SCF’s Neel Performing Arts Center
Presented by State College of Florida Foundation, Inc.
All shows begin at 2 p.m.

The Four Freshmen             December 10, 2017
Jukebox Junction              January 21, 2018
Tusk                          January 28, 2018
The New Christy Minstrels     February 11, 2018
The Jersey Tenors             February 18, 2018
Ethan Bortnick                March 25, 2018

Guaranteed reserved seating for all shows
Single Tickets $40, $45 day of show, Five-Show subscription (excluding Tusk) $150, Six-Show subscription (including Tusk) $180

To reserve, call SCF’s Neel Performing Arts Center box office at 941-752-5252
5840 26th Street West • Access from 60th Avenue • Directions at SCF.edu/maps

The State College of Florida Foundation presents the Sundays at Neel entertainment series. The admission proceeds make an important difference for our music programs. Your gift offers the next generation of SCF musicians opportunities through scholarship support and faculty advancement, as well as experiences with visiting artists.
Welcome

INSPIRE

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the State College of Florida Foundation, welcome to the Fall 2017 issue of “Inspire” magazine. The Foundation has joined with the entire community this year in celebrating SCF’s 60th anniversary.

Since its creation in 1957, SCF has been committed to enhancing the lives of our area residents. That commitment continues to drive the Foundation in its mission to connect donors’ passions and regional partners with SCF’s outstanding students, faculty, programs and community. Thanks to you, our friends, alumni and donors, the results speak for themselves:

- Nearly $1.7 million was dispersed to over 900 deserving scholarship recipients.
- As of September 30, 2017, total giving surpassed $2 million toward equipment, faculty and program enhancements.
- SCF’s new Library & Learning Center will open in February 2018, made possible by a combination of state funding and your generous support.

As we look back on 60 years of history, this issue highlights our alumni and how SCF helped prepare them for careers and contributions to the community and world. You’ll read about retired Lieutenant Colonel Tessa Suplee, class of 1982, and her inspiring story of serving as an Air Force nurse on multiple tours of duty. You’ll also see the role SCF faculty played in cementing the College’s reputation and guiding students to success. Share your story! Our new Alumni Coordinator, Erica Wuorio, is always interested in hearing from our alumni — find out how to connect with Erica on page 10.

Looking forward! The Foundation Board of Directors, profiled in this issue, is excited to continue the momentum with you. The Foundation is already busy raising funds for the new Studio for the Performing Arts and Health and Human Performance Center. These two additions to SCF’s Bradenton campus will offer state-of-the-art facilities for our music and athletics programs.

The Foundation, along with the College, has had a banner anniversary year. Because of You, We are SCF!

Gratefully yours,
Cassandra Holmes, Executive Director
Inside

6 SCF 60th Anniversary

8 SCF Foundation Highlights

10 Alumni Message
   Erica Wuorio

11 Alumni Profile
   Darlene Williams
   Mike Rio

16 Alumni Profile
   Tessa Suplee

18 SCF Foundation
   Catherine Kuhlman
   Meet the Board

20 Alumni Profile
   Dot Garland

21 SCF Studio for the Performing Arts

22 Alumni Profile
   Maury Kolchakian

24 Alumni Profile
   Brantley Bell

25 SCF Health and Human Performance Center

28 Scholarship Recipient Thank You

29 SCF Foundation Thank You
Celebrating 60 years of SCF’s service to Manatee and Sarasota counties has been a highlight of the past year. Alumni, faculty, staff and students have joined with the community in applauding the history of the College and looking toward the future with even more programs and opportunities to connect with SCF.

Established in 1957 as Manatee Junior College (MJC), the College had an immediate impact on the region. It has grown through the years and added campuses in Venice and Lakewood Ranch and has plans for a new 74-acre campus in Parrish. Today SCF serves more than 15,000 full-time students a year from Palmetto and Parrish to Venice and Englewood.

SCF’s celebrations with the community included Avenues to the Future and Evening Under the Stars, Lakewood Ranch Fest and participating in the DeSoto Grand Parade. The College published stories and photos about its history and future in the Bradenton Herald and the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. Alumni and students helped hail SCF through a campaign highlighting their accomplishments in #SCFProud ads.

When MJC opened there were no other area colleges. The College was an opportunity for students to live at home and start their classes before transferring to universities. Students received a solid foundation and MJC’s reputation started to build across the state. As the College continued to evolve and grow into Manatee Community College (MCC) universities saw top-notch test scores and students excelling in their classes.

Today the College continues to expand with offerings for the community as well as students. The new Library & Learning Center is set to open in 2018. The SCF Foundation is raising money for a new Studio for the Performing Arts and Health and Human Performance Center.

SCF is working with businesses to encourage them to utilize the College’s resources. SCF partners with the University of Florida’s Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering in preparing students for their engineering program, and offering businesses interns who may end up coming home to establish careers.

SCF has much to be proud of over the past 60 years, and the College is still growing. SCF plans to catapult our students and community into the future. SCF’s next 60 years has much to offer students, the community and employers across Manatee and Sarasota counties.
In the 2016-17 SCF Foundation fiscal year, October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, total giving reached over $2 million. The mix of those giving follows:
- Individuals 33%
- Foundations 28%
- Corporations and Organizations 40%

24-Hour Giving Challenge
The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour event supporting more than 550 nonprofits serving Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties. The event was a resounding success for the Foundation, which surpassed its goal by raising $60,000 in one day.

