



Florida States University Walking Tour Alumni and Faculty Bench-Sponsoring Program



Treat yourself to a walk around the oldest part of FSU's lovely campus. You will enjoy built-in rest stops along the way. Immerse yourself in history and tradition as you amble among buildings and across grounds rooted in education more than a century old. Currently, you will see 33 benches, 23 sponsored and 10 not. Viewing these works of art you will learn about prestigious faculty, generous alumni and, yes, even ordinary members whose hearts remain to help encompass the University's ever-growing family.

As this tour unfolds, you also will learn about the history of this program. How it in fact conflicted in its origin with existing campus architectural plans. But, how once underway, the beauty of the benches along with the legacies their dedications boast won over skeptics. You will learn details about the benches—who makes them, where, and how. You will learn about the selection process involving donors and sponsors. Learn about the minimum dollar gift necessary for having a bench dedicated, set, and to whom to talk.



Strozier Library, from Landis Green



FSU Arch, Westcott Plaza



The Bench Tour Begins at Westcott Plaza

Twelve benches surround the fountain. Passing under the archway, circle the plaza counter-clockwise and see the entire dozen—nine sponsored, three not (1–12).

Strike south only a few steps to Diffenbaugh, then westward to Williams, Dodd, and across the street to the entrance of Bryan. This short journey takes in six benches, four sponsored and two that are not (13–18).

Walk to Gilchrist; see the sponsored bench at the entry (19).

Go west a few steps and pass under the archway to Dogwood Way into Landis Green to the fountain. See four benches surrounding the fountain—two sponsored, two not (20–23).

Head north and leave Landis Green along Magnolia Way for Bellamy, climb its steps, see two sponsored benches (24–25).

From Bellamy, head east, pass in front of Strozier Library and across Dogwood Way. Enter Sandels Green and continue to Ivy Way. In front of Sandels, take in a sponsored bench (26).

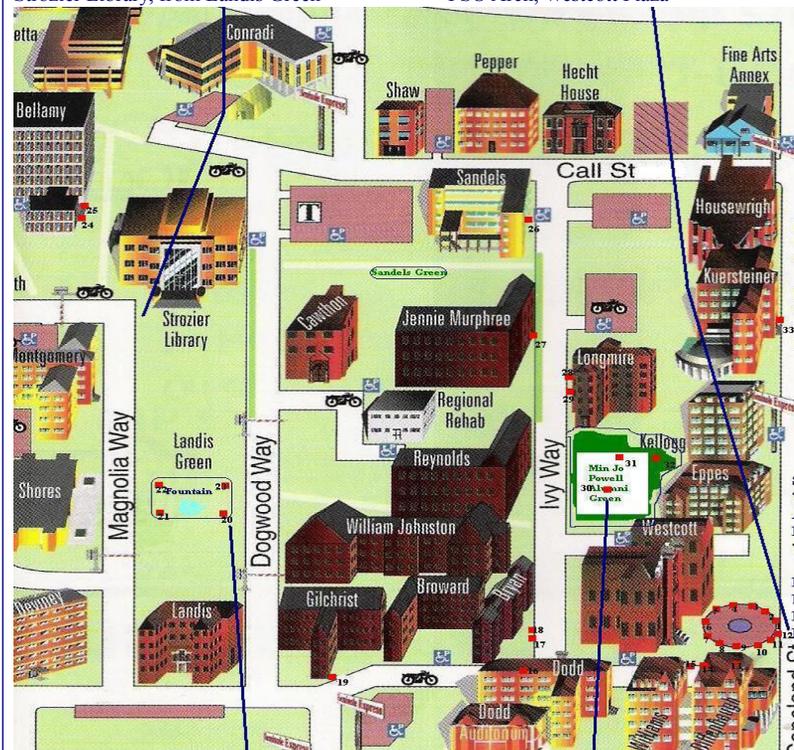
Head south from Sandels on Ivy Way and pass-by the unsponsored bench at the entry of Jennie Murphree (27).

Cross Ivy Way to Longmire and take in two benches in the front—one sponsored and one not (28–29).

