

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



September 18, 2009 - October 15, 2009



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News

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FPSI To Hold Open House For Conference Center

Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) will hold an open house for its new conference center.

Reporter:

PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.–

Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) will hold an open house for its new conference center on Monday, September 21, from 2 to 3 p.m.

The open house will precede the College's monthly District Board of Trustees meeting, which will also take place on the FPSI campus.

The new 11,000 square foot building will serve as a multi-purpose facility, according to Dr. Jim Murdaugh, Assistant Vice President and Director of the Florida Public Safety Institute. In addition to accommodating large-scale training sessions and meetings, the conference center will host graduation ceremonies for FPSI and Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy classes.

"Opening the conference center is part of our overall strategy to grow the continuing education programs offered by TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute," said Murdaugh. "The facility will be used to offer law enforcement, corrections, fire and related training courses from across the state of Florida, as well as Alabama and Georgia.

"It will also allow for continued expansion of College workforce, education and training programs in Gadsden County."

Monday's open house will also bring together dignitaries from the region and state, including agency heads from state and local criminal justice agencies, members of the Gadsden County Commission, officials from the Gadsden County School Board and city officials from throughout Gadsden County.

The Florida Public Safety Institute, located 14 miles west of Tallahassee on U.S. Highway 90, is home of the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy and offers training programs in firefighting, corrections, probation, dispatching, private security and law enforcement intelligence.

TCC Electrical Apprenticeship Instructor Receives National Certification

Ralph 'Buck' Hill is now certified as a Master Instructor from the National Training Institute.

eMail:

NEWS@WCTV.TV

Tallahassee, Fla. (September 16, 2009) – Ralph "Buck" Hill, an electrical apprenticeship instructor at Tallahassee Community College, recently attained certification as a Master Instructor from the National Training Institute (NTI). The NTI, originally based at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and recently moved to the University of Michigan, provides professional training for instructors teaching apprentices and journeymen in the electrical industry.

Mr. Hill became a journeyman electrician in 1978, after completing his own apprenticeship. Since then he has worked on a variety of projects, from light commercial to heavy industrial. Hill began teaching apprenticeship courses at TCC in 2002. The Gainesville Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee sent him to the National Training Institute in 2006, and he graduated earlier this year.

"I feel fortunate to have participated in this program and I know my students will benefit," said Mr. Hill. "I now have a better understanding of how to teach adults, how to formulate and present lesson plans, and how to incorporate technology into apprenticeship classrooms."

TCC's apprenticeship program allows students to enroll in a masonry or electrical training program and receive classroom and on-the-job training in a career field with a future. The apprenticeship programs at TCC are offered at no cost to apprentices; the only cost may be textbooks. Both the masonry and electrical apprenticeship programs are also Veteran Affairs-approved, meaning that veterans may be eligible for a monthly housing allowance, a stipend for books/supplies and other benefits.

To learn more about TCC's apprenticeship programs, call (850) 201-8760 or e-mail Trades@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Looking For Mentors | **Reporter:** Candace Sweat

A local college is looking for mentors. They say the efforts of a few could help kids successfully complete college.

Tallahassee Community College is encouraging people to sign up to become mentors to middle and high school students.

It's all part of TCC's Take Stock in Children College Reach-out Program.

The program is designed to help low and middle income students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Coordinators say programs like this are vital to the local community.

Program coordinators say 96 percent of all kids who complete the mentoring program end up attending college.

Program coordinators say 96 percent of all kids who complete the mentoring program end up attending college.

TCC Seeks Mentors To Help Students Achieve Success

Tallahassee Community College is looking for caring members of the community to serve as mentors for targeted students in grades 6 through 12.

Reporter

PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -

Tallahassee Community College is looking for caring members of the community to serve as mentors for targeted students in grades 6 through 12.

Mentors are provided training and work with a student once a week at the student's school site, offering support to help the student achieve the dream of attending college.

The mentors are part of TCC's Take Stock in Children College Reach-Out Program (TSIC CROP), which began in 1985 and now serves more than 450 students yearly.

The purpose of the program is to increase the number of low and lower-middle income "first generation in college" students to successfully complete a college education.

Participants are initially recruited as sixth graders and remain in the program through twelfth grade. After high school graduation, they receive a pre-paid college tuition scholarship and have the opportunity to become the first generation in their family to earn a four-year college degree.

"Mentors provide support, advice and encouragement to students, helping them to take steps on their path to college," said Wanda Lewis, mentor coordinator. "By offering a little of their time and energy, mentors can become role models for students, giving them an example to strive for."

To become a mentor or to learn more about TSIC CROP, call (850) 201-8314 or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/crop.

