

The Patriot

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Francis Marion University's award-winning student newspaper

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COVID-19 Report

Joshua Hardee
Co-Editor

FMU has implemented many changes and procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to the semester beginning online and students returning to campus on Sept. 8.

President Fred Carter established the new COVID-19 Response Office to provide members of the FMU community with information and resources related to the pandemic. The office will also coordinate FMU's contact tracing and health monitoring procedures.

According to Kevin Shupp, director of the COVID-19 Response Office and student life specialist, FMU has collaborated with public health specialists, doctors and numerous universities across the state and country to help inform its plans and decisions. FMU personnel also work closely with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Controls (SCDHEC) and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to stay up to date on information related to COVID-19. "The COVID-19 Response Office was created as a resource to help us through the pandemic," Shupp said. "We hope our students, and our entire community, will make use of it."

Someone will be in the office in the Smith University Center (UC) on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and they will be monitoring their phone number after hours as well. FMU has also instituted a new Student Health Center, which helps students with any health problems. It's on the second floor of the UC, just down the hall from the COVID-19 Response Office, and it is open Monday – Friday. It's staffed by a healthcare professional, either a nurse or a nurse practitioner, and is an FMU service that is free to students.

FMU is also asking students to complete a short daily assessment about how they are feeling on the Health Champion app. The results will be monitored by the COVID-19 Response Office.

FMU has just entered in a partnership with the MUSC Florence Medical Center to create a community COVID-19 testing center. MUSC Florence will provide testing on Monday mornings, beginning Sept. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Griffin Athletic Center. This is part of the SCDHEC's community testing program and it is free to the community, as well as to FMU students, faculty and staff. Regulations do require

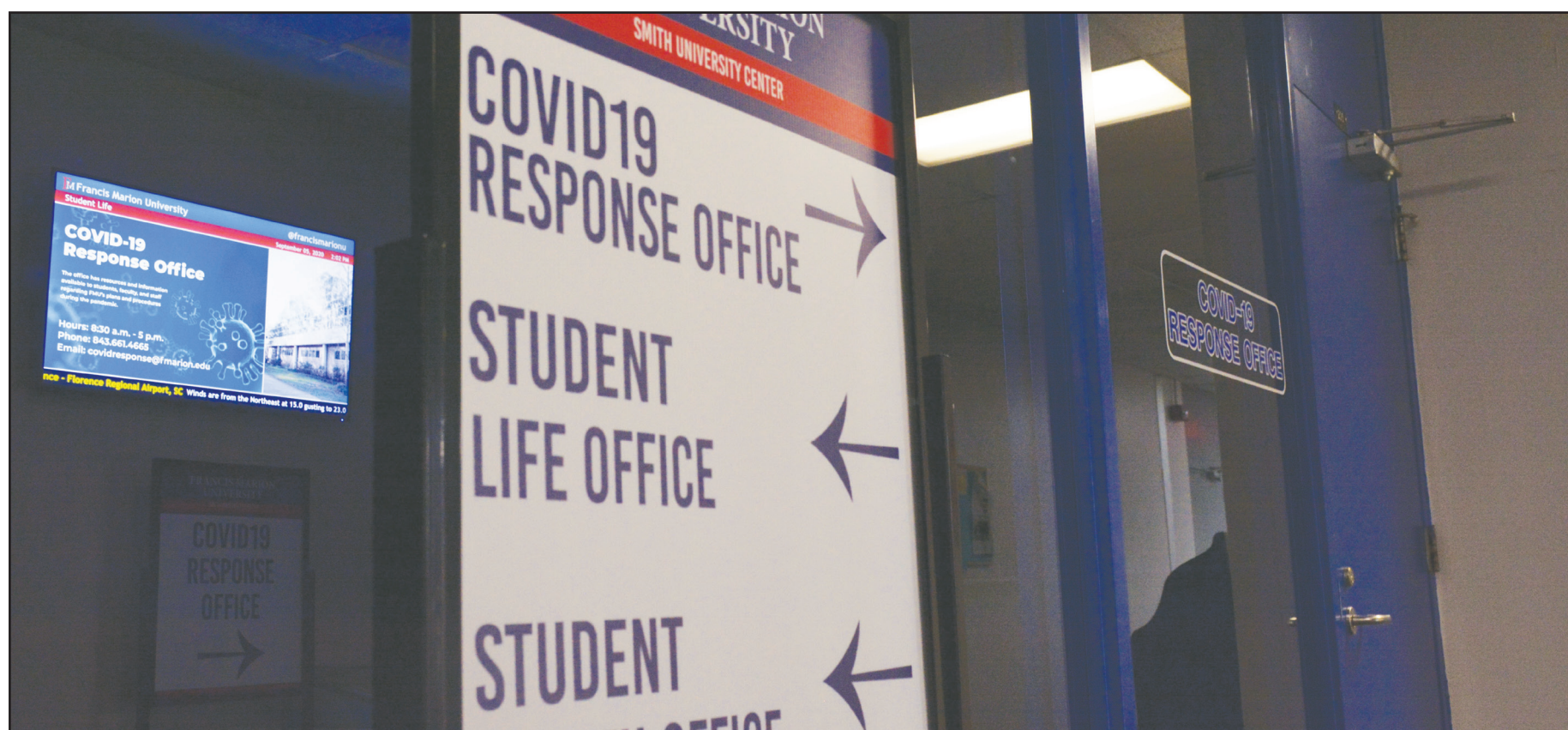


PHOTO BY ABIGAIL LESLEY

To contact the COVID-19 Response Office, please email covidresponse@fmarion.edu or call 843-661-4665.

everyone being tested to present an insurance card, if they have one, and to fill out a brief form with contact information.

Since FMU is planning for classes to return to campus with safety measure in place on Sept. 8, Shupp said they will continue to prioritize safety and prepare for the future.

"We're looking forward to the fall semester and the year ahead," Shupp said. "Early signs are that the FMU community is engaged and aware of what needs to be done to keep everyone safe and is doing it. That said, this is all new ground and fresh information becomes available every day. We're doing our best to stay informed and to be prepared for any eventuality."

Shupp said the small actions we all can perform can have a huge impact on promoting the health of the FMU community. He said it is important to adhere to FMU's mask-wearing requirements, to wash your hands, practice social distancing and follow the new protocols and procedures in the classroom and across campus.

"FMU is working diligently to provide a safe and enjoyable learning experience for all students," Shupp said. "If we all work together, we can have a good fall."

Shupp said FMU's initiative and support have aided his assuming this new leadership role.

"FMU's senior administrators have been very supportive as I transitioned into this role," Shupp said. "I'm glad to play a small part in the university's efforts to work through a challenging situation."

According to Christopher Kennedy, vice president for student life and professor

of history, current conditions necessitate social distancing and other measures to keep the campus community healthy and safe, changing the nature of many activities and experiences; however, he said the Student Life Office seeks to offer a robust student experience, with continued student life programming and co-curricular experiences to the fullest extent possible.

Kennedy said their mission to keep the FMU community healthy and safe also depends on remaining flexible and responding to the

fluidity of the situation.

"We all thought back in March that this would be behind us in July and we could open normally for the fall," Kennedy said. "Things, as we have seen, change almost on a daily basis and we need to be ready to face things when they come. We have the best administration in the state and in higher education. We have been deliberate, thoughtful and creative in crafting our responses to this pandemic since day one. We will continue to help guide our campus community through this, to keep

everyone healthy."

Kennedy said they have been working on innovative ways to responsibly host events during the pandemic. He said a drive-in movie experience will be coming soon to campus; a virtual FMU's Got Talent will be aired on their student life YouTube channel along with other "shows," podcasts and events. They are also working on a virtual student activities fair.

Kennedy said they will have to delay events with large gatherings, such as First Friday and the Arts In-

ternational festivals. He said they will continually monitor conditions and hope to return to some traditions like the Grille After Dark series and FM A'Glow this semester.

"To do this responsibly will require significant adjustments to the ways we live, learn, play and interact; sharing a commitment and following all safe practice guidelines needed to protect one another," Kennedy said. "Be a patriot, be thoughtful and be safe."