Avenues to the Future
Avenues to the Future at SCF Bradenton proved to be successful by raising more than $87,000 for the College in 2017. Chaired by SCFF Director Pam Swain, this “do not miss” event is scheduled for February 24, 2018.

Evening Under the Stars
Held annually at SCF Venice for the past 29 years, Evening Under the Stars is set to mark its 30th anniversary. In 2017, the concert in Venice attracted nearly 2,000 guests and raised $74,000 to benefit student programs.

Grants
Library & Learning Center:
- Selby Foundation, $125,000 for Library & Learning Center Knowledge Commons
- The Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, $100,000 for Library & Learning Center Visualization Theatre
- Ralph S. French Charitable Foundation, $50,000 for Library & Learning Center Creativity Studio
- Together Manatee, $25,000 for Library & Learning Center Community Room
- Huisking Family Foundation, $5,000

Program, Non-Designated and Other Support
- Anonymous, $157,000
- Mosaic Company, $150,000
- Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, $60,000
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation, $10,000
- Plantation Community Foundation, $2,800
- Sam’s Club, $2,500
- Walmart, $2,500
- Community Foundation of Sarasota Immediate Impact Grant, $2,284

In gratitude to the donors, advisors, and board members of the following foundations for their continued support of scholarships for deserving local SCF students:
- The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation
- Community Foundation of Sarasota County
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation

New Scholarships
- DTC Engineering Opportunity Scholarship, for STEM-related Pathway Students
- Brown Family Foundation, books for deserving students who qualify and for students that demonstrate financial need
- Veteran of Foreign Wars, for books, tuition, fees and living expenses
- Linda Aitken Scholarship, for workforce degrees leading to local job opportunities
- David Skinner Gerstenberger Memorial BSN Scholarship
Thank you, your help has made a difference in my life, and I will do my best to live up to your confidence in me. Once again, thank you for supporting the students of State College of Florida. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

Malak

Thank you Volunteers!

The State College of Florida Foundation is grateful for the dozens of volunteers who assist with fundraising, serve at our various events, and help in other areas. Your commitment to helping us means we can commit more time and resources to serving SCF students and the community.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sundays at Neel
The Foundation presents the annual Sundays at Neel entertainment series at the SCF Neel Performing Arts Center. We rely on volunteers to usher, assist with parking, and greet patrons. New volunteers are always needed and welcome!

The Foundation would like to thank the 2016-17 ushers and greeters who assisted with new parking instructions and helped patrons have a pleasant SCF Neel Performing Arts center experience. Thank you for volunteering!

Doris Dutton
Karen Goldstein
Emily Hutching
Jacqueline Johnson
Arlene Jurkscheit
Lorraine Manas
Bernadette Mickle
Katie Moening
Brenda Peake
Paula and Ray Pulkulski
Oay and Les Salomon
Woody Smith

Scholarship Readers
Volunteers are needed to read SCF Scholarship applications. The Foundation receives more than 1,000 applications annually. Volunteers help us assess and compile necessary information which in turn helps us award hundreds of scholarships to deserving SCF students every year.

Fundraising Event Volunteers
Our signature fundraising events wouldn’t be possible without dedicated volunteers. We need your help before and during the event to assist with many logistics that help make Foundation events such a resounding success.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the SCF Foundation, contact our main office at 941-752-5390.
Alumni Message

This edition of Inspire is dedicated to every one of you who have made the College successful through 60 years of progress — and the stories you tell are inspiring.

The College is working to make a difference in Bradenton, Sarasota and Venice. Through our partnerships with other colleges, our workforce programs, training and events designed specifically for our alumni, such as an outing with the Tampa Bay Rays where SCF alumni got to hang out with fellow alumnus and Cleveland Indians Pitcher Nick Goody, we are having a meaningful impact.

That’s true of you, our alumni, as well. Whether it’s in education, government, the military, the movies or sports, you all have had a huge impact on the global community. The stories of just a handful of alumni in this issue have a recurring theme: This College made a difference and helped them choose how they would contribute to the community. Caring teachers and challenging classes helped make these alumni who they are today. Just take a look at our cover story on the Florida College Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award winner, our own Tessa Angelo Suplee!

Over the past 18 months, I have had fun learning about our wonderful alumni and I look forward to learning about you. And it’s not just me, the SCF Foundation wants to be able to tell every alumni story. The Foundation welcomes your ideas and advice to help SCF flourish.

Sincerely,

Erica Wuorio
Alumni Coordinator

Please reach out to me at wuorioe@SCF.edu or 941-752-5391, or stop by the Foundation office on the Bradenton campus.
Darlene Ava Williams got some of her best advice while taking theatre classes at Manatee Community College (MCC), now State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.

M. Bernice Pepke, her theatre professor, offered a simple lesson: Be nice. But Williams realized while working in Hollywood it was one of the most important lessons she learned.

“Mrs. Pepke said make sure you are nice to everyone even the P.A.s and the background people,” Williams said. “She told the class, ‘You don’t know if that person who is a P.A. or background artist today, may be a producer tomorrow.’”

Williams said the lesson has served her well. She has performed in more than 100 films and television shows over her 23-year career as a stunt woman, and has seen first-hand how people who start out in the background can become decision-makers.