Tallahassee Democrat - September 21, 2009

TCC's trustees to meet at Florida Public Safety Institute

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

Tallahassee Community College's board of trustees will hold their monthly meeting today at their new conference center at the Florida Public Safety Institute, located 14 miles west of Tallahassee on U.S. Highway 90.

The workshop is scheduled to start at 2:30 p.m. The board meeting will start at 4 p.m.

Return to Tallahassee.com for more details.

'Culture of evidence' changes classrooms

By Madeline Patton

ATLANTA — Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count focuses on analyzing data to make decisions. But the national initiative to improve programs and services for disadvantaged students also needs an engaged faculty and staff to retain the changes when its funding ends.

At the annual Achieving the Dream Strategy Institute here last week, faculty and staff from 79 community colleges and four universities shared what they are learning from data analyses of their students' progress and the outcomes from pilot programs developed to address the problems identified by the data.

The four-day meeting highlighted work in 15 states on the most intractable issues confronting higher education, from improving developmental education, to addressing structural inequity and recruiting and retaining African-American men.

Colleges participating in the initiative—who are paired with "coaches" from other institutions to help them implement changes—are starting to see results from their efforts and testing new ways to use data to improve the success of low-income and minority students.

Cuyahoga Community College (Ohio) has meshed Achieving the Dream with its accreditation process, and it uses the data for budgeting and planning, according to Jerry Sue Thornton, the college's president. Faculty members on the college's three campuses have come aboard the initiative, seeing that decisions are now based on facts rather than "best guesses," she said.

"People understand the common agenda, the collective vision that we have for the students who are coming to us," Thornton said.

It's taken time, but faculty and staff are grasping the college's goal of not only getting at-risk students into the college, but also keeping them there rather than having them drop out after a few classes, Thornton said.

"I'm just really passionate about completion," she said. "'Some college' is not acceptable."

The imperative Thornton expressed as the "urgency of now" is evident at Achieving the Dream colleges as they work to overcome institutional inertia, stay focused and deal with the difficulties involved in the cultural shift from just access to access plus student success.

David Levinson, president of Norwalk Community College (NCC) in Connecticut, noted that the achievement gap between poor, minority students and white, wealthy students is no longer anecdotal at his college. It now has data showing black youths in the city of Norwalk "have a better chance of going to jail than they have of going to college and succeeding," he said.

"What we are doing is really life-saving," he added.

Building "deliverables" into the initiative's implementation at NCC draws the attention of faculty members and has prompted many of them to use the college's internal research services to analyze their teaching practices, Levinson said.

Involving many faculty and staff in Achieving the Dream has also helped to incorporate the initiative's goals in NCC's eight collective bargaining agreements. He noted that additional stipends for nursing faculty have helped improve retention in the program without lowering academic standards.

William Law, president of Tallahassee Community College (Florida), said his college's administration, faculty and staff agree that it is not acceptable for minority students to perform poorly relative to white students. The bar should be the same for everyone.

"My definition of student success is students finish what they started," he said.

To attain that goal, the college must ensure students return each semester, which begins with first ensuring that they finish their courses, Law said. To do that requires getting students the help they need, he said.

Sinclair Community College (Ohio) initially tried a short-lived, top-down approach to improving student success. But by switching gears and using a faculty-led effort, the college's developmental writing and math courses have improved, said Linda Pastore, a math instructor and

Culture of Evidence.....

continued

Sinclair's Achieving the Dream program coordinator.

"We knew if we were going to work on student success, changes had to occur in classrooms," she said.

Faculty learning communities meet biweekly to discuss curriculum and students' progress, Pastore said. Faculty teams interviewed students of instructors who have asked for help with their pedagogy. Last year, 85 faculty members requested the student interviews.

When data indicated math as the biggest hurdle for students, Valencia Community College (Florida) brought the math faculty from its four campuses and three centers together to talk and collaborate "as they never had before," said Julie Phelps, a math instructor and Valencia's Achieving the Dream project director.

The discussions were critical to bringing in faculty members. The eight faculty members who volunteered to attend professional development programs together in 2005 to improve their courses continue to lead math supplemental learning efforts.

Based on their efforts, the college recently extended supplemental learning in English and government courses, Phelps said.

The Wakulla News - September 24, 2009

DeFoor is new TCC trustee

Wakulla County has a new trustee on the TCC board.

By Staff

Wakulla County has a new trustee on the TCC board.

Florida Governor Charlie Crist announced the appointment of Dr. J. Allison DeFoor II, 55, of Crawfordville, consultant and managing member of Castille, DeFoor and Armstrong, to succeed Kathleen Shirah, as a member of the Tallahassee Community College Board of Trustees.

