

The Patriot

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Francis Marion University's award-winning student newspaper

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The FMU Fine Arts Department performs “Songs for a New World”

The FMU fine arts department performed “Songs for a New World” from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on the nights of Oct. 21, 22 and 23, in the Hyman Fine Arts Center Theatre. Directed by Glen Gourley, fine arts department faculty chair and professor of theater arts, the show consisted of several pieces from the original 1995 production at the WPA Theatre in New York City.

The show started with a dimming of the lights, an announcement to turn off all electronic devices and a silent entrance by the band followed by the cast. The audience applauded throughout the night after each performance, especially during the intermission, when some attendees began reciting the most recent number. At the show’s conclusion, the cast took a bow for the crowd before walking with the band off stage.

“We were looking for something we could do with a small cast and a small group of musicians,” professor Terry Roberts, coordinator of the music program and conductor for the show, said. “We came up with this one because we knew the composer, and he gears a lot of his work toward small groups like this.”



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Abigail Floyd belts out a solo as Woman 2 in Francis Marion Fine Arts Departments’ performance of Songs for a New World.

The show starred Ashlei Jones as Woman 1, DeQuan LaShane as Man 1, Abigail Floyd as Woman 2 and Griffin Thompson as Man 2. The band ensemble consisted of Cathryn Ackerman, Cliff Gardner and Simon Mendoza, featuring HyunJung Im on the keyboard, Roberts on the bass, music instructor Shane Reeves on percussion and musician Randy Oswald

on the drums.

With seven cast members and four band members, establishing a full performance proved to be a challenging task for the group, not the least of which involved a delay in the production due to COVID-19. Roberts said this led to the need for recasting, as some of the original students slated for production graduated before

they had the chance to perform.

“We were waiting a little while to do it,” Roberts said. “We were supposed to do it right before we shut down in March of ’20. We were supposed to do it that next week...I don’t think it made a big difference because we had to change certain members of the cast. Ashlei, the lead girl, had it all memo-

rized a year and a half ago.”

“For us practicing, we started mid-September,” Abigail Floyd, a junior health-care administration major, said. “We had about six weeks of practice. We kind of made the show snappy.”

Though the production had a relatively fast turnaround time, the group pulled the seams together on the show and delivered the

performance three nights in a row.

“I did a lot of high school theatre and middle school theatre, and it’s always been my passion, so I’ve always had this animated feel to me,” Floyd said. “When I get on stage, it’s just the adrenaline from the lights, and I know people are looking, and it just brings out the character. I kind of immerse myself into the song... Now that it’s done, I’m super proud... I’ve made friends I’m going to keep for the rest of my life.”

Griffin Thompson, a senior music industry major, said he appreciated the creative freedom the actors held for their characters.

“Typically, when I do shows, there’s dialogue and choreography,” Thompson said, “but the choreography here was more or less up to us, so it made us dive into the characters in each song, and we had to bring out the character based on what we thought they would do.”

Despite delay complications from the pandemic, including a nearly complete recast, the production persisted. As some might say, “The show must go on.”

AAFSC opens Cultural Conversations to students

Andrew Brain
Staff Writer

The African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition (AAFSC) hosted their first Cultural Conversation luncheon and series of the 2021-22 academic year at 11:15 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 18 at the FMU Performing Arts Center (PAC). The Cultural Conversations were created by the AAFSC in response to the death of George Floyd in 2020 to give minorities on campus more resources and a sense of community. “We wanted to provide the FMU and Florence community with a healthy way to process and discuss these issues that are plaguing our nation,” Kayla Duncan, assistant director of the Counseling and Testing Center, said. “We felt the only way to get through this difficult time would be to create a safe space for learning, open discussion, and processing for community members. Our motto for the Coalition is ‘together, we can,’ and we knew that was the only way we could get through this time: together.” Duncan was one of the movement’s leaders in its origin and continues to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A George Floyd mural can be found along East Palmetto Street in Florence to commemorate his name.

expand the event to reach a larger audience. The AAFSC’s goal is to help educate the community of Florence and increase the dialogue surrounding prevalent racial issues. “The purpose of the Cultural Conversations is to increase the knowledge base of the FMU community and Florence community as a whole regarding the current racially charged climate,”

Duncan said. “We hope that they serve as ways for people to get researched information from experts related to some of the most pressing issues of today.” This year’s Cultural Conversations will run differently, as students are now welcome to join. Duncan emphasized the importance of the students keeping an open mind in the discussions and wants the

students to feel comfortable asking questions during the panels.