Her credits include filling in on stunts for Claire Danes, Kate Hudson, Helena Bonham Carter, Kelly Preston, Patricia Arquette, Bo Derek, Britney Spears and Pamela Anderson. She trained Reese Witherspoon on stunts for her role in “Water for Elephants.” She has performed stunts in “Furious 7,” of the Fast and Furious franchise, “Mr. and Mrs. Smith,” “Collateral,” “Hulk,” “Planet of the Apes” and “Big Fish.”

She commutes between Bradenton, where she lives, and Los Angeles, Atlanta, Louisiana and anywhere else her career might take her. She grew up in Sarasota and Bradenton as part of a six-generation circus family. Her grandfather and father, famous elephant trainer Rex Williams, are both on the Ring of Fame at St. Armand’s Circle. Her mother was a fourth-generation aerialist and taught her daughter. Williams performed with the circus until she was 20 and then ran away to join Manatee Community College (MCC). She waited tables to work her way through college, but when she joined the theatre department she said she found her home.

She eventually transferred to Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Miami to get her bachelor’s degree, but she said her best memories of college are from MCC.

“Once I joined the theatre department, I felt more a part of the school,” Williams said. She forged friendships she still has today and took away lessons she still carries with her decades later.

“I can’t remember any professors at FAU but I remember my professors at MCC.”

While she was at FAU, she also worked for the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) and hoped to one day work in children’s programming. She set out for Los Angeles in 1991 after graduating and the circus ended up pulling her back in, sort of. She was struggling to break into children’s television when old connections from the circus industry who had become stunt coordinators asked her if she wanted to work. She resisted at first, but then as her student loan payments were coming due, she asked, “How much does it pay?” She realized she could quickly pay off her small student debt. Her career took off in 1993 as she got work as a stunt woman for MTV, television and films.

She said most stunt people are not thrill seekers and that includes her. She rehearses every role, knows every move and is always careful to avoid injury. As a stunt double for Pamela Anderson she had to wear six-inch pink platform shoes in nearly every scene and run and jump in them. Eventually she took them home so she could wear them during all of her workouts. She also had to jump off the deck of the Queen Elizabeth II and practiced first by jumping from a high dive, calculating how long it would take and how she should hit the water.

Williams’ worst injury as a stunt woman was in a feather dusting accident. In one film, she had to fall from a second floor and land on the first floor, going in between a narrow space. She practiced keeping her arms close and making sure she fell just right, but just as they were about to shoot the scene, someone came up and handed her a feather duster. “You’re supposed to be dusting when you fall,” she was told. She took the feather duster and as she fell, pulled her arms tight into her body, whacked herself in the face and split her lip.

Williams recently moved back to Bradenton with her daughter, Ava. After performing in roles in Ang Lee’s “Hulk” and in “Desperate Housewives,” the teenager is more interested in horses than Hollywood. When Williams and her daughter drive anywhere near SCF, mom makes a point of telling her daughter about her alma mater. She has encouraged her to attend the college and has suggested dual enrollment while she is attending high school.

Williams reminds her daughter why she loves the College, even though, “It’s so grown-up now.”

“I’m still friends with quite a few people I went to school with,” Williams said. “I made more connections at MCC and stayed in contact with more people.”
Michael Rio decided to go to Manatee Junior College (MJC) because he didn’t really know what else to do when he graduated from high school.

“I liked sports and athletics and a friend said he’d like to be a P.E. teacher and that sounded fun,” Rio said. He had an uncle who had graduated from college and took him to visit the University of South Florida when he was in kindergarten, but college wasn’t something his parents pushed him to do.

“MJC was small enough that the instructors knew you and gave you individual attention,” Rio said. “They wanted you to succeed. It’s not like some bigger universities where some professors brag about how many students they fail.”

Rio, a director of elementary education for the Manatee County School District, has modeled what he learned. He has worked with teachers throughout his career to make sure they are successful as well. He has made sure he knows his students and recognizes them in the community.

One of his MJC professors was baseball coach Tim Hill, who proved to be an example of the kind of teacher Rio wanted to be.

“He instilled in me that you can have fun teaching. He valued people,” Rio said. “When I saw him out in the community, he knew who I was.”

Rio worked full-time through college at Robby’s Sporting Goods and said he was fortunate enough to work with Bill and H.L. Penny Robinson, who taught him a work ethic.

He was able to attend MJC tuition-free during his second year after he got a job working in the athletics department with Coach Dan Ramer. He continued working for Robby’s as well. He took a year off from school to save money before transferring to the University of South Florida in Tampa to finish his education degree. He still planned to teach physical education at the time, but two other influences helped change his track to elementary education and to make him a leader.

Rio worked with Youth for Christ, where he learned a lot about creating a fun dynamic in education. His mentor in the Manatee School district, Tim Kolbe, inspired him to go into leadership.

“After two years he told me he saw great leadership potential in me,” Rio said. “He encouraged me to get my master’s degree.”

It turned out Kolbe was right. After seven years of teaching he was named assistant principal at Palmetto Elementary School, before becoming principal. He was selected in 2003 to lead the new Virgil Mills Elementary School.

He was named a director of elementary education and spent much of his first summer visiting as many elementary schools as possible.

His goal is to model people like Tim Hill.