DeFoor was appointed for a term beginning Sept. 15, which ends May 31, 2013.

TCC seeks mentors to help students achieve success

Tallahassee Community College is looking for caring members

By Staff

Tallahassee Community College is looking for caring members of the community to serve as mentors for targeted students in grades 6 through 12.

Mentors are provided training and work with a student once a week at the student's school site, offering support to help the student achieve the dream of attending college.

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To become a mentor or to learn more about TSIC CROP, call (850) 201-8314 or visit www.tcc.fl.edu/crop.

Foster Folly News - September 25, 2009

Governor Crist Reappoints BCF Professor to Board of Trustees

To serve on the District Board of Trustees at Tallahassee Community College

On September 15, Florida's 44th Governor, Charlie Crist, reappointed the distinguished Baptist College of Florida (BCF) Voice Professor Kimberle Moon to serve on the District Board of Trustees at Tallahassee Community College (TCC). Moon will be representing Gadsden County.

"I commend Governor Crist for appointing capable community leaders who can contribute to the continued excellence of the college," said TCC President Bill Law. "The Governor has again chosen talented and experienced people for the TCC Board who will serve the college and the community very well."

Recognized for her time and commitment while serving on the board, Moon was reappointed for another term beginning September 15, 2009, and ending May 31, 2013. Moon was first appointed in 2005 by then-Governor Jeb Bush.

Report Finds More Community College Students Should Study Abroad

Reporter: John Rogers

EMAIL ADDRESS: JOHN.ROGERS@WCTV.TV

Community Colleges enroll nearly half of all undergraduate students in America, yet very few of their students study abroad.

The Institute of International Education says between 2000 and 2007, community college involvement in study abroad programs spiked by 34 percent.

But a recent report found very small numbers these students actually take advantage of these opportunities to see the world.

Officials say studying overseas can allow a student to better become global citizens.

Over at Tallahassee Community College, students have the chance to study in China and in countries across Europe.

Tallahassee Democrat - September 30, 2009

Program gives students with disabilities glimpse of career options

Kiare Burke, 19, got a taste of photography in an internship he had at Florida State University. It was enough to spark his interest in a career.

A Lincoln High School graduate who will begin studies at Tallahassee Community College in January, Burke says the experience of working in a photo lab showed him what the photo business is like and also whether he might like it.

His plan is a college degree in photography. "But I want to get the general things out of the way," he said of his first college classes.

Across Florida this fall and in Leon County, high school students with all types of disabilities will participate in The Able Trust's High School/High Tech program that gives them the chance to explore jobs or post secondary education leading to technology-related careers.

Through a combination of field trips, career shadowing, internships, skills training and other activities, students in the 35 HS/HT programs in the state work to make an effective transition from the classroom to the workplace.

Annually, 1,400 to 1,500 students in Florida from more than 100 high schools participate. The program has been in Leon County for eight years.

"During the 2008-09 school year, 86 percent of Florida

HS/HT graduates entered post secondary education, and the program experienced only a 2-percent dropout rate," said Cat Keen, Florida HS/HT state director. The number of students going on to college or other training is more than three times that of other Florida graduates with disabilities.

Susanne Homant, president and CEO of The Able Trust, which is the Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, says there is plenty of opportunity for area businesses to get involved.

Doing so educates the student, but also shows employers how effective those individuals with disabilities can be on the job, perhaps clearing up some misconceptions. "I think those experiences really do open up their eyes," Homant said.

The HS/HT program is part of a national initiative that is supported by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but it is up to Florida to fund it. Homant said Florida's is one of the programs still in operation, thanks to help from The Able Trust and the Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

"We target those youngsters who are on track to get a regular diploma," she said. "We are looking for outstanding participant outcomes, not just acceptable ones."

Reorient the entire mission of FKCC

By J. ALLISON DeFOOR II

GUEST COLUMN

The situation facing Florida Keys Community College with the planned departure of President Jill Landesberg-Boyle admits to only one real conclusion -- close the college. That is an overstatement, but not by much, but follow me here for just a bit.

At the beginning, I need to say that I am not a candidate for president. God has me setting up a faith and criminal justice institute at Saint Leo University, and that will occupy my remaining days.

Right now, FKCC is in a tight race with Lake City Community College to be the smallest community college in Florida, with each having fewer than a thousand full-time equivalent students. The traditional student population served in the Keys is in decline, and the Keys' population is aging as retirees replace working families who are moving out.

The model of having a stand-alone community college within a commute of every Floridian, the vision of Gov. Farris Bryant in the 1960s, may not be as viable today as it was then. Certainly, FKCC's \$9 million budget does not compare favorably to [Tallahassee Community College's](#) \$100 budget, half of which comes from grants and contracts for services.

