Apprentice programs such as the local one are vital to growth

By Ken Datzman

COCOA — The long–battered U.S. manufacturing economy, once a proud giant of industry, is making a comeback, albeit slowly.

A growing number of American companies are moving some or all of their overseas manufacturing operations back home, as they hear a louder voice in this country clamor for “made–in–the–USA,” which drives job prosperity in communities.

For every $1 spent in manufacturing, another $1.32 is added to the economy, the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Various articles over the years written by experts in their fields have described outsourcing to foreign countries as the “most shortsighted business decision in U.S. history.”

“Who wants the Chinese to be manufacturing parts for our defense system?” asks Dr. Alice Jones, the founding administrative director of the 17–year–old nonprofit Brevard Machinist Apprenticeship Program Inc., or BMAP, and one of only a small number of women in America running such enterprises.

Last year the Alliance for American Manufacturing released a report saying the U.S. military was too reliant on foreign–made equipment.

Meanwhile, manufacturers in the U.S. are bullish about the future, projecting both the largest increase in capital spending as well as the biggest uptick in expected sales in more than two years.

This optimism is spreading to local markets. “Our business is doing great. We are very fortunate,” said businessman Dale Coxwell, treasurer of BMAP and president of Coastal Steel Inc. in Cocoa, a fabrication manufacturing company.

BMAP instructor Greg Menyhart, vice president of decades–old Migrandy Corp., a family owned manufacturing business on Merritt Island, has an upbeat outlook, too, for his 20–employee company.

“We manufacture specifically for the food, rubber, and plastics industries, with plastics being the main industry we support. We manufacture tooling for those industries. Our business is doing well. We’re primarily positioned in the private sector. We supply companies all over the world,” said Menyhart, who has a bachelor’s degree in economics from Rollins College. This is his 11th year with BMAP and fourth year as an instructor with the group. He teaches entry–level mathematics.

While Coxwell and Menyhart have positive views of the manufacturing industry as it starts to grow again, they are concerned about the fact that companies in the long term are not doing enough to cultivate a new generation of skilled manufacturing workers in America.

“Manufacturing is coming back,” said Coxwell, who by trade is an ironworker and went through an apprenticeship program himself, “but it can’t fully come back if we do not have the skill–set in the work force to support the growth. It takes years to develop a manufacturing work force.”

He added, “Once you find out you are short machinists, it’s too late to ramp up and take advantage of market opportunities of manufacturing projects that are coming back to the U.S. You need the resources to support that infrastructure. I understand the value of long–term training, and that’s why it’s vital that programs such as BMAP succeed.”

In general, machinists set up and operate a variety of sophisticated computer controlled or mechanically controlled machine tools to produce precision metal
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AUGUST 4, 2014
Local Children’s Hunger Project to benefit from Sophisticated Showcase’s Brevard Women’s Expo

A Sophisticated Showcase has announced that a portion of the proceeds from their Brevard Women’s Expo, schedule from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Melbourne Auditorium, will benefit The Children’s Hunger Project.

At the Expo, women from all backgrounds will be able to escape the norm and spend the day refreshing, rejuvenating and recharging their spirit.

They will be able to indulge in delicious samples of food and explore, canvas and enjoy dozens of new and familiar products and services in cosmetics and beauty, fitness and health, fashion, nutrition and wellness, real estate, children’s products and more. Additionally, fabulous prizes will be given away as well as raffles off.

The entertainment will include a free coupon class as well as a live auction and raffles to benefit The Children’s Hunger Project. The entertainment will be hosted by Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey and will include an auction for ride-alongs with some of “Brevard’s Hottest Police Officers” from several of Brevard’s largest police agencies.

Attendees will be able to bid on a ride-along with “Brevard’s Hottest Police Officer(s)” as they strut their stuff down the runway in their dress blues and tactical gear.

“Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and most certainly, girlfriends, will not want to miss this great female bonding and shopping opportunity.”

One-hundred percent of auction and raffle proceeds will be donated to The Children’s Hunger Project.

Tickets can be purchased at www.BrevardWomensExpo.com or at the door the day of the program. Tickets are $10 online or at the door. Advanced tickets (online) are 40 percent off for The Children’s Hunger Project supporters with “promotion code CH91440.” A portion of ticket sale proceeds will also be donated to The Children’s Hunger Project.

For more information about the Expo, contact A Sophisticated Showcase at 733-8816 or BrevardWomensExpo@Gmail.com. Professional exhibitors are always welcome. Visit BrevardWomensExpo.com for more information about exhibiting.

Sophisticated Gents Inc., doing business as A Sophisticated Showcase, is an event production company that produces several large-scale consumer shows a year, including bridal shows and private events, such as weddings and corporate parties.

The Children’s Hunger Project provides packages of food to Brevard County elementary school age children who are undernourished and coming to school hungry on Monday mornings. The food is given to children when they leave school on Friday. The food packages empower a child to have some nutrition for the weekend no matter the family circumstances. The charity raises money locally with all funds distributed only in Brevard.

Gator Club seeks sponsors for ‘Kickoff Party and Golf Challenge’ set for Aug. 23 at the Duran Club

The Space Coast Gator Club will host its annual “Kickoff Party and Golf Challenge” on Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Duran Golf Club in Melbourne. Pat Dooley, senior sports reporter for the “Gainesville Sun,” will be the keynote speaker.

“This is our largest fund-raising and most popular event of the year,” said Randy Gray, Space Coast Gator Club president. “Both the Golf Challenge and Kickoff Party sell out quickly. We count on business and personal sponsorship to ensure the event’s success.”

The Golf Challenge is a nine-hole, par-three event, created so even the novice golfer can compete in it. Starting at 4 p.m., the Golf Challenge features closest-to-the-pin and longest-putt contests. The event is limited to 36 golfers. Single players are welcomed. Hole sponsorships are available for $100.

The Kickoff Party begins at 5:30 p.m. This family friendly event will have an outdoor “kids fun zone, live alligators and an exotic petting zone,” sponsored by Animal Love Inc. There will also be several vendors selling all types of Florida Gator merchandise to get you ready for the upcoming season.

A silent auction and raffle, with the proceeds going to the club’s scholarship fund for Brevard County students, will also highlight the event.

A “Tailgator Buffet” with fresh off-the-grill hamburgers, hotdogs and pulled pork with all the sides will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsorship opportunities begin at $100. To purchase tickets, or to become a sponsor for the event, visit SpaceCoastGatorClub.com. The organization’s e-mail address is SpaceCoastGatorClub@gmail.com.

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Mothers and fathers: ‘Would you let your daughter color her hair blue?’

By Rebekah McCloud
UCF Forum columnist

I recently took a ride on the new SunRail. I was among the throng on board for a free ride and to see, as Dr. Seuss would say, “Oh, the places I could go.” When I entered the overstuffed car, a young woman immediately stood up and said to me, “Here, Momma, take my seat.” And I did. I thanked her and commented about the kindness of her gesture.