GRAPHIC BY MAKAYLA O'NEAL

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

News
Read about FMU's new building in downtown Florence.
PAGE 2

Opinion
Check out our new column, Kei'Yona's Korner.
PAGE 7

Sports
Get to know our Volleyball Coach.
PAGE 8

INDEX
NEWS 1-5
OPINION 6-7
SPORTS 8

FMU receives new building from City Council

Kei'yona Jordan
Copy Editor

The Florence City Council recently gifted FMU a new building in the downtown Florence area.

FMU President Fred Carter says the building will be another addition to FMU's health science and medical education programs.

"They gave it to the university with the expectation that within the next five to seven years we would develop it into another part of the health sciences medical education programs we are building downtown," Carter said.

Carter said FMU had been keeping an eye on this building for a while.

"The city and the university had been talking about this building for about the last year," Carter said.

The former Circle Park building will be the sixth addition to FMU's facilities in downtown Florence.

The building's location will help bring more business and a flow of people to downtown Florence as well as increase FMU's presence.

"The school just keeps growing," Carter said.

Carter said he was happy FMU was able to obtain another building without

having to raise tuition for students.

"They've been conveyed to us by other entities and a partnership for us to continue to grow, develop and be a part of the renovation of downtown," Carter said.

All of FMU's buildings in downtown Florence are a result of the partnership cultivated between FMU and Florence.

"Every building that we've built downtown has been an effort that's been between us, the city, the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation and the state of South Carolina," Carter said.

Those partnerships allow FMU to accommodate new projects and the city of Florence to expand their economy.

"I think the university has played a major role in bringing the revitalization of downtown," Carter said. "First with the Performing Arts Center then the health sciences building and these other buildings."

With a majority of FMU students coming from South Carolina, the school wants to keep obtaining new enhancements without burdening the students.

"We're just fortunate that we have so many affluent partners in the community,"

Carter said. "They're willing to help us grow and develop."

Hoping to continue the growth of their health sciences programs, FMU will use the new building for third- and fourth-year medical students coming in.

"Right now, we have about 25 of those students a year who come to us from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine," Carter said.

In the next two years,

FMU hopes to have a larger number of MUSC students and USC medical students housed in the new building.

Carter said the other buildings had taken about two to three years to be completed, but this building will take longer to repurpose due to the pandemic, planning and raising funds.

"It's probably going to take a little longer to bring this building to fruition than the other buildings we've built,"

Carter said. "Simply because it's going to take longer to raise the money. It's going to take longer to cultivate the broader partnerships that's going to make this happen."

There is also a lot of planning to be done before the building will be up and running.

"I don't look for this to be completed until maybe about 2023/2024," Carter said.



PHOTO BY JAMES MCCARLEY

The new building on Gregg Avenue will be repurposed as another addition to FMU's health science program.

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NOTICE TO FMU OFFICES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

The Patriot is interested in what you are doing on campus. To increase the likelihood that your events are covered, please submit news releases and schedules to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

CAB hosts first event of the semester at the UC

Kei'yona Jordan
Copy Editor

Bored from the lack of things to do on campus, students filled the University Smith Center for FMU's first event of the semester from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 27.

Game Night.

"With everything going on with coronavirus, it is hard to make sure everyone is socially distanced, but we wanted to make sure we had a good start event for our students," said FMU's Campus Activities Board (CAB) executive chair Cairra Wilson.

CAB put out many different games for students to enjoy. They played Just Dance games on the Wii, card games, board games and even corn hole.

The event lasted for three hours and students filled each game station the entire time, while making sure to stay socially distanced and safe.

When students came to the sign-up table, they had to have their mask on and put on blue latex gloves before going in.

Many of the students had

low expectations for the event because of the pandemic, but said they were surprised that the event was actually fun.

Sophomore biology major Amiyah Welder and her friend thought the event had a good turnout.

"I didn't think it would be fun at first," Welder said. "But considering the circumstances it was actually kind of fun."

While people were

making sure to socially distance, they were still able to get out and meet new people or just enjoy time with their friends.

"It's definitely a way to meet people," Welder said.

Some students even got the chance to learn new games and remember how to play games they hadn't played in a while.

Freshman Janira Miller said she had forgotten how to

play monopoly, but was able to remember once she started playing it at the game night.

Most of the students who showed up were expecting the game day to be very empty and boring, but the event was the exact opposite.

"I thought it was going to be slow and nobody was going to show up, until I got here and everybody was moving around playing games and stuff," freshman

Jonathan Keller said.

Students wore the mask and gloves because they wanted to be safe, but most of them said the gloves and mask were very inconvenient.

"The worst thing was the gloves," freshman Herbert Williams said. "Even though I get it, it was just really hard to pick things up."



PHOTO BY ELODI BREG

Students challenged each other in a friendly game of Jenga.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA HEYWARD

Students play on the Wii during the game night event.

Greek life plans to stay safe and social

Kei'yona Jordan
Copy Editor

Despite the pandemic, FMU's Greek life is making changes to expand their presence on campus.

"What we are trying to do is revitalize and re-energize the Greek system on campus," said vice president for student life and professor of history Christopher Kennedy.

FMU is working on bringing back certain Greek organizations that are not on campus, such as the Delta's, and have already invited one organization back.

"We just brought back the Pikes," Kennedy said. "And they are colonizing a village right now."

Kennedy said the SAE, a national fraternity, will be

coming to interview and see if they want to come to FMU.

So far FMU has introduced a Greek village and Greek housing in the Village apartments on campus.

The Office of Student Life has ordered the letters for the participating Greek organizations and should be getting the letters put up on their buildings soon.

Of the more than five fraternities and sororities on campus, only four of them have Greek housing.

Student life specialist Kevin Shupp said FMU opened the opportunity to all of the fraternities and sororities, but based on some of the responses they received they were only able to cater to four of them.

"We originally wanted to have at least one apartment per organization," Shupp said. "But we are hoping to grow and expand it."

Kennedy said that plans to create a Greek council with NPHC, NPC and IFC are also in the making.

"We want to bring back the Greek games, the chariot races and all sorts of stuff," Kennedy says.

FMU hopes that enhancing Greek life on campus will bring student participation to an all-time high and form more leaders on campus.

"The Greeks traditionally had been leaders on our campus," Kennedy said. "Hopefully socially, academically, everything like that."

Kennedy also said that by making the Greek presence bigger at FMU, it will build inclusion among the students.

"There is actually a Greek chapter for everyone," Kennedy says. "There is NPC, NPHC the IFC and I think it will make our university as a whole a stronger more vibrant university."

Shupp said that investing in Greek life encourages students to live, interact and participate on campus.

Due to COVID-19, the Student Life Office has had to put a hold on some of the activities they planned to have with Greeks, but say they are planning to hold them in the spring.

"We are looking to have some big water event," Shupp said. "That was something Dr.

Kennedy and I were looking to happen in the spring. It was going to be this huge water day."

FMU had been planning Greek housing and the reintroduction of Greek life for the last year.

"This has been a year and a half in the works; meeting with people, coming up with things we can do and bouncing them off people has been a lot of work," Shupp said.

By next year, the Student Life Office hopes to be able to expand Greek housing to even more than just one building.

BCM hosts cookout to welcome students

Finn Millians
Staff Writer

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) hosted their annual cookout on the from 5-7 p.m. on Sept. 2 outside the University Center (UC) to commemorate the start of the school year.

Tasty food, cornhole and the promise of community were offered, drawing many students to the two-hour event.

With the pandemic forcing people to be apart more, campus minister Kendall Danford and associate campus minister Mary Cross wanted to help bring students back together.

"Especially this year, the students haven't had a community and everybody is separated and divided and quarantined off," Danford said. "We wanted this to be something where people could just come hang out and have a good time, but we also want to tell them a little bit about what BCM is and give them a chance to come to our Tuesday night worship gathering."

Cross said that she wanted the event to be interactive and exciting for the students.

