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AND *Shakers*



3 Donation of Stock creates 18 new Take Stock in Children Scholarships



5 Subscribe to the Alumni Association's new newsletter that is being delivered by email.



6 For the fifth consecutive year, SFSC is nominated for the prestigious Aspen Prize.

Inaugural Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout Coming in January



AMATEUR GOLFERS ARE INVITED TO THE THREE-DAY FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD AT THE **SUN 'N LAKE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB** IN SEBRING.

In January, the SFSC Foundation is sponsoring the inaugural Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout as a fundraiser for the SFSC Athletics Department.

Located at Sebring's Sun 'N Lake Golf & Country Club, this three-day event will surely bring out every range of golfer in the surrounding area. All amateur golfers are welcome to participate.

On Thursday and Friday, Jan. 18-19, golfers can purchase as many bags of golf balls as they wish and hit them from the Sun 'N Lake driving range.

The top 12 qualifiers will advance to

the hole-in-one golf shootout on Saturday, Jan. 20. Each golfer will get one chance to win the \$1 million prize by shooting a hole-in-one at the par 3 18th hole.

SFSC fields four athletic teams: women's volleyball, women's cross country, men's baseball, and women's softball. SFSC's student athletes will assist golfers at the shootout.

"We are excited about introducing the Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout as our newest fundraiser for SFSC Athletics," said Rick Hitt, SFSC athletic director. "It is a one-of-a-kind event in our area. The Sun 'N Lake Golf Club has been a tremendous partner in putting this together, and I thank Dr. Tom Leitzel, his administrative team, and the SFSC Foundation for their support."

Contact the foundation for participant information.

WANT TO BE A MILLION DOLLAR SPONSOR? SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.

When Excellence is Key, **Students Benefit**

THE SFSC FOUNDATION IS
CREATING AN ENDOWMENT
THAT WILL SUPPORT SFSC'S
MISSION FOR YEARS TO COME.

This fall, I joined the ranks of many parents when my oldest child became a college student and started on the path to earning his bachelor's degree from South Florida State College. I am so proud of my son for choosing to come to SFSC, not just because I am partial to our great institution, but because our institution is great!

How are we great?

SFSC was recently awarded Gold-Level status by the Florida College System for reaching benchmarks in four indicators of performance. SFSC also received a Florida College System Chancellor's Best Practice award for expanding its use of Open Education Resources, saving students \$125,480 in textbook costs alone. In 2017, for the first time, two SFSC nursing students were named Siemens scholars by the Siemens Technical Scholars Program. In October, for the fifth consecutive year, SFSC was named one of 150 best community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute.

These are just some of the reasons why I am proud that my son chose to further his education at SFSC. The accomplishments of my colleagues speaks volumes. SFSC is great! Our performance is the best, and our commitment to excellence continues.

Now, we strive to accomplish something more. We want to ensure that future generations of students have the same opportunities to grow



The Bateman family - Billy (left), Sebring High School graduate Jacob, and Jamie. Jacob became an SFSC Panther this fall.

and advance as did those who preceded them. Our goal is to strengthen our unrestricted endowment so we can continue to provide the state-of-the-art educational opportunities our community has come to expect from SFSC. We need your help.

Your gift to the SFSC Foundation will build the pathway for future generations. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience, and I'm asking that you join us by making an end-of-the-year tax-deductible gift.

Thank you for investing in the success of our students. Thank you for your partnership, your support, and your investment in South Florida State College's bright future.

We simply cannot say it enough. Thank you!

Jamie Bateman
Executive Director,
Institutional Advancement



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DONORS AND *Shakers*

is produced semiannually by the South Florida State College Foundation, Inc., to inspire charitable contributions in support of South Florida State College. The SFSC Foundation raises awareness of the value of an SFSC education and promotes student success through scholarships, facilities development, and program support. By supporting SFSC, the SFSC Foundation endeavors to enhance the ability of residents in our district to obtain a college education.