What might be a viable alternative would be for FKCC to reorient itself as a servant institution, serving the other 26 community colleges in Florida. Imagine FKCC, in addition to focusing on the local population, enticing students from Broward College in Fort Lauderdale or Florida Community College in Jacksonville to come south for a semester or two. Culinary arts, oceanography, the arts, even quasi-sabbaticals for faculty all leap to mind as areas of low-hanging opportunity to bring in visiting students and faculty.

One can think of people with several alternative lifestyles who might enjoy a short stint in the Keys. Instead of several hundred students, several thousand should be the target. A broader geographical platform than FKCC's traditional base largely in Key West would also be possible.

For instance, oceanography for visiting students would be just as doable in Key Largo as in Key West for visiting

students. Currently empty hotels could be converted to dorms. And of course, visiting students will need to eat and shop, so local merchants would benefit as well under this vision.

A few issues would need to be dealt with under such a plan to safeguard local interests. Curriculum is a key to taking care of the local students' needs, but this plan looks at dramatically increasing the depth and breadth of courses available, not shrinking it.

Governing structures would need to be re-crafted to balance local inputs and the needs of the colleges that would be funneling the students down. But fundamentally, we cannot do much worse than where the college sits today. To make it happen would only require a few folks to get on board.

First, the Board of Trustees would need to sign on, then state Rep. Ron Saunders would need to be enlisted. Then, with Ron's help, a few key community college presidents would need to help build a consensus of the college presidents.

Bill Law of [Tallahassee Community College](#) needs to be first on the list, and David Armstrong of Broward, former chancellor of the community college system and an avid sailor, should be next. I believe they would be very interested in at least exploring the idea, based upon previous casual conversations with them both.

Then the secretary of education needs to be recruited, and then the Governor's Office (election years are always a good time for such).

The alternative to this sort of paradigm shift will send FKCC down a road already traveled.

Editor's Note: J. Allison DeFoor II is a member of the Board of Trustees of [Tallahassee Community College](#). He's taught at several colleges, including FKCC. He's a former Monroe County sheriff and judge.

42 BASKETBALL TIMES



Never too late at Tallahassee after three tours of Iraq

Tony Jimenez

Junior Colleges

It was the last practice before the final game of regular-season play last season, the day before Tallahassee played Pensacola. Coach Eddie Barnes was waved off by Bernard James as he made his way to the Tallahassee locker room.

"He said, 'Give me a couple of minutes, coach,'" recalled Barnes. "Then he met with all of the players."

Ah, those players-only meetings. When the truth hits one and all like a wicked pick from Shaq. When a team's true warts are exposed. No one knew better than James and Barnes what a torturous season it had been for Tallahassee. The Eagles had lost six of 13 games by five points or less — two in overtime, one after missing a shot at the buzzer and another after leading by 12 points with seven minutes left. It would have been easy for the Eagles to roll over and play dead in that finale on the road, but they didn't. Tallahassee was a team with some talent but lacking in maturity. The Eagles won 85-77 to pull the curtain down on a high note in a 15-win campaign and to go into this season with a smidgeon of success. It was obvious that James told his peers the right things at the right time and in the right tone and that he was right on.

"He told the guys that game was about pride and respect," Barnes said. "The players have total respect for him and what he says."

And well they should. James is a 24-year-old six-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who served three tours totaling 26 months in Iraq. The MP spent part of that time guarding detainees. He saw the good, the bad and the ugly of war back then, so basketball's a piece of cake today.

James, a lefty, is one of a handful of two-year school players from Florida among *Basketball Times'* sweet-16 sophomores. He'll stay in the same area code after his juco career, having orally committed to Florida State. And while he'll be going only five minutes up Tennessee Street to FSU, he'll be in a far bigger and brighter environment. He'll be going from playing at the 812-seat EagleDome to the 12,200-seat Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. He'll be going from being *the man* in junior college to being just another player in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Or will he?

"He is a natural rebounder," Barnes said, "and with his natural athletic ability and mental toughness, he will be an impact player (at FSU)."

Given the lack of JC transfers to become impact players at the major-college level in recent years, James should at least have JC Nation solidly in his corner.

No matter what happens, James already has come a long way. He's not the best-ever player from talent-rich Florida, but it would be difficult to find another player who has experienced what he has — and thrived to boot. He has

gone from a 6-foot-5, 180-pound introvert of a 17-year-old to the mature 6-10, 240-pounder that he is today.

