In person with Caleb Mills and Lacee Lane

Caleb Mills and Lacee Lane have a lot in common. They come from multi-generational Levy County families, they were active in Future Farmers of America at Chiefland High School, and they both began college at the CF Levy Center.

In May 2014, Mills became the first CF student to begin at the Levy Center and graduate with a bachelor’s degree. In December 2014, Lane will graduate with her Bachelor of Applied Science in Business and Organizational Management with a specialization in Agribusiness Management, adding CF Alumni to the list of things the couple has in common.

“We both chose CF because we wanted to stay in Levy County. I received a CF Foundation scholarship right out of high school, so in a way, I've always felt like CF chose me.” – Lacee Lane

“CF was our first choice and it was a good one.” – Caleb Mills
On the Cover
The future home of the CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus north of Chiefland is bounded on the west by Nature Coast State Trail and is covered with mature trees on gently rolling hills.

Learn more about the new CF Levy Campus on page 6.

Connection
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Publisher
Lois Brauckmuller

Editors
Staci Biondini
Lois Brauckmuller

Writers
Diana Barge
Staci Biondini
Jen Boys
Rachel Horne
Chris Knife
Traci Mason
Linda Peek

Photography
Diana Barge
Staci Biondini
Jen Boys
Berry Davis III
Kathy Morse

Graphic Design
Nick Iannone

Administrative Support
Sandy Welch

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My View

Patriotism and pride run deep at the College of Central Florida, and I’m not just talking about the fact that we are the Patriots. At CF we love and support our college as strongly as we love and support our country.

CF is consistently named a top military-friendly school, and we now have a special place on the Ocala Campus for our veteran students to socialize and receive extra support. We even have a Patriot Pup.

On Veteran’s Day, the Cherrywood Veteran’s Club presented CF with a service dog in training. The dog, named Patriot, is being sponsored in the college’s name while he is trained at the Lowell Correctional Facility as part of WOOF, Women Offering Obedience and Friendship. When Patriot completes his training, he will be given to a wounded service man or woman.

In this issue of Connection, we also focus on Levy County, where we will soon break ground for the CF Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus. Funding for a campus has been a long time in coming, and we are prepared to transform lives and make CF the first choice for quality higher education in Levy County. Enjoy this issue of CF Connection.

James Henningsen, Ed.D.
CF President
New home for veterans

The college celebrated the grand opening of the CF Patriot Center for Veterans Sept. 11, following a 9/11 remembrance ceremony. Established to serve veteran students and their families, the center, located on the Ocala Campus in Building 11, offers a venue for studying and fellowship, advising, mental health counseling, a small library, food pantry and more. Last year, more than 500 CF students received Veterans Administration benefits. In October, CF was once again designated as a Military Friendly institution by Victory Media. The designation ranks CF as among the top 20 percent of schools nationwide that deliver the best experience for military students.

QEP topic chosen

The CF Quality Enhancement Plan is in its next phase. The District Board of Trustees approved the topic at its August meeting. The plan addresses student success and persistence over the first 15 credit hours. The topic was chosen after extensive input from college stakeholders. The project aims to increase the number of students who complete the first 15 credit hours through enhanced academic support services and faculty engagement. The QEP is a big part of the re-accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Attorney joins leadership team

Robert Batsel Jr. joined the college leadership team in August as general counsel and director of governmental relations. Batsel, a Marion County native, previously served as an attorney with McClellan & Batsel, a law firm in Ocala. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida and Juris Doctor from Florida Coastal School of Law. Batsel and his wife, Brittany, have a daughter.

Journey into Reading

More than 700 children and 300 families attended the third annual “Journey Into Reading” children’s literacy event Sept. 27. Students in the Bachelor of Science in Early Education program coordinated the event, which featured children’s book author and illustrator Mike Boldt, free books for children, as well as activities, parent resources and entertainment provided by 45 community organizations and businesses.

Splash of pink

The Ocala Campus Student Activities Board kicked off Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a 5K run-walk Oct. 5. In color run style, participants were splashed with pink paint throughout the course. The event, which was presented in partnership with Classic Rock WIND-FM and radio personality Hunter, a breast cancer survivor, raised more than $1,500 for Dunnellon-based Michelle-O-Gram, a nonprofit that assists women who cannot afford diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds or screenings.