“I want to provide the best possible education for all of Manatee County’s children and to support and value all of the employees,” he said. “Every person’s job is important and it takes every person to make us successful.”

“MJC was small enough that the instructors knew you and gave you individual attention, they wanted you to succeed; It’s not like some bigger universities where some professors brag about how many students they fail.”
Presents the 4th Annual

Avenues To The Future

Saturday, February 24, 2018
5:30 p.m.
State College of Florida
Bradenton Campus

Tickets $150
SCF-Foundation.org

For sponsorship information
Contact Erica Wuorio, Alumni Coordinator
941-752-5391 or wuorioe@SCF.edu
Thanks to You, We are SCF!

SCF’s new Library & Learning Center is slated to open in February 2018…and you’re invited

SCF’s new Library & Learning Center is designed to be a community-engaged space, with rooms dedicated to events and public access to the library’s resources. Did you know that you can use your Sarasota or Manatee County Library card at SCF? The public is encouraged to take advantage of all the resources the Library & Learning Center will have to offer including books, videos, access to research journals and more!

The lobby will include an indoor amphitheater, while a creative commons will host a variety of technologies, including a media production studio, digital media editing and sound recording rooms. A Teaching and Visualization Theater is designed for high-impact presentations, interactive learning in small groups and comparative social computing.

An SCF Fab Lab will allow individuals to create smart devices tailored to local or personal needs. The lab will foster greater collaboration with local businesses and the potential to be connected to labs internationally.

The state has funded $17.68 million for construction of this important community resource. The SCF Foundation has raised more than $1 million to bring the technology to life.

SCF President
Dr. Carol F. Probstfeld,
Board of Trustees, Foundation Board of Trustees and staff tour the new Library & Learning Center.
Retired Lt. Col. Tessa Angelo Suplee has been on a mission to serve, having helped to save the lives of hundreds of U.S. Military members serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

For her work, she received more than a dozen major awards and decorations, including the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device. She also has been named the Association of Florida College’s Lifetime Achievement Award winner for the Leroy Collins Distinguished Alumni Awards. She retired this year as a Lieutenant Colonel with 735 flight hours at age 68 — the oldest person working in uniform on a base. She also volunteered to go to Haiti to help the people living there after an earthquake ravaged the island nation.

Suplee received her nursing degree in 1982 from State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) when it was Manatee Junior College (MJC) and was working in local hospitals while striving to become a military flight nurse.

When she started as a nursing student, Suplee was 28 and in a failing marriage. She graduated in 1975 from what is now Suncoast Technical College and started working at Sarasota Memorial Hospital’s cardiac unit. Three years later she applied to nursing school at MJC, because she knew she could do what the RNs were doing. A single mother, she worked weekends in the emergency department while taking classes. She says the nursing program at SCF was one of her best life experiences, “only I didn’t realize it at the time.”

“I gained the self-confidence and discipline I needed and learned I could set myself up to do anything I wanted. I was on a mission for independence. The nursing instructors were tough but even. I came to realize they weren’t just teaching me nursing, but how to cope with other people in the work force.”

She said she wondered why as a nursing student she was required to take a speech class. “Funny thing is, I give more speeches than I ever imagined. Obviously this program was right on.”

Those challenges and successes helped her prepare for her career in the military and the even bigger challenges she would face there. When she was in the military she had to return to school again. This time she had to learn technology. When she went to MJC everything was done on typewriters. By the time she went to school in the military, there were computers and Power Point. She was among more than 200 captains studying for a promotion. She was in a class of 20 students, pilots, nurses, attorneys and teachers and she was the only one who didn’t have a bachelor’s degree. She still received the coveted Distinguished Graduate award.

Her toughest challenges, though, were on deployment to combat zones. She went to Desert Storm and Desert Shield when her youngest was in high school. She was gone for long periods of time.

“The most profound thing I remember is when my boots touched the ground in a new combat zone, I would look around the compound and see the hundreds of young troops who volunteered to fight for our freedom. As a mother, a nurse, my heart would sink because I knew some wouldn’t come home,” she said.

“Work harder than the person next to you. Don't even think that you can't do it or go there.”

As a combat nurse she worked next to the tent that received wounded service people from the combat zones by helicopter. Once the patients were patched up, she would load them on a plane and take them to a well-equipped hospital in a safer place. Her job required that she know the physiology of altitude and what additional trauma could happen because of the altitude and work to prevent it. She was always armed in case they ever came under fire.

She believes she was made to handle such challenges and she said everyone has their own talents and should learn to recognize them and use them.

Her advice to SCF nursing students: “Work harder than the person next to you. Don’t even think that you can’t do it or go there,” she said. “Even try something different from your ordinary self. I challenged myself and received my BA in Business to be informative in something other than nursing. You can surprise yourself.”
For Catherine Kuhlman, serving on the State College of Florida Foundation Board of Directors is all about family. She and her family have been long-time supporters of SCF, and most of her family has even taken classes at the College. Serving on the board has offered her the opportunity to give back in a meaningful way and to expand the Foundation’s role in the community.

During her tenure Kuhlman has been able to help develop a more active and engaged board and increase the number of volunteers participating in activities such as reading scholarship applications and fundraising events.

“We have a very engaged board that works hard at what they are doing, volunteering their time and efforts to raise money.”