"We wanted to welcome back students in a fun way," Cross said. "We have snow cones, hotdogs, chips and drinks and different games

we can just play to meet new people and help other students connect with each other."

As an active member of the FMU community, Danford said he finds great importance in helping college students connect and spread love.

Nicolas Doctor, a sophomore civil engineering major, heard about the event through some friends who work with BCM. Doctor said he wanted to attend the cookout because he thought it would be a great way to socialize.

"I just came to meet new people," Doctor said.

The social gathering was

a relief to many students. Following all of the safety procedures, the event had a good turnout. Students surrounded the corn hole game, sat in the socially distanced chairs to eat and enjoyed socializing with their classmates. The opportunity to socialize safely allowed the students to interact with each other leading into the first week of school back in the classroom.

BCM is a group existing right outside of FMU's campus that is dedicated to spreading the word of God to college students and facilitating a community of love. While they hold worship gatherings every

Tuesday night with free food, teaching and socializing, the BCM campus cookout is a much larger event occurring through the cooperation of BCM and Student Life that helps connect college students and introduce them to BCM.

The Tuesday worship gatherings can be located at the BCM building across from campus and next to the Griffin Athletic Complex. The meetings will be held every hour from 6-8 p.m. to allow for a safer environment because of COVID-19.



Please note that due to COVID-19, campus events are subject to change to protect the students and faculty.

SEPTEMBER 10th
Community Town Hall
UC Gym 3
3-4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 11th
Patriot Day
Wear your FMU
Patriot Wear!

SEPTEMBER 15th
IFC Recruitment
Kickoff
7-9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 16th
PKA Social Day

CAB Event: UC After
Dark: Paint Night
5-7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17th
Constitution Day
Voter Registration FH
Fountain/ Breezeway
11 a.m.- 1p.m.

Voter Registration UC
Commons
2- 5p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17th
Concert on the Porch:
Our voices as one
UC Lawn
3:30- 5p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21st
TKE Social Day

FMU's GOT TALENT
On-line show debuts
with auditions
5-7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 22nd
Alcohol Awareness Day
Campus Wide
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 23rd
Commuter Student
Appreciation Day

UC After Dark Event-
Bingo
5-7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 24th
Virtual Student
Activities Fair
1 - 5p.m.

Drive-in Movie: Birds
of Prey
7- 9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 25th
IFC Bid Day
12 - 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 30th
FMU's GOT TALENT
Digital Round 1
5 - 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 1st
Food Truck Thursday
12 - 3:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA HEYWARD

Students were able to safely participate in games together.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA HEYWARD

BCM members volunteer to inform and welcome students.

Honors students will finally have a "sense of home"

Joshua Hardee
Co-Editor

The new FMU Honors Center, situated between the Cauthen Educational Media Center and the Stokes Administration Building, is set to open this semester.

The Honors Center will be the new home for the honors, international and McNair Scholars programs. It will have several administrative offices, classrooms, a conference room and a commons area with a water feature under an atrium.

Jon Tuttle, director of the honors program and professor of English, said the best thing about the new center is the sense of home it will provide.

"Right now, the honors program isn't anywhere in particular," Tuttle said. "It's kind of all over. That's true also of the international and McNair Scholars programs, because right now they're housed in the directors' offices, but those offices are in other departments. This will give all three programs a sense of place and the opportunity to make our presence and identities more tangible, more visible."

According to Tuttle, the timeline has not really changed since the pandemic hit, but the extent to which the building will be used socially and academically will depend on the COVID-19 numbers. He said they will likely have an informal reception or ceremony and then, when it is safer, a more formal event.

Tuttle also said they

anticipate an early-October opening, but that is tentative. Those with offices there will migrate over when it opens and begin using the classrooms, provided all the Wi-Fi and other wiring has been completed. The honors program will begin the spring semester with courses assigned to classrooms there. The facility will also be used to host different events.

"I envision receptions of

all sorts in that area, including honors parties, award ceremonies, whatever sort of occasion requires a stately but comfortable ambiance with great acoustics," Tuttle said. "My office will be there, so there will be cats gathered about outside."

Tuttle said professors from other departments would also be able to make use of the facility, if space allows.

"I'd love to see the

commons area become a gathering place for not just honors students, but anyone looking for a good conversation, maybe a game of Jenga, or a cat," Tuttle said.

The administrative functions of the honors, international and McNair Scholars programs will all be performed in the new center. Most honors classes will be held in the Honors Center. However, those requiring labs

or specialized equipment will likely stay in the Leatherman Science Facility or the McNair Science Building.

"The classrooms will be very nice, with a lot of natural lighting and some great instructional media equipment," Tuttle said. "We will have, for the first time, actual storage closets for files. And we'll buy a new Keurig; got to have coffee."



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL LESLEY

Above and below: The construction of Honors Center is almost completed with plans to open mid-October.

SGA creates new cabinet; swears in senators

Kei'Yona Jordan
Copy Editor

FMU's Student Government Association (SGA) approved a bill in its first session that will establish the SGA's first ever President's Cabinet as well as swearing in new senators.

According to SGA president Tymoshio Robinson, the bill will go into effect immediately.

Robinson told the sena-

tors they represent the student body at large, but can't always speak for all the students.

"Not always are we privy to the concerns of our fellow patriots, or to their suggestions, or do we have representation of all facets and communities within the FMU senate population," said Robinson.

Establishing the President's Cabinet will give SGA a better way of being able to

cater to the needs of the students.

"It will give us that diversity," Robinson said. "And give us that broadened insight in the senate community that we need."

Robinson wanted to expand the different views and ideas that are brought to the senate.

"I think it will be good to diversify the Student Government Association," Robinson said. "And not diver-

sity in terms of race, but in terms of thinking, our horizon on campus and what we represent on campus."

Robinson said that doing this would only yield positive results for SGA.

As the senators moved into a period for debate, the majority of senators were in agreement with the bill.

Senator Jada Bell spoke in favor of the bill.

"I think that the President's Cabinet is going to

be a good way to get other students on campus involved and to hear other people's point of view," Bell said.

Robinson said he hopes the initiation of the President's Cabinet will go far beyond his presidency.

According to Bill 101, the members of the cabinet will serve as an advisory board to the president, dealing with matters of student concerns, engagements and recommendations.

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT | Gregory Dungan

James McCarley
Co-Editor

For Gregory “Ivan” Dungan, assistant professor of mathematics, FMU was a pleasant change of pace from West Point.

“I got my first appointment at West Point,” Dungan said. “It was a fixed appointment for three years, and then they asked me to stay a fourth year.”

After receiving his bachelor’s at Florida State University (FSU), Dungan decided to attend the University of Connecticut for his Ph.D to explore his career interests.

“I originally went to the Ph.D program at the University of Connecticut,” Dungan said. “I had an advisor in undergrad that recommended the University of Connecticut because there was a guy there doing algebraic geometry that was very well-known. He ended up leaving the year I came.”

Despite the setback, Dungan decided to return to FSU to finish his Ph.D. “In math, it’s a little hard to predict where you want to go unless you know about it already,” Dungan said. “I did find what I was interested in, but there was no one there. I went back to Florida State because there were a couple people there doing what I wanted to do.”

Dungan applied to a position at FMU due to the area and its size.

“I came from big schools,” Dungan said. “I always knew I wanted to go to a small school; it’s not as



PHOTO BY JAMES MCCARLEY

Gregory Dungan, assistant professor of mathematics, has been heavily involved in student research and learning opportunities.

fun teaching those bigger classes. West Point ended up being 4,000 students. It was wonderful there, so that was a supporting reason to continue that effort when looking for another school.”

However, there were several obstacles in the application process.

“I still had one more year at West Point, and Mrs. McCormick, from the math department, sent me an email that the position had been filled, but they were still looking for an instructor,” Dungan said. “I wrote immediately. Within five minutes after sending the email I realized that, ‘Wait a minute, they mean in the fall.’”

That fall, another

position in the math department opened up, and Dungan successfully applied for the third time.

Dungan explained how his previous work experience, particularly at West Point, affected his hiring experiences.