Keeping up the pace

CF contributed more than $10,000 in the American Heart Association Heart Walk Oct. 4. District Board of Trustees member Cory Pool was the chairman of this year’s walk, which raised more than $260,000. “This will be the most we ever raised,” Pool said. “Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States and stroke No. 4. Everybody knows someone who has been affected by heart disease in some way or another.”
Take a journey into a realm beyond the known. College of Central Florida provides various activities to explore the arts through theatre, music and the visual arts, presented by students and professional groups. For a full listing of events, visit CF.edu.

Performing Arts Series

“Tomáš Kubínek: Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible”
▼ Dec. 6, Dassance Fine Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.
▼ Dec. 7, Citrus Learning and Conference Center, 3 p.m.

“Broadway’s Next Hit Musical”
▼ Jan. 24, Dassance Fine Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.
▼ Jan. 25, Citrus Learning and Conference Center, 3 p.m.

Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre Company
▼ Feb. 21, Dassance Fine Arts Center, 3 p.m.

Tickets are $6 for children age 12 and under.

Student Performances

▼ Nov. 21, CF Wind Symphony, 7:30 p.m., Dassance Fine Arts Center
▼ Nov. 22, CF Wind Symphony and CF Patriot Singers at 7:30 p.m., Dassance Fine Arts Center
▼ Dec. 4, CF Dance Ensemble at 7:30 p.m., Dassance Fine Arts Center
▼ Dec. 5, CF Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m., Dassance Fine Arts Center
▼ Dec. 7, CF Chamber Ensembles, 3 p.m., Appleton Museum of Art

Webber Gallery Exhibitions

▼ Through Dec. 6, Visual Artists’ Society “Best of the Season”
▼ Jan. 8-Feb 13, 2015, CF Faculty Exhibition
▼ Feb 26-March 27, “Long-distance Boyfriends and Other Optimisms in Digital Art”

Dental Assisting wins state, national awards

The college’s Dental Assisting program has won national and state best practices awards for its partnership with the Marion County Dental Clinic at the CF Hampton Center.

Adjunct instructor Jennifer Strickland, who worked as a dental assistant for 13 years before returning to CF three years ago to teach in the very program where she got her start, thinks the clinic is a great addition to CF’s robust Dental Assisting program.

“The clinic wasn’t here when I was a student,” said Strickland. “The clinic dentists are great at driving home key concepts like the importance of sterilization. Students today get plenty of practical experience.”

Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre Company

▼ Feb. 21, Dassance Fine Arts Center, 3 p.m.

Tickets are $6 for children age 12 and under.

What’s happening at CF

To purchase tickets, visit Tickets.cf.edu or call the Box Office at 352-873-5810. Learn about events at Appleton Museum of Art on page 12 or at AppletonMuseum.org. Visit CFPatriots.net for information about athletic events.
Dental Assisting wins state, national awards

In July, CF and the Marion County Dental Clinic received one of 22 national Model Practice Awards at the National Association of County and City Health Officials annual conference. In October, the program won an Association of Florida Colleges’ 2014 Chancellor’s Best Practice Award.

The Marion County Dental Clinic and the Dental Assisting program moved into the CF Hampton Center in 2003. The move allowed the clinic to expand from two cramped stations at the Marion County Health Department facility to eight treatment areas, plus room for other services at the Hampton Center.

While the clinic increases access to dental care for underserved populations, it provides invaluable hands-on training to students in the college’s Dental Assisting certificate and Associate in Science programs.

“It’s a wonderful experience for our students,” said Deanna Stentiford, associate dean of Health Sciences. “Not only do they get to assist the two clinic dentists with patients, but the very nature of the clinic establishes the importance of community service and giving back.”

The hands-on nature of the program is what brought CF alumna Kayla Brito back to the college this fall.

Adjunct instructor Jennifer Strickland, who worked as a dental assistant for 13 years before returning to CF three years ago to teach in the very program where she got her start, thinks the clinic is a great addition to CF’s robust Dental Assisting program.

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The college’s Dental Assisting program has won national and state best practices awards for its partnership with the Marion County Dental Clinic at the CF Hampton Center.

