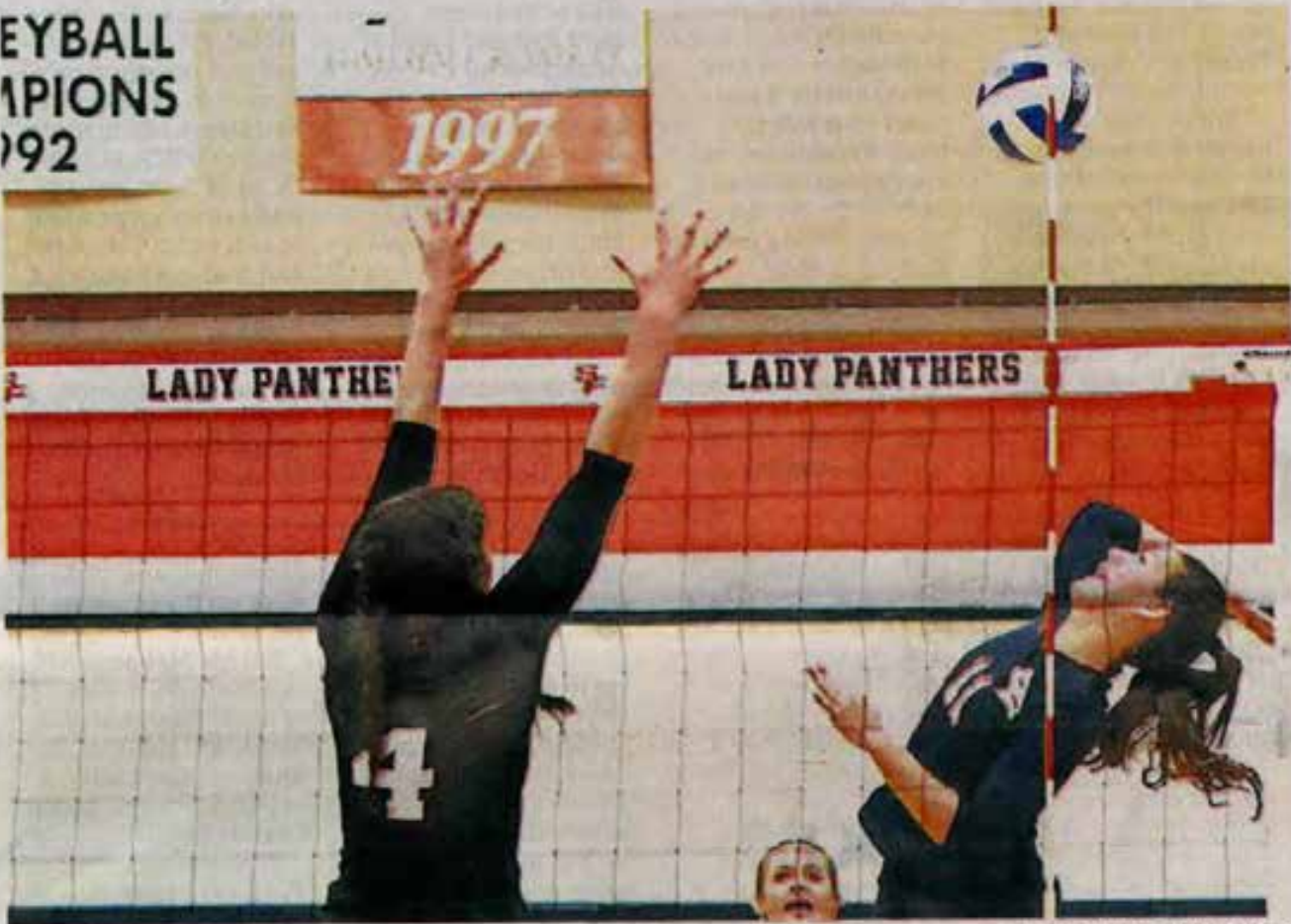
# Panthers stun No. 5 Polk State College

VEYBALL  
MPIONS  
1992

1997

LADY PANTHERS

LADY PANTHERS



JIM TAYLOR/NEWS SUN PHOTO

South Florida State College's Mary Beth Boudrias (11) attempts a kill shot as Polk State's Anilise Fitz (4) attempts to defend during Saturday's match.

## South Florida State College pulls our dramatic 5-set victory

By JIM TAYLOR  
CORRESPONDENT

AVON PARK — It wasn't quite the "Miracle on Ice," but for the South Florida State College Panther volleyball team, you can't be much closer considering it was a regular season Suncoast Conference match, as the Panthers stunned the Polk State Eagles in five sets: 25-21, 17-25,

25-20, 19-25 and 15-13. The Panthers came into Saturday's match with a 2-9 record and were just swept by the No.7-ranked National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I powerhouse, the Hillsborough Community College Hawks, two days prior. On Saturday, they hosted the Polk State College Eagles, who were ranked fifth in the nation.