Walk south a few feet and climb the sidewalk steps into Mina Jo Powell Alumni Green. In the green, just south of the Memorial Monument, see a sponsored bench (30).

From Alumni Green, walk between Kellogg and Kuersteiner and pass by two unsponsored benches (31–32).

Finally, in front of Kuersteiner, rest at the last, sponsored bench (33). A short, southerly walk returns you to the point of beginning at Westcott Plaza. Or, you might decide to cross Copeland Street and indulge yourself with refreshments.



Landis Green Fountain



Memorial, Mina Jo Powell Alumni Green

INTRODUCTION



Faculty, staff and students at Florida State University Master Craftsman Studio manufacture an array of art featured across campus. Benches comprise only one of the Studio's undertakings. Its website is a worthwhile resource for more information about the Studio in general (<http://craft.fsu.edu/>).

Pictured sitting on the back counter, center-right is a bench-plug. What is its function? It represents the core artistic creation behind the Alumni and Faculty Bench-Sponsoring Program.



Robert Bischoff, Director of the Master Craftsman Studio, stands in front of one of several "plugs" he created for making one-at-a-time molds.

The Studio creates benches by spreading pliable silicon rubber around the plug. It dries, enveloping the plug. Carefully, members of the Studio pry away the "shell" that uncovers a single-use mold they fill with cement.

Finally, the silicon outer skin peels away to reveal the bench. Some assembly is required since a bench cannot be cast in one piece.

Bischoff to summarize his role as Director says "Teach, first"; Ornament Campus, second"; "Fund Raise, third."



At the Studio's loading dock sits an unsponsored bench destined for a location on campus—it is the bench with the spoke-backrest, called "contemporary" by Bischoff. The other bench is a design Bischoff created for the Ringling Museum in Sarasota. The Museum commissioned the studio to build fifty of these exclusively for them.

Benches weigh approximately 1,500 pounds. That was not always the case. According to Mark Bertolami, Campus Planning and Space Management, at the beginning of the program in the late 1990s, they weighed about 400 pounds. Occasionally, this proved to be too light and the benches turned over. Today, because of their weight, benches rest on four-inch thick foundations.



Benches bear dedication plaques in the center of the backrest. These honor alumni, faculty, administrators and organizations.

Presently, 23 benches have sponsors and 10 do not.



Sides of the bench may show the sponsor. But this is not necessarily so. Sometimes a sponsor is evident enough in the dedication.

STOPS: Plaza, around Westcott Fountain (1 – 6)

Bench	Dedication	Thumbnail History
<p>1 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p>After passing under the Archway into Westcott Plaza, our very first bench to the north, on the right, is ... <i>Unsponsored</i></p>	<p>Twelve benches surround the fountain. Each represents the “Gothic” design, named by Robert Bischoff, Master Craftsman Program Director. Bischoff does not intend to cast any more of this version. He contends compared to the “Contemporary” design, which you will see at the Diffenbaugh stop, the Gothic style benches simply are not comfortable enough to suit. Despite its eye appeal, Bischoff explains the Gothic design fails in combining effectively the three components that make for comfortable seating. First, comes the height at the front of the seat to the floor; second, the front of the seat to the back; third, the slant of the back.</p>
<p>2 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Randy P. Bubb 1964 – 2005 Florida State Graduate 1986 Loving Husband, Father and Friend Donated by Lisa, Kasey and Dylan Bubb</i></p>	<p>Perhaps the saddest note to tell about Randy Bubb rests in finding that somebody, perhaps his wife, has, as recently as November 10, 2006, brought forward his alumni record as current, implying in the alumni directory that he is still a living member—although, written in stone, this obviously is not the case. Bubb earned a BS from FSU in 1986. He hailed from Coppell, Texas. Heralded as “Businessman of the Year” by FSU School of Business in early 2000, he was Director of Finance for Memorex Telex.</p>
<p>3 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Garrison M. Dundas And Pamela A Punkar Proudly Support Florida State University</i></p>	<p>Dundas graduated from FSU with a BS degree in 1982 and JD in 1986. He hails from Ft. Pierce, Florida and is an attorney in the firm of Brennan Hayskar et al.</p> <p>Dundas is the 2006 President of the Treasure Coast Seminole Club.</p> <p>Punkar graduated from FSU with a BA degree in 1982, and hails from Ft. Pierce where she is a financial consultant with Merrill Lynch.</p>
<p>4 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Treasure Coast Seminole Club Supports Florida State University</i></p>	<p>Boasting of more than a half-dozen decades of existence and unwavering support for FSU, the Treasure Coast Seminole Club comprises a region midway along the eastern coastline of Florida, stretching from Stuart in the south through Sebastian in the north. It takes in the counties of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee. A community-active club, Treasure Coast annually sponsors a regionally local golf tournament for charities.</p>
<p>5 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Dr. Mary W. Hicks Professor Emeritus In honor of 30 years of research And teaching excellence The Students of the Interdivisional Program of Marriage and the Family</i></p>	
<p>6 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Bill and Esther Taylor Proud FSU Parents and Grandparents Holder-Young</i></p>	

