

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



April 18, 2014 - May 17, 2014

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- Tallahassee Democrat 4, 5,
9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, 23, 27, 30
- Wakulla News6-8
- The New York Times 11-12
- The Ledger 16
- WTXL 20, 25
- WFSU 24
- Leon Pride 26
- Gadsden County Times 28
- Havana Herald 29

April 2014 - May 2014

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In the News



Electronic Media

- May 11, WTXL - Bus Fare to Change for Some Students
- May 13, WFSU - FAMU, FSU and TCC Softball Teams Vie for National Championships
- May 15, WTXL - No contract compromise, TCC students to pay bus fare for rides to campus

Opinion: TCC a great investment for the state

EUGENE LAMB

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

TCC continues to be a great investment for the state

Because April is National Community College Month, I thought this would be the perfect time to take a look at the broad impact of institutions such as Tallahassee Community College.

As chair of TCC's District Board of Trustees, I am very aware of the mandate that has always been at the heart of the community college mission: making higher education more accessible and more affordable for local students, many



Eugene Lamb
My View

of whom enroll in community college as a steppingstone to a four-year university.

In 2011-12, TCC graduated more students with an associate in arts degree than any other two-year college in the United States. Eighty percent of our A.A. degree grads go on to a state university. That is the highest percentage in Florida. Students enroll in TCC because of our affordable tuition, small classes and open admission policy — and they leave our college with a high-quality, high-value education.

In addition to preparing students for transfer to a state university, TCC and the 27

other community colleges and state colleges that are part of the Florida College System help make our communities stronger, more vibrant and more resilient in the face of economic and technological change. We train Florida's future nurses, police officers, surveyors, water quality technicians, welders and web technicians. And we retrain current workers so they can continue to contribute and stay competitive in the global economy.

In fact, by fall 2012, nearly 400 different companies had hired one or more of our 2011-12 graduates.

A study by Economic Modeling Specialists International found that TCC is a great investment. Every dollar of state tax money invested in TCC today returns \$3.60 to taxpayers. The same study found that, each year, Florida's economy receives \$1.3 billion in income due to the operations of Florida's state colleges and community colleges.

Here at home, TCC gives a \$387.7 million annual boost to the economies of Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties. That figure is based on a combination of the extra earning power TCC graduates bring to the workforce, along with the income the area receives from TCC's payroll and operating expenses.

Every dollar of state tax money invested in TCC today returns \$3.60 to taxpayers.

TCC students see a significant increase in their earnings potential because of their college education. For every dollar students invest in TCC, their future income is increased by \$6.50. That's a 17-percent average rate of return on their investment!

Those higher incomes contribute to the economic health of our communities, because so many TCC graduates choose to remain here in the Big Bend, joining the workforce, running their own businesses and raising their families.

However, I hope you will agree with me that the benefits of higher education don't end with higher salaries. Students who attend college are less likely to smoke, to commit a crime or to be unemployed. These quality-of-life improvements make our state a better place to live.

TCC and its sister institu-



At the TCC Ghazvini Center for Medical Education, students can study nursing, radiology and emergency medical tech. MIKE BAIRD/DEMOCRAT

tions not only generate revenue. Community colleges also enrich the lives of students, increase students' lifetime incomes, reduce the demand for social services and contribute to the growth of our economy.

In 2012-13, TCC served 20,573 credit students and 17,390 noncredit students — nearly 38,000 altogether. Many were from our three-county service area, but many others came to us from around the

state and nation and from abroad. I am proud to represent an institution that has such a significant impact on so many lives.

Eugene Lamb Jr., TCC District Board of Trustees (D&T) was appointed to the board in 2007 by Gov. Charlie Crist and re-appointed by Gov. Rick Scott in 2012. He was a teacher in the Leon County school district for 39 years. Also active in neighboring Gadsden County, Lamb was a Gadsden County commissioner for eight years, and was chairman of the commission from 2008 to 2010. Lamb represents Gadsden County.

Campus Notes: Combs fellowship/All-Academic Team

FAMU No. 4 for freshmen retention

FAMU has been listed as one of the top "HBCUs Where Freshmen Return" by U.S. News & World Report. Announced last week, FAMU ranked No. 4 on the "Freshman Return" list with an average freshman retention rate of 79.5 percent. The "Freshman Return" list reveals the top 10 institutions, out of 68 ranking HBCUs, with the highest average freshman retention rate for first-year students from fall 2008-2011. FAMU exceeded the list's average freshman retention rate of 63.5 by 16 percent. The rankings are based on the publication's 2013 survey.

U.S. News also names FAMU among the top 10 HBCU's in the nation in its 2014 rankings.

'Full Ride' scholar FAMU bound

Future FAMU student Titus Zeigler, a senior at Atlanta's Henry W. Grady High School, is the recipient of the Tom Joyner Foundation's Full Ride Scholarship. It provides the nation's top graduating high school seniors with funding to pay for full tuition, on-campus living and books for up to ten semesters at any HBCU of their choice. To qualify for the Full Ride Scholarship, students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA, a minimum combined SAT score of 2100 or ACT score of 30, and demonstrate leadership through community service and extracurricular activities. Zeigler was selected out of more than 100 applicants and is required to maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA at FAMU. He plans to study biological engineering.



FSU names lecture hall for Karioth

The FSU College of Nursing celebrated a first last week: It named its main lecture hall for longtime nursing professor Sally Karioth. Dean Judith McPetridge-Durdle made the announcement to about 100 students and faculty, noting it was the first time the college had named a room for anyone. Karioth, an internationally famous grief therapist and public speaker, has taught in the College of Nursing since 1970. Karioth has taught more than 23,000 students and teaches her celebrated class on death and dying in Room 214 — now renamed the Sally Karioth Lecture Hall. The naming was sponsored by a donation from new FSU doctoral degree recipient Judy Hefren.

OLLI prepares for Maymester

Registration for Maymester classes offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at FSU, an organization that provides educational opportunities for Tallahassee residents over 50, opens at 10 a.m. Tuesday at olli.fsu.edu. The three-week Maymester, which starts May 3, offers such classes as "Ales and Lagers"; "Getting the Most from Your iPad"; and "Practical Italian." Other classes and topics include "Mardi Gras Mambo: A History of New Orleans Carnival through Dance," "Spring Wildflowers,"

"Sudden Fiction," "Sketching Travel Scenes," "Wild Birds," "Angels and Miracles: A Study of the Ethereal Side of Life," and "Abolition, Emancipation and the Journey." OLLI membership is open year-round. For information, visit olli.fsu.edu.