“When I was interviewing at jobs, this always came up, there was always a concern from my experience at West Point that, ‘Our students might not be like a cadet,’” Dungan said. “I had taught at Yukon, at FSU, and I had taught pretty advanced classes there. I had been acquainted with the usual student, the non-cadet. There is definitely a difference, but at the end of the day they were still

students.”

Dungan was also extremely grateful for the opportunities at FMU to broaden his field and teach new classes.

“I have been very fortunate here,” Dungan said. “Dr. Fitzkee right away gave me things that I wanted to teach. I’m always looking for new classes to teach. Right now, I’m teaching artificial intelligence in honors. I wouldn’t have guessed that I’d be ever teaching that.”

While at FMU, Dungan has brought in numerous professionals from different industries to show students what they can achieve as well as create networking opportunities. Dungan wanted the experience to be

beneficial for the students, so he tries to provide every opportunity for students and professionals to interact.

“This was one of the PEAK grants, and part of writing for that grant was not only bringing these professionals but have an informal dinner with them,” Dungan said. “The students can really have a conversation and dig into what it’s like in the professional world and what they can do to get into that world. I walked in with this idea that I wanted to start bringing in industry speakers to show students what math is doing out in the real world.”

Dungan has also taken advantage of the opportunity to further his research and

collaborate with students on their undergraduate research.

“I continue my own personal research, but I really enjoy, in extension of teaching, undergraduate research,” Dungan said. “I’ve now had quite a few students who I have advised in research. Teaching is wonderful, and you get to do so much, but at some point, the class is over. Undergraduate research lets you take the students a further step, and maybe give them a taste of industry or academia beyond undergraduate research. Two students got a REAL grant to work with me during the summer.”

Dungan has enjoyed his time at FMU, particularly interacting with students outside of the classroom and joining in with the different activities FMU has to offer.

“I was pleasantly surprised with the student involvement,” Dungan said. “Being a part of the pumpkin patch, the boat races; being involved with the students on that level. I’m sure other schools are doing it, but FMU is definitely doing it.”

With the transition from West Point to FMU, Dungan said he was glad he had less pressure so that he could focus on other things.

“I do recall the first thing I noticed was the breath of fresh air of the bureaucratic part,” Dungan said. “I definitely enjoyed not filling out forms for every little detail.”

Students have sweet treats and meet the Greeks

Kei’yona Jordan
Staff Writer

The Student Life Office sponsored an Ice Cream Social for the first Greek life event of the year from 4-7 p.m. on Sept. 4 outside the Smith University Center.

Ten Greek organizations decorated tents with their organizations’ letters and colors:

Alta Delta Pi, Kappa Delta, Zeta Tau Alpha, Kappa Alpha Order, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Pi Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi and Sigma Gamma Rho.

Many of the organizations said they were happy to be able to get out and interact with everyone.

The event was organized to help introduce the students to all the Greek fraternities and sororities on campus.

Kamren Spann, a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity incorporated, was one of the Greeks excited to be out with the students and

informing people about their organization.

“We are basically just here to represent, show our name, show our brand and if anybody is interested, they can come talk to us and we can give people insight on what we do and what we are about,” Spann said.

Along with the ice cream, there was music and different outside games for students to enjoy.

Throughout the event different fraternities and sororities strolled to the music playing in the background.

Students were happy to see people interacting and just having fun with each other.

Junior nursing major Alysia Simmons was one of the students who enjoyed being out among her peers.

“Even though we still had to be safe and social distance as best as we could, I liked how the event was normal, like things were before the pandemic,” Simmons said. “People were laughing

and walking around together.”

Simmons was impressed with the normalcy at the event and it made her optimistic about returning to in-person classes.

“Three weeks ago, nothing was really happening on campus,” Simmons said. “There wasn’t really anybody here and we had different restrictions, but now things will hopefully be returning to normal.”

Simmons said she realized how everyone, despite what organization they were in, was able to have fun with each other.

“Everyone was so nice to each other and overall it was a good experience,” Simmons said.

Members of the Student Life Office said there will be more events for Greeks to come out and interact with the community.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA HEYWARD

Students get acquainted with Greek life on the UC front lawn.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA HEYWARD

Members from Kappa Alpha Psi address the students at the Meet the Greeks event.

FMU agrees to compact with SC universities

Kei’yona Jordan
Copy Editor

FMU signed a mutual aid compact, inspired by the pandemic, with three other local colleges in South Carolina.

Coastal Carolina University (CCU), Florence Darlington Technical College (FDTC), Horry George-Town Technical College (HGTC) and FMU all agreed to the compact.

The compact will provide broadband support and open up FMU resources to students from each of the three schools; the same will be offered to FMU students.

“So, if you need support from your institution and you’re not able to get it in

the middle of the pandemic and one of the other four institutions can provide that support, let’s provide that assistance,” FMU President Fred Carter said.

Vice president of student life and professor of history, Christopher Kennedy, said the compact is new and has never been done before. Kennedy said FMU hopes to continue the compact in the future.

“We thought that we should have been doing it all along, and I think it’s going to stay beyond COVID,” Kennedy said.

Carter said the four schools have always had a good relationship, particularly CCU and FMU.

“The president of Coastal, Dr. David Desenzo, and I have been very, very close friends, good friends, for the last 12 or 13 years,” Carter said.

Carter said once the schools realized they would have to transition to an online platform, they began to plan for ways to help support their students.

“We started thinking of ways in which our students could be supported by each other’s campuses,” Carter said.

Several of the schools were already in separate partnerships with each other.

FMU had a bridge program with FDTC and CCU had a similar partnership

with HGTC.

At FMU, the mutual aid compact has also created more opportunities for FDTC students to have access to housing.

“This year we are allowing some Florence Darlington students to be in our dorms,” Carter said.

Carter said FDTC reached out to FMU to see if they could come up with a deal that would allow the athletes on their baseball team to be housed on campus instead of having to rent apartments.

The mutual aid compact will allow students in the bridge program, who meet the criteria, to also be housed on campus.

Carter said he thinks CCU is doing something similar with HGTC.

Although the pandemic created the need for an agreement between the four schools, Carter said he believed the deal was sensible and should already have been in place.

“It shouldn’t take a pandemic for our four schools to develop an agreement,” Carter said.

Students from any of the three schools just have to show their school ID and they will be permitted to use any of the FMU resources that are a part of the mutual aid agreement.

This agreement will make sure that any students

from these four universities can get through the pandemic and not have to worry about being without the necessary resources and facilities.

Some students at FMU are really excited about the agreement and think it will be very beneficial.

Senior finance major and Resident Assistant Amanda Wagner said she knows a lot of people who live in Myrtle Beach but commute to FMU.

“It’s a good resource,” Wagner said. “Especially the computers.”

Carter said he hopes the compact between the schools will only be the beginning of ongoing aid and support between the universities.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT | Tymoshio Robinson

Kei'Yona Jordan
Copy Editor

FMU's SGA president and Kingstree, S.C., native Tymoshio Robinson is the first recipient of the BDGP Scholarship from the Felician Center in Kingstree, S.C.

The BDGP Scholarship is a new award for high achieving students who had been through the program before college.

Since freshman year, Robinson has had to provide for himself financially and said the scholarship helped him cover the cost of things he needed for his last year at FMU.

"My college journey, financially, has not been peaches and cream and has not been easy," Robinson said. "Especially going into my senior year with all these testing fees and graduation fees."

Although Robinson faced different obstacles in his first couple of years in college, he managed to stay focused on why he was in college.

"I came to college with the mindset of 'It's time for me to get my degree, to show the ones coming after me this is what I can do, this is how you do it,'" Robinson said.

Being a first-generation college student, Robinson made it a priority to stand out, get involved and leave his mark at FMU.

"I also came with my own goal of making sure this campus had a 'Ty'-shaped imprint in it when I left," Robinson said.

However, Robinson's first year of college was full of challenges. He said his biggest obstacle was his weight.

"When I came to



PHOTO BY KEI'YONA JORDON

The SGA President, Tymoshio Robinson, has taken advantage of the numerous opportunities FMU has to offer to reach his goals.

college, I was almost five hundred pounds," Robinson said. "And two weeks before I came to college I had to be hospitalized."