He never played organized hoops in high school in Savannah, Ga., and of more concern, he was a walking turnover when it came to academics. He never graduated and had to earn a GED. Then when he finally turned the corner and his game was going from nowhere to somewhere last season, he fractured his right patella. Some screws were inserted in it and he played on. He had eight double-doubles in 12 Panhandle Conference games, playing in 20 of 28 games.

"We tried to play him back in shape the rest of the season," Barnes said, "but he never got to 100 percent."

As for his rough ride to Tallahassee, Barnes said: "In most cases, junior colleges give people second opportunities. B.J. was a young man who did not like high school. Education was not very important to him. Now this young man is using basketball to better himself with an education. I have been a JC head coach for 19 years and in coaching for 35 years, and we are lucky as coaches when we have a special player come along. I have been very fortunate to have coached several, and B.J. is one of those special players."

James' outside shot and free-throw shooting (55.8 percent) were suspect as a freshman, but he was aware of it and worked overtime in the offseason to change that. He is now primed and hungry for some prime time. Hungry to lead a team that could be one of the best in Tallahassee school history. Hungry to make amends for a season lost. Hungry to prove that he and his team are the best team in arguably the best state for JC hoops in the USA and in turn one of the best teams in the country.

"You will see a totally different player this season," Barnes said.

Those are words that no doubt will make Barnes' fellow Panhandle Conference coaches wince.

"He was very difficult to defend," said Northwest coach Bruce Stewart. "He was fierce on the offensive boards, could score on the low block and was a reliable shot blocker."

Said coach Jay Powell of Gulf Coast: "He's a beast! He's strong, fast and powerful, blocks shots, dunks everything, runs the floor well and is very mature."

Nicholas Woods became friends with James while the two were in basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio in 2002 and then saw that friendship grow when the two served two tours of Iraq together. He isn't surprised with what James has done with his game and his life.

"We did the usual things as friends ... we worked out together, went to movies and listened to the same music," said Woods, who now works for a private security company in Monterey Bay, Calif. "He's a loyal friend. If you're in a jam, he's right there."

James' teammates have already learned that.

Tony Jimenez has been covering junior colleges longer than anyone in America.



At 24, Bernard James brings experience to Tallahassee.

SWEET SIXTEEN

Significant sophomores of 2009-10
 Freddie Asprilla, 6-9, Miami Dade
 Kevin Bradshaw, 6-8, Riverside City
 Antonio Bumpus, 6-4, Harcum, Pa.
 Monterale Clark 6-11, Hill, Texas
 Devyn Erwin, 6-8, Broward, Fla.
 Delwan Graham, 6-6, Chipola, Fla.
 Bernard James, 6-9, Tallahassee, Fla.
 Guy Marc Michel, 7-0, North Idaho
 Renado Parker, 6-7, North Idaho
 Ricardo Ratliffe, 6-8, Central Florida
 Anthony Salter, 5-11, Iowa Western
 Mamadou Seck, 6-7, SE Illinois
 Shay Shine, 6-2, Iowa Western
 Marvell Waithe, 6-8, Tallahassee, Fla.
 Darrell Williams, 6-8, Midland, Texas
 D.J. Wright, 6-7, Mt. San Jacinto

Some students still waiting for refunds

Sub-head

By Charleston Steele

CORRESPONDENT

The lack of financial aid disbursements has put several Florida A&M students in a serious compromise. They have questions and problems that continually go unaddressed.

The first wave of funds was disbursed on Sept. 30. The next wave of disbursements has not been determined.

Students question why administration is taking a long time to process documents for funds to be released. Neighboring institutions such as [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Florida State University, received refunds as early as the second week of the semester.

According to Henry Lewis III, current dean of the College of Pharmacy and former interim president for FAMU, there is a more in-depth process to receiving a refund check.

"The Office of Financial Aid is only responsible for approval and certification of funds a student can receive for the school year," Lewis said. "Financial aid doesn't cut the checks because it's the responsibility of student accounts."

Students go to financial aid in search of answers to questions about finances, but sometimes the problem is too extensive for the administrators in the office to handle.

Marcia Boyd, director of financial aid, said more than 90 percent of FAMU students need financial aid to fund their educations.

Out of the 12,000 students who applied for aid, 9,800 have successfully completed the financial aid process and received their refunds on time. The rest of the students who have not received funds may have missed a step in the process.

FAMU students use their refunds to pay for bills and other expenses. Charlton Bradley, 22, a fourth-year political science student from Jacksonville said it is really inconvenient to deal with financial aid sometimes.

"I was just awarded my financial aid last week, but I'm still waiting for my refund so I can fix my car," Bradley said. "Luckily I stay with my sister so I don't have to worry about rent."

Boyd said students fail to realize the financial aid office cannot be held responsible for all issues. Many problems can be prevented and dealt with before the school year begins.