We chatted for a couple of stops and then she got off of the train. As soon as the doors closed and the train took off, the woman who was sitting directly in front of me said, “Did you see the color of her hair?” I did, it was blue. I pretended not to hear my fellow rider. She asked again and this time she tapped my foot with her cane and spoke in a slightly raised voice, “Did you see the color of her hair?” I did; it was blue.

Not getting a response from me a second time, she said to the woman sitting next to her, “She must be deaf.”

I responded, “I’m not and I did; it was blue.”

“Well, what color is that for hair? It’s not natural.”

“I imagine,” I said, “that young woman selected a hair color she liked. Perhaps she chose a color that made her feel good, adventurous, rebellious, artful, young…who knows. It was her choice.”

“Would you let your daughter color her hair blue?”

“Maybe,” I said, as I gave the bottle blonde who appeared to be in her 80s an appraising look.

“Well, I wouldn’t. That’s what’s wrong with young people today.”

And so it began. I listened to the woman and the one next to her talk about the woes of the world caused by young people. According to her, young people are slovenly, unpatriotic, uncouth, unkempt, not as smart as young people in her time, and many of them look weird.

I did my best to tune out the conversation, but I could not dismiss the prejudice of her words. Nor could I dismiss the thoughts of myself 40 years ago when I was about the same age as the young woman with the blue hair.

While my hair was not blue, my eye shadow was. Peacock blue was my favorite color. My lips were always colored a vibrant red with Revlon No. 440—Cherries in the Snow (which had replaced the white lipstick I had used prior). I guess you could say I looked weird. I wore micro-miniskirts, platform shoes (or go-go boots) and psychedelic shirts. When I looked in the mirror, it said I looked hot—not weird.

But I have to admit, now when I look at some of the television shows and movies from the 1960s and 1970s, what we called “high fashion” then just looks weird now. I often have laugh–out–loud moments when I look at old pictures of myself. I dare say that if my fellow train passenger would look back on herself 40, 50 or 60 years ago, she might have a laugh–out–loud moment.

Possibly 50 or 60 years ago she may have known a blue–haired woman. It may have been her grandmother. Older women in that era often had their beauticians use blue, green or pink ROUX Fanci–ful Hair Color Rinse. My grandma did; her hair was sometimes blue, but most often green.

As I tried to tune out the women’s conversation, I also could not dismiss the thoughts of myself 20+ years ago when I was a high school teacher. I’ll never forget the first four students who walked into my classroom on the first day of school one year.

The first one was dressed from head to toe in black, including a black dress, black lipstick, eye shadow and nail polish; and I could not tell if the student was a he or a she. He taught me all about the “goth” movement and the need for self–expression. I guess one could say he looked weird.

The second one was dressed in a kilt, complete with a sporran and a sian–dubh (a traditional knife that was confiscated posthaste by the school dean). He fancied himself as a follower of Duncan MacLeod, a fictional character from the television show “Highlander.” This student was creative and had a brilliant mind. I guess one could say he looked weird.

The third student was dressed like “RoboCop.” He never ceased to amaze me. Every week he would come in dressed in some getup that he had assembled as a conversation starter. His outfits included a full cavalry uniform, Bop the Clown (made famous by French mime Marcel Marceau), and Pee–wee Herman. He was an extrovert with a capital E. He once told me that if people would talk, we could solve all of our problems. I guess one could say he looked weird.

The fourth student had spiked hair and an earring that was attached by a long chain to a nose ring. Midway through the year he wanted to play varsity basketball but needed to get rid of the spikes. He had to shave his head because he had rolled the spikes in Super Glue. He graduated with honors and went on to medical school. I guess one could say he looked weird.

After student four walked in that first day, I went into my closet to pray. I asked God to help me look past the exteriors, to help me not to look through the glass darkly. Instead, I wanted to see the interiors, the eager students waiting to learn.

I thought about sharing these memories with my train mates. I thought better of it. This chance encounter on a train was an opportunity to listen and to reflect. Through the years I have had many conversations with folks who say they “just don’t understand young people.” Sadly, I think they have forgotten at one time they were young. I don’t agree with George Bernard Shaw who said: “Youth is wasted on the young.” Without the young, we do not have the old. We need both, that’s the beauty of the yin and yang of the human experience.

I have spent 40 years working with young people with a variety of hair colors: blue, green, pink, purple, rainbow. Some of them have been mine!

If I’m honest, before those four students walked into my life, I thought like the woman on the train. My micro–miniskirts and go–go boots had given way to pencil skirts, cardigan sweaters and high–heeled shoes. And my sense of freedom and adventure had been lost somewhere in the mix.

But that year, those four taught me a lot about daring to look weird, to think weird and to just be. I was both the teacher and the student, and I am forever better for the experience.

Rebekah McCloud is director of the University of Central Florida’s PRIME STEM/Student Support Services Program. She can be reached at Rebekah.McCloud@ucf.edu.

North Brevard Coalition of Human Services to meet Aug. 20 in Titusville

The North Brevard Coalition of Human Services will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20, at 725 S. De Leon Ave. in Titusville. The coalition is an unincorporated association of more than 100 community and faith–based organizations whose mission is to improve the quality of life for families and individuals in need. Its mission includes “education, coordination, and facilitation of community transformation through partnerships of community and faith–based organizations throughout Brevard.” The organization meets every third Wednesday. Visit www.NBBD.com/npr/nbchs.
Landman received his law degree from the University of Florida in 1987 and worked for one of Brevard County’s largest law firms until 1993 when he started his own highly successful practice in criminal and family law.

-END-

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Gov. Scott Reappoints Trustee Chair Alan Landman to New Term

BREVARD COUNTY - Gov. Rick Scott has reappointed Alan Landman to another four-year term on the Eastern Florida State College Board of Trustees.

Landman, a Melbourne attorney who serves as the board’s current chair, has been instrumental in expanding the college’s mission to offer its first Bachelor Degree programs starting this month.

He also played a central role in choosing Eastern Florida State College as the new name for Brevard Community College to reflect its transformation into an institution serving Brevard County and the entire Central Florida region.

“I want to thank Gov. Scott for the honor to continue helping Eastern Florida move into a future that will greatly benefit our students, our community and our region,” said Landman.

“It’s a privilege working with my colleagues on the board, all of whom share my commitment to make certain that Eastern Florida remains among the top colleges in Florida and the nation.”

Former Gov. Charlie Crist appointed Landman to the Board in 2009 and he was named chair in August 2011.

In another area, Scott also reappointed Landman to another term on the 18th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission where he was named chair earlier this month.

The commission is charged with reviewing applicants for open county court and circuit court judicial posts and recommending candidates to the governor who makes the selection.