Anonymous Donation Creates 18 New College Scholarships

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The SFSC Foundation has received a gift of stock valued at \$75,000 from an anonymous donor to bolster the Take Stock in Children program. Because of the donation, more than 18 new Take Stock in Children college scholarships will be available to local children.

“Bob Duncan, an SFSC Foundation board member, shared his enthusiasm for being a Take Stock in Children mentor with an anonymous donor,” said Jamie Bateman, executive director, SFSC Institutional Advancement. “He illustrated for her the personal and academic success kids in Take Stock have had and explained that his own student mentees have gone on to be successful at state universities.”

The anonymous donor was so impressed that she donated the stock to the SFSC Foundation to be used for Take Stock in Children.

Take Stock in Children is a statewide program that provides at-risk children with a mentor and a college scholarship. In return, Take Stock scholars sign contracts in which they promise to remain drug-free, to avoid behavior that would get them into trouble with law enforcement, to attend school regularly, and to earn satisfactory grades. The students’ parents also sign the contracts and agree to provide home environments conducive to education. The local Take Stock program has been in place for 20 years and has awarded college scholarships to more than 400 local students. The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for Take Stock in Children within the college’s service district of DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties.

“This \$75,000 donation is beneficial because we now have 18 more Take Stock scholarships to give out.” Duncan said. “The graduation success rate of Take Stock is about 99.99 percent. I’ve



On behalf of an anonymous donor, Bob Duncan (right) presents a donation of \$75,000 in stock to Jamie Bateman (left) and Irene Castanon. The donation is making it possible for Take Stock in Children to create 18 new college scholarships.

been on the Take Stock scholarship selection committee for 10 years or better. We have eight, maybe, 10 children who are eligible, but we can pick only two or three. We want to help more children, but there’s just not enough money. I think most people feel ‘if I can’t donate \$5,000 or \$10,000, I just won’t bother donating anything.’ But smaller amounts of money add up.”

Duncan has seen two of his previous mentees graduate from the University of Florida. “It brings tears to my eyes because these kids have accomplished a lot in spite of the many difficulties in their lives,” he said. “The Take Stock program just needs to expand.”

“Donations to Take Stock in Children are used for college scholarships and matched one-to-one by Project STARS, which is under the Florida Prepaid Foundation,” said Irene Castanon, Take Stock in Children student services coordinator. “It costs almost \$8,000 for one child’s scholarship. So Project STARS pays half of the cost of the scholarship, and we raise money for the other half.”

The scholarship covers tuition as well as college readiness services. “The student receives a mentor such as Mr.

‘IT BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES BECAUSE **THESE KIDS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT** IN SPITE OF THE MANY DIFFICULTIES IN THEIR LIVES.’

BOB DUNCAN
FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

Duncan and a college success coach,” Castanon said. “We offer workshops to familiarize students with completing a college application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). When Take Stock students are in the ninth grade, we prepare them for taking the SAT and ACT. We discuss Bright Futures scholarships, requirements, and when to register for them. We also discuss the availability and requirements for other types of financial aid.” Take Stock scholars are offered tours of colleges and universities to help them decide where they might like to attend.

To donate to Take Stock in Children or become a mentor, call Castanon at 863-453-3133 or visit www.southflorida.edu/giving/take-stock-children.

Giving stock reaps *tax benefits* for donors

Recently, an SFSC Foundation donor heard about the needs of Take Stock in Children and decided to make a gift of stock. That gift is now impacting the lives of 18 students whose dreams of going to college have become reality.

Many donors may not realize that the SFSC Foundation accepts donations of stock, bonds, and mutual funds just as it does monetary donations. When you take advantage of a notable double incentive offered by the IRS and donate appreciated gifts of stock or securities, you can claim a charitable tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities, but you pay no capital gains tax on the transfer. That means the cost of your gift is less than the deduction you will receive for it and less than the cost of making the identical gift in cash.