“We determined that the students needed to also be involved in this learning,” Duncan said. “You all are the future of this country, and are just as much a part of the overall discussion as anyone else.” With the student attendance, Duncan and the AAFSC look to further educate the

Florence community and entice further participation. The AAFSC plans to continue the Cultural Conversations annually, hopefully gathering more participants as time passes. With a more established program, Duncan is confident in the purpose of the Cultural Conversations and believes they are helping to enlighten the participants in the community on the

realities of other people. “It can be easy as an individual to only see things through your perspective or life lenses, rather than allowing in multiple perspectives,” Duncan said. “I think these conversations help open peoples’ views to more than just their own, which in my mind leads to people seeing others as ‘a part of’ and not ‘other than.’” The first meeting, titled “Slavery’s Legacy, Past and Future,” was hosted by Erica Edwards, associate professor of history, and Louis Venters, professor of history and pre-law program coordinator. Future sessions will cover topics about racial inequity, beauty standards and the development of race and ethnicity. The second Cultural Conversation of the series, titled “Bordering Democracy: Racial and Class Inequality in Access to Political and Public Squares,” will be hosted by Jennifer Titanski-Hooper, assistant professor of geography, and Dillon Tatum, assistant professor of political science, on Thursday, Nov. 18 at the PAC.

The Patriot

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English department hosts first inaugural Tales from the Crypt

Finn Millions

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The Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society and Snow Island Review donned Halloween costumes, carrying in bucket-loads of candy for their first inaugural “Tales from the Crypt” spooky literary event at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Founders Hall fountain.

“We put together an idea for students to read their own work or read horror stories or bits of horror fiction that’s inspired them or moved them or they would want to share during the spooky season,” Adam Houle, assistant professor of English and a faculty advisor for Sigma Tau Alpha, said.

At the beginning of the semester, when planning events, Chelsea Taylor, senior English major and President of Sigma Tau Delta, talked to the other members of the society and took polls from the students to see what kind of events they would want for the spooky season.

Once the students inputted their two cents, Taylor and Sigma Tau Alpha collaborated with the Snow Island Review literary

magazine to create the idea of “Tales from the Crypt.”

“We just generated ideas and what students would want to see with a Halloween event while keeping in mind what we want to do with literature and writing,” Taylor said. “We worked with Snow Island Review to do that. We got both organizations together, asked what they could do, and everyone contributed a little bit to get the biggest turnout.”

At least thirty people showed up for the event, most in Halloween costumes, and sat down at the decorated table to view the performance. Large candles, candy and Halloween decorations littered the area, all intentionally placed to create an eerie atmosphere.

Megan Woosley-Goodman, a faculty advisor for Sigma Tau Delta, was one of the main contributors to the event and said she was happy they were finally able to hold an in-person event since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. She wanted to be able to provide an encouraging environment for her students to share their creativity.

“It’s a way to provide a community,” Woosley-Goodman said. “We’ve been

so disconnected the last couple years, we’ve been unable to have an event in person for the past two and a half years. This is a way for us to gather safely outside and share our love for Halloween and literature. It’s all about community, fun and mischief.”

Landon Houle, head of the Snow Island Review and assistant professor of English, wanted to help respond to the students’ desire for a Halloween literature event. Houle also wanted to help gain awareness for the literary magazine.

“We’re hoping to spark interest in the journal and show people we are out there,” Houle said. “We want to tell them about who we are and what we do, and get the word out there that they can participate and have fun and get some good experience in editing and publishing.”

If students are interested in the Snow Island Review’s literary magazine, they can contact Houle at lhoule@fmarion.edu or look at the FMU website for more information.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Tables and tents are decorated for Halloween in preparation for the Tales from the Crypt event.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Members of Sigma Tau Alpha sit at a table laden with Halloween decorations in preparation for the performances.

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Make your voice heard by writing a letter to the editor.

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e-mail it to fmupatriotnews@gmail.com.