STOPS: Plaza, around Westcott Fountain (7 – 12)

Bench	Dedication	Thumbnail History
<p>7 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>In Celebration of Alpha Delta Pi 150 Years May 15, 2001 Dedicated to Iota Chapter And Placed in Memory of Pearle Long Cullen Easic Long Duncan By Susan Miller Jones</i></p>	
<p>8 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>In Honor of Professor Donald F. Ungurait, Founding Dean, Florida State University Film School and Professor of Communication In Grateful Recognition for his Contribution and kindness to Florida State University And to us Michael, Calla and Matthew MacNamara</i></p>	
<p>9 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>In Honor of Professor Stephen S. Winters Former Dean, Basic Studies and Professor of Geology In Grateful Recognition for His Contribution and Kindness to Florida State University And to Us Michael, Calla and Matthew MacNamara</i></p>	
<p>10 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Margo Bindhardt Founding Chairman Seven Days of Opening Nights</i></p>	
<p>11 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>The University Bench-Sponsoring Program and the establishment of the Master Craftsman Studio occurred by accident rather than design. Bischoff tells the story that in the mid-1990s FSU President “Sandy” D’Alemberte commissioned him as an independent local sculptor and artist to fabricate a similar bench of the current Gothic motif to replace a deteriorated version on campus. The result of Bischoff’s replacement is history. D’Alemberte unilaterally decided to incorporate that bench design, produced by Bischoff, around the Westcott Plaza then under construction in the form we have today. The early-2000 inception of the Craftsman Studio was a byproduct of that bench along with the decision to build them in-house.</p>
<p>12 Westcott Plaza</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>Mark Bertolami in Campus Planning and Space Management adds to the story that not everybody was pleased with D’Alemberte’s decision, especially the architects who designed the Plaza’s construction and the committee of faculty, administrators and students involved in the decision to approve that plan. The original design for benches was different and included fewer of them to boot. Bertolami describes the mood of acceptance of the President’s decision as 50-50. Continuing, however, he says as Bischoff’s benches appeared, coupled with the fact they were in-house built by students, the approval turned to favor the concept overall.</p>

STOPS: Diffenbaugh, Dodd, and Bryan (13 – 18)