His first year of college started out with him being diagnosed with diabetic ketoacidosis, which meant he was a Type 2 diabetic.

"I am one of those people who eat their stress," Robinson said. "Being thrown into this environment, I didn't have anyone to tell me what to expect."

Robinson struggled with managing and adjusting to the climate of college. He struggled both financially and academically.

After freshman year, Robinson said he had to recoup and readjust his mindset.

"I knew that I had to put myself out there more and change the way I was thinking," Robinson said.

Robinson has been involved in many organizations on campus, becoming the president Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, a Resident Assistant, Orientation leader, FMU Diplomat, executive member of the South Carolina Student Collaborative and member of the FMU NAACP.

Robinson said he felt pressured to get involved in everything he could and at first had a hard time juggling all his responsibilities.

"I put myself out there too much to where the bars were uneven," Robinson said. "I had graduated from

Leadership FMU, but my grades were suffering."

Robinson said he had to learn how to distribute himself evenly among all the things he was involved in so that he could be successful all the way around.

"When I learned when to say yes and when to start saying no, it just started to turn around," Robinson said.

Since overcoming those obstacles, Robinson has lost 150 pounds and been making his mark all over campus by getting involved with the SGA and other organizations.

He started off as an SGA senator his sophomore year, SGA treasurer for the first half of his junior year and SGA vice president the second half.

At the end of his junior year, Robinson was elected to serve as the FMU SGA president.

"My college experience has been fulfilled," Robinson said. "I think that being elected is the highlight of my college career."

He hopes to leave the school in a better condition than when he arrived.

As a student worker, Robinson said he has struggled with balancing work, school and finances and he hopes to make some changes to that experience.

"Some specific goals of mine are seeing the minimum wage on campus raised to eight dollars," Robinson says.

Robinson also said he would also like to see unofficial transcripts free of charge.

Robinson said he's pursuing a political science major and serving as SGA president to help him achieve his goals.

According to Robinson, his love for politics and public service has given him the tools he needs to enact change on campus and one day in the world.

Robinson dreams to one day be the first African-American governor of S.C. and the second African-American president of the United States.

Robinson will be taking the LSAT this year after he graduates and intends to run for an elected office shortly after.

Robinson said his favorite quote is "He who fears he shall suffer, already suffers what he fears."

CRIME REPORT

For the period 8-17-20 through 9-6-20, the following incidents were reported to and/or investigated by Campus Police:

8/17/20

Fraud

A student complained to Campus Police about a fake job opportunity. She said she received an email about a work-from-home position from her academic advisor's account. Another email asked her to deposit checks into her account and then send some of the money. She said all the checks were fraudulent and the bank would not cash them.

8/22/20

Liquor Law Violations

Two officers with Campus Police responded to a party in one of the apartments. They met with the RA on duty. The RA showed them to one of the apartments. They spoke with the resident, and the roughly 20 other occupants exited. The RA told them they had violated FMU Housing's guest policy. The housing manager arrived, and at that time the officer noticed contraband inside. The officers and the RA's worked to gather names of the occupants. They searched inside and found almost a dozen bottles of liquor. Only two of the occupants were over the age of 21. The officers disposed of the contraband on scene.

8/30/20

Liquor Law Violations, Drunkenness

Walking out the back door of the Campus Police department, a Campus Police officer encountered a maintenance worker who told him there was a student lying in the bushes behind the Ervin Dining Hall. The officer found a resident student asleep by the dining hall staff parking spaces. He woke her up and noticed alcohol on her breath as she spoke. The officer said she was slurring her words and was difficult to understand. He noticed her wallet lying next to her, and he looked for her ID. Because of how impaired she was, he called EMS to have her medically evaluated. They checked her vitals and took her to McLeod Regional Hospital for possible alcohol poisoning. The officer contacted the housing manager to get more information about her, and they conducted a welfare check on the other students in her apartment building.

Blood and Honey: An exhibition that sticks with you

Finn Millians
Staff Writer

From July 28 to Aug. 28, the University Place Gallery (UPG) hosted Adrian Rhodes, a professional artist from Hartsville, SC, and displayed her work in an exhibition titled "Blood and Honey."

Rhodes has been active as an artist in the area for years. Colleen Critcher, the coordinator of UPG, is part of a panel of visual art faculty members who decide which artists to showcase in the gallery, and this panel decided to display "Blood and Honey."

Using painting, print-making and installation art, Rhodes conveyed concepts of mortality, the matrilineal and human nature using bees, bear claw marks, pomegranates and sky charts

as symbols. Her message was an extraordinarily personal one, delving into the past with the death of her mother and transitioning into her own identity as a mother; she also explores the disconnect between these two roles as they never coincide.

"All of my work is related to my own personal experience," Rhodes said. "I have a very strong belief that artists can only tell their own story."

The autobiographical nature of her work is evident through the separate elements. For example, her use of sky charts, Ursa Major and bear claw marks are a testament to the loss of control, mourning and her emotional wounds. The bear claw marks rip through separate charts and causes paper to spill out in some places while some rips are sewn up.

Rhodes said the way the world can sometimes upend your life can affect you both artistically and emotionally.

"For me, it's like an emotional kind of wounding," Rhodes said. "That disruptive element that comes in and undoes that control that you look for when you're cataloguing stars."

This emotional disruption, specifically the loss of her mother, is a through line throughout much of the exhibit, which weaves together the idea of loss and motherhood and this reality of wanting to regain control.

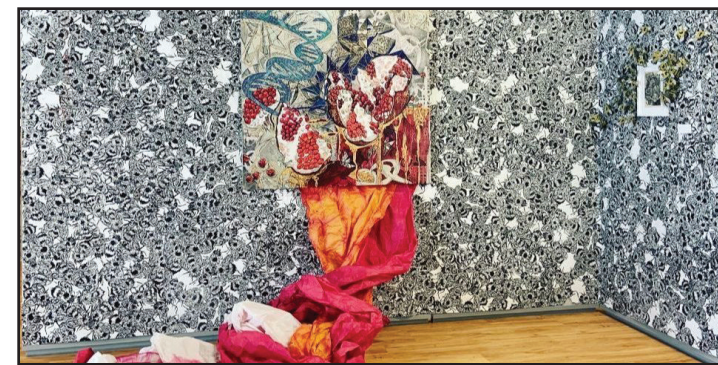
Ironically, keeping with the theme of a loss of control, the opening of this exhibition was in March, just before the shutdown with the pandemic. It was a site-specific exhibition, meaning that the installation art was made specifically to fit the

gallery.

With the gallery not being open for viewing, Critcher switched to a virtual form of advertisement and showcasing, using the UPG website, Facebook and Instagram to display the exhibit. Videos were also linked to the website that shows Rhodes discussing her artwork, as well as an interview between her and Critcher. With the re-opening of the gallery in late

June, the gallery was once again able to be physically viewed.

Even though the "Blood and Honey" exhibition ended on Aug. 28, images of the art can be found on the UPG website and the UPG Instagram page. Also, links to videos of the interview with Rhodes and her artist's talk can be found through the UPG website.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An installation from Adrian Rhodes' Blood and Honey exhibition.

Small Works 2020: It really is the little things in life

Finn Millians
Staff Writer

Small Works 2020 was recently held from July 28 to Aug. 28 at the University Place Gallery (UPG) and yielded three local winners: Jeffery Donovan, Mary Ellen Judge and Jan Chenoweth.

The regional juried exhibition was sponsored by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), which is a local, non-profit organization that aims to preserve, support and promote the arts community in the Pee Dee and the surrounding area.

The UPG coordinator Colleen Critcher worked closely with the FRAA

to host this event. As the FRAA searches for new venues every year for Small Works, Critcher collaborated with them to use UPG as the venue. Critcher said it was "the perfect fit."

More than 100 entries were submitted to the gallery from artists in North Carolina and South Carolina. The exhibition was named "Small Works" because all of the pieces were 12 inches – hence the title of the exhibit. Thirty artists and their artwork were chosen for the show and Lisa D. Watson, an artist from Savannah, Ga., judged the pieces to determine the winners.