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University of Central Florida Forum to begin third year with new opinion columnists

By Gene Kruckemeyer
UCF News and Information

ORLANDO — A new group of University of Central Florida Forum opinion writers will start sharing their viewpoints in the weekly series, succeeding the nine columnists from the past 12 months who commented on social issues, technology, racism, history, and many other timely subjects. The columnists commit for a year to participate in the series.

Many of the past year’s columns raised questions or concerns, and others suggested solutions to problems—but mostly they gave us something to think about.

For all their contributions to the UCF Forum this past year, thank you columnists Tom Cavanagh (Center for Distributed Learning), Nathan Holic (Writing & Rhetoric), Maritza Martinez (Community Relations), Rebekah McCloud (PRIME/STEM/Student Support Services), Erin O’Flaherty (accounting graduate), Bob Porter (Business Administration), Leandra Preston-Sidler (Women’s Studies), Mark Routhier (Theatre) and Rich Sloane (Education).

For readers who would like to go back and read past columns, go to Today.UCF.edu and search the columnists’ names. The columns are also archived podcasts at WUCF.

The incoming panel of columnists is bringing new backgrounds and different viewpoints to the UCF Forum. Their diverse experiences are in public administration, communication, business, and other fields. They are a mixture of faculty members, staff and one student; some have been at UCF for many years, and others are fairly new.

So, for the next 12 months, here are the writers who will be sharing their opinions through the UCF Forum, which is published weekly in “Brevard Business News.”

- Alaina Bernard
  Bernard is the UCF assistant director of Landscape & Natural Resources, supervising all grounds maintenance at the university. Bernard, who has a master’s in biology from UCF, created the campus land-management program and oversees the university’s natural-resources program, which includes environmental compliance and tree care. Her campus initiatives include wildland-urban interface land-management techniques, sustainable land and grounds management, research, partnerships and student involvement. Bernard, who has worked at UCF 11 years, is a state-certified “burn boss” for managing controlled burns, a wildland firefighter, and is on the steering committee for the Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. She helps oversee interns at the Arboretum, and as an instructor in biology teaches Systems Sustainability, a service-learning course incorporating land and grounds stewardship. Bernard enjoys paddleboarding, cooking and spending time with her dogs, and on the weekends she likes to “find an adventure and embark on it.”

- Rick Brunson
  Brunson is an associate professor of journalism in UCF’s Nicholson School of Communication. Before starting work at UCF in 2003, he worked for nearly 20 years as a reporter or editor at newspapers throughout Central Florida, including the “Orlando Sentinel,” “Tampa Tribune” and “Daytona Beach News—Journal.” In addition to teaching reporting, editing and ethics, he continues to work in the news industry as a part-time production editor at the “Sentinel” and as a writing coach at WFTV Channel 9. Brunson has written or edited hundreds of news and feature articles covering everything from politics to sports to Florida history to crocheting to crime to country music. A longtime Central Florida resident, Brunson is a pride Knight, having graduated from UCF in 1984 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a minor in journalism. He earned a master’s degree in American history from the University of South Florida in 1999.

- Todd Dagenais
  Dagenais has been head volleyball coach at UCF since 2008, compiling a 102-87 record heading into his seventh season. He earned his bachelor’s in sports management at Central Michigan University in 1995 and played volleyball on the university’s club team for four years. Before arriving at UCF, Dagenais coached at Southern California, Michigan State and Northern Michigan universities. He spent one season working with USA Volleyball to develop players for the U.S. national team, and during summers stays active with the organization. Dagenais was part of the coaching delegation of the U.S. Volleyball women’s national team at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. He is a certified athletic trainer and was selected by one of the country’s leading sports instructional-video companies to make a video on how to train a libero, a defensive specialist in volleyball.

- Richard E. Lapchick
  Lapchick is chair of the DeVos Sport Business Management program at UCF and director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, which is known for its Racial and Gender Report Card for professional leagues, colleges and the media. He is a human-rights activist and an expert on sports and social issues, having spoken before the U.S. Congress, United Nations, European Parliament and on numerous TV programs. He is president of the National Consortium for Academics and Sport, has authored 16 books and is a regular columnist for ESPN.com and “The Sports Business Journal.” Lapchick was invited by Nelson Mandela to his 1994 presidential inauguration in South Africa. In 2006, Lapchick, his family and DeVos students formed the Hope for Stanley Foundation, which organizes student-athletes and sports-management students to work in the reconstruction of New Orleans. He was named the 2006 Florida Public Citizen of the Year.

- Vanessa Lopez-Littleton
  Lopez-Littleton holds a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s degree in nursing. As a McKnight Doctoral Fellow, she graduated from UCF with a Ph.D. in public affairs with a concentration in health–services management and research. Her research areas include exploring the role and responsibilities of anchor institutions, social–justice issues, and racial and ethnic health disparities. She is interested in strengthening community resiliency through university partnerships and collaborations. On her own time she likes watching classic movies, listening to reggae music, dancing and performing stand-up comedy.

- Anthony B. Major
  Major is an associate professor of film in UCF’s School of Visual Arts & Design and program director of Africana Studies in the College of Arts & Humanities. He also serves as program director for the Zora Neale Hurston Institute for Documentary Studies. His career spans three decades of directing, acting, producing, writing and teaching, and has worked with Brad Pitt, Robert De Niro, Sidney Poitier, James Earl Jones and others. Before joining UCF, Major was vice president of the Red Fox Corp. and worked as stage manager for Dolly Parton. His teaching career began at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. At UCF, he’s produced documentaries and exhibits on “Jesse L. Brown, First African–American Navy Fighter Pilot” and “Goldsboro: An American Story.” Booker Performing Arts High School in Sarasota honored him with its first “Leaving a Legacy” Award by naming the Anthony B. “Tony” Major Rehearsal Hall.

- Vu Tran
  Tran is an anthropology graduate student in the College of Sciences, with research interests in bioarchaeology and mortuary archaeology. The Orlando student was inducted into the 2014 Order of Pegasus, UCF’s most prestigious student recognition given for academic achievement, outstanding university involvement, leadership and community service. She has earned the President’s Honor Roll and has been on the dean’s list every semester she has been at UCF. Tran is a Ronald E. McNair scholar and a member of three honor societies. She has served on the President’s Leadership Council and as a board member of UCF Animal Awareness. From her experiences at the university, she said she believes in giving back to others through civic engagement and inspiring others to make a difference. She is an avid gamer and also enjoys sewing, cosplaying, exercising, wakeboarding and drawing.

- Laurie Uttich
  Uttich is a writer and instructor of creative writing in the English Department. After more than 15 years as a professional writer in marketing and corporate training, she returned to school and received her MFA in creative writing at UCF. She has taught at the university since 2009 and said she spends most of her free time writing (or trying to write). Her true love is literary nonfiction, but she’s been known to occasionally flirt with fiction and poetry. Her writing has been published in “Fourth Genre,” “Creative Nonfiction,” “River Teeth” and other journals. Recently, she published her first poem in The Missouri Review, “River Teeth,” where it was selected as Poem of the Week. Uttich is also a mother of three boys and spends weekends watching them play sports. Sometimes, late at night, she said she attempts to play her garage-sale guitar.
Local author Peter Kerasotis, Tom Wasdin to head Brevard Library Foundation event set for Aug. 16

The Brevard Library Foundation will present its summer 2014 “Author on the Lawn” community social at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 16, in Cocoa.