Bench	Dedication	Thumbnail History
<p>13 Diffenbaugh</p> 	<p><i>Dr. Steve Edwards. In Appreciation for his 40 plus years of service to his Alma Mater, FSU, as a Professor of Physics and the Dean of the Faculties Retired: June 30, 2003</i></p>	<p>A colleague of FSU's Nobel Prize winning research-professor Paul Dirac, Dr. Steve Edwards served as professor in the Department of Physics at FSU for more than 30 years. Earning the distinction as Professor Emeritus, Edwards went on to serve as Dean of the Faculties. Edwards still has an office on campus and remains an invaluable contact for students researching the history of FSU since he grew up in Tallahassee and earned both his BS and MS from FSU (1952, 1954).</p>
<p>14</p> 	<p><i>Beverly Burnsed Spencer Florida State University B.A. History 1962 President for University Relations 1992-2003</i></p>	
<p>15</p> 	<p><i>Michael Shaara Pulitzer Prize Winner in Fiction, 1975 The Killer Angels</i></p>	<p>Shaara's Pulitzer Prize winning novel was adapted into the film <i>Gettysburg</i>, 1993. Amateur boxer, airborne infantry officer in the Korean War, police officer, a graduate of Rutgers, author of science, sports, historical fictions, teacher of literature at FSU in the 1980s, Shaara died of a heart attack at 60 in Tallahassee, where he is buried. His heart-touching novel, published posthumously, <i>For the Love of the Game</i>, was adapted into the 1993 sensational baseball movie starring Kevin Costner. Shaara's son, Jeffrey, graduate of FSU and successful novelist, writes in the tradition of his father. He lives in Tallahassee.</p>
<p>16 Dodd</p> 	<p><i>Leo Sandon University Distinguished Teaching Professor Religion and American Studies 1969 – 2003</i></p>	
<p>17 Bryan</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>With the arrival of Bischoff's benches around the Plaza Fountain in the late 1990s, an idea emerged to create a program to sponsor benches campus wide. As Bischoff tells it, the idea did not focus on raising funds, but putting benches around campus to sit on. He reports the cost to sponsor a bench mainly funds the cost of its construction. From both Bischoff and Bertolami, there is not a master plan where benches will be placed. Current decisions in large part are that of the donors who have the choice to pick their own spots. Those benches presently un-sponsored are available for relocation. Once set, however, the plan is for that locale to be permanent.</p>
<p>18 Bryan</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>The paperwork to sponsor a bench begins with University Relations, please see http://www.fsu.com/store/mailProducts/fsuBenches.html.</p> <p>Along with the opportunity to sponsor a bench that site also beckons sponsorship for commemorative bricks in donor's names to be placed around Westcott Plaza Fountain. At the site is a link that takes viewers to a campus map where putting the cursor atop dots pops up pictures of benches, http://craft.fsu.edu/bench/bench.html.</p>

STOPS: Gilchrist and Landis Green Fountain (19 – 23)

Bench	Dedication	Thumbnail History
<p>19 Gilchrist</p> 	<p><i>Albert W. Gilchrist Governor of Florida 1909 - 1913</i></p>	<p>Attendee at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, captain in the U.S. army during the Spanish-American War, Florida House of Representative member, civil engineer, real estate developer, and orange-growing farmer, Albert W. Gilchrist's single term as governor focused primarily on public health. Gilchrist died in 1926 at the age of 68. Gilchrist County, Florida and a building on FSU campus are named in his honor.</p>
<p>20 Landis Green Fountain</p> 	<p><i>Dr. Billie Jones Professor Emerita Department of Physical Education Women's Volleyball and Softball Coach And Dr. Janet Wells, Professor Emerita Chair, Department of Physical Education F Club Member and FSCW Class of 1942 Honoring Their Years of Leadership And Belief That Women Should Excel In Body, Mind and Spirit</i></p>	
<p>21 Landis Green Fountain</p> 	<p><i>Paul Adrian Maurice Dirac 1933 Nobel Laureate in Physics For the Discovery of New Productive Forms of Atomic Theory</i></p>	<p>A native of Great Britain, Dirac was the founder of the field of quantum physics. He taught at FSU for 10 years during the 1970s and 1980s. He died at the age of 82 in Tallahassee in 1984, where he is buried. In 1997, his last doctoral student, Bruce Hellman, endowed the university for the creation of the Dirac-Hellman Award to reward outstanding work in theoretical physics by FSU researchers. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Italy also awards the coveted Dirac Prize in his memory.</p>
<p>22 Landis Green Fountain</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>The pop-ups spoken about at the previously unsponsored stop are pictures that are no newer than 2003. Some of the benches noted as unsponsored at that site, now in fact are, and, others, no longer sit where shown. Further, these pop-ups do not tell who or what is honored. Or, who are the sponsors. The site also does not reveal the official price for sponsoring a bench. Phone calls to University Relations concerned with sponsoring a bench, resulting in messages requesting a return call, remain unreturned. Mark Bertolami, Campus Planning and Space Management, advises the entry-level to sponsor a bench is \$5,000. Bischoff counters it is \$2,500.</p>
<p>23 Landis Green Fountain</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>Bischoff describes the approval process to sponsor a bench as that of fundamentally residing inside University Relations, instead of by committee petitioning and screening. The formula, as described, begins with contacting University Relations and appealing to them for approval based upon the proposed honoree's connection to FSU. Presumably, the sponsor and honoree is passed before unknown FSU Vice-presidents, or perhaps the President, to derive a decision. He has no knowledge of a petitioner ever being denied. Finally, Bischoff receives word from Relations to commission a plaque in an honoree's name.</p>

