UWF FOUNDATION, INC. CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE, 1965-2015

The University of West Florida Foundation, Inc. was chartered with the State of Florida on September 21, 1965. It was chartered to

“encourage, solicit, receive and administer gifts and bequests of property and funds for scientific, educational and charitable purposes, all for the advancement of The University of West Florida and its objectives.”

In its first fund-raising publication in 1966, President Dave Johnson noted that the Foundation was

“an organization of friends of the University designed to smooth the paths to opportunity through the expanding worlds of education.”


University members included Harold B. Crosby, President; Thomas G. Carpenter, Vice President for Administrative Affairs; H. T. Martin, Jr., Dean of College Affairs; Peter M. Perceval, Assistant to the President; and Paul R. Vonk, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The first Foundation Board Members represented nearly every Industry and company in the area, giving the University a notable base from which to grow.

UWF IN 1965

In the summer of 1965, the University of West Florida relocated from the fourth floor of the Escambia County Court House to the fifth floor of the Town and Country Plaza Office Building. UWF staff had been housed at the Court House since August 1964.

President Crosby noted that the growing University staff now numbered 19 people!

Since 1966, the University Archives and West Florida History Center of the John C. Pace Library has acquired, cataloged and preserved the history of Pensacola, the University of West Florida, and the ten-county West Florida region.

This occasional publication is part of our information and archval literacy program to raise awareness of our collections and to encourage donations of historical materials.

Coinciding with the Fall meeting of the UWF Retired Employees Association, we have shared a sampling of UWF historic photographs from our online digital collections archives.uwf.edu/Archon/

The “0” in this issue’s 50 comes from the reverse of the medallion used for the UWF Homecoming in 2012.

Dean DeBolt
University Librarian
University Archivist
John C. Pace Library
474-2213
ddebolt@uwf.edu
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF UWF – IMAGE GALLERY

The Library on the Hill? This artist rendering of the UWF campus is a view from Thompson’s Bayou, done in 1966. Although the UWF library was built into the side of a hill, it is actually not as prominent as this rendering.

No Trouble Parking. UWF did not have an official photographer until after the University opened and most photographs are black and white. Color photographs are rare and come from personal cameras (students, etc.). This is an early aerial of the campus possibly just before opening in 1967.

Master Planner. John E. Jarvis, Jr, was the major campus designer of UWF, and is shown here explaining the campus in 1972. His book, The Next Larger Picture (2008), is a key source for the study of campus design at UWF.
**Protests at UWF?** In March 1978, the Florida Board of Regents (state governing board for state universities) met on campus. At that time, the collective bargaining agreement between university faculty and the Board of Regents was at impasse due to faculty salaries. The Board was met with a protest by UWF Faculty.

**Bachelor's Quarters?** To meet the demand for student housing, UWF signed a two-year lease on the former bachelor officer's quarters (BOQ) of Ellyson Field in the summer 1983. Conversion of the facility provided housing for 114 UWF students.

**Animal House.** In the mid-1980s, Fernando Llama was a frequent sight at UWF. Named for the Latin American actor, Fernando was owned by Karen Whigham, a biology major (Building 58), who dated and married a Physics major (Building 13). Karen had a little trailer for Fernando on the back of her car and Fernando could often be seen peering out when she drove the length of campus between these buildings. Fernando was often a visitor at campus events such as Festival on the Green. His favorite special treat was bananas. Judy DeBolt who was secretary to Physics Department located on the third floor of building 13 remembered that Karen brought Fernando up in the elevator to visit the Physics office one time.
Father Murphy. The University of West Florida Theatre Department, for many years, would bring in a noted actor or actress to appear in a play, but also provide teaching opportunities for students. In January 1978, the Department featured the play "Diary of Anne Frank" with actor Dan Frazer as Anne Frank's father. With a long distinguished career, Dan Frazer is probably best known for playing Father Murphy in the motion picture "Lilies of the Field" (1963).

The Parkway's Open. Here, workers construct the new entrance sign for University Parkway when the new road was finished in March 1973.

Solving the Parking Problem. To improve parking at UWF in August 1985, the parking lots were re-numbered and given colors and symbols. The new system numbered the parking lots, those on the right being even-numbered and those on the left being odd-numbered. Shown here is the sign by the new Information Center showing color and symbols for lots in an effort to help students and visitors. The sign retained the wood signage used throughout the campus.