We want to know your opinion, but please be respectful.
We reserve the right to edit or reject any material submitted.

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Honors conjures up a Halloween movie night

Julia Fulmer

Co-Editor

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.

With the end of October just around the corner, a dozen FMU honors students laid out blankets on the Founders Hall lawn for a Halloween-themed movie night at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15.

Shown on an inflatable projector screen, the movie of choice for the night was “Hocus Pocus,” a fantasy comedy film released by Walt Disney Pictures in 1993. In addition to the film, the event setup also included individual bags of popcorn and cans of soda for attendees to partake from during the night.

Every semester, the Honors Student Advisory Council (HSAC) is responsible for planning and organizing events for its members. This year, some students requested a movie night as an addition to the schedule, which the council delivered with a spooky twist in accordance to the holiday season.

According to Jon Tuttle, FMU Honors Program director and professor of English, the students usually take a trip to Creepy Hollow or Haunted Acres when the Halloween season rolls around. However, due to COVID-19 risks, they



PHOTO BY JULIA FULMER

An inflatable projector shows “Hocus Pocus” for honors students on the Founders Hall lawn.

determined it would be safer to hold a socially-distanced movie night outdoors.

The film’s premise begins when three Salem witches, named the Sanderson Sisters, are killed in the late 1600s and revived 300 years later by an unsuspecting teenage boy named Max Dennison. The rest of the movie follows the witches as they seek out children from which to steal souls; all the while, Max, with the help of his little sister

Dani and some friends along the way, tries to stop them.

Though the description of the plot may sound dark at first to some, according to many students, it is considered a classic family movie.

Kelsey Ioffreda, HSAC vice president and senior double major in pre-med and Spanish, said she has fond memories of the movie from when she was growing up and thought others might enjoy a

blast from the past.

“We chose Hocus Pocus because it’s a classic Halloween movie that most people saw as a child,” Ioffreda said. “I remember sitting on my couch while having a sleepover, and all my friends would watch Hocus Pocus to get us in the Halloween and fall spirit. . . It’s not too bloody or gory, and there isn’t demonic activity, so it’s a fun good-feel movie.”

Director Tuttle mentioned

before the screening that he had not seen the movie before. By the end of the night, he was notably disturbed by the outcome of the character Binx, a former child from the late 1600s, turned immortal cat.

“In the middle, [Binx] got crushed by a truck,” Tuttle said. “At the end, the same cat collapsed and died from the effects of being over 300 years old. Sure, a Bette Midler film is always fun, and sure, it didn’t take itself too seriously, but you can’t kill a cat twice and expect me not to take that seriously.”

Despite the film’s ending, Tuttle said he enjoyed the event and appreciated everyone who came out that Friday.

“There’s something to be said for laying on a blanket eating popcorn with your friends and watching a corny movie,” Tuttle said. “It just creates a nice vibe.”

The FMU Honors Program provides unique courses, study abroad opportunities and events for its nearly 200 student members from all disciplines. Students interested in the honors program can apply online at fmarion.edu/honors or contact Tuttle for more information.

The Patriot

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PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT | Tiffany Phillips

Lesley Willard
Assistant Editor

Tiffany Phillips, assistant professor of nursing, found her love for teaching others through her work as a Nurse Practitioner. “What I found myself enjoying most was educating patients and their families—I absolutely loved helping patients to understand their diagnoses, medications, and treatment plans,” Phillips said. “I also really enjoyed precepting nursing and nurse practitioner students. As an educator, I am able to impart the knowledge I have gained throughout my education and clinical experiences to prepare nurses and nurse practitioners for the clinical setting.”

After completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in 2004, Phillips began working as a staff nurse in the Emergency Department at McLeod, where she would later meet the man who would become her husband. While working as a nurse, Phillips decided to further her education and received her MSN-FNP and DNP degrees from MUSC in 2012. She became a hospitalist nurse practitioner at McLeod but continued living in the small town of Pleasant View, a 50-minute drive from the hospital.

Eventually, Phillips’ husband, Dustin, decided to go back to school at FMU and receive his FNP degree as well. While he was in the program, a position in the nursing department became available. He went home and encouraged his wife to apply.

“He knew I always had

an interest in education and gave me the push I needed,” Phillips said.