All the winners were

South Carolina natives and used different mediums and styles to communicate through their art. Second place winner, FMU alumna and Florence native Mary Ellen Judge used her work to convey the hilarity of modern beauty standards for women. Judge graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in art education.

Judge is a regular contributor to the regional arts scene, regularly participating in shows and exhibitions in Lake City and Florence. She said the exhibits often present unique, creative opportunities.

"It gives you something to do, a goal, specifically for

the show," Judge said. "It is also small, so it presents a challenge."

The Small Works show has evolved and matured over the years since its inception five years ago; however, COVID-19 disrupted this momentum. As the gallery closed in March, the Small Works 2020 exhibition was originally planned for online viewing only. According to Critcher, the re-opening of the gallery allowed for a physical show, though she kept the online viewing on the website. She even live streamed the announcement of the winners on Instagram.

Critcher was happy to still be able to connect with

viewers.

"Having the work showcased digitally really allowed us to reach our audience during this uncertain time," Critcher said.

Though the exhibition closed on Aug. 28, the online gallery is still viewable through the GPU website: <https://www.fmarion.edu/universityplace>. The upcoming exhibition by Will Penny, titled "Neutral Zone," will start after Labor Day weekend.

FOUND PROPERTY: FMUPD currently has numerous items that were left unattended or were found on campus. If you are missing an item of property and can provide identifying information for your missing property, contact Campus Police at 843-661-1109.

VOICES of the PATRIOT

OUR NEW NORMAL

Julia Fulmer
Staff Writer

Starting Sept. 8, FMU will officially resume classes on campus. This is exciting news for many students, as it symbolizes a promising first step toward normalcy. However, reopening the university may not be as normal as some hope.

As many other institutions have recently discovered, precautions taken by administration on-campus are rendered useless if students do not maintain such vigilance off-campus. An example of this would be in late August when North Carolina State University (NCSU) announced that all classes would transition online due to ever-increasing clusters of COVID-19 in the area. Initially, this may seem like just another unpredictable event; however, NCSU's first coronavirus warning indicates that there may have been a more preventable cause. Originating from an off-campus housing location, it was suggested that a party was held at the residence, triggering a quick spread of the virus. This is just one of many coronavirus clusters that started in this way.

The reason this matters to us is, just like NCSU, we have an administration that puts an immense amount of time and effort into planning policies to help keep students safe. However, the fact is, it doesn't matter how many safeguards are in place if we don't follow a level of personal responsibility outside of school.

Some believe that contracting COVID-19 will just be a minor inconvenience, adopting the "if it happens, it happens" mentality. The issue with this thought process is that it doesn't take into account the impact such behavior will have on others. Besides the fact that they could potentially contract the virus, they could also unknowingly

carry it to some of their closest friends and loved ones. Unfortunately, not all COVID-19 cases are caused by reckless behavior, as accidents do still happen. However, because of the careless actions of a small group of students, many universities have transitioned online for the fall semester, essentially penalizing others who may not have been involved in the original issue at all.

This doesn't mean you shouldn't have a social life. In fact, there are plenty of ways to be careful while also spending time with people. Fortunately for us, the disease doesn't spread as easily outdoors as they do indoors, which helps create options for getting together safely. There are many ways that we can meet with people, given a little bit of creativity and conscious thought. Personally, I think picnicking is a really fun and safe way to get food with a few friends while also enjoying beautiful scenery. I've also found that going on walks or riding a bike is a great way to spend time with someone while also relieving stress through activity.

Though it may feel at times like this pandemic will never end, the truth is that it is only temporary, especially if safety guidelines are followed. It may not be the most ideal situation, but it is possible to wade through the pool of uncertainty and find a way to adapt. The most important thing in all of this is that we follow a certain standard of caution when dealing with social gatherings. If we want to remain on campus this semester, we have to hold ourselves accountable for maintaining the safety of others. Life may not return to normal right away, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to find our new normal.

Finn Millians
Staff Writer

It is safe to say that 2020 has not been our year. It seems as though blow after blow comes at us; we have been down since January, yet we just keep getting kicked. Murphy's Law is certainly unforgiving.

However, in light of the frustratingly terrible start to the decade, I think it is very important to focus on your well-being. It is incredibly easy to succumb to the pervasive negative energy flowing through society – when everything seems to be going wrong, how could I possibly be happy? I was asking myself that question at the beginning of quarantine, completely at a loss for what to do and where to go next. As the weeks went by, I grew increasingly annoyed with my reality. I was sick of being bored and sad and scared to open Instagram or Twitter or turn on the news (I am sure we have all felt that way at least once). I just wanted to be happy, and I found a solution.

The week of exams, a month and a half after the start of quarantine, I stumbled upon a book: "The Happiness Project" by Gretchen Rubin. I would not dare to be cliché and say it changed my life, but I can say that it certainly has influenced the way I live.

The "Happiness Project" is essentially a self-imposed social experiment. Rubin decided to take a year of her life, dedicate each month to goals set to improve every aspect of her life and ultimately determine if she felt happier at the end of that year. For Rubin, it worked. Not perfectly, of course. A year is a long time and there will always be ups and downs, but she was certainly a happier person at the end of that year.

I began reading the book at the beginning of May and finished by the end of the month. The story had a powerful

impact on me – such simple epiphanies that led to infinite change. For example, in the month of May, Rubin tackled the idea of having more fun. She came to the realization that there were many events or hobbies she participated in simply because she felt she should enjoy those things, not because she genuinely did enjoy them. Through her experiences, she recognized that "just because something was fun for someone else, didn't mean it was fun for [her] – and vice versa," so she went and found her "fun." Such a simple, obvious idea, yet it is one I feel a lot of people overlook – I certainly had.

With the recognition of certain habits – like doing things that do not actually make one happy – one is granted the ability to grow, to transition toward greater satisfaction and happiness in life. Rubin outlines the book in a way that breaks down life into small boxes that can be influenced individually and stacked back together in a greater, better formation.

When I first saw the book, I thought it was a bit dubious. How could you turn an intangible emotion into an experiment? What I learned was that happiness, in essence, is not simply an intangible emotion, it can be a way of life. Happiness, rather than a feeling, is an art that can be crafted into a state of being.

I urge everyone to check out Gretchen Rubin and her "happiness project." While a happiness project may not automatically create a sunshine-and-rainbows reality, it can certainly lead people to greater life satisfaction and more positivity. You can find all of her information at her blog: gretchenrubin.com/blog.

DIFFERENT STROKES, DIFFERENT FOLKS

Joshua Hardee
Co-Editor

My first assignment in an art class last semester asked us to answer a rather frustrating question. Essentially, it asked whether a subjective view of an artwork was more or less important than an objective one. As the professor later elaborated, I learned that they were amazed by how their students consistently didn't want to categorize art as either good or bad, writing instead that the value or an artwork is, ultimately, subjective.

As a very creative person, I have a very vested interest in this topic. And I take issue with this question for several reasons, most notably because it undermines itself and the subject about which it is inquiring.

For one thing, art isn't, nor should it ever be, a competition. To me, a work of art should be considered based on whether you find it interesting or compelling, whether it is able to express a particular sentiment or capture a moment in time, whether it inspires you or makes lightbulbs go off in your head and, of course, whether you find something beautiful or pleasing. Those things matter to me. I can't imagine the mindset that looks at art just to compare it with the work of others. But then again, and it's kind of to my point, this is about my subjective experience.

I suppose one issue is that people often confuse the refinement of one's taste and ability to discriminate between different techniques and compositions with this supposed need to judge art. This professor implied that if you educated yourself about the artist's craft and truly

studied art, you would then awaken some dormant inner critic that would become harder and harder to satisfy. Personally, I think that promotes snobbery. It's always nice to gain new perspective and insight, and it certainly doesn't hurt to know the difficulty involved in a certain technique, allowing you to notice an artist's skill. But, at the end of the day, whether or not you know that an artist had employed impasto or chiaroscuro, it's not going to change the fact that you dislike it or find it beautiful, nor should it. To be perfectly honest, I hesitate to even address this topic because I don't think it's anyone's place to dictate – and this isn't my intention – how you should appreciate art.