“I enrolled in the Dental Assisting program because I like working with people and I thought it would be a great field to work in,” said Brito, who also holds an Associate in Arts from CF. “The clinic is awesome. I love every second of being here. The patients are great.”
When James Wilson, 19, attended CF Preview Night in January 2014 — months before his Lecanto High School graduation — he didn’t know where he was going to college, let alone what he was going to major in. While perusing the booths at Preview Night, however, Wilson noticed a flier for the college’s burgeoning Digital Media program, and it piqued his interest.

“I always enjoyed my high school drawing classes, and I enjoy taking photographs so I thought Digital Media might be a good fit for me,” said Wilson. His decision ended up being spot-on.

Duke Energy presented the college with $100,000 to expand the Digital Media program from the CF Ocala Campus to the CF Citrus Campus. The grant allowed the Citrus Campus to create an 18-station media lab, complete with equipment and software, and hire additional Digital Media instructors.

AT&T provided $30,000 in scholarships to prepare students to participate and succeed in Florida’s fast-paced digital media industry. Six students received $5,000 scholarships. Wilson is one those students.

While Wilson was busy deciding what path his future would take, Duke Energy and AT&T were taking note of CF’s newest program.

“It’s all coming together,” said Wilson, whose career goal is to be a web designer and freelance photographer. “I didn’t really have a lot of exposure to art in high school, outside of my drawing class. My Digital Media classes, well, they are my creative outlet for the week. Our lab is awesome, and our instructor is awesome. He really knows what he is doing.”

Digital Media instructor Budd Dees, who holds a bachelor’s degree in Digital Media from the University of Georgia and a master’s degree in Art and Technology from the University of Florida, said he works to help things come together for students like Wilson.

“My goal is to maintain the broadest possible application of our course of study while still being able to mentor individual students on their specific goals,” said Dees. “Our program here at CF is the seed for a huge number of developing careers and creative possibilities.”
Levy Center and Haven Hospice partnership puts CNAs on the path to registered nurse

Students studying to become certified nursing assistants at the CF Levy Center begin at the end.

“End-of-life care is something not a lot of people are exposed to,” explains DeAnna Beverly, Haven Hospice administrator. “It’s unique for any nurse, let alone a CNA student.”

In October 2013, a vision became a reality when Haven Hospice of Chiefland and the CF Levy Center teamed up to offer a joint Certified Nursing Assistant course.

The course, which consists of classroom instruction, lab practice and clinical experience, prepares students for work as a nursing assistant in nursing homes and prepares students to take the Florida CNA exam.

The first cohort of 10 students graduated in December 2013, and the second cohort of 15 students began classes Oct. 6, 2014. So far, the program is a win-win-win for Haven, the Levy Center and students.

“Because of our homecare service line, we provided the college with the ability to extend their program an additional 20 hours to offer Home Health Aid Certification,” said Beverly. “And the course is helping us meet our hiring needs. When we see someone come out of this program who has fallen in love with what we do, we want them.”

As part of the partnership, Haven helped the Levy Center remodel a room into a health science lab. The new lab gives CF the ability to offer classes to students needing to earn prerequisites for the college’s nursing program.

Together, CF and Haven Hospice are creating a career pathway from CNA to registered nurse.
The day we received notice that our funding was finally approved was the best day in my educational career. There is nothing more richly deserved than a new Levy Campus.”

– CF Levy Provost Marilyn Ladner

More than 10 years after the idea was born, the CF Levy Campus is becoming a reality. In June, the college learned that funding for the campus was approved by the state legislature, after it was previously vetoed four times.

Formal news of the $4.3 million that will fund the first phase of the Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus came in a June 2 letter from state Sen. Dorothy Hukill.

“The day we received notice that our funding was finally approved was the best day in my educational career,” said CF Levy Provost Marilyn Ladner. “There is nothing more richly deserved than a new Levy Campus.”

The idea for a Levy Campus came in 2004, when the CF District Board of Trustees approved a search for property.

CF had served Levy County since 1958 and established an educational center in 1982. In 1991, the School Board of Levy County and CF entered into a cooperative agreement where the college would provide adult education programs in the county in addition to college credit and continuing education programming.
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CF had served Levy County since 1958 and established an educational center in 1982. In 1991, the School Board of Levy County and CF entered into a cooperative agreement where the college would provide adult education programs in the county in addition to college credit and continuing education programming.

Initially located in Bronson, the Levy Center moved to its current facility in a Chiefland storefront commonly referred to as the Save-A-Lot Plaza in 1993.