An owner of Turbine Weld Inc., she got her own start as a volunteer for Evening Under the Stars and raising money through the Bon Secours Hospital Board to endow a nursing department chair and purchase equipment for the nursing school. As a volunteer she came to most board meetings and offered reports on their activities.

Kuhlman’s husband served on the board before she joined in 2006. She also took classes at SCF and one day while in a class, she looked up and saw her mother on the campus. It turned out that she was taking a class as well. Her son attended SCF and so did both of her stepsons.

“I’ve seen the College go through a lot of changes,” Kuhlman said. “It always seems to succeed. It’s a wonderful institution for our community. It helps so many people. Our students aren’t all like my kids going in right after high school. We have a lot of adult students changing their careers and lives.”

Kuhlman said there are many things to celebrate at SCF and she was thrilled to be the Foundation president through SCF’s 60th Anniversary celebration which was highlighted at the Foundation’s Avenues to the Future and Evening Under the Stars fundraisers.

Meet the Board:

**Dianne Anderson** - an associate with ReMax Platinum Realty, joined the board in May. She grew up in Orlando and went to Furman University in Greenville, S.C. She serves on the executive committee of the YMCA and volunteers as a Y Angel, providing outreach, support and funding to children in need.

**Lisa Bristow** - graduated with a Master of Accounting from the University of Florida in 1982 and began her career with CS&L CPA’s as a staff accountant. She was admitted as an owner/principal in 1992. She also is a board member for the United Way of Manatee County serving on the financial committee.

**Dom DiMaio** - is on SCF’s Board of Trustees and serves as liaison to the SCF Foundation. He is the President & CEO of Synovus Bank of Florida and is passionate about causes helping children.

**Michael Fuller** - is Board Vice President and Chair of the Asset Management Committee for the SCF Foundation. A Wealth Management Advisor with Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company, he holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and Finance degree from the University of Georgia. He also serves as a trustee on the Palmetto Police Pension Board.
Cassandra Holmes - joined SCF Foundation’s staff as the Executive Director in 2014. She is a graduate of Santa Fe Community College, the University of Florida, and the University of Central Florida.

Robert Klingbeil - is a native of Florida and has resided and practiced law in Venice since 1983. He received bachelor and law degrees from the University of Florida. He opened his own law firm in Venice in 1993.

Dr. Carol Probstfeld - is the sixth president of SCF. She is a member of the Council of Presidents of the Florida College System and serves on the board of the Florida College System Risk Management Consortium. From Whittier, Calif., she received an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership from Argosy University.

Barbara Najmy - a lifelong resident of the Sarasota area, joined the board in May. She has a diverse professional background, including real estate, marketing, high-end retail, sales and management and new home construction. She and her husband, Joe, are longtime board members of the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund.

Dorothy Korszen - received her law degree from the University of Florida and is Director at Farr Law Firm. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration, real estate, and corporate law.

Robert Klingbeil - is a native of Florida and has resided and practiced law in Venice since 1983. He received bachelor and law degrees from the University of Florida. He opened his own law firm in Venice in 1993.

Robert Klingbeil - is a native of Florida and has resided and practiced law in Venice since 1983. He received bachelor and law degrees from the University of Florida. He opened his own law firm in Venice in 1993.

Chris Romine - an SCF alumnus attended the University of South Florida, graduating in 1984 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Management. He also is a graduate of The Graduate School of Banking at LSU. He is a senior vice president and managing director at Northern Trust.

Dorothy Korszen - received her law degree from the University of Florida and is Director at Farr Law Firm. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration, real estate, and corporate law.

Dorothy Korszen - received her law degree from the University of Florida and is Director at Farr Law Firm. Her practice focuses on estate planning, probate and trust administration, real estate, and corporate law.

Lois Lucck - received her master’s degree in teaching English from Teacher’s College, Columbia University. She taught middle and high school for 33 years in Chatham, N.J., before retiring and moving to Sarasota in 2010. Her mission as a teacher was to get students to college.

Jennifer Michell - has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois, and is a retired Certified Financial Planner. She volunteers with Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center, Girls, Inc. and Florida Studio Theatre.

Jennifer Michell - has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois, and is a retired Certified Financial Planner. She volunteers with Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center, Girls, Inc. and Florida Studio Theatre.

Mark Morin - is a retired IBM executive who earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Rhode Island. He devotes much of his time to educate and motivate underprivileged youth and young adults so they can realize their potential.

Mark Morin - is a retired IBM executive who earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Rhode Island. He devotes much of his time to educate and motivate underprivileged youth and young adults so they can realize their potential.

Victoria Stultz - received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Northern Kentucky University in Alexandria, Kentucky. Beyond her career in selling real estate, she serves on the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, South County Tiger Bay Club and is a member of the Venice High School Advisory Council and Boosters.

Pamela Swain - chair of the committee for Avenues to the Future, was raised in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. and retired to Siesta Key in 2007. She has a Bachelor of Science in Education and taught school in Virginia Beach, VA. Her involvement with SCF brings together her dedication to education and desire to help Manatee and Sarasota county residents improve their lives.
When Dot Garland enrolled at Manatee Junior College (MJC), the school was just five years old. Garland, known as Dottie Thompson back then, joined the music department. She had been playing violin since she was five, but there was no orchestra, so she took up clarinet during her time at the College.

Garland said MJC offered her the ability to pay for college. She remembers many people in the area being excited about MJC and what it had to offer the community.