It is not fair to say, nor is it in the remit of any person to argue, no matter how educated they are, that certain criteria must be established and satisfied for a work of art to be "good." That's like saying a work of art must check all the proverbial boxes to be considered good. What's more, how can you use an ambiguous word like "good" as the main qualifier for something as personal, subjective and sometimes mysterious as art? Since art deals with emotions, ideas, abstractions and all sorts of things, the only evaluative mechanism that I can think is fair is the marketplace of ideas. Then again, I don't even think that's necessary; all of this analysis just gets in the way of human expression finding sympathy wherever it may, which, in my view, is all we should ever ask of it and ourselves.

DEBATE, DON'T ARGUE

James McCarley
Co-Editor

I love debating. I find it is extremely useful when I'm not sure about my own views or I'd like to learn something new. However, particularly on controversial topics, individuals often prefer to take a stance and not listen to someone with opposing views. To me, that is neither useful or fair. To shut someone down merely because they don't agree with you is the worst form of intolerance.

As Voltaire said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." There is every reason for us to listen to someone whether or not you agree with them. When I'm discussing something with a friend or family member, I always try and stay open-minded about the topic. It is beyond infuriating when they don't reciprocate. I feel the same way when I see the same thing on TV. As a society, I think we need to take a step back and look at things with a different perspective.

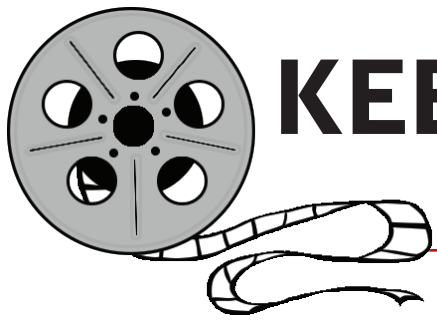
Obviously, things aren't looking too great right now. But, we've been through worse. The only place we can go is forward, and it's up to all of us to make things better. The best, first step we can take is to listen to each other, even if we don't like what someone else is saying. As the semester begins, remember to treat everyone around you with respect. You never know what the person next to you might be going through. Sometimes, what we really need is someone to talk to.

One of the hardest things for me to do is accept I'm wrong. That's probably human nature; no one likes being wrong. However, no one would learn anything if they didn't make mistakes or have different

opinions. Saying someone is wrong is very easy, but proving it should always be a priority rather than an afterthought. I think too many times people or the media will jump on the opportunity to talk badly about someone else without doing research or asking themselves if they should.

That is why I think people today don't want to admit they're wrong or talk about certain subjects. If they post something controversial on social media, friends, family or even strangers will be quick to condemn them, making all sorts of nasty comments rather than being uplifting or having a civil conversation. We all make mistakes or say the wrong thing, but that shouldn't stop us from having a conversation. To deal with today's problems, we need to have honest conversations, even if they might not be politically correct. Only then can people start coming together and accepting each other's differences.

I always strive to see things from a different point of view, to put myself in other people's shoes. It can be extremely easy to judge someone, but I'd rather understand them. If all we did was hate each other because we believe different things, nothing good will happen. The next time you're in an argument or a debate, remember to always be willing to accept you're wrong. It will be hard, but nothing good ever comes easy. Who knows, maybe you'll learn something.



KEEPIN' IT REEL

"Spenser Confidential"



Foxx, a former military man looking for his kidnapped daughter, rolls into town, the power behind the drugs asserts itself – leading to some very violent set pieces, with tons of CGI. After kidnapping the child drug dealer, played by Dominique Fishback, Foxx uses her as a ticket through the chain of command of these deadly addictive pills, hoping to recover his daughter and end the addiction that these power tablets have inflicted on the world they once knew. But not everyone is as nice as they seem and even these two partners have their share of secrets that could either make or break their mission.

If you like Marvel and DC films, or even the comic books, this is definitely a must-see. I was skeptical at first, but with COVID-19 shutting down theaters until last weekend, my options for watching anything new were costly and few and far between. I'm glad to say I was not disappointed at all. I loved Colson Baker's brief, but impactful, character portrayal of someone who had been deeply affected mentally and physically by these power pills. In the past, Foxx's films have been mediocre, in my opinion, but "Project Power" has redeemed his reputation in my book.

Overall, this film was action packed with great special effects, strong acting and power visuals. I was deeply impressed by the unique and captivating plot. Taking all of that into account, I'd give "Project Power" an 8 out of 10. With COVID-19 limiting our social interactions in our normal hang out spots, like the theater, take this time to get comfortable and break out the Netflix and ice cream for this suspenseful, big screen-style, action-packed film.

Cassidy McKnight
is a sophomore
early childhood major.

A famous actor Jamie Foxx stars in this must watch comic book-like film about what it would be like to be granted infinite power or be destroyed by it. The film is a coming of age story that combines comic-like features with modern controversies we see in everyday life. I'll admit, I really haven't been impressed with Fox's films in the past, but I figured I would give this Netflix film a shot since it included one of my favorite alternative rappers, Machine Gun Kelly, otherwise known as Colson Baker. This a film I think everyone would enjoy, but I know if you're like me, a comic geek, then this film is definitely a hit.

Imagine a world where a normal human being can achieve superhuman abilities for a five-minute window by taking a pill. Sounds great, right? Not always. The catch is, you'll never know if the pill will grant you powers or cause you to self-destruct until after you swallow it. That's the premise in this New Orleans set sci-fi/action film where Levitt, a rogue cop, partners with a smart, but underage, drug dealer who's pushing the aforementioned power drug and supplies him on occasion. Together, they fight crime, but when

KEI'YONA'S KORNER

Kei'Yona Jordan
Copy Editor

A question that I often think about, especially as a black woman, is why a country that gained almost, if not everything, they have through violence, demands so much peace during protesting? Or even why do African-American people have this stigma of violence taped to our existence, when in fact violent acts were and still are used in the most heinous ways against us? In the African-American community, it is common to be told to be the bigger person because you'll be labeled as the angry black woman or man, or even worse, our men being seen as a threat before ever even posing a threat. A lot of our men are called thugs or criminals no matter what they were or what job they hold, but what are the people who kill, harass and suppress people because of their color called? Confusing, right?

It's common to hear people bring up Martin Luther King Jr. as an example of a peaceful protester and his protest were in fact peaceful, but that peace was one-sided. The students, women and children who joined King's peaceful protest were beaten, jailed and attacked all the time. King himself was murdered. Is that what America would like to mimic again? The government asks black people for peace in exchange for death and injustice. If things were the other way around, history has shown that peace would be the last method of obtaining change or justice.

The truth of the matter is African-Americans are the ones in need of protection in a country that our ancestors built and brought prosperity to. A lot of medical advancements in history are due to the suffering of black people. For example, since he became a popular topic this summer, J. Marion Sims tortured black women to find a cure for vaginal fistula. Economic advancements were also possible because of unjust systems imposed on black people, such as Jim Crow Laws. I can attest to the fact that black people are not protesting because it's fun and we've nothing better to do. African-Americans are protesting because of unjust practices and modern-day villains killing and dehumanizing an entire race of people.

These protests are not overlooking or excusing crimes committed by black people, but they are saying that murder is not the answer; unequal treatment is not the answer; and harassment is not the answer. Black people are protesting for more than police officers to be held accountable, they are protesting for black



PHOTO BY KEI'YONA JORDON

Protestors marched down Main Street in Columbia, SC., on Aug. 29.

women who are more likely to die from childbirth complications, for black entertainers to receive equal pay and recognition for their work, for black people to stop being locked up at high rates to put money into private prisons and for the assaults and abuse against black women to stop being overlooked on a national level.

According to a recent Washington Post article, 93 percent of the BLM protests have been peaceful, and while most African-Americans all over are calmly protesting, our people are still being murdered and mistreated and children are being traumatized.

