

College Gains \$1 Million-Plus AmeriCorps, Even Start Grants

There will be AmeriCorps members back in Okaloosa and Walton school classrooms and interactive family literacy programs taking place again thanks to competitive grants totaling more than \$1 million received by OWC.

In addition, the college has received a \$190,105 Public Charter Schools Dissemination grant from the state. According to Dr. Jill White, Senior Vice President for Instructional Services, the grant funds will showcase the best practices initiatives in reading as part of OWC's Collegiate High School.

Dr. Bob Richburg, OWC president, said the \$421,556 AmeriCorps grant, will provide 38 AmeriCorps members in public schools in the college's two-county district to serve as literacy tutors in grades K-8.

"The OWC AmeriCorps team is one of the best things we do in our community," said Richburg. He lauded the efforts of the college's AmeriCorps program coordinator Jo Jones in "delivering a strong program that benefits so many students in our schools."

Richburg also said the \$600,000 Even Start Literacy Grant will allow the continuation of the three county interactive literacy initiative in adult education and early childhood education. Richburg singled out the efforts of Barbara Jones, the Chautauqua Center Director, and Penny Cox, the Adult Education Coordinator, in securing the Even start grant funds for three years.

The college also has received preliminary confirmation of state grant funding for its new radiology technology program that is slated to begin in 2006. Additional grant funds are pending for expanding the college's registered nursing program by another 18 students by year.

Comet ~ Continued from page 1 ~

During the successful encounter that was the top of newscasts worldwide, the probe excavated a crater on the nucleus of the comet and NASA registered observers, such as OWC, helped gather image data to determine the nature of the scattered dust and to corroborate NASA measurements of the event. The space agency hopes the data will yield clues about the inner structure of a comet nucleus, which would advance science, and may help in future missions should the human race be threatened by a near-earth object on a collision course with earth.

On the days immediately prior to and after July 4, OWC science faculty member Tony Russo and Tim Stafford, a local astronomer, took digital images of the event through the college's telescope. The OWC observatory houses an 18" automated reflective telescope complete with a CCD camera and software to allow the location and recording of events in the sky.

OWC science faculty normally utilize the observatory for the college's Astronomy classes. But, Russo noted that following the Deep Impact project, college faculty hope to include the OWC observatory in other research projects. "We hope that participation in this project will open the door for future participation in grant-funded projects or other endeavors which can benefit from data collected from the OWC observatory," said Russo.

While the weather was a factor in the number of images OWC was able to obtain of the event, Russo noted that the college submitted more than ten images to NASA and some were even featured on the official web site of the event. "It was a great first effort for the college to participate in broader research -- the sky's the limit from here," Russo quipped.

Rice Scholarship ~ Continued from page 1 ~

his father also enjoyed competing every year at the OWC golf classic in support of Raider athletics.

The younger Rice, who is president of the OWC Foundation, had caught wind several weeks ago of the Kiwanis plan to name the scholarship for his father, who passed away earlier this year after battling cancer. "Dad always enjoyed being part of Kiwanis because it put him in touch with this community he loved. On behalf of my mother, sister and the grandchildren, I would like to thank the Crestview Kiwanis Club."

Kiwanians Scholarship Committee member Gail Kaltz said the Dale Rice Sr. Scholarship "is one of the most positive projects the club has decided to take on. We are already a quarter of the way toward the \$12,000 goal and we have received such a great response in the community from people who want to make it happen."

Kaltz noted that the Rice Scholarship becomes the third that the Crestview Kiwanis have created through the OWC Foundation. Earlier the club made contributions for the L.G. Staff Crestview Kiwanis Scholarship Endowment named after another longtime member.

That was followed a few years later with the Stafford Scholarship Endowment, named for Crestview educators -- a scholarship that provides for two years of study at O-W and two years at one of Florida's state universities.

"We believe that education is one of those things that can improve peoples' lives," said Kaltz. "You can measure success many ways, but when people have the opportunity to go to college, well, that can have a ripple affect through the community."

Dr. Bob Richburg, president of OWC, said the club's decision to honor Rice through the scholarship "is an example of generosity and certainly a way to recognize an individual that so many in this community admired."

"Our college is especially

honored since Dale Rice was such an ardent Alabama fan, so after graduating at O-W we've agreed to let the student who receives the scholarship transfer to Alabama," said Richburg in jest.

Richburg added that along with the Kiwanis donation, any individual or business gifts to the Dale Rice Sr. Scholarship is eligible for state matching dollars that will double the contribution.



(l to r) Jimmy Lundy, Kiwanis, joins Dr. Bob Richburg at the creation of the Rice Scholarship with Judy Rice, Jade Rice and Dale Rice, Jr.

Gray State Benefactor ~ Continued from page 1 ~

drawing board, or the behind-the-scenes volunteer work she does with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra at OWC that helped Marjorie Gray win the Benefactor award. He noted that the combination of all her numerous community and charity work along with Gray's spirit of reaching out to others and making a difference made her stand out as a "true benefactor".

With her trademark colorful broad-brim hats, Marjorie Gray, noted Rice, "is a positive example of what this college is all about and what it means to the community. She's done more than give her money and time. She's shown others how to leverage their contributions like she has with corporate matching

from the Exxon-Mobil Corporation. And, she's out there explaining to others how to complete estate plans and leave funds for good works -- not just for Uncle Sam."

"That," added Rice, "is why Marjorie Gray is our Benefactor Award winner."

If there is one other distinction that demonstrates the former nurse's passion about education and its match with education, it's that Gray became a member of the OWC Foundation Legacy Circle after including a bequest to the college in her will. "I have been blessed in my life and my bequest to the college is my way of helping others in return," said Gray.

NDIA Funds BAS ~ Continued from page 1 ~

Dave Price of Lockheed Martin and NDIA member said the college's bachelor's degree "targets just what we do and it's a natural for NDIA to provide this kind of scholarship support. The companies represented here and others along with Eglin will be the beneficiaries of this effort."

Price said along with helping students, a real attraction for NDIA to make the scholarship gift is the state matching program. "When O-W can get our donations matched \$1-to-\$1, that makes this work."

Joining Stokley and Price in making the donation (shown in photo right) were NDIA members Jeff Haars of Sverdrup, Gail Allen of Northrop Grumman, Bob Blake of Aliant, Dave Andrews of Raytheon, Grady Jordon and Judy Schlosser of Lockheed Martin and Tom Hancock of Eglin.

Dr. Bob Richburg, OWC president, expressed "our deep gratitude" of the military and corporate connection which brought about the second NDIA Scholarship. "You know, we've still have our 'Shaping

the Future by Degrees' Campaign that continues to raise funds for the BAS program, so I hope your corporate headquarters will recognize we still need them," quipped Richburg.

"It is private contributions that have played a major role in the evolution of OWC to a four-year college through this very popular bachelor's program," said

Richburg, noting the more than 300 students currently admitted to the degree program. "The efforts of NDIA's military and civilian members have set a standard with this four-year scholarship, especially after the group funded your first scholarship to support a BAS scholarship."

Richburg said as the BAS grew from 156 students in 2004, the program's first year, to the more than

300 for fall 2005, the Shaping the Future by Degrees Campaign already has a new goal for this year. "We need to secure \$100,000 in funding for an Endowed Teaching Chair specifically for the BAS program," Richburg said. "In this way, the college can rely on the additional dollars to attract and train BAS faculty."