STOPS: Bellamy, Sandels, Jennie Murphree, and Longmire (24 – 29)

Bench

Dedication

Thumbnail History

<p>24 Bellamy</p> 	<p><i>Robin's Bench</i> <i>Come sit, meditate and enjoy</i> <i>Robin Crusoe Rhodes</i> <i>Instructor</i> <i>Department of Anthropology</i></p>	
<p>25 Bellamy</p> 	<p><i>Robin's Bench</i> <i>Come sit, meditate and enjoy</i> <i>Robin Crusoe Rhodes</i> <i>Instructor</i> <i>Department of Anthropology</i></p>	
<p>26 Sandels</p> 	<p><i>"It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years!"</i> <i>Abraham Lincoln</i></p> <p><i>Bret Joseph Jones</i></p>	
<p>27 Jennie Murphree</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	<p>The 10 unsponsored benches—one-third of the total—throughout the tour coupled with unreturned phone calls admittedly raises curiosity about the effectiveness of University Relations as the correct arm, or if there is enough personnel there, to implement the Faculty and Bench-Sponsoring Program.</p>
<p>28 Longmire</p> 	<p><i>Joshua M. Morse, III</i> <i>University of Mississippi J. D. 1948</i> <i>Sterling Fellow, Yale Law School 1964</i> <i>Life Member Conference of</i> <i>Commissioners</i> <i>On Uniform State Laws Since 1963</i> <i>Dean of the University of Mississippi</i> <i>Law School, 1962 to 1969</i> <i>Dean of Florida State University</i> <i>College of Law from 1969 to 1980</i> <i>Professor, Florida State University</i> <i>College of Law 1969 to 1998</i> <i>Thank you for all you have done for</i> <i>Florida State University and for Me</i> <i>Your Friend – Stephen R. MacNamara</i></p>	
<p>29 Longmire</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	

STOPS: Mina Jo Powell Alumna Green, Kuersteiner (30 – 33)

Bench

Dedication

Thumbnail History

<p>30 Mina Jo Powell Alumna Green</p> 	<p><i>Honoring Mina Jo Powell BS 1950 MS 1963</i></p>	<p>In 1991, the green where this bench sits was dedicated to honor Mina Jo Powell. Formerly, this section of campus was used for more than five decades as the site for commencement ceremonies during the era when FSU was a women’s college. This bench bears her name and honors Powell as a staunch advocate of protecting open space on campus and the legacy of the university’s earlier years. Powell remains a generous giver, donating in the late 1990s more than one-million dollars to help establish FSU’s medical school. She hails from Tallahassee.</p>
<p>31 Mina Jo Powell Alumna Green</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	
<p>32 Mina Jo Powell Alumna Green</p> 	<p><i>Un-sponsored</i></p>	
<p>33 Kuersteiner</p> 	<p><i>Dr. Bently Shellhammer Professor of Music Education 1977 – 2006 Founder and Director of The Tallahassee Winds 1997 In appreciation From The Tallahassee Winds April 26, 2006</i></p>	

CONCLUSION

The journey's end hopefully leaves you knowing that FSU's bench sponsoring program is an evolving concept rooted in history. The bench program, while comprising only a short period of years itself, draws its existence from a storied and heralded past that speaks of the University's tradition of education involving students, faculty, administrators and organizations.