TCC's Combs receives fellowship

A TCC staff member has received an exclusive fellowship from a national workforce training program. Amy Combs, a program coordinator in TCC's Division of Workforce Development, has been named a Sector Skills Academy Marano Fellow in the information technology sector. She is one of 27 skilled professionals nationwide to receive a fellowship from the Academy for 2014. Combs has worked at TCC for nearly three years. She is the first-ever employee of the college selected to participate in the Sector Skills Academy. Combs and the other Marano Fellows will receive a unique opportunity for professional development related to workforce initiatives that target a specific industry or cluster of occupations—an industry "sector."

State honor for TCC's Tibbetts

Soon-to-be TCC graduate Candace Tibbetts has been named to the Florida College System's All-Florida Academic Team.

Tibbetts is one of only 109 students to make the team, which is sponsored by USA Today and the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Balancing work and family life, Tibbetts obtained her high school diploma from Lively Secondary Academy in Tallahassee. In 2010, she began working for the Florida Department of Financial Services and now works full-time while attending classes at TCC in the evenings. Tibbetts is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, where she represents not only academic achievement, but also service to the community. Tibbetts starts at FSU in the fall, where she will major in accounting.

BOG seeks trustee for UF board

The Board of Governors is seeking applicants for a spot on the University of Florida's Board of Trustees. Home to nearly 50,000 students, 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes, UF has the highest graduation and retention rates in the State University System, along with the state's highest endowment. It is also one of two preeminent universities — along with FSU — in the state, as designated by the Florida Legislature. Anyone interested in this opportunity — you do not have to be a UF alum to apply — must complete an application with the Board of Governors' Trustee Nominating Committee by 5 p.m. May 16. The term of service runs through Jan. 6, 2015.

Campus notes is a weekly roundup that appears on Monday. To submit information, email senior writer Doug Blackburn at dblackburn@tallahassee.com

Wakulla Environmental Institute moving forward

NICOLE ZEMA

A Wakulla County institution specializing in environmental studies must be organically designed to embody the biodiversity that surrounds it.

Construction of the first building of Tallahassee Community College's newest entity – Wakulla Environmental Institute – will begin in June, and is projected to wrap in spring of 2015.

Bob Ballard, executive director of WEI, has worked with the board of trustees to plan a high-tech campus in an old Florida setting.

THE PROPERTY

While the building is thoughtfully designed, just as much learning will occur outside the institute's walls. WEI currently owns 158 acres nestled east of U.S. 319, 3.2 miles south of Crawfordville, just south of River of Life Church. The land is a biodiverse sampler of ecosystems – sinkholes and caves, flowering fields, planted pine, swamps, and dense, green forest.

WEI's location had to reflect its mission, Ballard said.

"We are here to teach about the environment and help people understand and work with the environment, because we're surrounded by a million acres of conservation land," Ballard said. "This is the fifth most biodiverse hot spot in North America. That's outrageous! What else could you have here but an environmental institute?"

Ballard said another property was already selected when the landowner approached WEI directors about a possible sale. When he saw the current property, Ballard said he experienced a profound "this is it" moment. WEI paid \$382,000 budgeted by TCC for the 158 acres.

"It was a home run for us," Ballard said.

Over time, WEI directors want to purchase a total of 250 more acres. Ballard said the board is seeking private donations to buy the rest of property, which will cost about \$2 million.

Ballard said two years ago the Florida Legislature directed \$4.5 million to pay for the institute's first building.

"The legislature put that in play, and the Governor did not veto it," Ballard said. "Because this is an environmental teaching institution, and because of the economic value WEI will bring in, I believe in (Gov. Rick Scott's) mind, it means jobs for Wakulla County."

Ballard said when the property was purchased, no one realized a massive cave system snaked beneath it. The cave is estimated to be 80 feet wide and 60 feet tall.

From Front Page

"We've had divers go under, and say there's a pretty significant flow under there," Ballard said. "It goes deeper, but doesn't constrict. So, what we want to do is put hydro-turbines in there and generate more electricity for us, so we have a campus that is totally energy renewable."

Ballard said the board is applying for a grant from the Department of Energy, and considering working with FAMU engineering to see how well a hydro-turbine project would work.

At the same time, Ballard said, "We do not want to build over the cave system. So we're doing ground penetrating radar and borings to make sure that we're not."

THE BUILDING

The first building, which will be about 10,000 square feet, is designed to surpass most modern green construction practices, such as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

"This building will create more energy than it uses," Ballard said. "We have a guarantee on that from the architects. We wanted to do better than just LEED certification. We want to show the world how to do it right and better."

Its design has the feel of a cabin; reinforced with strong materials, and a technological feather in its cap. The walls will be a foot thick, super-insulated and filled with concrete. The standing-seam metal roof, a product credited for its strength, will be hyper-insulated. Ballard said the roof will be loaded with solar panels and a wind turbine, with a cistern attached.

Wakulla Environmental Institute moving forward...

continued

"It's built in the Florida Cracker style, which means that it has a large, overhanging roof and it's positioned where we get full exposure for solar panels," Ballard said. "There is also a dogtrot, or mall, as the architects refer to it. If you're familiar with Cracker style, a dogtrot is a covered area that allows wind to blow through it, like natural air conditioning. It will feel 10 degrees cooler than the actual temperature."

The mall, and a spacious wrap-around porch, will be screened in to keep insects out. There will be a large fireplace at the head of the dogtrot.

"And we can have presentations, speeches and lunches going on in the mall too, depending on the weather, for probably nine months out of the year," Ballard said.

Monitors affixed on the walls of the mall will convey up-to-the-minute energy production and consumption data.

"The monitors will show what the cistern and wind turbine are doing – all sorts of different things that make the building itself a science project. There will also be a cut-away of the wall to show how it's energy efficient," Ballard said. "We want to take the mystery out of building green; to make people understand that financially it can make sense, it's not some voodoo science out there. It's here to stay. And by doing some really simple stuff you can reduce your energy costs."

CURRICULUM, CLASSROOMS AND LABS

The main mission of WEI is to prepare students for careers in aquaculture, forestry management, hotel and leisure, parks and recreation, environmental science, and recycling. These fields offer opportunities to work in a variety of settings, ranging from offices, to laboratories, to the outdoors, with employers ranging from government, to non-profits, to private enterprise.

A 125-student lecture hall will be included in the first building. The space will have a moveable partition to divide it into two separate classrooms when needed. There will be bathrooms of course, and administration offices. There will also be a fully equipped laboratory that will seat 24 students, and a prep lab. Showers and bathrooms can be accessed from the outside.

"When people come in from the field, waist high in muck from taking samples, they would be able to come to the outside bathroom, take showers, change, go back to class and examine samples they brought in," Ballard said.

To find out more about registering for classes, call Bonnie Holub, Director of TCC Wakulla Center at 922-2416.