The program will be hosted on the lawn of the River House at 219 Indian River Drive, directly east of the Central Brevard Library.

At the event, local author, NBC commentator and national columnist Peter Kerasotis will talk about his new book, “Once A Coach, Always A Coach,” which chronicles the life of area resident, former college basketball coach and businessman Tom Wasdin, who also will be there for the discussion.

Known as one of the top recruiters in the nation at the time, Wasdin assembled the pieces that eventually came together in 1970 for Jacksonville University’s memorable run to the NCAA’s national title game. JU finished runner–up to UCLA in that game.

Following the departure of JU head coach Joe Williams after the 1970 season, Wasdin became head coach and went on to win 72 games over the next three seasons — making two NCAA Tournament appearances along with a trip to the NIT Final Four in 1972.

There is a $25 per–person donation to attend the function. Light snacks and wine will be available.

To make a reservation for the gathering, visit www.BrevardLibraryFoundation.org, or call 633–1887. The reservation deadline is Aug. 14.

The proceeds from the event will benefit the Brevard Library Foundation.

Coppage named marketing director for Curalase Global; clinic in Melbourne

Mike Coppage has been named marketing director for Curalase Global, a corporation established in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in 2005. Curalase treats pain using laser technology. The company's mission statement says its goal is to “enhance the quality of life by alleviating pain.” “Curalase laser technology has really grown and has been able to relieve pain for so many individuals,” said Coppage, adding that the technology is used to treat fibromyalgia, back pain, hip pain, plantar fasciitis, migraine headaches and tennis elbow, for example.

Curalase has opened a clinic at 100 S. Harbor City Blvd., three buildings south of Toyota of Melbourne. The Curalase staff includes a physician. The office phone number is 392–4777.

Coppage managed the Eastern U.S. market for AT&T for 35 years. His territory stretched from New York City to Key West. He reported directly to the president of AT&T’s business–to–business, retail, and Wireless Technology Group, for 22 of those years. He also was the advertising manager for North Central Brevard for “Florida Today” from 2010 to 2014. While managing the Eastern U.S. territory for AT&T, Mike and his wife Sherri maintained a home on Merritt Island.
Dr. Ross Clevens, a local board-certified facial plastic surgeon, has been invited to join the exclusive Obagi Clinical Advisory Board, comprised of only eight of the country’s leading facial plastic surgeons, plastic surgeons and dermatologists.

Dr. Clevens recently traveled to Las Vegas where this advisory board of thought-leaders held its first meeting in three years. The purpose of the meeting was to give Obagi the opportunity to meet with eight of the country’s leading skin-care treatment experts and specialists to learn from the “world’s best and most experienced facial skin-care clinicians.”

Obagi is the “world leader in developing uniquely powerful skin-care lines” that offer a wide range of benefits, including anti-aging and rejuvenating actions. The Obagi skin-care line addresses a range of skin conditions including acne, wrinkles and more.

Through his years of experience, Dr. Clevens has also developed his own unique skin-care line that he has found in studies to “greatly benefit” his private patients.

A nationally recognized educator, author and lecturer who was educated at Yale, Harvard and the University of Michigan, Dr. Clevens was voted “One of America’s Top Doctors,” “Best of Brevard,” and “One of America’s Top Physicians.”

Dr. Clevens practices with Dr. Adam Oppenheimer, who specializes in breast and body plastic surgery. For additional information on Clevens Face and Body Specialists, visit www.DrClevens.com or call 727-3223.

Satellite Police Department volunteers start new program in their community

As part of Communities for a Lifetime, the Satellite Beach Police Department community volunteers are participating in an innovative and beneficial program titled “Stop By & Say Hi.” The goal of this program is to keep the lines of communication open by providing weekly companionship, friendship, support and basic resources to Satellite Beach residents. Volunteers hope to provide laughter, brighten a day, and let these residents know they are not forgotten.

The “Stop By & Say Hi” program is free of charge. Handpicked volunteers make weekly social visits at the resident’s discretion. Everything is confidential and nothing is done without the resident’s permission. The “Stop By & Say Hi” program encourages the community to “recommend someone they know, love and care about to participate in this rewarding program.” A referral form can be obtained by visiting www.SatelliteBeachPolice.org/Pages/StopBySayHi.aspx. Submit the form to the Satellite Beach Police Department, and they will do the rest. Friendly visits will start immediately. For more information about this program, contact Linda Harlow, Satellite Beach Police Department, at 773-4400, extension 125, or send an e-mail message to LHarlow@SatelliteBeach.org.

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Health First Foundation seeks sponsors for the ‘Grape Escape’ fund-raiser at Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando; to support Heart and Vascular Hybrid Suite

By Ken Datzman

The kick off of the college football season is just weeks away, which means Brevard County’s fall calendar of charitable events is fast approaching — a time when organizations and foundations reach out to raise money for their causes in the community and bring together businesspeople to socialize.

The schedule ramps up in September and October, with a flurry of events on tap including Health First Foundation’s popular “Grape Escape,” which raises money for cardiac services for Health First Inc.’s non-profit hospitals in Palm Bay, Melbourne, Viera, and Cocoa Beach.

The Foundation is currently working on a multi-year project to fund a new Heart and Vascular Hybrid Suite to be set up at Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne. It will be one of only a small number of such medical suites in Florida.

“The Grape Escape committee is really excited and committed to this project,” said businesswoman Pam Gatto, owner of Gatto’s Tire and Auto Service in the county. She is chairing the 13th Grape Escape with her husband, John Gallo, of Raymond James and Associates in Melbourne.

“This is a big project and we need the support of the community. The surgical suite will help put Health First on the leading edge of heart care. The committee has donated funds to the project from Grape Escape and will do so this year and again next year,” she added.

The operating suite is an investment of several million dollars, with Health First Inc. contributing money as well as the Foundation. When the suite is fully operational, Health First cardiac and vascular surgeons and interventional cardiologists will work side-by-side for blended procedures combining the two disciplines. The facility will be dedicated to performing both the minimally invasive operations and the open surgery during the same scheduled procedure.

“Aside from the Grape Escape sponsorships, we are also seeking grants and major gifts from the community to help fund this project,” said Sandy Grutta, Health First Foundation’s administrator for special events. “Everybody has to come together for us to meet this goal.”

Businesses, organizations, and individuals have the opportunity to rally around and support the venture through Grape Escape sponsorships, which range in price from $1,250 to $25,000. This is a sponsor-only event, featuring fine wine, a gourmet dinner, and silent and live auctions.

