

The Gull's Cry

GCSC's original newsletter; revitalized.

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Special Letter From Mr. Tom Lewis, Board of Trustees Chairman

Exam Slam & Campus Resources

Thank you for a great year Commodores! This makes eleven Gull's Cry publications in total for this year. Can't wait to see what is to come!
- Sophie Theiss, President 2021-2022



Graduation is Right Around The Corner!

By Sophie Theiss, SGA President

Graduation is in the air here at Gulf Coast State College! It is that time to celebrate your friends, family, colleagues, fellow students, and even you on graduating! SGA wants to congratulate everyone on their academic progress and how far you have come. So, break out those caps, stoles, and cords for a celebration for accomplishing this amazing achievement! This year's graduation will be on Friday, May 6th, and is separated into two ceremonies; one for Associate of Arts Graduates and the other for Bachelor, Associate of Science, and Certificate Graduates. It is located at Sheraton PCB Resort. See you there Commodores!



Fellow Commodores,

It is with great pleasure and nostalgia that I write this letter to, not only our graduates but our entire student body. It's been 45 years since I last wrote an article for the Gull's Cry, that would have been December 1977. I was about to receive my A.A degree from Gulf Coast and was preparing to move to Tallahassee to enroll at Florida State University.

It all seems like it was happening yesterday, but so much has changed. For instance, I used a typewriter to write my last article for the Gull's Cry. There were no such things as personal computers. We manually laid-out the newspaper, then every two weeks I'd drive it to the nice folks at the Port St. Joe Star for printing. Now everything is done in-house on computers.

In those days, most students got an Associate of Arts degree to transfer to a four-year college or university. Those who stayed in town went to the University of West Florida's branch campus. It was across Highway 98 on what is now Port Panama City property. The Florida State University Panama City campus did not happen until 1982.

West 23rd Street used to run behind campus, along what is now Collegiate Drive, right up to the foot of the old Hathaway Bridge: which was only four lanes, two each direction. And the college's front lawn was next to West Highway 98. Sometimes on fall weekends, a large group of local boys would play pick-up football games on the lush green grass that long ago gave way to an asphalt parking lot.

While I miss the Panama City and Gulf Coast of my youth, I also marvel at what we've accomplished over ensuing 4-plus decades. We now offer four-year and certificate programs that have allowed tens of thousands of people to pursue a degree in higher education and provide a better life for themselves and their family. In several fields, like nursing and law enforcement, our graduates touch nearly every person in our area. The college has become a major player

in local commerce, an engine that drives the recruitment of industry, then supply those new businesses with skilled workers. I only wish I could be around until 2067, to see how much more will be accomplished in the next 45 years.

Change is inevitable. But there are some constants. Gulf Coast State College has always been and always will be one of the finest schools in Florida's state college system. Our graduates always have, and always will be, successful leaders and significant contributors no matter what arena they choose. And, as for me, I always have been and always will be proud, humbled, and honored to be a Gulf Coast Commodore. I wish you well in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,
Tom Lewis
Gulf Coast State College
Board of Trustees Chairman

Exam Slam & Campus Resources

By *Amanda Tolliver, SGA Events Coordinator*
Rebecca Starke, SGA Internal Affairs Liaison

Are you looking for the perfect place to study for finals? Join SGA in the library for Exam Slam on May 2nd through the 4th from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. SGA will be providing energy drinks and snacks to fuel your last-minute cramming.

There are also many resources on campus for you to utilize if you are in need of extra assistance. These include:

- Commodores Cupboard - Located In Student Union East Room 63
- Reading and Writing Lab - Located in the Rosenwald Room 108
- Math Tutoring Lab - Located in Student Union West Room 260 and 261
- FSU Police - (850) 774 - 2705
- TRIO - Located in Student Union West Room 89 and 82
- Student Accessibility Resources - Located Student Union East Room 27
- Check Out Laptop - Located in the Library



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