POSSIBLE CAMPGROUND AT WAKULLA SPRINGS

Other local resources, like Wakulla Springs State Park, would also provide a diversified learning experience for WEI students. Ballard said he approached the director of the Florida Park Service about a 50-year lease for 2,000 acres of unmanaged land within the park, just west of U.S. Highway 61. The lease would mean the reopening of Cherokee Sink (because required bathrooms would be built), and the addition of a small parking lot, 60 tent and RV sites, ten yurts, picnic area, bathrooms with showers and a playground.

Ballard said partnering with the park is a one-stop educational cross-training opportunity, which will also provide management for the land and campground.

"We want to have a place to train the next generation of park rangers, forest rangers, fish and wildlife (employees) – state and national," he said. "So, not only do park rangers have to do land management training, they also have to do hospitality training. So, with our AS degree in parks and recreation, they would also be trained in hospitality. That means we would have interns coming in to run the campground."

Ballard said the Florida Park Service designed the campground. He added that most state parks have a campground of some kind.

WEI administrators envision the institute as ground zero for environmental jobs, and the partnership with FPS to manage the campground is part of that.

"What the TCC Police Academy in Gadsden County is to law enforcement, we want to be for the environment," Ballard said. "We want to be the place where if you want to be a park ranger, you come here, get training, and you can be hired by the Florida Park Service, Forest Service or National Park Service."

Wakulla Environmental Institute moving forward...

continued

Ballard said processing the plans must first go through an ARC, or Acquisition and Restoration Council. ARC has responsibility for the evaluation, selection and ranking of state land acquisition projects on the Florida Forever priority list, as well as the review of management plans and land uses for all state-owned conservation lands.

"There will be public meetings, people of the state get to weigh in on this and give us suggestions and comments, and ARC votes to see if this was consistent with FPS land unit management plan," Ballard said. "If they liked idea, they vote for it, if not, they vote against it based on input from the public, FPS, biologists and experts. But to me this seems like such a natural – everybody wins."

Ballard said he anticipates a six-month process between now and the time of an ARC decision. He said Audubon of Florida representatives are also intrigued by a Wakulla Springs campground and training program. Additionally, Ballard said he sought advice from WEI board members who are also Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, about how to proceed correctly so they would be more interested in supporting it.

"The public has a place to camp at one of the best state parks in the country," he said. "And Cherokee Sink gets opened up for swimming for the first time in 14 years."

TOURISM AND EXPANSION

Classroom annexes will be built in the future, and WEI is projected to be an international destination as a trailhead for the Capital City to the Sea Trail regional project.

"We have been asked to be a trailhead," Ballard said. "It's an 185 mile loop trail. Any loop trail above 50 miles in considered an international trail."

Ballard said it is estimated that every mile in a loop trail brings in \$2 million in tourism dollars.

"This is a trailhead waiting to happen," Ballard said. "And we don't only want to be a trailhead, we want to be a destination. So, visitors 365 days a year will use our parking and our bathrooms. If they have to wait, we have exhibits they can look at in the mall of green technology."

An international destination like Wakulla Environmental Institute will eventually need a luxury hotel and spa.

"If we're going to bring in tourists around the world — we're looking at 200 families a week coming into Wakulla County — they need a place to stay that will pamper them," Ballard said. "They will be out in the weather paddling, getting muddy or dirty, having fun out in the wilderness during the day, but at night we want them to have luxury."

Ballard said there is a long timeline, more than 10 years, before those accommodations are built as to not interfere negatively with the local economy. Ballard said existing hotels in Wakulla County need to be so consistently full of tourists that more rooms are needed.

Right next to the hotel would be a center used for training or conventions, Ballard said. The structure would be built to accommodate large audiences, like Wakulla High School graduations.

Tree houses on high stilts near a sinkhole are also included in the long-term plan. Ballard believes that the unique accommodations would rent out 365 days a year.

"Your attention will be focused on part of the environment that people don't see often, which is the canopy," Ballard said. "When you go out and have your coffee on the porch, and you're 30 feet up in the air, your view is the canopy. We asked, how could we do something different, and better, that gives us the wow factor? We actually want to design it so you can do a prescribed burn right underneath it without hurting it."

Ballard said eventually boardwalks will be built over sinkholes to put people at eye level with nature.

"The reason you have boardwalks, particularly around sinkholes, is to prevent erosion," Ballard said. "It gets people to enter a certain place if they want to go swimming, or to walk a certain place, so they're not interrupting the natural vegetation, and they can see what a sinkhole looked like 500 or 1,000 years ago – the 'real' Florida."

TCC baseball keeps playoff hopes alive

Eagles still fighting for postseason berth

ST. CLAIR MURRAINE

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Freshman right-hander Logan Elliot didn't think he would get a shot at starting a ballgame until next season. He did one better for the Tallahassee Community College baseball team Tuesday night at Eagles Field.

Not only did he start the highly important game for the Eagles, he went nine innings to save TCC from the brink of elimination in its push for a wildcard playoff berth in the Panhandle Conference.

Elliot was sharp all game in leading the Eagles to a 9-2 victory over Northwest Florida State College in a complete-game performance. The win gives TCC at least one more shot at clinching third place and advancing to the precious play-in game that will have a berth to the state tournament on the line

"We live to fight another day," TCC coach Mike McLeod said. "When you have a beautiful effort on the mound and great at-bats, it makes you say, 'Where was that two weeks ago?'"

"But we are hanging in there. Our guys knew what they had to do. We talked about it and they knew the situation."

The Eagles (34-16, 7-11) find themselves in the predicament of having to fight their way into a wildcard game after losing eight of their last 10 conference games. They have to beat Gulf Coast today and again on Friday and hope that the Raiders (27-16, 9-9) drop their last two against Chipola College.

TCC hasn't won against the Commodores in their three previous meetings.

Facing Northwest Florida was an opportunity to handle some unfinished business, Elliot said. A week ago, he came on in relief against the Raiders and worked seven innings in a game that the Eagles lost on a walk-off hit

"That made me want to get them back this game," Elliot said. "That motivation kind of pushed me throughout this game. It was on my back the whole time."

Tuesday's win not only kept TCC alive, but it assured the Eagles of the tiebreaker advantage should it come to that to determine who takes third place.

Elliot struck out six batters and walked one, while giving up six hits. The first four came early and helped the Raiders take a 2-0 lead in the top of the third.

Elliot then settled down and pitched five hitless innings, as the Eagles' offense exploded against three of the Raiders' four relievers down the stretch.

"It was a crucial game for us," Elliot said. "Coming into it, I put as much preparation as I could into it. My teammates have been doing a good job all year and I trusted them and we came out and got the win."

Closing it out was a little tough. Elliot gave up consecutive two-out hits before getting pinch-hitter Ryan Fucci to ground out, ending the game.