This year’s Grape Escape has a theme, “La Dolce Vita — The Sweet Life.” It will be a celebration of Italian food and wines. From left: co-chairperson of the event, Pam Gatto, of Gatto’s Tires and Auto Service; Raymond James & Associates’ John Gallo, co-chairperson; and Sandy Grutta, Foundation administrator for special events. They are at Holmes Regional’s Heart Center in Melbourne.

Health First Foundation will host its annual ‘Grape Escape’ benefit Oct. 18 at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando. The theme is ‘La Dolce Vita — The Sweet Life.’ It will be a celebration of Italian food and wines. From left: co-chairperson of the event, Pam Gatto, of Gatto’s Tires and Auto Service; Raymond James & Associates’ John Gallo, co-chairperson; and Sandy Grutta, Foundation administrator for special events. They are at Holmes Regional’s Heart Center in Melbourne.
Two years after merger, longtime area firm Artemis poised to grow in wider market region; doubles in team size as it continues to hire talent in IT field

By Ken Datzman

Artemis has a bulls-eye on the small-to-medium business market and is using its expanded size and staff resources to help firms ramp up productivity and be more profitable through strategic technology solutions.

Two years ago, the longstanding information-technology company in Melbourne hooked up with another strong-growing area business, netDirectives Technologies Inc., in a merger that basically doubled Artemis’ employee ranks and widened its scope of expertise across a spectrum of areas.

“It wasn’t intentional, but we announced the merger on Valentine’s Day,” said businessman Travis Proctor, the chief executive officer of the combined company, known as Artemis, with its tagline “The IT Company.”

David Soper, who ran netDirectives, is the company’s chief technology officer.

Proctor said that the teams and processes have been integrated over the past months, and it was a smooth transition. “That was an interesting exercise, dealing with processes and procedures making sure we are getting the organization tuned properly as we focus on being scalable as we continue to grow.”

As a result of the merger and new hires, the firm went from 30 to 60 employees. At the time of the deal, the two companies combined had around 48 associates. “We’ve hired an additional 12 people over the last two years,” said Proctor, a Florida Tech computer-science graduate. He founded Artemis in 1995, nearly 20 years ago, in his campus dormitory and went on to steer and build it into one of the top companies of its kind in the region.

He says Artemis remains in a recruiting mode and plans to hire two or three more professionals in the network-engineering area. “It’s a very competitive space right now for IT talent. The true unemployment in that segment is probably under 1 percent in this area.”

While Brevard County will long remain Artemis’ home base, he sees a good percentage of the company’s future growth coming from outside the region.

He said his business anticipates having a “physical presence outside the county in the next 24 months” and is sizing up various Florida markets for expansion. “We’re doing that for a couple of reasons. One, is to forge new customer relationships and the other, frankly, is for the recruitment of talent.”

Optimism is up for the third consecutive quarter in the “CompTIA IT Industry Business Confidence Index,” signaling a pent-up demand for hiring. Half of all member companies surveyed said they have job openings.

Being able to find and hire people with the right skill-sets can determine a company’s future growth path, especially at a time in the economic cycle when businesses are investing again in technology.

Broken down by company size, 76 percent of large firms, 75 percent of medium companies, 47 percent of small businesses, and 18 percent of micro firms reported having current job openings.

Most open positions are technical roles: technicians and information-technology personnel, application developers, Cloud experts, network engineers, and security experts.

The survey also reveals that it’s “twice as challenging” for companies to find technical workers with the right skills and expertise, as the firms grow and invest in new equipment.

“Throughout the recession, a lot of companies did not invest in hardware and infrastructure,” said Eric Needle, Artemis’ marketing lead. “Now, I think they are starting to realize that some of their equipment is getting old and needs to be upgraded.”

Several new industry forecasts point to a pickup in business spending on personal computers, servers, and storage, as well other information-technology equipment.

“We are seeing positive movement from our customers and from the local economy in general,” said Proctor.

Last year Artemis grew around 8 or 9 percent, led by its information-technology managed services. “That is our core business, going into organizations and helping them get their arms around their IT infrastructure. The goal is help them drive their productivity and profitability through efficient use of technology,” he said.

Artemis experienced some of its strongest growth during the recent recession as companies looked for ways in which to control internal costs.

“Information technology is often seen as a cost center, so more organizations were looking to outsource IT services during the downturn. We were able to step in and help them efficiently and effectively manage that part of their business,” said Proctor, whose firm’s service contracts are mostly fixed-priced.

Artemis offers a full slate of services, everything from computer sales and support to network design and installation, hosting, co-location, Web development,

Travis Proctor is CEO of Artemis in Melbourne. The 60-employee IT firm is growing in Brevard and plans to expand outside the county in the next two years. It is sizing up new markets for possible expansion. Proctor is a Florida Tech computer-science graduate who launched his company nearly 20 years ago while a student.
Carey Gleason named executive director of the Bridges Foundation in Rockledge

David Cooke, the president and chief executive officer of Bridges in Rockledge, recently announced the hiring of Carey Gleason as the executive director of the Bridges Foundation.

“We are very excited to have Ms. Gleason join our Bridges Foundation,” he said. “She has tremendous vision and has developed excellent relationships on the Space Coast.”

Gleason brings extensive experience to the position, Cooke said.

Recently, she had her own consulting firm working with nonprofits, foundations and organizations guiding clients through strategic and philanthropic initiatives.

Gleason spent more than nine years with Florida Institute of Technology as associate vice president for development and community relations. Before that position, she was the director of community and government relations at Health First’s Holmes Regional Medical Center.

Over the years, Gleason has been involved in many community organizations. She is a member of Leadership Florida, Class XXIII, served as chairperson of Leadership Florida East Central Council and was recognized as one of the “100 Most Influential Business Leaders” by “Space Coast Business” in 2008 and 2010. She is also the founding chairperson of Florida Tech Women’s Business Center and has served on many community boards including the Brevard Symphony Orchestra and Brevard Zoo.

Gleason is a lifetime member of Navy League, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Leadership Florida, and is a Certified Fundraising Executive.

Bridges has served individuals with disabilities in the Brevard community for more than 55 years. It offers daily living skills classes, employment services, and residential living facilities. The Patriot House, a transition home for veterans, is another one of its programs. Bridges also operates a state–of–the–art material–recycling facility serving Patrick Air Force Base, Kennedy Space Center, and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Bridges is “committed to supporting children and adults with disabilities to reach their full potential through every stage of life.”

The Bridges Foundation will continue to support this “important work in our community through durable business and philanthropic partnerships,” said Susan Collins, who chairs Bridges’ board of directors and welcomed Gleason to her new position.

“Carey brings many skills as well as a broad knowledge of our community. We look forward to working with her to achieve our goals for Bridges Foundation,” said Collins.

For more information about the organization, visit www.MyBridges.org.