While the College was still growing, the programs were rigorous. But when Garland transferred to Florida State University, she said she and other MJC students had to prove themselves.

“The university frowned on junior colleges. They made me take all of these exams in the music department and I passed them all with flying colors,” Garland said. Music professors “Charlie Johnson and Rita Bullock really prepared us in music.”

Garland and several other MJC students tested out of many of the music classes at FSU and the university finally waived the tests for MJC graduates, accepting all of their transfer credits. She said MJC’s reputation in FSU’s music department was “a testament” to Bullock and Johnson.

Garland couldn’t wait to get back to Manatee County so she could help create a strong orchestra program. She took classes through the summer and graduated in a year. She had performed in the Youth Orchestra Program, an offshoot of the Florida West Coast Symphony, when it was formed and planned to teach youth in that orchestra. She also wanted to cultivate the next generation of musicians in the school district.

She eventually became education director for the Youth Orchestra, which practiced at MJC. For its 30th anniversary she worked with the youth to raise $30,000, one penny at a time, after creating a campaign to have kids donate 30 miles of pennies.

“"The university frowned on junior colleges. They made me take all of these exams in the music department and I passed them all with flying colors. Music professors Charlie Johnson and Rita Bullock really prepared us in music."
Studio for the Performing Arts to Offer Students and Community Greater Access to Intimate Performances and Acoustic Perfection

SCF’s Studio for the Performing Arts is designed to be an inviting space for students and the community. The new $3.5 million studio will offer intimate performances for the community to enjoy and deeper learning experiences for students in practice rooms and recital areas with ideal acoustics. The nearly 6,000-square-foot recital and concert hall will include a grand piano, performance lighting, a cutting-edge projector and sound system with recording capability. It will seat 175 visitors for concerts and shows. The room will be used as the primary rehearsal space for musical theatre, choral and vocal classes. It also will be ideal for SCF’s master classes, featuring visiting artists, and recitals.

A new dance studio will offer opportunities for students to study movement and staging. The nearly 1,100-square-foot-studio includes barres, mirrored walls with retractable curtains, moveable seating and a floor designed specifically for dance. The new facility will include space to store costumes and sets vital to programs and performances at SCF, 1,620-square-feet of practice rooms and a 540-square-foot music library for the College’s instrument studies programs. An instrument storage room will allow SCF to provide professional instruments to students who might not otherwise be able to afford them, offering SCF’s music program a recruiting advantage and students an opportunity to perform at their next level.

The Studio for the Performing Arts is being developed to support the growth of music, art and theatrical programs, and, as the largest community performing arts center in Manatee County, to provide an outreach to populations with limited access to such amenities.

SCF’s music program historically has strong ties to the community and this new studio will continue to build on that relationship. Music students venture out into the community where they perform for civic groups, non-profits and professional organizations. SCF’s Bradenton Symphony Orchestra, for example, includes locally renowned musicians who offer their experience to students, while sharing their talents with the community.

The SCF Foundation is now working to provide the resources to build this premier community resource and you can be a part of this venture, including the potential option to have your gift matched.

For more information, visit SCF-Foundation.org. To discuss naming rights or ways to become a benefactor, contact Barbara Bourgoin at bourgob@SCF.edu or 941-752-5398.
Maury Kolchakian grew up in Myakka City in the 1960s. He lived a rural life amongst the orange groves and never thought too much about a different kind of life. He attended a two-room school house for most of his education until he was bussed to Southeast High School where he got involved in Interact, the precursor to the Key Club.

When he graduated high school he planned to continue living in the house where he grew up, picking oranges and maybe getting a job on a road crew. His Southeast High guidance counselor, Gladys West, had other ideas for his future. She told him as president of Interact, the South Manatee Rotary Club had awarded him a scholarship to Manatee Junior College (MJC) and that he was required to attend.

Not knowing any better, Kolchakian signed up for classes and drove from Myakka City to MJC the first Monday of the Fall semester. His first class was with Dr. George Spears, an English professor, who gave the students an assignment to write something about their lives. After class Dr. Spears asked the reluctant freshman to stay behind. His story was powerful. Dr. Spears was stunned at how Kolchakian had grown up. Kolchakian was surprised at Spears’ reaction.

“If not for him, who knows what would have happened,” Kolchakian says today.

When he went to visit his grandmother and his cousins teased him about going to college, his grandmother would defend him telling him, “Don’t let them worry you about that college stuff, you’ll still be able to get a job when you finish up with that.”

Dr. Spears enveloped his student in the MJC community. He became his mentor and his supporter. He found help for him wherever he could. He helped him get a part-time work-study job in the English Department and hired him to do yard work at his house. He told his neighbors about Kolchakian and they hired him for odd jobs as well. The Whitfield neighborhood even set up a scholarship for Kolchakian.

Kolchakian had two other important introductions at MJC. He met his wife Diana in a class and says he has been forever grateful to the College. His religious studies professor, Joe Marsh, even later married the couple. Dr. Spears introduced Kolchakian to George Greene, a philanthropist who helped pay for Kolchakian’s second year at MJC. The sophomore wrote him a thank you note and Greene was so impressed — he told the student it was the first thank you note he had received from a student — he paid for his junior and senior years at Florida State University after he transferred from MJC.