President D'Alemberte's chance encounter with Robert Bischoff to sculpt the University's first bench set the stage for a program that grew beyond anything anyone imagined in the late-1990s. That it ruffled feathers of architects who designed the Westcott Plaza and favored their benches over Bischoff's marks the program's inception even more interesting because his not only survived but also eventually became embraced campus wide. Students sitting on benches to tie shoes, study, and gathering around to talk contrasts similarly to well-manicured, richly green lawns with warnings, "stay off the grass." Where, instead, we should like to see folk throwing Frisbees and footballs, lounging and reading under blue skies and sunshine. These benches are warm additions to the campus greens and around fountains and building where folk play and rest.

Benches, Bischoff boasts, could scatter around campus in the hundreds and not in the least be obtrusive. Mark Bertolami of Campus Planning it seems would agree with him. That a positive, in-house corner was turned with the bench program reflects in Bischoff's remarks as he judged caretakers and administrators twenty-years ago embodied a philosophy in which they perceived the campus as an annoyance. But now it is seen as an asset and benches are part of this.

Today, administratively, the bench program has unfulfilled promise. Regardless that it might usher forth funds from sponsors for the university, its greater promise rests in communicating to the public FSU's history. Each dedicated bench tells a story. Unfortunately, there is presently nowhere to draw upon these stories. When a student of history cannot easily and readily find background about people and organizations honored on the dedication plaques—forget about the sponsors—there is something wrong with that picture. Also, when benches online are described as unsponsored, when in reality they are, is wrong. When pictures claim that benches sit where they do not, is sloppy. And when a phone call to University Relations from a potential promoter or sponsor goes unreturned, that is unforgivable.

Issues neglecting the opportunity to draw-in money generally solve themselves when higher-ups see dollars flying out the window because of poor public relations. So no suggestion to cure this is probably necessary. But compiling the history of people and organizations honored on the benches is a complex issue that could be beyond the scope of most fund raising arms. First, consider that as a researcher, I should have a source to turn where elementary background is available for each sponsored bench. The fact exists there is not a central source or website. Outside of that, running each name through the University Alumni Association's Name Search obviously came up short. Next, even utilizing a Strozier Library research tool accessible to students and faculty through membership, *Who's Who*, brought forward only information about the most notable, such as Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners. Searching Google drew trash—with every query came the opportunity to join Classmates.com and a host of private investigating companies assuring that for a fee they would track down the missing.

At the minimum, the bench program could use a site developed within FSU that characterizes in thumbnail form a brief history about each dedication. In addition, each name on each memorial bench should have an entry in at least one of the online, free encyclopedias. Granted, Answers.com and Wikipedia although remarkably current and quick for finding information are shunned in academic circles. These sites in fact do not qualify to justify a research position and argument. But for quick searches with thumbnail answers, and, most importantly, ready-reference links right in the paragraphs for greater depth into a subject, Wikipedia cannot be beat.

Consider that when researching Paul Dirac and Michael Shaara, Wikipedia provided links to Physics at FSU and Tallahassee and Florida, and many, many more links besides. Thus, around these people the larger picture in which to appreciate our subjects as honorees was quickly at hand. All people and organizations with their thumbnail histories honored on benches ought to be entered on Wikipedia. There is nothing to lose but the time in doing this. Sponsors would be flattered. After all, it is attention on behalf of those whom they honor, and, perhaps, a little for themselves, too, that they seek. The advantage to the entry, besides being inexpensive since someone else maintains Wikipedia, is that the FSU campus is wifi. Thus, anyone, anytime, with a laptop, sitting on a bench could simply type in the honored and know to whom they should be grateful for a place to sit. Also, once in Wikipedia or Answers, at Google would show whom and whatever is honored with a direct link to that encyclopedia, solving the needle in a haystack problem encountered now.

Finally, the benches themselves acclaiming honorees are each one unique and charming chapters in a broad history surrounding the existence of FSU. It appears no other college campus in the United States has a program such as this. A program that includes a full range, a gamut of honorees—from world-shaping discoverers to ordinary folk whose hearts forever remain on these grounds.