With two small children and hectic schedules, the couple decided that commuting no longer made sense for their family. After her hire at FMU, Phillips and her family decided to move to Florence, where they currently live. Along with teaching, she continues working around one day per week with McLeod Occupational Health at various industry health centers.

Accepting the teaching position at FMU led Phillips to several opportunities. To date, she co-published six peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters and received nominations for both the Teaching and Research Awards at FMU. While professional achievements are a bonus, what she enjoys most about teaching is the students.

“My favorite thing about teaching at the college level is teaching students who are where they want to be,” Phillips said. “Students go to nursing school because they want to be a nurse. Watching students grow into the nurse or nurse practitioner roles is very rewarding.”

When she is not working, Phillips spends most of her time with her children or serving the community through her church, where she is a Sunday school teacher, member of the choir and part of the Mission and Health Teams. She also loves watching Gamecocks football games and being outside, often found working in her yard, at the beach or lounging by the pool.

Since moving to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Assistant professor of nursing, Tiffany Phillips, enjoys spending her free time with her family and helping out at her local church.

Florence, Phillips and her husband have added a third daughter to their family and adopted six dogs. Through the years, Phillips said her faith has grown stronger.

Though she experienced times when she felt like she did not know anything at all, she always trusted things would get better.

I would not change

anything about my life and career because I truly believe everything happens for a reason,” Phillips said. “I believe there is a lesson to learn in good times and

in bad—you just have to be open to the lesson. You have to be willing to listen, to change, to grow, to be still, to take a risk, to trust.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT | Abhay Patel

Lesley Willard
Assistant Editor

After struggling to choose a major because of his interest in everything, senior marketing and economics double major, Abhay Patel, decided to begin pursuing a career in acting so he could play every part.

“When I met with my guidance counselor, I didn’t know what I wanted to do because I had an interest in every field,” Patel said. “That’s how I decided to act. I can play anyone, but it’s all in how I see the character.”

Patel moved to Lancaster, SC, from Chicago, IL, when he was eight years old after his parents decided to buy and run a gas station in the area. When it was time for him to choose a college to attend, he struggled to decide if he wanted to move back to a big city and attend the University of Rochester in New York or stay close to his family and attend FMU. Ultimately, he chose FMU because he heard the school had a great business program, and the tuition was fair.

Growing up, Patel discovered his creative side and enjoyed finding things that allowed him to express himself. While his main goal is to become a successful actor, he is also interested in entrepreneurship and would like to own a bar or club in the future. He chose two majors because economics will give him the knowledge he needs to run



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Senior marketing and economics double major, Abhay Patel, holds a passion for acting and hopes to find more opportunities to grow his skills.

his own business one day, while marketing allows his creative side some attention.

Recently, Patel participated in an acting boot camp with former Nickelodeon and Disney

stars, and as a result, he was signed to two acting agencies.

“It was honestly one of the best experiences of my life,” Patel said. “Working with people who achieved

what I could only dream of and working alongside people who have the same mindset and goals that I do was awesome.”

The acting agencies that represent Patel look

for roles he would fit into well and notify him when opportunities are available. So far, he has received a couple of commercial opportunities, but the timing interfered with his school

and work, so he had to pass. However, Patel became an extra in the DC Films movie “Shazam! Fury of the Gods,” which will release in 2023. Though he hopes to take on more roles in the future, for now, he is keeping an eye out for more acting showcases to gain more experience.

While his dreams for the future are much larger than FMU, Patel enjoys the time he has here. Living on campus, he is surrounded by his peers at all times. When his roommate and many other students living on his side of the dorms decided to rush fraternities, he joined in, becoming a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

“My brothers helped me get more involved on campus and opened up opportunities for me through philanthropy and other networks for brothers,” Patel said. “Joining TKE has also really opened my eyes to different personalities and different problems, as well as solutions to those problems.”

As he finishes up his college career, Patel said he is most looking forward to living in a big city if that is where life takes him.

“Whatever I do, I just want to be able to take care of my family in the future,” Patel said. “I just have this drive to do something important with my life and make a change.”

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Hayli Keith

Finn Millions
Staff Writer

A recent healthcare administration graduate of FMU, Hayli Keith looks to continue her education in the FMU graduate school while working as an admissions counselor for the university, representing Upstate, SC.