On paper, should have been three and done, but as the old saying goes, that is why they play the game. Missing the first set, I walked into the gym and asked a young lady who won the first game and she smiled and said 'we did,' the Panthers. Indeed, the Panthers won the first game 25-21.



# PANTHERS

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Thinking OK, that will make a good story, the Panthers played valiantly against their second straight ranked team, but would eventually succumb to the powerhouse as the Panthers quickly fell behind in the second game 11-3, then 16-5.

Even though the Panthers fell behind by an insurmountable amount in competitive volleyball terms, SFSC continued to battle, cutting Polk State's lead

nearly in half to six points at 21-15.

No comeback, as the Eagles stopped the Panther's surging momentum to win the second set, 25-17.

The Panthers fell behind quickly in the third set, 6-3, this time they kept up with the Eagles, tying the set at 8 when Brooke Westphal served five consecutive points to give the Panthers a 13-8 lead.

A buzz started in the crowd and thoughts of a major upset were no longer being thought, but openly said as the Panthers increased their lead to seven,

21-14, and they won the third game 25-20 to take a 2-1 set lead.

But you have to win three, and there is a reason Polk State is ranked fifth. This time the Panthers could not reel the Eagles back as they jumped out in front early to win the fourth set by six, 25-19.

The Panthers led early 3-2, only to fall behind 5-3 in the deciding game. The Panthers battled back to tie the game before the momentum shifted to the Eagles who scored five of the next seven points to take a 12-9 lead.

After a timeout by SFSC, Polk State came back out on the court ready to serve and were called for a rotation violation by the officials, which gave a point and the service to the Panthers.

A simple protest by Polk State would have probably kept the momentum with his team, but Eagle coach German Del Valle vehemently argued the call for several minutes; so long that the players were dancing on the court to the music and the Panthers actually did some sprints to keep warmed up.

As the protest continued, to the point that it seemed to exhaust the Eagles verve completely as the Panthers scored four straight points to take a 14-12 lead. The Eagles scored once more before the Panthers locked up the fifth game with a 15-13 win to win the set 3-2.

SFSC only had six aces, with Leigha Reynolds and Westphal each having two to lead the team.

Mary Beth Boudrias led the Panthers with 14 kill shots, Kayla Wood had 10 and Reynolds recorded eight. Shadaisha

Summerall and Makayla Root each had seven kill shots.

Kaelyn Mahoney led the Panthers in digs with 24. Westphal and Boudrias each had 20; Root and Reynolds each had 16 and Sarah Castillo had 15.

With the win, the Panthers improved to 3-9 on the season and 1-1 in the Suncoast Conference. The Eagles fell to 12-4 on the season and 0-1 in the conference.

The Panthers will attempt to build on the win tonight, as they travel to Florida State College.

# 'Pocahontas' kicks off SFSC Young Peoples Theater season

AVON PARK — The SFSC Young Peoples Theater opens its 2016-17 season on Nov. 4 with a performance of "The True Story of Pocahontas," at the Alan Jay Wildstein Center for the Performing Arts.

The show is a factual retelling of the life of Pocahontas from a playful girl to a young wife and mother who carries her message of peace and mutual cooperation across the Atlantic Ocean to the King of England. It is a production of the professional touring group Theatre IV, based in Richmond, Va.

The Wildstein Center hosts two performances: 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$4. School groups receive one free ticket for a teacher or chaperone with every 10 tickets purchased. The performance is recommended for students in grades one through five.

"Theatre IV is the touring educational arm of Virginia Rep," said Mitzi Farmer, the SFSC Young Peoples Theater coordinator. "Their productions not only delight students, but teach them important life lessons and classroom curriculum."

Free study guides for "The True Story of Pocahontas" are available that highlight the English, social science, and history behind the story. Duke Energy

sponsors the show.

"School-organized trips to a live performance are more than a day out," said Cindy Garren, director of Cultural Programs at SFSC. "There are lasting and sustainable outcomes when students attend live theater, and the educational research literature confirms this."

SFSC has presented live theater for school-based groups since 1998. The most popular productions have been musicals based on much-loved books about Curious George, Junie B. Jones, and Amelia Bedelia. "We usually have 1,000 students or more at each

performance," Farmer said.

"The House of Pooh," based on the A.A. Milne classic, is scheduled for March 30, 2017, with performances: at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The Chinese folk tale "The Song of Mulan," is scheduled for May 1, 2017. Both performances are recommended for grades K - four.

For more information or to reserve seats for Young Peoples Theater performances, email [ypt@southflorida.edu](mailto:ypt@southflorida.edu). All Young Peoples Theater performances are held in the 1460-seat Wildstein Center on the Highlands Campus at 600 W College Drive.



Pocahontas on stage in the Theatre IV production of 'The True Story of Pocahontas'.

Courtesy photo