

# BUSINESS PEOPLE



Lapton

**Donna Lapton**, of Port Charlotte, a representative for Modern Woodmen of America, is one of a small percentage of life insurance agents worldwide to achieve membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table this year. Membership is one of the highest professional honors a life insurance representative can obtain.



Shea

but transferred in 2010 to the MAST Research Institute at Sarasota High School. He is also enrolled in the Advanced International Certificate of Education at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He maintains a 4.7 GPA, is a member of the National Honor Society, the Sarasota High basketball team and the Varsity Track team. He is also a summer intern for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.



Levy-Sachs

the inaugural Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers. Levy-Sachs is a partner in the Insurance and Reinsurance Practice Group at Robinson & Cole LLP and the managing attorney for the firm's Florida office in Sarasota.

**Michael Wilson** has been re-elected to the management committee of the Williams Parker law firm. He will continue to serve on the committee with **William Seider** and **Ric Gregoria**. Wilson is board certified in taxation by the Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education.

**Tom Mack** has been named branch manager of the Wells Fargo Advisors office in Venice. Before joining Wells Fargo, Mack was a managing director with JHS Capital Advisors in Little Rock, Ark. He also served as senior vice president and branch manager of the Smith Barney office in Little Rock. Mack has more than 17 years of experience in the brokerage business.

Attorney **Sherri Johnson**, of Johnson Legal of Florida PL, was recently appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to the 12th Judicial Circuit Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee, which investigates allegations of unlicensed practice of law by individuals and businesses in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties.



Para

**Pearl Dahmen Para**, CPA, has joined the Small Business Development Center at the University of South Florida in Tampa as a consultant to help entrepreneurs develop effective business, marketing and financial plans. She is teaching seminars on "Starting Your Business," "Business Taxes," and "QuickBooks." Para has owned several small businesses and held positions in auditing, budgeting and



Graves

**Dr. Stephen Graves** and **Dr. Elizabeth Larkin**, faculty members in the College of Education at University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, learned recently that their article, "Lessons from Erikson: A look at autonomy across the lifespan," has been downloaded 344 times, more than any other article in the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*. It also has been cited more than 200 times, more than any other article in the journal. Among those who download often from JIR are the University of Oxford, Baylor University and St. Mary's College.



Larkin

Sarasota-based SouthTech Solutions has responded to the growing demand for outsourced IT services by adding **David Sedell** to its team. He graduated from Furman University in 2009 with a degree in business administration. While at Furman, he worked on the university's IT help desk, assisting faculty, staff and students with computer issues. After graduation, Sedell was employed at RBC Bank as a relationship banker. After completing training at SouthTech, he will provide assistance to the company's entire client roster.

SouthTech also recently hired **Jessica Snyder** as senior sales representative. She will be involved primarily with business development, marketing and sales. Snyder comes from

**Zach Beller**, **Brad Ellender** and **Tyler Kelley** have recently joined the Willis A. Smith Construction Inc. team. All three are serving on the project team for the LECOM School of Dental Medicine, which broke ground in early June.

Beller, project engineer, relocated from Gainesville. He worked for Snyder Langston in California. Ellender, assistant project manager, previously worked for CRS Building Corp. in St. Petersburg.

Kelley is Willis A. Smith's newest assistant superintendent. He is a product of the New York District Council of Carpenters Apprentices Program. He graduated in 2003 as a professional journeyman carpenter.

**Dr. Thomas Crisp**, assistant professor of reading in the College of Education at USF Sarasota-Manatee, has been awarded the International Reading Association's Elva Knight Research Grant. The grant is awarded for promising research that addresses significant questions for the discipline of reading/literacy research and practice. Crisp was recently selected as Florida's Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading by the Florida Reading Association.