Despite the Raiders' struggles on the mound, the Eagles didn't find their punch until the bottom of the sixth when they chased starter James Granat.

Quincy Nieporte drove the first pitch he got from Granat over the left-field fence for a three-run homer. It was the last ball Granat threw, as Mike Dolloff was brought on to his rescue.

Dolloff breezed through the middle of the Eagles' lineup for all three outs to keep the Eagles lead at 5-2. TCC added three insurance runs in the bottom of the eighth, two coming on a double by Robert Henderson.

Johnny Craig's two-run homer in the bottom of the second gave the Eagles the tying runs.

Our Opinion: Go, grads

These are special days for special young people

There are some special young people being honored tonight and tomorrow. Several thousand of them, actually, as Florida State, Florida A&M and Tallahassee Community College hold their spring graduations.

Consider Nellena Adekoya. The 21-year-old at FAMU is graduating with dreams of becoming a doctor. It's a dream she has held since she was 4 and watching "Rescue 911" on TV. Now, she's well on her way — having been accepted at six medical schools. She chose the Medical College of Georgia, which is near her hometown of Grayson, Ga.

Over at TCC, Lydia Gartwait, 18, a Tallahassee native, also has her eye on med school. She is home-schooled and dual-enrolled, and is only the second TCC grad to complete high school, the Associate in Arts degree and TCC's Honors Program at the same time.

At FSU, Elizabeth Ogunrinde, 20, of Deltona, who was a child when her family came to the United States from Nigeria, is graduating with honors with a biochemistry major and is off to the combined M.D./Ph.D. program at the Medical University of South Carolina, fully funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The ceremonies start tonight at 6 at the Civic Center, with the first of three FSU ceremonies. FSU, which will be awarding more than 6,000 diplomas, also has ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, at the Civic Center. FAMU, which will have about 1,300 graduates, has ceremonies at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at the Lawson Center. TCC, with close to 3,000 students earning associate's degrees, expects more than 400 grads to take part in its ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Civic Center.

Of course, not every grad has been accepted at six med schools. But all of them being honored over the next two days have worked harder and learned more than they thought possible. They and their families have reason to be proud.

More hard work awaits in the real world, but there is good news there, too.

In its spring survey, the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that employers plan to hire about 9 percent more new grads this year. And the U.S. Labor Department says the unemployment rate for workers 20-29 with a four-year or advanced degree is at its lowest point since 2007.

These students have been an important part of our community's life and economy. Now it's time for them to conquer the world. Congratulations to all, and good luck.

Uganda's ticking bomb

JAMES K. ARINAITWE
THE NEW YORK TIMES

(NOTE: JAMES K. ARINAITWE IS AN ALUMNUS OF TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

In March, the United States sent 150 Air Force Special Operations forces along with military aircraft to Uganda to help capture Joseph Kony, whose Lord's Resistance Army has terrorized the country for decades. This was the first time American military planes were sent for use in the years-long search for him, though 100 American troops were deployed as advisers to central Africa in 2011 in the fight against the L.R.A.

America is eager for a stable East African partner, particularly following the outbreak in December of sectarian violence in the Central African Republic. After the "Kony 2012" video calling for the fugitive leader's arrest went viral in the United States, many Americans were convinced that Mr. Kony was the greatest problem facing Ugandans. But he is no longer a serious threat.

The country's real time bomb is a lack of educational opportunities that have over decades facilitated corruption and the recruitment of young people into terrorism and rebel movements.

If the United States wants to neutralize the threat of radicalism in Uganda, it should invest in education, not a misguided manhunt. And unpalatable as it may seem to some, funds should be sent through the country's Ministry of Education and nongovernmental organizations that partner with Kampala.

Uganda has one of the world's fastest-growing populations. In 2012, 78 percent of Ugandans were under 30 years old; 52 percent were 15 or under. But the country counts few quality schools. Low salaries result in high rates of teacher absenteeism: The World Bank reported in 2013 that 40 percent of public classrooms had no teacher. And dropout rates are high. Without an adequate education, many Ugandans have no path to dignified work, and youth unemployment is pervasive.

In these conditions, rebel groups become appealing. And though the L.R.A. is fading, the risk of recruitment remains real. A group called the Allied Democratic Forces has attracted young people in the country's west and east; reports have surfaced of a network in the Democratic Republic of Congo that recruits unemployed Ugandan youth on the false promise of high-paying jobs. Terrorist organizations like the Shabab are also on the rise

in East Africa.

I myself nearly ended up in a rebel group in rural western Uganda, where I grew up. By age 10, I had lost my parents to AIDS and cancer, and four siblings to preventable diseases. Seeking a fraternity similar to the one Mr. Kony had crafted, I fell in with orphaned boys who skipped class to smoke and drink; I tattooed the initials of a rebel group on my left arm.

My grandmother encouraged me to stay in school, and I graduated with top marks. But when I headed to Kampala to look for work, the only job I could find was hauling boxes for a juice factory for \$1.20 a day. Worn down after months of hard labor and emotional abuse, I contemplated joining a rebel group, which seemed to offer power, structure and cash. Fortunately I was spared the decision: An American couple I met through a missionary organization helped me attend college in the United States.

But emigration can't be the only path to a viable future for Uganda's young people. The Ministry of Education must rethink its recruitment policies and payment structures to reduce teacher absenteeism. Most important, the national curriculum must be modified to prepare Ugandan youth for available jobs. Most schools do not teach agricultural skills, for example, though many opportunities exist in the agriculture sector.

Some worthwhile programs are already in place at the national level, like the Ugandan Ministry of Education's "Skilling Uganda" and the government-affiliated National Curriculum Development Center, both of which emphasize vocational training.

America already provides substantial annual aid to Uganda, including hundreds of millions of dollars for AIDS prevention. But the United States Agency for International Development spent only \$2.4 million in 2012 on education in Uganda. In contrast, the United States set aside over \$40 million for anti-L.R.A. efforts between 2008 and 2011 alone. This military aid strengthened the regime of President Yoweri Museveni and the armed forces, which have become more involved in politics.

Uganda's ticking bomb

continued

It's true that during Mr. Museveni's 28-year reign, Uganda has witnessed an upswing in corruption, the stifling of political opposition, and, most recently, the passage of a law imposing harsh sentences, including life imprisonment, for homosexual acts. Thus, many international aid workers see the disbursement of education funds through private nongovernmental organizations as an attractive alternative to supporting the Ugandan government. But bypassing the state entirely is no solution, nor is it necessary. According to the United Nations, less than 1 percent of international donor aid (including U.S. donations) is lost to fraud, whether the money moves through the public or private sector. Systemic change in Uganda will require investment in central institutions and NGOs that work closely with Kampala, and in advocacy to keep the government accountable.