‘Turtle Talk’ at Satellite Beach Library

The Sea Turtle Preservation Society will present “Turtle Talk” at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Satellite Beach Public Library, 751 Jamaica Blvd. The program will include a basic overview of sea–turtle species. Visit www.SeaTurtleSpaceCoast.org/get–involved/turtletalks, or call 676–1701 to register for the class.
Brevard Achievement teams with American Maintenance at Port as subcontractor for custodial services

ROCKLEDGE — Brevard Achievement Center, a nonprofit that provides innovative services and programs to assist people with disabilities achieve personal success, has been hired as the subcontractor for American Maintenance, the prime custodial contractor for Port Canaveral and its tenants.

BAC will provide custodial services for roughly 58,000 square feet of employee offices and facilities at the Port for American Maintenance. A total of five people, including four with disabilities, will be employed on the contract, which will generate $109,000 annually for BAC.

For the past 23 years, BAC associates have acquired various service skills working at federal employment sites throughout Florida and in Puerto Rico that are applicable to a commercial environment.

“We are extremely grateful to American Maintenance for asking us to serve as their partner on the Port Canaveral project,” said BAC President and Chief Executive Officer Amar Patel. “This is just the first of what we hope will be many more opportunities to team with our area business community.”

BAC’s business services include not only custodial management, but also grounds, warehousing and dining operations, as well as total facilities management.

To ensure that all services offered maintain the highest in industry standards, BAC has obtained a host of industry certifications. These certifications are in custodial services, food operations, facility management, and grounds operations.

American Maintenance has had a working partnership with New York State Industries for the Disabled Inc. since 2006 and currently employs more than 150 workers with disabilities who service more than 6.5 million square feet of space. The partnership with BAC strengthens the company’s commitment to employing persons with disabilities.

“The partnership with BAC allows us to expand our commitment to employing persons with disabilities into Florida,” said American Maintenance President Chris Alex.

Establishing a partnership with BAC is something we’re very excited about and hope to grow in the future.”

To find out about BAC’s customized business services, contact Guy Klenke, business development manager, at gklenke@bacbrevard.com or 632–8610, extension 261. For more information about American Maintenance’s contract services, contact Mike Hansen, director, Southeast Region, at (407) 259–0928 or mhansen@americanmaint.net.

Headquartered in Rockledge, BAC has offices in Melbourne, Titusville and Orlando.

In addition, through its partnerships with the AbilityOne Program and RESPECT of Florida, BAC offers employment opportunities through federal and state employment contracts in north and central Florida, as well as Puerto Rico.

The Haven in need of cars of distinction to be displayed for its fund–raising event

INDIAN HARBOUR BEACH — The Haven Guild is currently accepting applications from owners of distinctive vehicles to participate in “Concours del Sol,” the 2014 “Havenly Affair” fund–raiser set for Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Hacienda del Sol estate on Merritt Island. Last year, “Vroom!” showcased an exquisite collection of 17 Aston Martin and Ferrari vehicles that had never previously been displayed in Brevard County. The unique appeal of this high–end display at an exquisite venue set a record for the annual fall fund–raiser for The Haven for Children.

A Concours event is a premier celebration of the automobile. It’s where the best of the car world congregate to share their historic tales and let car lovers appreciate their beauty. Concours del Sol will feature up to 20 vehicles chosen by the event curators. This is an opportunity for owners of exquisite vehicles to help the children of The Haven by sharing their prized possession to be admired for the beauty and engineering marvel it is. Concours del Sol will be a pre–sale ticketed event for car aficionados, enthusiasts and supporters of The Haven For Children.

Owners of unique vehicles are asked to visit www.TheHavenForChildren.com/events.php to download the event application. Applications are encouraged to be submitted by Aug. 1 to be considered by the event curators. For more information about this program, call 508–3621 or send an e–mail message to ConcoursdelSol@gmail.com.

The Haven for Children Inc. operates three Florida licensed residential group houses in Brevard County for children who have been removed from their family because of some form of abuse or neglect.
Columbia College names Jeff Musgrove as its vice president for adult higher education

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Columbia College, which features a campus on Patrick Air Force Base, recently announced that Dr. Jeff Musgrove has been named vice president for adult higher education.

He previously served as the southeast regional director, overseeing campuses in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He was also the campus director of Columbia College–Patrick Air Force Base.

“As we started this search, my instincts told me that we had ample internal talent for this position, and the search confirmed that,” said Dr. Scott Dalrymple, president of Columbia College. “I was impressed by Jeff’s intelligence, enthusiasm, candor and sense of humor. I have every confidence that Jeff will build on the impressive legacy left by Col. Mike Randerson, who retired in January.”

Dr. Musgrove visited the Columbia campus May 14, meeting with constituents including administrative council members, faculty and staff.

“I’m honored to have the opportunity to lead Columbia College’s division of adult higher education,” he said. “The landscape of higher education is changing, and we have to adjust to those changes. We have to be proactive and look at different ways to deliver higher education. I’m excited about the college’s future and the direction we’re heading.”

The search for the college’s next vice president began shortly after Randerson, who served as vice president for adult higher education for nearly 18 years, announced his retirement in August 2013.

Musgrove holds a doctorate degree in business administration from Argosy University, a master’s degree in human resources from Webster University and a bachelor’s degree in management studies from University of Maryland University College.

He has worked for the college for nearly 16 years, serving as program coordinator, campus director and director for the southeast region. Before his work at Columbia College, he served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force.

As an Air Force first sergeant, he was the principal adviser to the commander on all issues related to the enlisted force.

Founded in 1851 in Columbia, Mo., Columbia College has been helping students advance their lives through higher education for more than 160 years. As a private, nonprofit, liberal arts and sciences institution, the college “takes pride in its small classes, experienced faculty and quality educational programs.”

With more than 30 nationwide campuses across the country, 18 of which are on military installations, students may enroll in day, evening or online classes. The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. For more information about the institution, visit www.ccis.edu.

Reading program at Palm Bay Library

The Palm Bay Library’s Adult and Teen Summer Reading Program continues through Monday, Aug. 4. The library is at 1520 Port Malabar Blvd., NE. Pick up a reader log now to win fun prizes and a chance to win a grand prize. For more information about the program, contact the library’s reference department at 952-4519.

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secured two sponsors at the $15,000 level — Harris Corp. and Shay Rowe's Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Audi of Melbourne. “We are very appreciative of their continued support for this event,” said Grutta.

The Foundation has raised about one-third of its $300,000 net goal for the 2014 Grape Escape, she added. All sponsors of the event are invited to the “Wine Down After Party” at Shingle Creek sponsored by Rowe’s dealership. “Last year it was on the patio and people stayed late into the evening. It was a really nice social atmosphere,” said Gallo.

For more information about event sponsorship, call the Foundation at 434-7353 or visit www.Health–First.org/Foundation.

For those sponsors who plan to “escape” for the weekend, Shingle Creek is offering a special room rate of $139 per night. The reservation number is (886) 996–6338. Ask for the Grape Escape group rate. “We have a limited number of rooms available at the discount rate. The hotel has a lot going on that weekend, so I suggest that people call early,” said Gallo.

