

Dr. John C. Cavanaugh Biographical Sketch

On July 15, 2002, Dr. John C. Cavanaugh became the fourth president of the University of West Florida and the first selected by a local board of trustees.

Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, Dr. Cavanaugh received his baccalaureate degree in psychology with high honors from the University of Delaware and his master's and doctoral degrees in psychology from the University of Notre Dame.

Dr. Cavanaugh is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Gerontological Society of America, and a charter fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. He was an American Council on Education Fellow. He is the author or coauthor of 12 books and more than 70 articles and chapters on topics in aging, teaching, information technology and higher education. He served as the chair of the State University President's Association for the state of Florida (2004-2006), and as president of the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities (2005-2006).

Prior to assuming the presidency at UWF, Dr. Cavanaugh held faculty and administrative positions at Bowling Green State University, the Medical College of Ohio, the University of Delaware, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and was a visiting professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Currently, Dr. Cavanaugh serves as chair of the National Flight Academy Board of Advisors and is a member of the Committee on Policies and Purposes of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Board of Trustees for Marygrove College (Detroit, MI), and the Advisory Board for the Walt Disney World College Program.

Among many other committees within professional organizations, he previously served on the American Council on Education Commission on Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness, the International Education Committee of AASCU, and as a member of the Council of Representatives, as President of Division 20 (Adult Development and Aging) and as chair and member of the Committee on Aging of the American Psychological Association.

At the local level, he serves as a member of the Covenant Hospice Board of Directors, the Pensacola Symphony Board of Directors, and the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Pensacola (Downtown) Rotary Club and Phi Kappa Phi. Previously, he served on numerous non-profit and community boards, and as president of two.

President Cavanaugh is married to Dr. Christine Kamenjar Cavanaugh. He is an avid traveler and backpacker who enjoys cooking and photography, and is an avowed chocoholic.