If Washington wants a strong ally in Uganda, allocating millions of dollars to find Mr. Kony and fight the L.R.A. is a misuse of resources. Quality education that provides Uganda's youth with critical thinking skills and a path to stable jobs is the best way to curb corruption and neutralize the attraction of rebel and terrorist groups. Careful, monitored investment in education through official channels may be less glamorous than short-term military interventions, but it is the most effective long-term solution.

James K. Arinaitwe, a 2014 New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute, is the school partnerships manager at Educate! Uganda.

Commencement

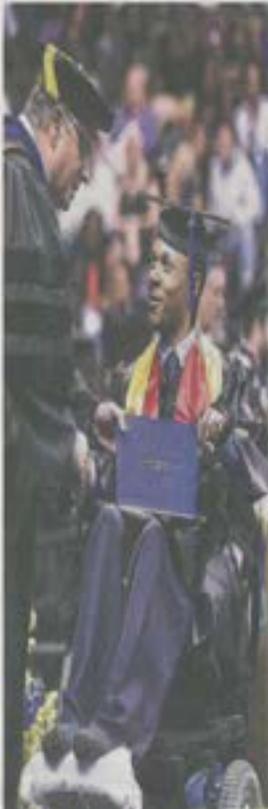
TCC celebrates with Class of 2014



Student speaker Anthony Johnson (middle) gets congratulated for his inspiring words to the TCC graduating class of 2014. All TCC students took their walk during their spring graduation ceremony inside the Civic Center on Saturday night. Judge Nikki Clarke gave the commencement address. [www.tallahassee.com](#)



Gloria Smith (left) can't contain her excitement as she makes her walk on Saturday. [www.tallahassee.com](#)



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THIS WEEK'S GRAND OPENING SAVINGS!

TCC softball completes big comeback

Eagles win seven straight games for state title

ST. CLAIR MURRAINE

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Making one of the most remarkable comebacks in the history of the program, Tallahassee Community College's softball team ran off seven straight victories — all in elimination games — to capture the state junior college championship Monday afternoon.

The Eagles' chances of coming back seemed improbable Saturday after they dropped their first game in the double-elimination tournament.

"They just did what they had to do," TCC coach coach Patti Townsend said during a telephone interview Monday. "They were helping each other out, and no one was getting down."

The Eagles won the right to play for the state title by beating Polk State College 4-2 and 5-2 in the Region 8B championship game. Eight Region 8A teams also competed in a separate tournament.

College of Central Florida won that regional championship and will also make the trip the World Series in St. George, Utah, beginning May 14.

TCC won the state championship by defeating College of Central Florida 4-1 in the final. It marked TCC's first state softball title in 20 years.

"It's absolutely unbelievable," said TCC sophomore infielder Alexis Huss. "This group of girls have been through so much, and all of the hard work we've put in has finally paid off."

The Eagles went into the tournament as one of the favorites to win it, but with an opening-day loss, they fell into the losers' bracket. They relied on pitchers Marian Rivera and Ashley Dobson to take them through.

Dobson pitched three games and saw relief duty in another.

"After our first game that we lost, I just tried to pump it up," Dobson said. "We knew we had to be ourselves. We had a mindset knowing we are capable."

They weren't fazed by the fact they faced elimination every time out, she said.

"I knew my team had my back; offensively and

defensively," Dobson said. "I knew if I pitched my game, I would make everyone comfortable and they would help me out."

The two TCC pitchers got a lot of help from Huss. She hit three home runs for the Eagles, including two in Monday's games.

"I had nothing more than adrenaline pumping," she said, explain her at-bats that ended with homers. "I just knew that at that time and point nothing more could be done than what I did. I just thought about hitting the ball hard and it worked out in my favor."

Wining the state title was a goal from the outset of the season, Huss said.

Facing elimination made them more determined to attain it.

"It's was a very emotional experience," she said.

It seemed more surreal for Townsend on the bus ride home.

"It feels great," she said. "I'm just trying to absorb everything."

A perfect homecoming

Former Leon star Craig ignites TCC

JIM HENRY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Johnny Blue Craig's journey to Tallahassee Community College actually started in Georgia. With a stop in New York.

A standout player at Godby and Leon High, Craig initially signed a scholarship with Georgia Southern in 2012. However, a coaching change disrupted Craig's plans, forcing him to look at other college options.

While playing in the New York College Baseball League last summer, the outfielder received word that TCC wanted him to return to his hometown.

It was an easy sell.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to come back and play here, and it has really paid off," Craig said.

"You really don't know how things are going to happen, and it all wound up coming together. It has been a blessing."

Craig, a freshman outfielder and leadoff hitter, has played a major role in the Eagles' success this season with a .307 average and 16 stolen bases.

TCC (38-16) opens the state tournament today at Lakeland's Joker Merchant Stadium against State College of Florida (30-18) at 4 p.m. The Eagles advanced into the postseason as a wild-card winner after finishing third in the Panhandle Conference.

Panhandle Conference champion Chipola College (36-10), ranked second nationally, plays Central Florida (32-17) at 7 p.m. Central Florida is scheduled to start former Chiles High pitcher and 2013 Big Bend Player of the Year Boomer Biegalski (7-3, 2.87 ERA).

"We've got a lot of confidence in Boomer, and he gives us a shot to win every time out," Central Florida coach Marty Smith said. "He keeps us in the game and we have to go out and execute behind him in the field and at the plate."

Gulf Coast State, which finished second in the Panhandle Conference, plays Eastern Florida State at 2 p.m. The 10-team double-elimination tournament ends Wednesday.

TCC and Craig are thrilled to be in the state mix.

The Eagles erased a three-game deficit over the final four days of the regular season and bombed Seminole State 20-1 in their wild card game. TCC has scored 52 runs in its last four games and is hitting .306 as a team.

Craig credited the Eagles' calm approach over the season's final stretch.

"We really couldn't control our destiny, so we went out and played relaxed," Craig said.

"It's crazy what happens when you go out and play and not worry about anything and just have fun. We really came together, hitting the ball better and playing our best baseball. It's really exciting to see when that happens."

TCC coach Mike McLeod, who helped coach the Babe Ruth All-Star team that Craig was on at the youth level, says Craig has helped ignite the Eagles' offense.

After he opened the season at designated hitter and batted lower in the batting order, Craig excelled in the leadoff spot. He also has been steady in the outfield, rotating between center and right field.

"He's a guy we felt like had to be in the lineup," McLeod said.

"He's hit all year, he's gotten better and he's also an outstanding base runner. When we moved him into the leadoff spot, the lineup started working. He has really become an important member of our lineup. He's a tough out."

Craig is thrilled he returned to the hometown Eagles.

"It's really easy to play with guys on this team," Craig said.

"When you have guys who are rooting for each other, and playing hard for each other, it makes you want to get out there perform more for them. We are really excited to still be playing. It's going to be fun to see how it ends up."