Is America asking black people to cower down while they are beaten, abused, stolen from and used? Even though black men, women and children are dying at the hands of an unjust system, they only seek equality and not revenge. While not all citizens stand behind the slogan "Make America Great Again," black people have no choice but to protest to make their voices heard and their demands fulfilled. African-Americans cannot return to the great days of America that made it okay for them to be murdered or their rights to be taken away or even to be seen as less than half a citizen. We have to eliminate the narrative that our people are dangerous and a threat to the living because, in America, black people are not the monsters.

This is not to say that progress hasn't been made, but it seems as though certain leaders want to return to a time of turmoil and black people cannot let their ancestors' lives and deaths be in vain.



Apply to write for The Patriot by emailing fmupatriotnews@gmail.com

THE CAMPUS COMMENT

QUESTION 26.1

How do you feel about going back to the classroom?



"It's a little scary, but if everyone stays safe it will be fine."

Alex Cox
Junior- Accounting and Finance



"It's fine. It doesn't bother me."

Brent Mcmanus
Sophomore- Computer Science



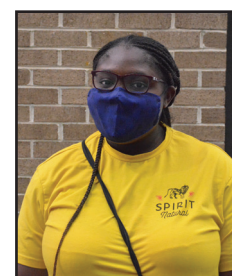
"It's alright. It sucks."

Carson Gardner
Freshman- Business Management



"I'm ecstatic. Online sucks."

Caleb Sarvis
Junior- Nursing



"I'm excited. I found online to be very difficult."

Channele Hanberry
Sophomore- Mass Communication



"I'm happy to be getting done with online, I was not feeling it. I hope the school knows what they're doing when it comes to our safety."

Marques Woodward
Junior- Industrial Engineering

Do YOU know of an event happening soon?

Send us information at
fmupatriotnews@gmail.com

MEET THE COACH

LAUREN BAUFIELD-EDWARDS

Finn Millians
Staff Writer

For head volleyball coach Lauren Baufield-Edwards, the path to coaching was never one she anticipated but it is one she has grown to treasure.

“Believe it or not, this gym rat never even thought about being a coach,” Baufield-Edwards said.

Originally from Minnesota, Baufield-Edwards played collegiate volleyball for the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Buccaneers. While there, she received a bachelor’s in sport and leisure management and a master’s in kinesiology and sport studies. She initially had a job lined up after graduation, but her college coach called and asked her to be her graduate assistant.

“I had a job lined up with Northwestern Mutual to sell insurance, and the day I was supposed to start, my college coach called me and asked me to begin coaching as her GA,” Baufield-Edwards said. “Of course, I jumped at the opportunity to wear sweatpants every day but also the opportunity to impact young people’s lives.”

From her first visit to FMU, she knew that it was

the place she wanted to be.

“I still remember the people I met on my interview day,” Baufield-Edwards said. “It’s those people and people in the Florence community that pulled me in.”

Since she took over as Head Coach in 2017, Baufield-Edwards has improved the record (win-loss ratio) each year. She is focused on making the small improvements that lead to greater development in the long run. She also wants to support the performance and achievements of her players off the court.

“I believe my greatest achievement thus far is seeing the developments in my players, specifically off the court,” Baufield-Edwards said. “We have created an environment where their academics takes precedent, and thinking about other people is their number one priority.”

However, while the off-the-court performance of the athletes is important to her, she still has big plans for the on-the-court performance.

“I would really love to achieve a conference championship and a place in the NCAA tournament,” Baufield-Edwards said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Baufield-Edwards shares the excitement of her athletes and likes to invest in her community.

Baufield-Edwards said her experience at FMU has been a great one. She loves how the school is a community and that academics are held in such high regard. She

also appreciates the role the faculty and staff plays in the success of the students and athletes.

“I believe FMU is one of the most academically challenging universities around,” Baufield-Edwards said. “The faculty and staff continue to challenge our students to make sure they are prepared for their adult life after college. Although the faculty and staff challenge the students, they are also there to support and help our students too. I receive calls from professors on staff to complement our student-athletes while also asking if they are okay. I value those phone calls because it further proves how much they care.”

Florence has certainly treated Baufield-Edwards well in the four years since she moved here. She bought a house, bought a dog, found a husband, started a family and she found a great, small community of friends to spend time with that helps connect her more with the area.

With her friends and family giving her roots in Florence, she wanted to give back to the community. For the past two years, Baufield-Edwards has partnered with

Grand Strand Juniors from Conway, S.C., and hosted club teams in Florence. The players coach the teams and she runs the program and holds clinics twice a week for kids who are not on a team.

“There is a great community of volleyball families that I have been fortunate enough to get to know and see their children grow up,” Baufield-Edwards said.

Now, with the growth of the local Florence volleyball scene, she has decided to start her own business to help cultivate the local volleyball community even more.

“I want to keep giving back to our volleyball community here in Florence and give these young men and women an opportunity to get better at the sport I love, and they love to do,” Baufield-Edwards said. “With my newly founded business, I want to offer volleyball training all year-round to those volleyballers and create competitive environments for them to be able to improve on their game.”

MEET THE ATHLETE

CAMRYN CASSETORI

James McCarley
Co-Editor

A standout athlete from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area in Pa., Camryn Cassetori wants to bring the same enthusiasm to the court and classroom at FMU.

Cassetori, a freshman English major, gained a reputation for her accolades on the tennis court in high school.

“Back at home, I was really well known in my area for tennis,” Cassetori said. “I was captain of my team. We won the district in doubles; that was the first time my school won a district championship in tennis. My partner and I made it to the Elite 8 in the state.”

Cassetori’s aunt also played tennis at USC Aiken, which was one of the reasons why she chose a school in S.C.

“I love the warm weather, and my aunt went to USC Aiken,” Cassetori said. “I haven’t seen too much of Florence, but I love South Carolina in general. I knew I wanted to go to a medium sized school. I like asking questions and I’m very outgoing.”

Despite being new to the area, Cassetori has enjoyed her time at FMU.

“I don’t know a lot of the local things or history,” Cassetori said. “I feel very



PHOTO BY JAMES MCCARLEY

Camryn Cassetori is looking forward to her new position as vice-president of honors and the upcoming tennis season.

welcomed; I fit in pretty easily. It’s been pretty easy adjusting.”

Recently elected as vice president of the Honors program, Cassetori has already begun to make her mark at FMU.

“Because I play tennis, there are a lot of good things that tennis has taught me, being an athlete, that I can

apply to being a good vice president,” Cassetori said. “I like being a part of things like that. It’s a good way to meet people. I’m used to working with other people; tennis has helped me to develop good communication and organizational skills. I thought I could add some zest and zeal in the position.”

Cassetori said it can be

difficult to juggle school, tennis and a social life.

“If something has to give, it is going to be social things,” Cassetori said. “I’ve already made some good friends on the tennis team. You can always do your homework with people and staying organized has helped me to balance it.”

Cassetori has high

expectations in her curricular and athletic activities at FMU.

“I’ve been playing tennis my whole life, so I’ve always been used to balancing schoolwork and tennis,” Cassetori said. “I know I want to be a successful student and a successful athlete. That really drives me. I work ahead in school, that way I don’t feel don’t submit

last minute.”

Cassetori’s dream is to become a lawyer, and she plans on putting her English major to good use.

“When you’re in the courtroom, how you speak and deliver your evidence is important, but ultimately when the judge and jury go back to make their decision, what they have in front of them is your brief,” Cassetori said. “You have to have really good writing skills to be persuasive.”

Starting the tennis season at FMU in the top six, Cassetori is looking forward to growing and working with her new teammates.

“I think I’m going to learn a lot,” Cassetori said. “It’s a great learning experience. It’s nice to have someone else to learn and grow from. They are all so good, and they’re going to make a better tennis player by playing with them and being challenged. I’m really excited.”

Despite practice officially starting later this month, Cassetori has already started to hit the tennis court.

“I’ve always been organized,” Cassetori said. “I’m used to playing tennis a few hours every day. My roommate and I have been hitting every day I’ve been here.”

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