Serving as the underwriting chairpersons for Grape Escape are Dr. Larry Bishop, of the Health First Medical Group, and Certified Financial Planner Melissa Flammio Clark, of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. They had the same roles for last year’s event. “And they were very successful,” said Gatto.

The honorary chairpersons for Grape Escape are Phillip and Jeanne Farmer. The auction chairpersons are Jerri Figueroa, whose husband is trauma surgeon Edgar Figueroa, and Darcia Jones Francey, a longtime community volunteer. The auctioneers will be Wayne and Susan Ivey. Wayne is the Brevard County Sheriff.

The Grape Escape auction is a centerpiece of the fund-raising program. “I think we raised just under $100,000 last year on both auctions,” said Gatto. “And we are looking to match or exceed that number this year. Jerri and Darcia are working hard to secure some interesting items for the auctions.”

The auction items will include the use of a “large, stately” home in Park City, Utah, for a ski week or a summer vacation, and a ride in the Goodyear Blimp. Wesche Jewelers has been a longtime in-kind sponsor of Grape Escape, providing for the auction on an annual basis a necklace specially designed for the event. Valuable wines will be up for auction, too.

“The committee is working to make this the best Grape Escape we’ve had. This is lucky No. 13,” said Gatto.

Medical terminology spelling bee for Brevard students set for Hilton Melbourne Rialto

The Doctor’s Goodwill Foundation will host the “Dwight E. Jones Medical Terminology Spelling Bee Competition/Meet the Dean” event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto.

The competition will present students and their parents with a dual opportunity. Brevard County students from grades five through 12 can compete to win cash prizes. College and university deans and admission counselors will be available to answer questions and provide information about their schools.

Students studying the following curriculums are encouraged to participate: medicine, dental, nursing, nurse practitioners, physical therapy, physician assistants, chiropractic, pharmacy, allied health care, and science, technology, engineering and math. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Admission is free for students and parents. For more information or to register for the event, call (855) 386–3836 or visit SpaceCoastDaily.com or DoctorsFoundation.org. The Dwight E. Jones Medical Terminology Spelling Bee Competition/Meet The Dean is an event of “Space Coast Medicine Week.”

The Doctor’s Goodwill Foundation is a coalition of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health workers, hospitals, health–care agencies and area businesses that have joined together to further improvement in the health–care system. They are dedicated to providing scholarships to students pursuing a career in health care. Since its inception, the Doctor’s Goodwill Foundation has helped “thousands of people in need, both internationally and throughout the United States, by providing medical professionals as volunteers and medical supplies and equipment.”

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AUGUST 4, 2014

Foundation seeks Space Technology Hall of Fame nominations; deadline set Aug. 22

COLORADO SPRINGS — The Space Foundation is seeking nominations for induction into the prestigious Space Technology Hall of Fame in 2015. This international program honors innovations by organizations and individuals who transform space technology into commercial products that improve life on Earth.

The deadline is Friday, Aug. 22, and anyone can submit a nomination of a technology that was developed anywhere in the world for use in space and then modified or adopted for use on Earth.

Nomination information, including online and downloadable nomination forms, is available at www.SpaceTechHallofFame.org or contact STHOF@SpaceFoundation.org.

Inductees have included energy-saving technologies, health-improvement technologies, satellite and telecommunications technologies and practical commercial devices. Some examples are the automatic external defibrillator; non-invasive breast-biopsy technology; anti-shock garments; LASIK eye surgery; implantable pacemakers and hearing aids; and technologies that power cellular phones, terrestrial networks and satellite broadcast television and radio communications.

Each nomination is reviewed for completeness, assessed by technical experts and then ranked by a prestigious panel of judges who look at economic benefit, public awareness, societal benefit, longevity and the public-private partnership investment.

Award ceremonies for the 2015 inductees and honorees will be part of the Space Foundation’s 31st Space Symposium, which will be held April 16 at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Additional information about the Space Technology Hall of Fame, including a complete list of inducted technologies, is available at www.SpaceTechHallofFame.org.

Founded in 1983, the Space Foundation is the foremost advocate for all sectors of space, and is a global, nonprofit leader in space-awareness activities, educational programs and major industry events.

The Space Foundation has a field office in Houston, and from its Washington, D.C., office, conducts government affairs, publishes “The Space Report: The Authoritative Guide to Global Space Activity” and provides three indexes that track daily U.S. stock-market performance of the space industry.

‘North Brevard Craft BrewFest’ set Aug. 9

The Rotary Club of Titusville will present the “North Brevard Craft BrewFest” fund-raiser from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9, at Sand Point Park in Titusville. The event will showcase different samples of ice-cold beer distributed by Florida Beer Co., Bug Nutty Beer Co., Due South, Brown Distributing and Carroll Distributing, and other brewers. The entertainment will include The Jonnie Morgan Band, and Tim Reynolds, lead guitarist for The Dave Matthews Band. The Rotary Club will be selling food and refreshments during the festival for family and friends. For more information about the festival, visit www.NorthBrevardCraftBrewFest.com or call 269-5913.
Artemis ‘The IT Company’
Continued from page 11

software development, and business-continuity solutions.

On the web-development side of the business, Artemis won eight Addy Awards last year competing in the annual Space Coast American Advertising Federation event hosted at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto.

Artemis earned four Gold and four Silver Addys for its marketing and design efforts for clients. The awards included “Best of Category” in Digital Media.

“There were probably a lot people at that event wondering why an IT company was competing in the Addy Awards. We’ve put a lot of effort into building up our creative talent in-house, and Eric (Needle) has been a big part of that success. We have grown our design and development team to nine full-time people. We’re proud of those awards,” said Proctor.

On yet another side of business, though it’s a separate entity from Artemis, NdtHOST has built a 25,000-square-foot data center in Melbourne. It was designed to house and protect critical business information technology systems and data. The facility was constructed to withstand powerful winds from hurricanes and showcases a host of cutting-edge features, including redundant bi-fuel generators.

“The relationship with the data center will provide us a unique niche in having that kind of facility as a strategic partner,” said Proctor. “Before the construction of this building there was no Tier 3 facility option for the commercial customer in Brevard.” On the varied tier level of these facilities, Tier 1 is the simplest, meaning it is basically a server room. Tier 4 is the most stringent level.

NdtHOST provides a broad range of computing services, from hosted server environments for mission-critical business functions, to co-location services where customers can lease cabinets, floor space, or even private suites for their own equipment.

“It gives us the opportunity to cater to all sizes of businesses, if they want to have their core infrastructure either backed up or housed in the only facility of its kind in the county that has a Category 5 Hurricane,” he said.

Paulsen and Schluraff open Century 21 Ocean; social function set for Aug. 28

Century 21 Ocean has opened in Cocoa Beach, further expanding the presence of the Century 21 brand in Florida. The office is at 4333 N. Atlantic Ave. The owners are Chad Paulsen, broker, and Barbara Schluraff.