"When students walk into my office upset and demanding their money, it's discouraging to me and my staff," she said.

"It's frustrating when the office receives a bad reputation especially when we [are] working so diligently to serve every student in a timely manner."

Some students received a refund in a timely manner as a result of checking the status of electronic documents.

Lakeisha White, 22, a senior music education student from Jackson, Miss., was one of these students.

"I was able to get my refund back on time since I kept monitoring from the FASFA Web site and looked at my SAR (Student Aid Report)," she said. "I was able to give the school all of the necessary things needed in order before the school year started."

Boyd added that students could help the Office of Financial Aid by doing their part. A student should fill out the free application from Federal Student Aid in January of every year and monitor the application process.

The application process begins January 1 and goes on until June 30. The earlier students apply, the greater chance to be eligible for more money.

"When students walk into my office upset and demanding their money, it's discouraging to me and my staff," she said.

TCC Debuts "Rent"

RENT fans have the chance to see the musical live in Tallahassee.

By Heather Bianca

Whether you're a fan of musicals or not, you've probably heard of the Broadway show, "Rent."

Now you'll have the chance to experience it in our area, at the Turner Auditorium in Tallahassee.

"Theatre TCC" is putting on the area's first licensed production of the Broadway hit - that won the Tony award for Best Musical back in 1996, as well as the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

The musical tells the story of a group of young musicians in New York, struggling with life, relationships, and AIDS.

Tallahassee Democrat - October 9, 2009

TheatreTCC! brings on 'Rent'

RENT fans have the chance to see the musical live in Tallahassee.

By Kristin King

When Jonathan Larson's musical "Rent" debuted on Broadway in 1996, it instantly captivated audiences and went on to receive the Tony Award for best musical, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and a Pulitzer Prize for drama, among other honors.

In the season-opening TheatreTCC! production of "Rent," Tallahassee theatergoers can relive the dreams of the show's collection of young artists and musicians struggling with economic travails, love and AIDS in the Big Apple's Lower East side. The show — the area's first licensed production of "Rent" — opened Thursday night at Turner Auditorium for a two-week run.

Giacomo Puccini's 1896 opera "La Boheme" served as the inspiration for many aspects of "Rent." To make Puccini's story more compelling for contemporary audiences, Larson relocated the setting from 1830s Paris to late-1980s New York City. Likewise, the disease tuberculosis, rampant in Puccini's time, was updated to AIDS, the scourge of the past two decades, making "Rent" as much a story about the fear and mystery surrounding the early AIDS epidemic as it is a retelling of the bohemian experience.

Larson loaded his score with such instantly memorable tunes as "Seasons of Love," "Light My Candle" and "La Vie Boheme."

Tallahassee actor/director Krystof Kage, who helms the TheatreTCC production, said he has dreamed of directing "Rent" for years. A TCC graduate and self-acknowledged

"Renthead" from his college days, Kage says he visualized the TheatreTCC! production as "a bridge ... a way of introducing 'Rent' to the local stage and making it our own"

"I'm certain we struck an excellent balance between those who want to see what they saw on Broadway with professionals, and those who want to see what TheatreTCC! can accomplish with local talent."

With musical direction from Mike Norris and choreography by Ashley Overstreet, TheatreTCC!'s diverse cast features Jimmy Kontos, Martin Peacock, Gillian Gilbert, Marcus Allen Hazzard, Luis Mora, Rachael Adams, Morgan Baker, Ken Wester, Derrick Roper, Kafui Ablordeppey, Patrick James, Ken Catullo, Meaghan Pelissier, Kierston Schultz and Leslie Gonzalez.

Notice to students and parents: "Rent" features language and situations that are adult in nature. Since the play deals with such sensitive issues as sexuality, gender and drug abuse, it may not be appropriate for younger audiences.

To foster academic and intellectual exploration of these delicate but nevertheless important issues, Tallahassee Community College is offering three social issues forums in conjunction with performances of "Rent." For dates, times and locations of the discussions, please visit the TCC calendar of events at www.tcc.fl.edu/calendar.

Exhibit spaces still available for Green Living Expo

By Dave Hodges

BUSINESS MATTERS EDITOR

There are more than 50 exhibits of green building products, appliances and technologies, plus displays on green career possibilities planned for the Oct. 17 Green Living Expo in Tallahassee, but there is space for more.

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Costco Wholesale parking lot. The store is located at 3550 Mahan Drive.

Mike Rogers, chair of the Tallahassee Builders Association's Green Building Council, said more vendors and exhibitors are welcomed, as long as their displays deal with some aspect of sustainable living, education or green building practices.