How can you get started? First, contact your brokerage firm or financial advisor to obtain the necessary paperwork to transfer your stock to the SFSC Foundation. You may be required to write a letter of instruction or a letter of authorization or fill out a form authorizing the transfer. If you are considering an end-of-the-year donation to the Foundation, it's a good idea to start the process by the beginning of December so that the transfer can be completed before the beginning of the year without being delayed by the holidays.

By giving a gift of stock to the Foundation, you are making a significant impact on the future of South Florida State College. Whether you choose to support our capital campaign, the Partnership Project (an unrestricted endowment to help with the college's funding), or another area, you can rest assured that your gift will make a difference.

For more information, call the Foundation at 863-453-3133.

Take Stock in Children Awarded Gold Level Performance Status

For the fifth consecutive year, the local Take Stock in Children program was awarded Gold Level performance status by the state Take Stock organization for meeting or exceeding 10 Key Performance Indicators on the Balanced Scorecard.

The scorecard is an internal measure of Take Stock's performance and adherence to requirements set by the Florida Department of Education. The SFSC Foundation is the lead agency for the Take Stock program that serves DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties. There are 45 Take Stock programs throughout Florida.



"We reached this milestone thanks to the support and dedication of our mentors, schools, and communities, and we owe them a world of gratitude," said Irene Castanon, Take Stock's student services coordinator.



Irene Castanon (left) and Danielle Ochoa, Take Stock in Children college success coach, congratulate Shauna Norwood.

Take Stock Scholar Becomes Leaders 4 Life Finalist

Over the past eight years, 10 Take Stock in Children scholars have been finalists in the Take Stock in Children Leaders 4 Life scholarship program, and in October Shauna Norwood became the 11th.

Norwood is a Take Stock mentee who is dually enrolled in Hardee Senior High School and SFSC's Collegiate High School. She is currently ranked 13th in her high school class of 284 students with a weighted GPA of 4.22. She will graduate from high school

in December and receive her SFSC Associate in Arts (AA) degree in May. She plans continue her education in medical laboratory technology and cytotechnology.

Leaders 4 Life finalists are considered for a \$40,000 college scholarship. In the past, five mentees in the SFSC Foundation's Take Stock program have won the scholarship.

Norwood has been mentored by Sherri Albritton and Irene Castanon, the local Take Stock coordinator.

Follow the SFSC Alumni Association Through Its Electronic Newsletter

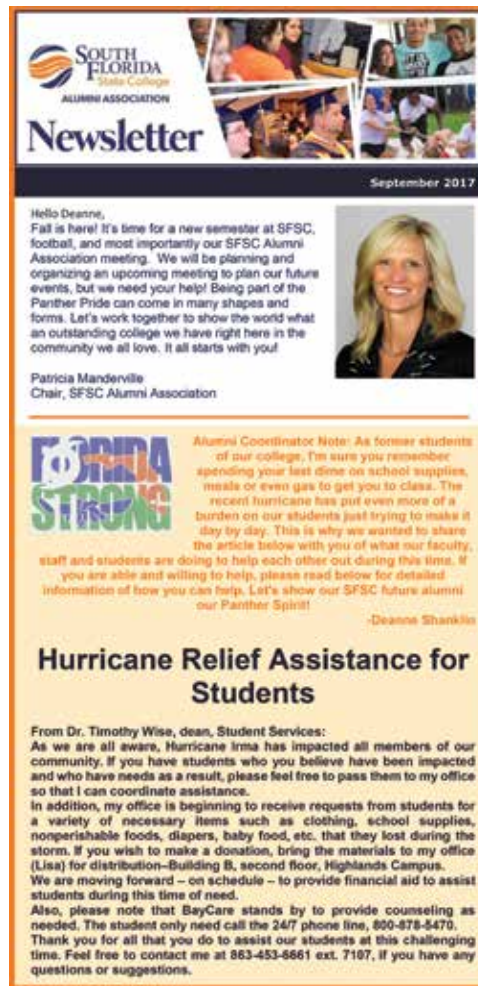
The SFSC Alumni Association has released its own electronic newsletter delivered by email. You can request your free subscription by emailing alumni@southflorida.edu.