Space was a commodity in the Save-A-Lot Plaza and classes were at or near capacity in 2004 when the board began its search for property. In 2006, former trustee Loy Ann Mann and her husband, Jack, donated 15.4 acres of undeveloped land for the campus north of Chiefland. In 2009, longtime Levy County educator Jack Wilkinson donated $2.5 million to the project. An additional $1 million was secured through private donors, and land purchases have expanded the site to 40.4 acres.

In the past three years, CF enrollment in Levy County has more than doubled. Today, the Levy Center serves more than 3,000 students from Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties taking college credit, testing, continuing education and adult education classes.

“Clearly there is a need for a Levy Campus,” said Dr. James Henningsen, CF president. “That is why our community, area businesses and our congressional representatives pushed so hard for this funding to finally get approved. We aren’t wasting any time with this project. We are in negotiations with an architect, and I’m looking forward to the day we break ground.”

At its October meeting, the CF District Board of Trustees expressed the importance of selecting a local architect to design the new campus and authorized the president to negotiate an agreement with Ocala firm Johnson, Smith. In November, a team of college employees met with architects and engineers to begin the design process.

It is expected that the expansion of programs and enrollment with emphasis on health care and high-tech specialties will initially generate $15 million a year in new economic impact.

The Florida Legislature is expected to appropriate funds for construction and equipment in 2015-2017.

Meet the man behind the name

Just months after donating $2.5 million to build a permanent College of Central Florida campus in Levy County, Jack Wilkinson passed away at the age of 96.

The college decided to honor Wilkinson by naming the campus after him, as his gift was the largest in CF history.

A lifelong resident of Levy County, Wilkinson, was born in Chiefland in 1913 and graduated from Chiefland High School in 1932 before attending the University of Florida, where he earned his teaching certificate.

He was a farmer, rancher and timber grower who taught mathematics in the Levy County school system for 45 years.

When asked about his gift to the college, Wilkinson, who never married, said he had always been a thrifty man and didn’t have a particular need for the money he’d saved over a lifetime. “It was a pleasure to be able to give it for education,” he said.
Applauding our students, faculty and staff

**Equine National Champion**

**Congratulations to Samantha Cooper.** Cooper won the National Championship in Upper Training at the 2014 Intercollegiate Dressage Association National Championships last spring in Chatham, Virginia. CF was the only two-year college in the competition.

**Lady Patriots Softball No. 2 in nation**

**Congratulations to the CF softball team, Amy Szymanowki and coaches Kevin Fagan, Mike Lingle and Dallas Towns.** The softball team finished second in the nation at the 2014 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Championship in St. George, Utah, in May. Szymanowski reached a pair of home run milestones in the tournament, including breaking the all-time national tournament home run mark. She also earned both the Mid Florida Conference Female Athlete of the Year and Female-Scholar Athlete of the Year awards. Softball head coach Fagan along with assistants Lingle and Towns were honored as the South Regional Coaching Staff of the Year by the NJCAA.

**25th Annual Gabor Awards**

**Congratulations to Barbara Anderson, Darin McClain and Dr. Vernon Lawter.** The 2014 Gabor Award winners were recognized May 9, at the college’s annual employee recognition program. Anderson, a professor of Nursing who has served the college since 1996, was honored in the faculty category. McClain, a personal computer and audio-visual technician who has served CF since 2008, was honored in the career service category. Lawter, Citrus Campus vice president who has served CF since 2006, was honored in the administrative/professional category. The awards were established by the Gabor Agency in 1990 and are bestowed in conjunction with the CF Foundation Inc. Faculty and staff nominated peers based on contributions to students, college and the community.

**CF Foundation Endowed Chairs and grant recipients**

**Congratulations to Susan Murphy, Andy Variell, Dr. Judith Downer, Marta Allen and Rod McGinnes.** CF Foundation Board of Directors Chairman Bill Trice announced recipients of $40,000 in faculty and staff awards at CF’s fall convocation in August. Murphy and Variell received $2,000 New Initiative grants. Murphy’s initiative is a self-defense project that will...
Published faculty-author

Dr. Ron Cooper’s novel “Purple Jesus” (Bancroft Press, 2010) has been picked up for publication in France by Editions Joseph K. The Washington Post called the publication of “Purple Jesus” "a literary event of the first magnitude" and said that the book “is so perfectly written, it’s exhilarating to read.” A professor of Philosophy and Humanities, Cooper’s previous novel, “Hume’s Fork,” was released by Bancroft Press in 2007.