Though she is not technically utilizing the healthcare aspect of her degree, Keith realized a true healthcare administration position was not conducive to her skillset within the professional world.

Keith worked part-time at a senior living facility during her last semester at FMU and acquired a full-time position there upon her graduation. After working there for a while, she realized it was not necessarily what she was passionate about and accepted the role of admissions counselor for FMU.

“I am thankful for my HCA degree, despite not currently utilizing the healthcare aspect of it,” Keith said. “Although the HCA program is clearly healthcare-focused, I still gained applicable knowledge and experiences that have helped me develop as a young professional, as well as prepared me for the work field. A four-year degree is definitely worth the investment, and if I had to do it over again, Francis Marion University would be my first choice once more.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hayli Keith, once a healthcare administration major, took a much different path for her career.

Keith initially planned to work in health education, but now she hopes to work within just the educational aspect. She is currently helping to recruit students from Upstate, SC, by creating and maintaining relationships with education professionals within the

area, sorting through student applications and conducting statistical measurements of students within her territory.

Though she is finding success within her career shift and working toward continuing her education, there was plenty of anxiety in the switch from undergrad

to the “real world.”

“Although I felt fully prepared to enter the full-time workforce, the transition was a bit overwhelming,” Keith said. “You see friends a couple years older than you, with their lives seemingly put together, and it looks so simple. On the flip side, you

see your friends a couple years younger than you, who still have time to change their paths and maintain lower levels of responsibility. Then there’s you, stuck in this new, life-altering situation, and the combination is an odd situation.”

Keith claims the

most stress-inducing aspect of step into the job market involved changing her career path. It was a necessary change, but one that almost felt like a step back. It was a risk she was willing to take, despite its intimidating nature. Keith said having a support system is crucial, as she could have never taken such a risk herself without the people in her life cheering her on.

Keith claims she is content with her life and the changes she made within it and plans to keep pushing herself for more self-improvement, both personally and professionally. She remains thankful to FMU and the impact it had on her life.

“Overall, my four undergraduate years at Francis Marion University have been the best of my life, and even past graduation, FMU has continued to be a focal point in my life,” Keith said. “The chance to work for my alma mater and give back some of the support that was given to me is an opportunity that I am extremely grateful for.”

Keith plans to continue her education with graduate school in the fall of 2022, which will make her a two-time FMU graduate. She will continue her role as admissions counselor in the meantime.

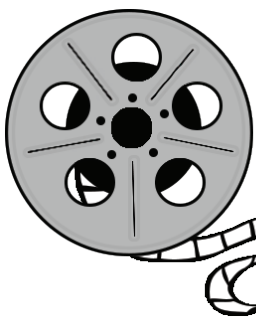
UPCOMING EVENTS

FM A'GLOW 2021
OCT. 30TH @ 5-10 PM
FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

DOUG'S DAY
NOV. 11TH @ 5:30 PM
SPARROW STADIUM

FMU CONCERT CHOIR
NOV. 23RD @ 12:30 PM
201 S DARGAN ST

FMU CONCERT CHOIR
NOV. 23RD @ 12:30 PM
201 S DARGAN ST



KEEPIN' IT REEL

“Django Unchained”

Tarantino, oh Tarantino. Always you. The one who mastered the abstract art of generating the craziest feelings to unknown individuals across the globe. Quentin is the director of masterpieces such as “Pulp Fiction”, “Reservoir Dogs”, “Kill Bill” and “Inglorious Bastards.” It is safe to say every Tarantino movie is an experience; he makes you feel alive at each climax scene.

It is a compelling mixture of feelings that every single human being must experience before dying. The movie at spotlight here is the great “Django Unchained”, directed and written by Quentin Tarantino, featuring nonetheless than Leonardo DiCaprio as ‘Calvin Candie’, Jamie Foxx as the ‘Django’, Samuel L. Jackson as ‘servant Stephen’ and the great Cristoph Waltz as ‘Dr. King Schultz’. The film revolves around Django (Jamie Foxx), a black man in the United States before the Civil War. The film is a western in itself, with many moments that refer to the old ‘bang

bang’, especially the time of Spaghetti Westerns.