The Alumni Association Newsletter keeps you informed about the association and how SFSC is meeting the educational needs of the community.

The September edition features a message by Alumni Association Chair Patty Manderville along with stories about assistance for students impacted by Hurricane Irma and SFSC's participation in the University of South Florida's FUSE program.

Future editions will include an SFSC Alumni Spotlight in which alums can share how they are succeeding in their careers. You can submit your news by emailing the association.

You may become a member of the Alumni Association if you earned a degree, college credit certificate, occupational certificate, or apprenticeship certificate from SFSC; earned a high school diploma through SFSC; or received an honorary degree from the college. Affiliate membership is extended to any person who has been associated with the college. Email the association to complete your membership.



If you have questions or comments about the newsletter or the Alumni Association, call Deanna Shanklin at 863-453-3133.

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAIR



Sonny's BBQ Helps Alumni Association With Spirit Night

Fall is here! It's time for football, pumpkin spice, and most importantly our SFSC Alumni Association is in full swing working hard to show the world what an outstanding college we have here in our community. We have been busy. We thank all of you who participated in our first SFSC Alumni Spirit Night at Sonny's BBQ Restaurant in Sebring on Nov. 3. Whenever customers mentioned the Alumni Association, Sonny's gave us a percentage of their bills. We appreciate the support we received from our fellow Panthers!



Be a Million Dollar Golf Shootout Sponsor

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the SFSC Foundation's inaugural \$1 Million Dollar Hole-in-One Golf Shootout, Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 18-20, at the Sun 'N Lake Golf & Country Club.

You can be an **Award Sponsor** for a donation of \$1,500. Your name will be displayed on the award table, on a golf sign on the qualifying range, and on a banner at the tournament. You'll receive four entries in the qualifying round and four breakfast tickets to the Saturday shootout.

For a donation of \$250, you can be a **Hitting Zone Sponsor**. Your name will appear on a golf sign on the qualifying range and at the registration area. You'll receive one entry in the qualifying round.

With a \$100 gift, you can become a **Qualifying Round Sponsor** and have a sign on the qualifying range.

For more information, call the SFSC Foundation at 863-453-3133.

SFSC Receives Fifth Nomination for Aspen Prize

SFSC has been named one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. This is the fifth consecutive time SFSC has been part of such an honored group of colleges.

With a singular focus on student success, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

"The recognition from the Aspen Institute affirms that SFSC is a top-performing college due to quality learning initiatives led by a stellar faculty," said Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel, SFSC president. "Moreover, by looking deep into the data Aspen collects, SFSC far exceeds performance indicators in areas including graduation rates, number of credentials awarded, and overall student success."

Every two years, 150 community colleges are named as eligible to compete for the prize and are selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Recognized institutions are located in urban, rural, and suburban areas and serve as few as 300 students and as many as 95,000 students. These colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector. This year, nearly 60 institutions are eligible to compete for the prize that were not eligible for the 2017 Aspen Prize.

The Florida College System (FCS) as a whole is well represented. Santa Fe College in Gainesville was awarded the Aspen Prize in 2015, and Valencia College in Orlando won the inaugural prize in 2011.



SFSC received its fifth consecutive nomination for the Aspen Prize based on its proven record of achievement in the areas of learning; certificate and degree completion; employment; and high levels of access for minority and low-income students.

SFSC joins 13 other FCS institutions in the top 150 colleges eligible for the 2019 Aspen Prize. They are Broward College, Chipola College, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Florida Keys Community College, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Indian River State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Miami Dade College, North Florida Community College, Northwest Florida State College, Palm Beach State College, and Tallahassee Community College. No more than one half of the community colleges in each state may appear in the final list of eligible institutions.