"We've got room to bring them in. It's a great opportunity for public exposure," Rogers said.

A new feature in this year's expo is a focus on the emerging field of "green collar" jobs and career paths. The Tallahassee Community College Workforce Development Center and Workforce Plus will be on hand to discuss green collar job training opportunities.

Rogers said area residents will have the opportunity to learn about energy-efficient appliances, lighting, flooring, and heating and air systems, and have their questions answered by manufacturers' representatives.

Consumers can also talk with builders who include "green" building practices in their services. Green Leaf Market will be displaying green cleaning products.

Representatives from the City of Tallahassee Energy Services department will be on hand to discuss various energy savings rebate programs available to their customers.

"If you want learn how to be both economically viable and ecologically sound, don't miss this expo," said Dale Fuller, CEO of the builders association.

For more about the Green Living Expo and a list of exhibitors, visit TBA's Green Building Council Web site at www.tallahasseebuilding.com or the association site at www.tallyba.com. To reserve booth space, call 385-1414.

Ronald L. Garrison: Help StarMetro plan for future

By Ronald L. Garrison

MY VIEW

Last summer, we experienced something that no one expected: \$4-plus gas prices. As a result, the city of Tallahassee's transit system, StarMetro, saw a 14-percent increase in ridership. These new customers experienced the value of transit, and many continued to ride even as gas prices dropped. We know that gas prices will go back up and that many more commuters will move to transit.

While our new and existing customers know the benefit of using transit (stress-free commute, gas and auto maintenance savings, living more sustainably), they also have experienced the drawbacks of our system.

The current system, with a downtown transfer station, served the Tallahassee community very well for many years.

Tallahassee, however, has grown and changed substantially, and the current configuration can no longer adequately serve the community. More than 40 years ago, when the system was designed, going downtown and in and out of neighborhoods made sense. Jobs, housing, recreation, civics, etc., were downtown, and the current system met those needs. As we know, Tallahassee has changed, with jobs and other destinations moving to the periphery along Capital Circle Northeast and SouthWood. Since the city has changed, it is time for StarMetro to change.

What if a new route structure was designed to meet your needs with direct cross-town routes that do not go downtown? What if these same routes had wait times of 10 minutes to 30 minutes, instead of 60 minutes?

StarMetro has created such a route structure with our concept plan called nova2010, and it represents the next big innovation in Tallahassee transit. Since the StarMetro brand was born three years ago, as a result of the commitment of the City Commission, we have successfully redeveloped services for Florida A&M, Florida State and [Tallahassee Community College](#), while introducing new service to previously unreachable areas.

In addition, we have added numerous rider amenities such as wireless Internet on some buses, smart fare-box technology and larger shelters.

With nova2010, StarMetro will reach the next stage of its evolution. By decentralizing the route structure, nova2010 will:

- Dramatically reduce the number of required downtown transfers.

- Reduce redundancy.

- Improve on-time bus performance.

- Increase ridership and decrease the carbon footprint.

- Reduce transit travel time.

- Increase the frequency of bus service.

- Enhance efficiency and connectivity for regional travel.

These are a few of the benefits that Tallahassee and the capitol region would realize after implementation of nova2010.

There is a tradeoff, however. Routes will no longer circulate within neighborhoods. This will allow StarMetro to serve a larger population by providing much higher service or bus frequency and better service to the most popular destinations. In addition, distances between StarStops (bus stops) may increase from a fourth of a mile to one half of a mile in some instances. This would lead to fewer stops, faster travel time and a more pleasurable riding experience.

Moving to a more grid-like route structure is a new concept with a growing number of transit agencies across the country. They have found serving multiple destinations with multiple transfer points to be tremendously successful. The idea started with West Coast transit properties in Portland, Ore., and San Diego and then spread to places such as Colorado Springs and Madison, Wis., a state capital with a large university presence like our own. In Florida, Pinellas and Broward counties have similarly restructured their systems.

We encourage you to get involved with nova2010. We are holding numerous public meetings over the next

Ronald L. Garrison.....

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two months throughout the community. A full listing of all the public meetings is provided on the www.talgov.com/starmetro/nova2010 Web site along with the concept route structure.

In addition, a hot line (850-891-5283) and e-mail address (nova2010project@talgov.com) has been set up to receive your questions/comments. You may also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Please visit these sites, attend our meetings and provide your comments.

If you would like StarMetro staff to come to your civic organization, homeowners' association meeting or place of business to discuss the concept plan, feel free to contact us. A thriving public transit system is vital to a growing community, and we need your input for this plan to be a success.

Additional Facts

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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The Famuan - October 11, 2009

Scholarship leaves some in the dark

By Faran Foy
STAFF EDITOR

Effective this fall, the Florida Legislature voted to change the standard for Bright Futures' award amounts, credit requirement and repayment.