Composer of FSU's fight song dies at 95

KAREEM COPELAND (AP)
THE LEDGER

The man who composed the music for the Florida State University fight song has died. Tommie Wright was 95.

The university in an email to staff, faculty and students said Wright died Thursday after a short illness.

"What stands out in my mind is that incredible fight song that he wrote," said Patrick Dunnigan, professor of music education and director of bands. "It's musically sophisticated, yet catchy at the same time and a good bit of a challenge to play. It's hard to leave a mark on an institution like FSU, but Tommie is iconic in that he's left a signature on our university that will stand for a long, long, long time."

Wright joined the faculty as a music professor in 1949 and retired in 2008. He composed the music for the "FSU Fight Song" in 1950. Wright taught more than 58,000 students during his time at the university.

"That's an incredible amount of lives to touch and to teach them about music and have music become a more valued part of their lives," Dunnigan said. "If you're in the teaching business like me, that's something to just look at and marvel and envy and savor the magnitude of his reach in the lives of young people."

Florida State recognized Wright with an honorary doctorate in music in 2012. He filled a role as an ambassador for the FSU Alumni Association after retiring.

Wright is survived by his wife Rosalinda, who is the head of the foreign languages department at Tallahassee Community College.

Institute for Nonprofit Innovation aims to move into Brogan Museum

TAMARYN WATERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The movement grew out of concern: An eclectic, ad hoc group of do-gooders brainstormed about what nonprofits lacked in the aftermath of scandals and financial firestorms engulfing some of Tallahassee's most high-profile nonprofits.

The group, calling itself The Self-Appointed No Name Committee, heard how philanthropic groups were frantically organizing fundraisers to make payroll and keep doors open. The recession was one culprit. Federal and state grants were slashed, leaving some nonprofits close to financial catastrophe. Board leadership strained under mounting pressure to meet growing demands.

Nonprofits are like first responders. Government and struggling residents and families turn to them when facing a crisis or needing assistance in tough times. Yet there's no local, central place for nonprofits to improve themselves or discover tools to strengthen board members into effective leaders.

That changes next month.

For the first time in Tallahassee, a one-stop nonprofit resource center called the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence opens with a soft launch in mid June at the Tallahassee Community College Capital Center, based in the bottom floor of the former Mary Brogan Museum of Arts and Sciences: the latest nonprofit to fold under wilted finances.

For months, a 16-member implementation committee has met to iron out details. Start-up budgets, mission focus, structure and research on other resource centers in Jacksonville, Tampa, Sarasota and South Florida and consulting their directors for advice.

"We said there has to be a resource center," said Marjorie Turnbull, a committee member and former state House representative. "It has to be the hub of the wheel. It's just such a great idea and it's time has come."

The institute is TCC President Jim Murdaugh's brainchild. Murdaugh served on the Brogan's divided board and supported, while lamenting, the museum's closure. After stepping down because he could no longer support the doomed mission and failed finances, he was convinced nonprofits needed a central support system that could

head off another closure.

He directed Kim Moore, vice president of TCC's Workforce Development, to be the architect giving the one-stop concept a structure that would educate, engage, advocate and serve as a resource for nonprofits.

Moore said the center will complement efforts already in place.

The United Way of the Big Bend is the funding lifeline for its certified agencies. The United Partners for Human Services is an advocacy voice and resource. Leadership Tallahassee puts on nonprofit-focused training seminars, such as Tuesday's "Building Better Boards."

And now Tallahassee's Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence will be the place any nonprofit, board members or volunteer will be able to tap into these resources. It will focus on training, bringing together under one roof a handful of groups currently working with nonprofits that share the institute's mission, two areas for meetings and events and two focusing on member services.

Member services will be the center's backbone, provided through fees ranging from \$150 to \$750 per year. Fees will be based on the operating budgets of the nonprofits seeking help. The institute also will rely heavily on sponsors and donors.

Moore said there are more than 800 nonprofits and associations based in Tallahassee and the surrounding area. Coordinators are hoping up to 40 percent of them become members of the institute, about 280 to 300 nonprofits.

She recognizes that's ambitious. Based on recent surveys asking nonprofits what they needed most to improve, Moore said the institute may be the answer to either fill in gaps, or in some cases, help avoid the pitfalls that have bedeviled nonprofits.

For now, TCC is supplying staff for the first year and a venue to get started. The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence will later become a nonprofit of its own.

Institute for Nonprofit Innovation aims to move into Brogan Museum...

continued

Plans to expand to the Brogan's vacant floors are still being negotiated due to a convoluted lease arrangement between the building's landlord, Leon County Schools, and TCC.

Attorneys for both sides are attempting to clean up a "messy lease," first created in January 1992 when the school board was granted state funds to construct the building on land owned by the city of Tallahassee. The state money came with strings that mandate particular uses for the building.

Expansion to the vacant areas can't occur until the Leon County School Board approves the terms of yet another amended lease.

"It's kind of a messy thing," said Barbara Wills, assistant superintendent for professional and community services. "We want to see them develop the projects they want and use the building for the greater good of the community."

She said she hopes to have a lease agreement at the May 27 school board meeting or in June.

Alyce Lee Stansbury, a nonprofit consultant who's on the implementation committee, rattled off examples of crises at nonprofits that grabbed headlines: The Shelter's sexual harassment allegations and policy practices, financial irregularities, poor morale; board division and leadership lapses at Bond Community Health Center; and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Big Bend's financial challenges that closed some locations.

Stansbury said the new resource center is opening at a pivotal time.

"The reason why the time is now is in part because of what we have seen happen with some of these organizations," Stansbury said.

Tallahassee doesn't have the luxury of backup services from other agencies when one has problems. When for example, the Boys and Girls Club was forced to close some clubs, Stansbury said what happens to those kids?

She and others say nonprofits need a central resource just like businesses have with chambers of commerce, and

the training, networking and educational resources to they can provide to propel a business's success.

Elsewhere in Florida, nonprofit resource centers provide such a hub in their communities. Brian Henties, senior program manager for the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership Center at Rollins College in Winter Park, said Tallahassee's center could be pivotal for the region.

The Philanthropy Center, which opened 15 years ago, has helped coordinators gauge how to structure things in Tallahassee.

Henties said nonprofits that turned to his center have reported leaps in fundraising and other efforts after going through their training. He said nonprofit resource centers are helping to steer more trust and money back to nonprofits that have struggled with funding.

"The dollars are more effectively used back to the mission of the nonprofits because of the training and education that we are doing with the nonprofit leaders. That's what people want to see and that's a great return on their dollars," Henties said.

Rena Coughlin, CEO of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida Jacksonville, said their research indicates nonprofits are the most trusted entities to make change in a community, even more than government in some cases.