Century 21 Ocean provides full-service real-estate services to home buyers and sellers in greater Brevard County.

“From his youthful, driven leadership to her extensive market knowledge, Chad and Barbara are ideal business partners,” said Rick Davidson, president and chief executive officer of Century 21 Real Estate LLC.

“Their commitment to providing an unrivaled customer experience for the home buyers and sellers of Brevard County will help to differentiate their company in the region. We are excited to welcome the entire independent team of sales associates at Century 21 Ocean to the Century 21 System.”

Paulsen got his start in the real-estate industry five years ago, working at a family friend’s local firm. In a few short years, he earned his broker’s license and decided it was time for “him to open his own company.” He soon teamed up with Schluraff, who has several years of real estate, property management and lending experience.

“For me, it was a no-brainer to affiliate with the Century 21 team,” said Paulsen. “I consider it the real-estate brand of the future. Between its global presence and extensive suite of marketing and learning tools, Barbara and I are excited about the wide array of resources that are now at our disposal. We are confident that by combining Barbara’s traditional business approach with my youthful, tech-savvy nature, we can provide an unmatched real-estate experience for our customers.”

“Chad and I both embrace technology and we are looking forward to helping our affiliated agents utilize all of the tools now available to us,” added Schluraff.

To celebrate their office affiliating with the Century 21 System, Paulsen and Schluraff will be hosting a grand-opening celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 28. The Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce will be on hand for a ribbon-cutting event. The food will be catered by Coastal Kitchen and drinks will be provided by Dawson Law PA.
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BMAP, which offers scholarships, is the only program of its kind in East Central Florida, she said. “Our instructors all work full time in the machining industry and that’s what makes our program unique. They are up-to-date on the latest techniques and trends in the industry.”

Member companies mentor their employee-apprentices for 8,000 hours over a four-year period, she said. The apprentices cannot be charged tuition by state statute. “The participating businesses make a commitment to the program,” said Coxwell. “As participants, we are required to make sure the students receive diversity in machining throughout the four-year training period.”

BMAP graduates become part of the national “Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Data System.” The journeyman certificate is an achievement that is carried with you wherever you go in your career. It’s recognized throughout the nation,” said DeFrancisci, who was instrumental in the formation of BMAP in the late 1990s.

He says the program is a “pathway to a career in machining. We are really proud of BMAP. It’s an excellent addition to the educational community. It provides a solid technical—education venue for our community, and there is no better way to train machinists than the mix of on—the—job training with classroom instruction. This method is proven. We have a long track record of success and we’re really happy about that.”

Individuals who complete a registered apprenticeship program, as opposed to one that is not registered, will earn substantially higher wages over their lifetime, according to a study released by the U.S. Department of Education.

Titled “An Effectiveness Assessment and Cost–Benefit Analysis of Registered Apprenticeship in 10 States,” the study found that over a career, participants who completed the registered apprenticeship program had average earnings gains of nearly a quarter—million dollars ($240,037, increasing to $301,533 with employer benefits added) compared to nonparticipants.

Chastain, who is a senior supervisor at Brevard Robotics/Kel–Tec, followed his son into the program. His son now works in his field in Switzerland.

“The graduates of BMAP typically move up the career ladder faster at their respective companies because they’ve had the extra training, compared to someone who has not equipped themselves with these skills,” said Chastain Sr. “They are getting double—duty training, in the classroom and at the work site. The program has helped me tremendously at Brevard Robotics. It’s the knowledge you gain. And the more you put into it, the more you get out of it.”

BMAP has produced 66 graduates, with one-third of them coming from Brevard Robotics, which employees roughly 110 people. BMAP is “far above” both the national and state average in the percentage of program completers, said Dr. Jones. Since inception of the program, the BMAP graduation rate is 89.3 percent.

DeFrancisci, whose business designs and manufactures pasta equipment, with all production in the U.S., says the job outlook for machinists is bright. “The average age of a machinist in this country is getting up there. So there is going to be plenty of opportunity for people who have the skills to find a job in machining at almost any time in any economy.”

The retirement of aging workers, as well as the heightened demand for skilled workers in general, could cause serious labor shortages in the U.S. By 2020, the nation could face a shortfall of around 875,000 machinists, welders, industrial—machinery mechanics, and industrial engineers, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics and estimates by The Boston Consulting Group.

“A wonderful thing about BMAP is when the student graduates, he or she is employed. They are not searching for work,” said Coxwell.

Dr. Jones said that some students come into the program without a job. “If they already have a job in manufacturing, that is terrific.”

Companies, schools, governments, and nonprofits must do more to identify, recruit, train and employ skilled manufacturing workers, The Boston Consulting Group report says. A wide array of collaborative programs already exists across the nation, but these programs “are not nearly sufficient.”

“It’s very hard to find experienced machinists,” said Johnson, of Lighting Science Group in Satellite Beach, whose company makes a wide range of lighting products targeting markets such as household, commercial, and industrial.

“BMAP’s mission is to turn out good, experienced machinists in conjunction with the companies that are members of the program. We cover the gamut — tooling, the different geometries of tooling, and which tools cut which materials, for example. The member companies partner up with BMAP and reinforce what the instructors in the program teach the students during the week.”

Manufacturers have scaled back their in—house training over the years, and they underutilize important sources of new talent such as high schools and community colleges, according to The Boston Consulting Group report on the manufacturing skills gap.

The problems associated with labor shortages can be harmful to the economy when job openings cannot be filled. This fuels wage inflation and, above all, impedes business growth and competitiveness.

In a 2013 report titled “The Hidden STEM Economy,” the Brookings Institution says half of all STEM jobs — in science, technology, engineering, and math — are available to workers without a four—year baccalaureate degree. Half of all STEM jobs are in manufacturing, health care, or the construction industries. This report presents a “new and more rigorous way” to define STEM occupations, and in doing so presents a “new portrait of the STEM economy.”

Of the $4.3 billion spent annually by the federal government on STEM education and training, only one—fifth goes toward supporting sub—bachelor’s—level training, while twice as much supports bachelor’s or higher–level STEM careers. The study says STEM knowledge offers attractive wage and job opportunities to many workers with a post—secondary certificate or associate’s degree.

Dr. Jones says it seems like some of the “government’s STEM money should be used to at least pay the tuition costs” for those students who take STEM–oriented classes like BMAP offers.

The Brookings Institution report sums us by saying “policy makers and leaders can do more to foster a broader adsorption of the STEM knowledge to the U.S. work force and its regional economies.”

Coxwell, of Coastal Steel, says BMAP has played a role in his company’s growth. “As a small business, we have limited resources for training. The BMAP students actually bring new technical knowledge to our business, which allows us to advance and expand our capabilities. This program means a lot to small businesses like ours and it deserves the support of the community.”
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