

**NEW COLLEGE ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION**  
**2014 APPLICATION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**BOARD APPLICANTS' STATEMENT OF INTENT**  
(TO BE PUBLISHED TO THE NEW COLLEGE ALUMNAE/I COMMUNITY FOR COMMENT)

**Chad Bickerton '05**

New College is a unique place. Even more exceptional than New College is the path that each New College Alumnus takes after leaving New College. I believe that New College left me distinctively situated to accomplish the goals that I set and continue to set, for myself. My hope is that each New College Alumnus has seen the benefits of an education at New College and has enjoyed the experience that New College offered.

As a recent graduate, I think that current New College students and recent graduates have faced greater adversity in accomplishing their goals after New College. I faced these challenges myself. The difficulties in getting into grad school, unemployment, and the difficulty of starting one's career in the current economic environment. As a young professional living in Sarasota, I have the energy, time, and motivation to assist young alums and current students, the future members of our Alumni Association, in confronting these issues. In this respect, I have spoken on campus about the challenges Alums will face in law school and in the legal profession. I have also been a guest lecturer. Membership on the NCAA Board will allow me to reach the greatest number of NCF Alums.

I think we need to do a better job in bridging communication between recent and older New College Alums. I travel across Florida and find myself championing New College's cause quite often. I take great pride in the fact that, many times, I do not have to educate folks on the value and importance of a New College education. They already know this, due to the achievements of New College Alums before my generation. I believe the experience of not-so-recent New College Alums can be harnessed to encourage greater success in our recent Alums. Membership on the NCAA Board will allow me to better harness the resources of the NCAA Board and NCF community in connecting the entire range of generations that have attended New College.

I also want to encourage dialogue about how changes at New College affect Alums. New College is constantly evolving. At times I have had concerns about how changes may affect traditions, places, or memories that I associate with New College. I think most Alums have felt this way at some point in time. I want to make sure the concerns of Alums are heard. As a member of the NCAA Board I will strive to convey the concerns of Alums I speak to in a constructive manner. I also hope to reach out to many more Alums with the knowledge that their time spent speaking with me will be time well spent.

**Rick Schofield '85**

New College came into my life back in the mid 80's and had a profound impact on my life in a variety of ways. With my daughter now attending, it is time I begin to give back more to the New College Community and Alumni Association.

While at New College I completed my Thesis on the Sanctuary Movement versus First Amendment law and was pleased to have Professors from three different disciplines on my committee. While rights remain important to me it was another event that led me to my life's work.

In September of 1985, New College hosted an evacuation shelter on campus for Hurricane Elena. Running that shelter initially led to working with the Campus Improvement Trust and other opportunities in Sarasota and on Campus – While currently a Division Disaster Director, I can now look back on almost 40 years of service to the community as either a paid and volunteer staff member of the American Red Cross. In that time I have led or participated in over 50 national relief operations, with expertise in mitigation, planning, training, mass care, recovery, volunteer development, team building, and partnerships. Ultimately I have focused on building successful outcomes for the Red Cross, our clients, our partners, and our communities.

While New College helped lead me to serving the community, I also remember that first day in a Professors Moseley/Benedetti Class where the Professors pushed us to learn all sides of a particular topic and then learn enough to be able to have and defend our own thought out positions. Later Professors Doenecke, Synder, Chae, and many others reinforced learning; each in their own way. As a non-math student in a math explorations class ended up working with Professor Chae long into the evening on topics outside of the class work; I knew I was in the right place. That love of learning has not only enhanced my personal life but has also rewarded me professionally.

It is time to give back to the community

### **Norman Stein '69**

I am not sure what a Statement of Intent entails and how seriously to take it. I often loved New College when I attended (1969 through 1973), but not always and on occasion while I was there I wished I were almost anywhere else. But mostly I loved it and that love has only deepened over the 40 years that have elapsed since I left the only real magical kingdom in Florida. In part it has deepened as I came to realize and appreciate how much I learned about learning during my four years as a student, on and off campus, but it has probably deepened even more as my friendships with New College folks have continued to deepen. Not all, and I guess not even most, of my closest friends are New College alums, but many of my very closest friends, including my spouse, are. And so is my son and so is my son's spouse. But what is most telling, for me, is the instant and strong connection with virtually every Novo Collegian I've met since graduating—whether while having a casual conversation with someone outside a convenience store in Windsor Maine and suddenly realizing that we had both gone to New College, or seeing someone at the beach or at my son's wedding with a New College logo on their t-shirt, or having a student come into my office and identify herself as a fellow Novo Collegian. And that connection is not because we rooted for the same sports team or pledged the same fraternity or even lived in the same dorm (I guess only the last being a possible New College connection). It is because we learned to learn in the same way—through four years of cloistered intellectual engagement that also managed to be four years of active engagement with the world. And it is because I suspect we have similar values, or at least values that were forged in the same foundry. New College may have changed over the years, even significantly, but its essentials have not.

(I remember about five years ago, while visiting Sarasota, joining a class in Russian literature taught by David Schatz, a class I had taken 35 years earlier. The students looked a bit different, although they also looked strangely and comfortingly familiar, but what struck me most was the classroom discussion—it was about The Master and Margarita—which transported me back 35 years. And thereupon my heart was driven wild.)

I am not sure how an association of New College alums can do this, but what I would want to do most as a board member is help preserve that which makes each of us have such a strong and instant connection

with every other one of us, no matter how many years separate us from Palm Court parties and sunsets over Sarasota Bay.

### **Shannon Strischek '05**

Since graduating from the New College of Florida, my enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity have resulted in an eclectic background due to an interest in opportunities I was passionate about pursuing. Ranging from cosmetology to social media to my newly discovered desire to work in medicine as a physician, I attribute my New College of Florida education for the ability to pursue such a variety of fields. As a result, I want to give back to the education responsible for my truly invaluable skills by being a member of the New College Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors.

Like many New College students, my course of study was truly what I made of it: I pursued the Humanities, focused on theater and art history, was responsible for the addition of a couple courses to the course catalog (including a Costume History Tutorial and Buddhist Art), and studied abroad in London with Florida State University. I learned how to transcribe words from a page to the stage and enjoyed training my body as a vehicle for communicating the words of a playwright. I particularly loved deciphering the story of art history, looking at clues hidden in the work itself as well as the history surrounding it to communicate the message of the piece to both others and myself. New College also helped solidify my own beliefs and become confident in my knowledge; by my fourth year, several of my professors commented on my willingness to participate and the value my insights contributed to class discussions.

In each of my jobs, I have consistently utilized my creative skills for writing, social media, and communications towards developing the public voice of the company as well as company-client relations. Having had the opportunity to manage multiple social media platforms for a variety of clients, with goals ranging from developing their public brand identity to driving overall sales, I understand the prowess it requires to establish a follower base of brand activists through high quality and relevant messaging in addition to developing innovative and creative marketing. As a result, I want to use my digital marketing knowledge to strengthen the voice and goals of the NCAA both on- and off-line.

I feel I represent a population of the young New College community that is often overlooked: those of us who didn't enroll in a post-graduate course immediately following graduation or chose to pursue a career outside the New College Graduate norm. The NCAA homepage states "New College alumni lead uncommon lives." I am proud of my uncommon life, and I wish to lend my post-graduate perspective as well as my social media knowledge to help serve and communicate the mission of the NCAA.