Baseball milestone

Congratulations to Patriot Baseball Coach Marty Smith. Smith earned his 600th career win April 12 with a six-run third inning and a three-game sweep of rival Santa Fe Saints. He is one of only three active coaches in the state with 600 wins.

Welcome new CF family members

At fall convocation in August, the following new employees were recognized.

Academic Affairs

Sam Ajlani, Faculty, Engineering Technology
John Ash, Faculty, Visual and Performing Arts
Deborah Becker, Faculty, Health Sciences
Gabriele Brown, Staff Assistant III, University Center
James Charles, Coordinator, Criminal Justice/Public Service
Michael Curtis, Educational Advisor, XCEL-IT
Budd Dees, Faculty, Digital Media
Teresa Faust, Library Director
John Guarente, Faculty, Visual and Performing Arts
Sallieann Hoffer, Faculty, Health Sciences
Lisa Keene, Faculty, Communication
John Kelly, Faculty, Health Sciences
Karen Komar, Faculty, Health Sciences
Kyoung-Tae Kim, Faculty, Physical Sciences
Vikki Lawrence, Staff Assistant III, XCEL-IT
Elizabeth Lynch, Faculty, Communications
Lynn Malais, Faculty, Health Sciences
Ryan Meany, Faculty, Communications
Cynthia Moody, Faculty, B.A.S., Organizational Management
Virginia Delgado-Oakwood, Faculty, Health Information Technology
Mackenzie O’Connor, Instructional Assistant, Science
Amy Osborne, Instructor Assistant, XCEL-IT
Faihe Ruiz, Library Reference Specialist
James Simpson III, Executive Director, XCEL-IT
Eliza Smith, Faculty, Health Sciences
Thomas Walsh, First-Year Success Specialist
Corrine Wiygul, Coordinator, Career Pathways

Administration and Finance

Sharon Altany, Accounting Specialist III
John Bryan, Director, Purchasing and Risk Management
Ricardo Colon, Specialist, Catering Services
Justin Mayer, Trades Specialist, HVAC
Lynn Ruis, Business Accounts Coordinator
Donna Toole, Cashier Specialist
Magdalena Turner, Director, Student Accounts

Vanessa Valvo, Human Resources Assistant
Janice Williams, Mail Courier
Julie Russell, Assessment Specialist
Jessica Swihart, Financial Aid Specialist I
Matt Matthews, Director, Grants Funding
Victoria Billig, Assistant Director
S. Keith Collins, Educational Advisor
Allison Costa, Financial Aid Specialist I
Maureen McFarlane-Anderson, Director, Financial Aid
Dawn Smith, Financial Aid Specialist II

Student Affairs

S. Keith Collins, Educational Advisor
Allison Costa, Financial Aid Specialist I
Maureen McFarlane-Anderson, Director, Financial Aid
Dawn Smith, Financial Aid Specialist II

President’s Staff

Robert Batsel Jr., General Counsel and Director of Governmental Relations
Chris Knife, Executive Director, CF Foundation
New executive director named

In May 2014, Chris Knife joined the CF Foundation as executive director. A native of Arkansas, he and his family most recently lived in Marietta, Georgia, where he led the Chattahoochee Tech Foundation.

Knife has nearly two decades of experience in fundraising and relationship-building in education and nonprofits. Throughout his career, he has led annual giving and major-gift programs and has a successful track record with board development.

“Philanthropy is one of the greatest acts individuals can participate in,” Knife said. “I am humbled and fortunate to be part of that process that changes lives and makes a difference in the community. The CF Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the state and this is a credit to the leadership of the board of directors, the community, and my predecessors. I look forward to stewarding and growing the Foundation to aid our students and the College to meet the needs of the communities we serve.”

Knife’s wife, Beth, is a native Ocalan and they have a son, Nathan, who is in ninth grade. They love the community and have settled in quickly.

Keeping up with CF Alumni Association

This year, the Alumni Association’s priority is providing unique networking experiences.

“While reaching out to our alums, we also want to give back to current students by mentoring and participating in events that are important to them,” said Dr. Heidi Maier, Class of 1991 and CF Alumni Association board chair. “Being a CF alum is an honor and holds great responsibility.”