Kolchakian excelled with all of the support and his interest in learning. While at MJC he was president of Phi Theta Kappa, on the Committee of 20 and won the Joe Fant Award for leadership from the Kiwanis Club. He remembers Dr. Samuel Neel, the college president, driving him to the lunch.

Even after he transferred Spears continued to keep track of his student. Dr. Spears and Dr. Wilson Wetzler, president of the College at the time, attended his graduation from FSU.

Kolchakian went on to law school at FSU and ended up working on behalf of children and elderly people who had been victims of crime. He started his career working for Governors Bob Graham and Mel Martinez.

Kolchakian is an active alumnus with FSU and set up a scholarship there to help working mothers. He had long wanted to give back to MJC, now State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) and when the Foundation reached out to him, he immediately set up a student scholarship in honor of Dr. Spears and his wife Sally.

The Dr. George and Sally Spears Scholarship is for students pursuing an Associate in Arts at SCF “because Dr. Spears was big on humanities.” The student must have a 3.0 grade point average, but there are few restrictions on the scholarship because Kolchakian didn’t want it to be too exclusive.
Meet Brendon Little, Chicago Cubs 1st round pick in the 2017 Major League Baseball draft.

#SCFProud
The baseball tradition at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) is so well-known it helped entice Brantley Bell from Ole Miss to Bradenton. The experience lived up to its promise. After a year at SCF, Bell said he was a better player and a better person. The Cincinnati Reds noticed his skills on the ball field and drafted him in the 11th round of the Major League Draft in 2015.

“I heard Tim Hill was a great coach,” Bell said. “He was more than I ever expected.”

Hill was not only a great coach, Bell said, he was a great man and a great leader. “He is strong in his faith,” Bell said. “He taught us to be men as well as great players.”

Bell, who played shortstop and second base for SCF, said his time at the College was so good that if he had it to do all over again he would have come to SCF right out of high school and worked with Hill for his freshman year too. He said there wasn’t much difference in the competition on the baseball field between The University of Mississippi, a Division 1 College, and SCF’s team, and the experience in the classroom was superior because he got to know his professors and could go up and ask questions after class.

Brantley’s brother Brock Bell, who was in high school in Phoenix, came to visit him and watched him play. He liked the atmosphere and what his brother had to say about the team, so he is now on the roster at SCF. “Ultimately, it was his first choice,” Brantley Bell said. Their dad, Cincinnati Reds baseball coach and former MLB player Jay Bell is proud of his sons and their choices.

Jay Bell introduced his sons to SCF. He knew about the College from his time with the Pittsburgh Pirates. During that time he built a relationship with Coach Tim Hill Sr. and said he had a lot of respect for the program. When Brantley told him he wanted to transfer from Ole Miss to a Florida college, Jay Bell brought him to SCF and to Chipola College for a workout.

They visited SCF first. “Brantley had an opportunity to workout for Tim (Hill II), Barry Batson and Dave Moates,” Jay Bell said. “We really enjoyed the time with them. The conversation with the three was really, really good and we walked away having had a great experience.”

Jay Bell’s time in Bradenton with the Pirates also meant that the family had several friends in Bradenton and Sarasota who could serve as resources for Brantley. His decision was practically made before he left Bradenton. He thrived at SCF and made a lifetime of friends.

“I’ll eventually be back for alumni weekends, those guys, my teammates and coaches, had a big impact on me. I still keep in contact with a bunch of my teammates. It was the best team I’ve been on.”

Since Brantley has been playing professional baseball with the Cincinnati Reds organization, Jay has watched his son grow even further, facing career struggles head on and learning to overcome them. He’s looking forward to watching Brock at SCF as both an athlete and a student.

Brantley Bell, who is playing in the minor leagues with the Daytona Tortugas, admits it’s not easy. He typically has three or four home games followed by weeks on the road, “sleeping in a lot of hotels and on a lot of bus trips.”

Still, he feels grounded by his experience at SCF.

“I’ll eventually be back for alumni weekends,” Bell said. “Those guys, my teammates and coaches, had a big impact on me. I still keep in contact with a bunch of my teammates. It was the best team I’ve been on.”
State College of Florida’s athletics have a long tradition of excellence. Other than alumni, faculty and staff, many are unaware of the College’s robust athletic programs. In addition to having five intercollegiate sports teams, a full complement of intramural sports such as bowling and kayaking are offered throughout the academic year.

Another widely unknown factor is that the current gymnasium was built in 1959 and was mostly designed to serve men and smaller crowds. Over the years, accommodations have been made to meet the needs of our women athletes and our expanding programs.

Today, an exciting effort is underway to improve our facilities and the SCF Foundation is currently raising funds for a new 40,348-square-foot Health and Human Performance Center.

The new Center will fully accommodate our male and female student athletes as well as the College community. Imagine a facility that offers a full-size gym to promote wellness as well as your traditional gymnasium settings, including team rooms (home and away), training facilities, coach offices, classrooms and concession and vending areas. Whether you’re rooting for the SCF Manatees or the away team, you’ll find yourself swept away by the camaraderie and the “Friday Night Lights” feeling.

To learn more about the new Health and Human Performance Center, visit SCF-Foundation.org or call Barbara Bourgoin, 941-752-5398 or bourgob@SCF.edu

---

Check out our Manatees bragging rights!