The top ten finalists for the 2019 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2018. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner, finalist(s) with distinction, and rising star(s) in spring 2019.

Higher education attainment has never been more important. Estimates from Georgetown University's Center

'THE RECOGNITION FROM THE ASPEN INSTITUTE AFFIRMS THAT **SFSC IS A TOP-PERFORMING COLLEGE** DUE TO QUALITY LEARNING INITIATIVES LED BY A STELLAR FACULTY.'

DR. THOMAS C. LEITZEL
SFSC PRESIDENT

on Education and the Workforce suggest that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million require at least some college education.

The 2019 Aspen Prize is funded by the Joyce Foundation and the Siemens Foundation.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

BE OUR SFSC FOUNDATION PARTNER

Sponsorships are available for these upcoming SFSC Foundation events. Your support is welcome and greatly appreciated.

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**MONDAY
NOV. 27**
6:30 p.m. **Jacaranda Jubilee**
Hotel Jacaranda Veranda
Avon Park
- 
**THURSDAY
DEC. 7**
Noon **Christmas Luncheon**
Hotel Jacaranda
Avon Park
- 
**JAN.
18-20** **Million Dollar Hole-in-One
Golf Shootout**
Sun 'N Lake Golf and
Country Club
Sebring
- 
**THURSDAY
APR. 26**
6 p.m. **Spring Gala and Auction**
Sun 'N Lake Island View
Restaurant
Sebring

Foundation *Visits Kiwanis Club*



Michael Kelly (left) and Wauchula Kiwanis Club President Sheila Frederico welcome Jamie Bateman, Deanne Shanklin and SFSC Foundation President Terry Atchley to their club's recent meeting.

Foundation Taking Part in #GivingTuesday

The SFSC Foundation has joined #GivingTuesday, a global day of philanthropy held annually on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, on Nov. 28, the foundation has set the goal of raising \$5,000 or more for our Partnership Project, a campaign to establish an unrestricted endowment to grow and sustain educational opportunities in our community.

To donate by credit or debit card, call the Foundation office at 863-453-3133, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. You may also send a check to the Foundation, 13 East Main Street, Avon Park, FL 33825. With your support, our college can continue to do great things.



With the chancellor's donation are Jamie Bateman (left), student Jocquas Walker, student and SFSC staff assistant Angie Otero; and Dr. Timothy Wise.

Florida College System Chancellor Donates to SFSC's Food Pantry

South Florida State College is replenishing its Hurricane Irma food and clothing relief pantry with the aid of district residents and Florida College System (FCS) Chancellor Madeline Pumariega.

The Florida Department of Education, together with the FCS, initiated a canned goods drive immediately after Hurricane Irma to help the 28 colleges in the FCS restock their food pantries. Jamie Bateman, SFSC executive director of Institutional Advancement, received the donation from Judy Green, who represents FCS.

In a letter to SFSC students, faculty, and staff, Chancellor Pumariega said, "We hope that this small gesture helps your college in its recovery efforts. We know what a difference the college makes in the lives of its students and community."

On the Calendar

Board of Directors Meetings

- November 14, 2017, Noon, Hotel Jacaranda
- January 9, 2018, Noon, SFSC Board Room
- March 6, 2018, 5:30 p.m., Hotel Jacaranda
- May 8, 2018, Noon, Hotel Jacaranda

Executive Board Meetings

- December 12, 2017, Noon, Hotel Jacaranda (Tentative)
- February 13, 2018, Noon, City Administration Building, Wauchula
- April 10, 2018, Noon, Hotel Jacaranda

SFSC Attends Chamber's Business Expo



Staff from South Florida State College and the SFSC Foundation attended the Sebring Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo on Oct. 27, held in the Sebring Civic Center.



Shop Amazon and donate to the SFSC Foundation

This holiday season, you can help the SFSC Foundation when you shop online at Amazon. Go to smile.amazon.com and enter the SFSC Foundation as your sponsored charity. Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchases to the SFSC Foundation.