Bright Futures is a scholarship program for Florida residents sponsored by the Florida Lottery.

Senate Bill 1696- Conforming Bill states recipients will now be responsible to repay the institution for a dropped class funded by Bright Futures and will now receive a reduced award amount.

Dorothy Henderson, dean of the school of general studies, said it is important for students to be aware of the changes, especially freshmen.

"Students need to get into these classes, stay in these classes and pass these classes," said Henderson.

Henderson said they have been making students aware of the changes in orientation and during adviser visits.

"Students usually wait to after midterms to withdraw from classes," she said.

Under the Florida Department of Education Office of Student Financial Assistance, additional changes were made through Senate Bill 2600 - General Appropriations Act.

Scholarship leaves some.....

continued

Bill 2600 reduced the Bright Futures scholarship award amount.

According to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org, students receiving the Medallion or Gold Seal Vocational scholarship will only receive \$95 per credit hour compared to the previous \$126.

These scholarships used to cover 75 percent at an in-state public institution like Florida A&M and Florida State, and 100 percent of tuition at any in-state community college like [Tallahassee Community College](#).

This means Medallion and Gold Seal Vocational recipients now have to pay the remaining amount out-of-pocket or with other aid.

The difference is \$465 per semester for recipients.

Students receiving the Academic Scholars award that covers 100 percent tuition at a public in-state institution will no longer receive their college expense allowance of \$300 per semester.

First-year student Jerelle Avery said incoming freshmen got the short end of the stick.

"I know I could never afford to drop any class because I know I couldn't pay it back," said Avery, an 18-year-old biology student from St. Petersburg.

Marquena Boyd was aware of having to pay back the money from a dropped class but not of the award decline from Bright Futures.

"I knew you had to pay for the classes you dropped," said Boyd, 18, a nursing student from Fort Lauderdale. "But this is my first time hearing about the decrease in the award."

The act also states that students are no longer required to take 12 credit hours each semester to receive the scholarship. They are now allowed to divide the 24-credit hour requirement up into semesters and still receive the award.

Gracie Peterman, 21, a fourth-year chemical science student at Florida State University was affected from a shortage of completed credits in past school years.

"I was two credits short," she said. "My net check was extremely lower this semester and it will be next semester, too."

This change for example means in a student's final year, the first semester can be 15 credit hours and the last semester can be nine credits as long as it meets the 24 credit hours in a year.

Boyd said she thinks the changes are fair because a full load of classes every semester may not be practical.

Bright Futures recipients who do not meet the new credit hour renewal requirements will have the opportunity to restore their award in a subsequent academic year.

For more about the Bright Futures program, go to www.brightfutures.org

DOJ Awards Two Grants To TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute

REPORTER: PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. –

Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) has received awards from the United States Department of Justice totaling \$300,000 to continue support for criminal intelligence training offered by the FPSI's Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy.

With the aid of the grants, the FPSI will expand an already highly successful national criminal intelligence training program to enhance existing infrastructure and programs in intelligence training.

"This funding ensures that law enforcement intelligence professionals nationwide will receive cutting-edge training intended to prevent criminal and terrorist acts and create a network of intelligence-led policing that fosters effective intelligence activities," said Dr. Jim Murdaugh, Assistant Vice President of FPSI.

TCC President Bill Law added, "The College is grateful for the leadership provided by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, Rep. Allen Boyd and U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw for making the grant awards possible."

FPSI will professionalize and enhance the practice of criminal intelligence with the law enforcement/criminal justice community, demonstrate the benefits derived from effective law enforcement intelligence and encourage information sharing in support of intelligence gathered, all of which will enable law enforcement and other criminal justice agency personnel engaged in the planning, collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of information and criminal intelligence to meet National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP) standards.

The grants will result in the following outcomes:

- Design, develop and launch a secure platform for delivery of online law enforcement training programs to criminal justice officers for national use;
- Develop and post online law enforcement training programs for criminal justice officers compliant with the NCISP;
- Provide all six levels of training compliant with the NCISP to officers from Florida, Georgia and Alabama on-site at

PTLEA;

- Offer to export all six levels of training compliant with the NCISP off-site to requesting law enforcement agencies anywhere in the country;

- Develop online criminal intelligence training courses for law enforcement officers and make it available nationwide; and

- Manage the certification process for intelligence analysts in partnership with the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA).

The Florida Public Safety Institute, located 14 miles west of Tallahassee on U.S. Highway 90, is home of the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy and offers training programs in firefighting, corrections, probation, dispatching, private security and law enforcement intelligence.