**Baseball**
- 44 State Tournament Appearances
- 31 Conference Championships
- 10 District Championships
- 13 State Championships
- 10 JUCO World Series Appearances
- 1984-85 State Champions

**Softball**
- 6 Conference Championships
- 2005-2012 District Championships
- 14 Consecutive State/Region Tournament Appearances
- 2 National Tournament Appearances

**Basketball**
- 6 Conference Championships
- 2 Regional Championships
- 2 Suncoast Conference Tournament Championships
- 1984-85 State Champions

**Tennis**
- 2011 State/Region Runner Up
- 2012 State/Region Champion
- 2012 and 2014 National Runner Up

**Volleyball**
- 7 Conference Championships
- 1988 State Champions
- 2 National Tournament Appearances

Go to SCFManatees.com for game schedules and ticket information.
Evening Under The Stars 1988-2018

Celebrate Good Times...
C'mon

Saturday, April 7, 2018 - 6 p.m.
State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota
Venice Campus

Featuring The Venice Symphony

Online ticket sales start February 8, 2018
50,000 Graduates

6 Baccalaureate Degrees
28 Workforce Degrees
28 Certificates

5 intercollegiate sports teams.

6th consecutive year as an “A” school for the Collegiate School.

$1.6 MILLION in scholarships awarded in 2016 to SCF students.

#1 A Model UN team from SCF won the Outstanding Delegation Team Award.

HIGH PERFORMING
SCF Collegiate School has been recognized as one of the best schools in the country and a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Baseball team qualified for post-season play for 21 consecutive years.

98% license exam passing rate for the SCF Nursing Program.

1,000 student athletes have gone on to play at the university or pro level.

SCF’s Brain Bowl team Firebird claimed 1st place in the FCS Activities Association regional tournament.

SCF students comprised 40% of all-state orchestra musicians.
Dear Maury and Diana Kolchakian and SCFF Selection Committee,

Words cannot express my deep gratitude for your generous help and selecting me to be one of the recipients of the Dr. George and Sally Spears scholarship. I am more than glad to accept this offer, but at the same time I feel as if I cannot thank you enough. I sincerely appreciate all your support!

I am honestly very thrilled with this wonderful opportunity of being a recipient of this scholarship. There are many days that I feel like I cannot reach my bright future because I do not have the income to support my dreams, but it is because of people like you who continue to support my aspirations and reach out a helping hand with funds. This scholarship makes me very hopeful that I would not have to struggle as much with finances to accomplish my goal of graduating from the State College of Florida with my AS in Nursing. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for being so open-hearted and contributing to my vision of becoming an RN. May all be well with you and I wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Lileeza
SCF Foundation thanks our most generous donors who, since inception, have given to help us educate and inspire our students.*

SCF Foundation President’s Circle Members
Annette Dignam
Thomas Dignam
Tana Sandefur (deceased)
John W. Schaub, III (1968 Alumnus)
Nelda H. Thompson

Individuals
Lela Mae Abbott Trust
Anonymous
Beverly Beall and R. Kemp Riechmann
Raymond D. Cheydleur
Max M. Corzilius
Annette and Thomas Dignam
Harvey F. and Florence H. Girvin Trust
The Esther M. Mertz Trust
Cecil J. Newton Family Trust
Edward K. Roberts
Betty Jane Steele Trust
Elmer J. Trulaske Trust
Mazie E. Ulmer
Joseph P. Vona
John A. Weichel

Foundations
Edmund and Elizabeth Campbell Foundation
Elizabeth Eaton Foundation
Florida College System Foundation
Ruth M. Foy Charitable Foundation
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Bradenton Foundation, Inc.
Kiwanis Club of Longboat Key Foundation, Inc.
Evelyn Timm Koenig Foundation
Manatee Community Foundation
Manatee Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Foundation
Raymond E. Mason Foundation
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Scheidel Foundation
The William G. Selby and Marie Selby Foundation
Suncoast Credit Union Foundation

Business Corporations
Blake Medical Center
Englewood Hospital and Medical Center
Freedom Village Memorial Scholarship Program
Hospital Volunteers of Venice
Key Agency, Inc.
Michael Saunders & Company
Mosaic Company
Palm Aire Women’s Club
Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc.
Sarasota Memorial Health Care System
SEI Investment Company
Tropicana Products, Inc.
Venice Regional Bayfront Health
Village on the Isle
Women’s Resource Center of Sarasota

*List as of September 30, 2017 and includes most generous donors from 1978.
The SCF Foundation thanks the generous sponsors who made this past year’s events successful.

2017 Annual Scholarship Luncheon

Save the Date - Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Save the Date - Saturday, February 24, 2018

Save the Date - Saturday, April 7, 2018
Firkins

Proud Supporter of:

STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
MANATEE-SARASOTA

Visit Us Today at Firkins.com

Located at:
2700 1st Street Bradenton, FL 34208
1-800-FIRKINS
What do you want to be when you grow up?

Help the next software developer Bill, artist Georgia, film director Steven, foreman Bob, entrepreneur Warren or nurse Anna achieve their dream.

Invest in our community’s professionals one graduate at a time...

Investments can be made in the form of recurring or one-time donations, equipment, supplies, and/or scholarships to help students reach their graduation milestone. No gift is too small.

Contact Barbara Bourgoin, 941-752-5398 or bourgob@SCF.edu