The association kicked off the academic year by volunteering at Welcome Back Stations on the Ocala Campus the first week of classes. Other events planned for the year include service opportunities, a fine arts reception in January and participation in fall and spring commencement. The Alumni Association offers former CF students a way to stay connected to the college, but also supports current students through the CF Alumni Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2004 and has been given to 14 students. To keep up with Alumni events and activities, follow us at Facebook/CFAlumni.
Friends of the Foundation celebrates 20 years

Congratulations to Norma and Phil Mauro, Marie Mannina, Madeline Scoglio, Frances Talierico, Theresa Williams, Bob and Joan Leighty, and Jim and Bea Nelson. These 10 founding and active members of the Friends of the Foundation were recognized at a kickoff breakfast Sept. 25 at the Webber Center. FOF, which began in 1994 under the direction of the late Carolyn Hoffman, provides volunteer assistance for activities including the Performing Arts Series, Dinner Theatre, STEPS to CF Reception, President’s Holiday Reception, Donor Recognition Reception, Commencement, Information Stations and the Alumni Luncheon. To join the Friends of the Foundation, contact Lynda Peek, FOF volunteer coordinator, at 352-854-2322, ext. 1592, or email peekl@cf.edu.

Leaving a legacy

You may wish to make a significant gift to the CF Foundation, but feel it is important to retain income from your assets to support yourself during retirement. One of the simplest ways to provide a legacy gift to CF is to include the CF Foundation in your will. Planned gifts help ensure students have the necessary funds to transform their lives through education. A bequest allows you to enjoy your assets during your lifetime. It is an easy process. Gifts can be established “in honor” or “in memory” of those who have been special in your life. For information, contact Chris Knife at knifec@cf.edu or 352-873-5808, or visit our website at CF.edu/Foundation.

College is just a step away

The ninth annual Scholarships Taking Elementary Promising Students to CF reception was held in September. In the past nine years, 438 fifth-grade students in 47 Citrus, Levy and Marion county schools have each received $4,000 STEPS awards — that totals nearly $2 million.

CF Foundation Executive Director Chris Knife welcomed more than 250 guests, which included student recipients who are on track to become CF’s class of 2023, their families, scholarship donors and school principals.

CF Student Activities Board President Rachel Horne shared why CF was her first choice of colleges, and Dr. Jim Henningsen, CF president, encouraged students to do well in school. He reminded them that with dedication, they can be whatever they want, and CF can help them get there. CF Foundation Chair Bill Trice thanked donors who make STEPS possible.

With a gift of $100 to the Promise for the Future Fund, your support to CF will be set in stone with a personally inscribed brick. To learn more contact the CF Foundation at 352-873-5808.

Elia Olorode, with his mother, Cynthia, was presented the Carol Runnels-Sullivan STEPS to CF award at Wyoming Park Elementary earlier this year. Madison Street Academy of Visual and Performing Arts student Dylan Shady gives a thumbs up in appreciation of his Regions Bank STEPS to CF Award.

Congratulations to students.

To keep up with events, visit the CF Alumni Association’s Facebook page and Twitter account. For information, call Chris Knife at 352-563-6000 ext. 1592, or email knifec@cf.edu.
Appleton news

The first public trustees for the Appleton Cultural Center and longtime members of the Appleton Advisory Council were recognized during the museum’s June Advisory Council meeting. Each member received Advisory Council Emeritus status and a framed photograph.

The museum’s young members group, The Studio, re-launched in May with a party attended by more than 100 young professionals, artists and art lovers. The Studio offers unique and interactive arts-based programming for its members ages 18-39 and is a great way to meet and engage with other art enthusiasts. A one-year membership is $35 and includes invitations to members-only events, as well as Appleton member benefits. For more information or to receive Studio emails, contact Victoria Billig at billgv@cf.edu.

The Appleton unveiled its reimagined Sculpture Walk and Garden to donors, who purchased bricks for a new walkway and benches, in October. Guests celebrated a newly laid section of walkway, which connects the Appleton’s existing outdoor sculptures with a newly acquired sculpture, “Childhood Memories” by artist Mike Zeak. To learn how you can support the Sculpture Walk and Garden, contact Victoria Billig at billgv@cf.edu or 352-291-4455, ext. 1294.