For that reason, she said strong nonprofit structure, leadership and governance are what residents want to see.

"When you think about the value of (nonprofit social-service agencies) performing well and delivering on their mission and delivering ethically and acting with strong businesses practices, that reinforces the trust the community has," Coughlin said.

At the Northeast facility, member fees range from \$100 to \$1,500 depending on whether it's a nonprofit or foundation. The center gets \$100,000 from nonprofits and \$125,000 from foundation revenue.

"Part of this is very particular to your community," Coughlin said on how a community approaches

Institute for Nonprofit Innovation aims to move into Brogan Museum...

continued

sustainable funding.

The challenge for Tallahassee's one-stop center will mirror what others have faced when getting started — acceptance and enthusiastic buy-in.

Coughlin said her center started in 2002, launched membership access a year later and by 2004, had 150 agencies signed up. Today it has 250 members, representing a quarter of nonprofits in northeast Florida. She said word of mouth helped secure members.

Coughlin said the center had distinguished itself by providing access to services that otherwise would have been out of reach for many nonprofits, such as community coaches, volunteer consultants that give 80 hours of attention to nonprofits. Instead of paying \$200 to \$300 per hour to hire a consultant, volunteer executive directors and professionals offer wisdom that caters to a specific nonprofit's situation.

Moore said recent survey results, which the implementation committee reviewed last month, indicate nonprofits want more training, better board governance and ways to boost effective use of technology, especially in a social-media dominated world.

Stansbury said the center will have to prove its value, too, noting it's going to take time to show a return on investing in the new venture.

"It's a way to invest in the organizations they care about the most and at the same time, the rising tide will lift boats," Stansbury said. "It's time to make it happen."

"The challenge is we are building the bike at the same time we are riding it," she said. "We need the community to come together on this idea."

Members of the institute's Implementation Committee:

- Alyce Lee Stansbury, nonprofit consultant, speaker and coach
- Joy Watkins, Community Foundation of North Florida president/CEO

- Kelly Otte, PACE Center for Girls executive director
- Pam Davis, Kids Inc exec. director/CEO
- Rob Renzi, Big Bend Cares exec. director
- Marjorie Turnbull, former Florida house representative
- Ellen Piekalkiewicz, United Partners for Human Services exec. director
- David Berlan, assistant professor at Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, Florida State University
- Amanda Thompson, Council on Culture & Arts interim director
- Barbara Boon, Leadership Tallahassee exec. director
- Ben Graybar, Tallahassee State Bank commercial banker
- Randy Nicklaus, 211 of the Big Bend exec. director
- Heather Mitchell, United Way of the Big Bend president/CEO
- Janeia Daniels-Ingram, licensed attorney
- Louis Garcia, Big Brother Big Sisters of the Big Bend exec. director (new member)
- Shelia Costigan, Leon County School Board Foundation exec. dir (new member)

Bus fare to change for some students

JAMES BUECHLE

WTXL

Starting July 1, Tallahassee Community College students will have to pay to ride the StarMetro buses in Tallahassee.

The move comes after the college and bus system failed to come to an agreement on a new contract. Now, some students are wondering if they'll be able to get to class.

TCC student Tashana Shields takes the StarMetro bus each day to school. Student fees cover her trips to the classroom. Starting July 1, she'll have to cough up the \$1.25 per trip.

"Honestly I was kind of dumbstruck to be honest," said Shields.

TCC's current contract with StarMetro runs through June 30 and costs the college \$162,000 made up by student fees.

The college says StarMetro reassessed its costs and asked for about \$400,000 to maintain services.

"We're optimistic we'll have strong ridership," said Tallahassee general manager Reese Goad. "We know it's a valued service. We estimate that any given day we have a couple thousand TCC students take advantage of the service. We're hopeful the ridership will remain."

TCC says there is financial aid available for those that would need assistance to get to classes.

"If there's some outstanding or extraordinary circumstances we'll certainly be here to help and make sure that students get to campus," said TCC VP of marketing and communications Al Moran.

But students like Tashana say this change will have a bigger impact than both sides think.

"They don't think about that. They don't think about the kids that have to walk here the students that come to do like a good thing as such as taking their education."

StarMetro says they offer a \$38 a month pass for unlimited rides. FAMU and FSU have contracts with StarMetro and its students will continue to be able to ride the buses for free.

Free computer camp at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Area high school students interested in learning about technology will have an opportunity to attend a free, week-long camp this summer at TCC.

The Computers and the Virtual World camp will focus on computer operating systems, hardware and virtualization. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, July 28, through Thursday, July 31, and from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 1.

Any high school student curious about the field of technology is encouraged to attend. TCC assistant professor Carlos Torres said the camp is open to students with any level of knowledge and interest.

For information, contact Torres at torresc@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-8966. To register, go to <https://tcc-summer-camp.eventbrite.com>.

Eagles stay alive at state

TCC earns pair of wins to cling to title hopes

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Apparently, the Tallahassee Community College baseball team is at its best when facing dire consequences.

The Eagles, who are trying to fight their way out of the losers' bracket of the NJCAA Gulf District/FCSAA State Baseball Tournament, won two more games Sunday to keep their hopes alive.

First, head coach Mike McLeod's team knocked off top-ranked Chipola College on Sunday morning, 2-1. Then, it trounced the state's second-ranked team, St. Johns River College, 11-5 on Sunday afternoon.

TCC, which now has won six straight elimination games, was pressed into starting its day at 8 a.m. and playing back-to-back games as a result of heavy rain on Saturday evening.

Against Chipola, Shaun Herbert (5-3) was credited with the win after pitching 4 1/3 innings. It was his first appearance on the mound since April 14 in a loss to Chipola. Collin Strall worked the final 3 2/3 innings to earn the save.

Tallahassee had nine hits, led by D.J. McKnight, who was 2-for-3.

Strall then came back in the game against St. Johns and pitched another 3 2/3 innings, this time to earn the win.

The Eagles racked up 17 hits, led by Jonathan Burkett, who was 4-for-5. Cody Borup and Johnny Blue Craig both went 3-for-4.

The wins got Tallahassee to the 40-win plateau for the second straight season, the first time that has happened since 1999 and 2000.

This morning, the Eagles will face the loser of a winner's bracket game between Polk State College and Gulf Coast State College.

TCC unable to renew bus contracts

DOUG BLACKBURN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Alphonso Robinson is majoring in math at Tallahassee Community College, so his first reaction upon learning that TCC students will no longer have free access to StarMetro buses was to start crunching numbers.

At \$1.25 a ride, \$2.50 a day round-trip, Robinson figured that \$12.50 a week to ride the bus will translate into almost \$200 a semester that he hasn't had to pay for the past two years.

(StarMetro does offer a \$38 monthly pass that reduces the cost for daily bus riders.)

"Now it looks like I'm going to have to take out a loan to have money for transportation," Robinson, 25, said.

Robinson and the other 13,000-plus students at TCC were informed last week that starting July 1 they would no longer be able to use their student ID cards to have free access to StarMetro, the city's bus service.

TCC's contract with the city, set at \$162,000 a year in 2006, was up for renewal. Reese Goad, the city's general manager for utility services, said TCC was paying about one-third the rate that FSU and FAMU pay for free bus service for students.

The first year TCC contracted with the city, in 2006, the city estimated that there were 200,000 student rides, Goad said. The number quickly tripled by 2008 and has remained at roughly 600,000 rides per year without an adjustment in the contract.

"We needed to move it to a level that was more comparable with FSU and FAMU," Goad said. "We certainly were providing more service than the payment was paying for."

The city estimated it would cost TCC between \$400,000 and \$500,000 per year for a fair rate, an amount TCC said it could not afford, said Al Moran, TCC vice president for marketing and communication.

TCC has been using student activity fees to subsidize the college's contract with StarMetro, Moran said. Unlike at FSU and FAMU, where students pay a separate per-credit-hour transportation fee that provides them with free bus service, TCC is not allowed to add a separate

transportation fee, Moran said.

Approximately 75 percent of TCC's students receive financial aid, which provides money for transportation, Moran added.

Student government representatives were involved in the decision to not renew the bus contract, Moran said, but incoming student body president Delaitre Hollinger said he learned about the change last week in the same email that informed Robinson and other students.

"This was a decision that was not made with the knowledge of the general student body," Hollinger said. "I have spoken with students who are completely outraged and shocked by this. There was no prior knowledge of this and it seems like there's nothing students can do."

Hollinger said he hopes to talk to TCC President Jim Murdaugh about finding a way to help the students who will be most affected. The new policy starts July 1, and students on financial aid do not receive funds during the summer, he said.

"This is of grave concern to me, and it's of concern to the other incoming leaders of the student government," Hollinger said. "The student body is in shock right now. I'm going to do everything in my power to remedy this."

The city has no plans to change its bus service to TCC, Goad said. He added that he doesn't expect the change in policy will lead to fewer students using the service.

"We're optimistic that the ridership will hold. We're not assuming it will decrease," Goad said. "We believe it will hold because it's a good value."

FAMU, FSU and TCC softball teams vie for national championships

LYNN HATTER
WFSU NEWS

When it comes to softball, Tallahassee's higher education institutions are on a roll. Florida A&M, Florida State and Tallahassee Community College's women's teams are all heading to playoffs, giving the Capital City something to cheer about.

The TCC Eagles Softball team is playing for a national championship starting Wednesday in Utah. The trip caps a series of state and regional wins for the team, including knocking off higher-ranked teams during the season. In a video posted on TCC's athletics website, head coach Patty Townsend says the team has been focused on one goal: getting to nationals.

"The kids have just worked extremely hard this year. They've been focused from the get-go of what they wanted and what they're goals are this year," she says.

TCC women's softball team clinched its first conference, district and state titles in more than 16 years. They now go into the start of the national championship series ranked at number three in the nation.

Meanwhile the women's softball team at Florida A&M University is heading to regional playoffs after winning the Mid-Eastern Athletics Conference Title.

"This is our opportunity for our girls to continue playing. You have to really win the conference," says FAMU Assistant Softball coach Lori Goodart, "And seeing as how we haven't been back since 2009, this is a whole new set of girls, a whole new experience for them, and I couldn't be more excited for them."

FAMU will face off against the University of Florida this weekend, a series Goodart admits will be tough—especially because UF beat FAMU during the regular season.

The FAMU men's baseball team scored a big upset against the UF men's team a few weeks ago. The men's team has also won a division title—the first in at least 17 years. If the FAMU men's baseball team can win the conference title says FAMU Athletics spokesman Alvin Hollins, it'll be the first time since 1994 that FAMU teams have brought home a conference title in the same year.

"That's what we're hopeful for, and it will be the first

regional appearance ever for a FAMU baseball team if they can win the conference. Never been to a regional," he says.

As the Rattlers gear up for big games this weekend, they're not alone. At Florida State University, the team is hard at work. Some players are working at perfecting their swing, others are running a series of drills on the field. Above it all, sits Lonni Alameda, FSU softball head coach. She's in her office above the playing field studying game footage of Fordham University—the school FSU will play this weekend in the first round of playoffs, after winning the ACC Conference championship.

"We play Fordham Friday night so we're just watching the hitters a little bit so when we get together with the pitching staff, we can make plans," Alameda says. "Then we have to get after USF and South Carolina so we're ready to go. We're also pre-planning and watching some video for next weekend because you never know."

Alameda says it's an exciting time, especially since FSU got all the way to the semi-finals last year. This time, they're trying to get all the way to the college World Series, and will get to play the first round this weekend at home. Junior Lacey Waldrop was also on the team last year, and is hungry for a national title.

"We've been to regionals every year that I've been here, so that's a staple for the program. Always in post season, this year, just kicking it to the next level and being a Top 8 seed is huge. It gives you an advantage and shows the level of respect people have for our program, and it's just fun to be a part of it year in and year out," she says.

What is making this year all the more remarkable is that all three school ball teams are vying for big championship wins at the same time. Between FAMU, FSU and TCC softball and baseball, Tallahassee could soon be home to yet another major collegiate sporting title.

No contract compromise, TCC students to pay bus fare for rides to campus

RACHEL REINIG
WTXL

Beginning July 1st, students attending Tallahassee Community College will no longer be able to ride StarMetro buses to and from campus for free.

The over 13,000 TCC students received an email last week, telling them their student IDs would no longer give them free access to the city's bus service.

Since the contract first started between the college and the bus system, the amount of students taking free rides has tripled and there had been no adjustment in the contract.

According to our media partners at the Tallahassee Democrat, TCC was paying \$162,000 a year for the bus service. The city has estimated it would now cost the school between \$400,000 and \$500,000 for a fair rate.

StarMetro will continue to provide bus service to Tallahassee Community College for normal bus fare. The bus company does provide a \$38 monthly bus pass that would reduce the rate for daily bus riders.

Career and College Information

We have a very powerful tool available to assist students in exploring career and college possibilities. The www.flvc.org website contains information on colleges, universities, and trade schools. Using your student's social security number, you can create a user identity at this Website that will allow you to access your individual student's high school transcript. Features of this site allow you to see how your student's transcript stacks up for Bright Futures Scholarships and college admissions requirements. Under the career resources section of this site, the Florida Choices program includes components for skill assessment, interest profiling, and research about careers.

Kathy Heinz
Guidance Director



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