Family Night at the Museum, a fundraiser to benefit the Appleton’s scholarship fund and education programs, was also held in October. Family Night included art activities in the ARTSpace, paintings “brought to life” by CF Theatre students, a flashlight scavenger hunt and treats.

From left: Dr. James Henningsen, Ed Johnson, Jim Kirk, Julie Sieg, Dick Chazal, Doug Oswald, Mary Britt, Mary Kraus, Dr. Evelyn Lynn, Naida Rasbury, Ron Evers. Not pictured: Jim Jernigan.

Artist Jody Schiable of RepurposedMe creating jewelry from antique silverware at The Studio launch party.
Find your niche at the Appleton

From evening social hours to hands-on art classes and family events, the Appleton has something to offer every member of your household.

The Appleton’s After Hours offers live music and dancing, programs by the Ocala Art Group and tasty samplings from Ocala Events/Mojo Grille. Doors open at 5 p.m. and music begins at 5:30 p.m. On Dec. 4, the Marion Civic Chorale will present holiday carols, and Rewind Band will play southern rock Feb. 15. Admission is free for members and $10 for nonmembers.

Education programs for adults start at $30 per class for members and $35 for nonmembers and include supplies. “Paint a Floor Cloth” will be offered Jan. 20 and 27.

After School Explorations are five-week sessions, each focusing on a different theme and medium. The sessions meet Tuesdays 3-4:30 p.m. and are for students age 7-12. The session beginning Jan. 13 will focus on drawing and painting. For registration, contact Marie Fielding, 352-291-4455, ext. 1558; or visit AppletonMuseum.org.

Half-Day Happenings are a perfect way to spend Marion County Public School Early Release Days and a great way to discover the Appleton. Pick up your “assignment” at the front desk, enjoy the exhibitions and visit ARTSpace for a fun, hands-on art making activity. Sessions are 1:30-3 p.m. on Dec. 10, Feb. 11, March 18 and May 6. Free for members and children; included in the price of admission for adult nonmembers. No registration necessary.

ARTy Parties are a fun, creative way to celebrate a child’s birthday or any special occasion. Your party includes a visit to the Appleton galleries, a fun, hands-on art experience in the ARTSpace, printable invitations and ARTy Party bags for up to 15 children or adults. For information or to make a reservation contact Marie Fielding, 352-291-4455, ext. 1558.

First Saturdays at the Appleton are for families! We welcome families with children ages 4 and up to come to the ARTSpace and participate in a hands-on art making experience. Make a paper holiday ornament Saturday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free for all children and adult members; included in the price of admission for adult nonmembers.

Exhibitions at the Appleton

“A Dickens Christmas: The Urban Family Holiday Collection”
Through Jan. 4
The private, holiday-inspired collection of Dr. Paul and Joyce Urban and daughters Katie, Kristie, Kassie and Karlie. Create paper holiday ornaments in the ARTSpace on Family Day, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for all.

“ReTooled: Highlights from the Hechinger Collection”
Through Jan. 4
An engaging and thought-provoking look at the unexpected subject of tools through more than 40 inspiring paintings, sculptures, works on paper and photographs. This exhibition was curated by Jared Packard-Winkler and organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C., from “Tools as Art: The Hechinger Collection,” gift of John and June Hechinger.

“Recent Acquisitions to the Appleton Collection”
Through Feb. 1
An exhibition of works acquired over the past three years, including antiquities, American photography, prints by internationally renowned 20th century artists, Chinese decorative arts, an 18th century oil portrait, and major paintings, sculptures and ceramics by Florida and Caribbean artists.

Juliana Henningsen celebrated her birthday at the Appleton Museum of Art.

In person with Caleb Mills and Lacee Lane

Caleb Mills and Lacee Lane have a lot in common. They come from multi-generational Levy County families, they were active in Future Farmers of America at Chiefland High School, and they both began college at the CF Levy Center.

In May 2014, Mills became the first CF student to begin at the Levy Center and graduate with a bachelor's degree. In December 2014, Lane will graduate with her Bachelor of Applied Science in Business and Organizational Management with a specialization in Agribusiness Management, adding CF Alumni to the list of things the couple has in common.

“We both chose CF because we wanted to stay in Levy County. I received a CF Foundation scholarship right out of high school, so in a way, I've always felt like CF chose me.” – Lacee Lane

“CF was our first choice and it was a good one.” – Caleb Mills