The conceptual aspect of the experience portrayed in vigorous fashion the absolute separation between whites and Black people back before the civil war, the film manages to emphasize this perfectly, and the latent contempt of whites for Blacks is perfectly visible. As the saying ‘first impression matters’, the film certainly catches your attention right away at the opening scene, within the sound of a unique vivid soundtrack, Dr. Schultz meets with its co-protagonist Django in a very unique fashion. Both protagonists pave their journey in the movie within business partners. The Dr. is a bounty hunter as needs to find a trio of bandits known as the ‘Little Brothers’, in which Django knows really well. Therefore, Django becomes a bounty hunter and rides a horse. The despair and fear of people seeing a Black man on a horse is overwhelming. This fear on the part of whites of a Black man being above them is once again quite evident all the time. And

this is easily perceived by the character of Leonardo DiCaprio, a farmer slave master, who even wonders why Black people don’t revolt, after all, there are many more of them there (on the farm) than whites.

DiCaprio, however, finds the answer in a suspicious science, which says that Blacks people have skull marks that dedicate them to servitude. This is another point that made me think, as slavery over time was becoming more and more justified. Prisoners of war, people of another race/ color, people without God in their hearts... and this scientific motive can easily join this list of fallacies that seek to justify a heinous act of owning a human being.

This subservience is completely rejected by Django who begins a wave of revenge, with a lot of gunfire, scattered guts, explosions and a whole lot of fake blood! In that sense it is undeniable that Tarantino is a master. No one can create such interesting and captivating violence as he can. It was never so funny to watch that dramatic gore, and not because it is exaggerated,

but because it was intended to look funny. And it really makes you thinking, how these types of scenes can be so funny, I’ve never felt that way!

Django Unchained is such an overwhelming experience, in a great way of course! It is a very long movie, but everything is perfect, the film starts right away with a jaw dropping cast, not mentioning on the multi-millionaire budget, in which certainly half of it was solely dedicated to fake blood purchases. It is the ultimate bundle, an extremely fruitful historical context into a mentally defying concept/ ideal challenge acted by absurdly talented legends of Hollywood history at an actual real time social dilemma of on-going social barriers that actually portrayed it in a very interesting and joyful almost three-hour life changing experience. Wow, let me take a breather. Now that I’ve regained my breath, just please, watch it before you die!

Felipe de Moraes
Staff Writer



VOICES of the PATRIOT

CHARGING INTO THE FUTURE

Felipe de Moraes
Staff Writer

Every day, the human race is subject to changes at a blinding rate. In a negative light, people consider changes to be “challenges,” whereas positive changes are considered “progress” or “evolution.” In any case, the world has observed myriad discoveries and development. Though it was not all sunshine and rainbows, and by no means perfectly executed, our predecessors built everything for us. They transformed streets of dust and horse-drawn carriages into highways of automobiles, and this stark change in technological development deserves some retracing.

In 1894, the first-ever large-scale combustion car production was initiated. Karl Benz, a German engine designer, developed and manufactured the first automobile, with a primitive model known as the “Benz Velocipede,” or, “Benz Velo” for short. A few years later, Henry Ford, inspired by the German, would soon revolutionize manufacturing with his unique concept for assembly lines in 1903 and receive credit for popularizing and shaping the automobile industry. As should be expected with emerging technology, the first automobiles were highly fuel-inefficient and much more harmful to the environment. Alongside decades to come, manufacturers began to make many improvements to their cars, including adding catalytic converters, which abruptly reduced carbon emissions from the vehicles.

Nowadays, a modern Henry Ford is emerging in the electric motor industry: Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motors and a quick-minded engineer who understands the necessity for innovation in our society. He is an idealist; he wants to improve humanity as much as possible during its passage on earth, and, to do so, he believes a transition into electric vehicles is necessary for sustainability. Along with Martin Eberhard, JB Straubel, Marc

Tarpenning and Ian Wright, Musk co-founded Tesla to be focused on technology and cars, eventually leading the two to intersect on a large scale. Though the first mass-produced electric car, the General Motors EV1, was created in the 1990s, this alternative automobile technology was too new and uncharted at the time to be accepted as a potential standard. However, the introduction of the Tesla Roadster in 2008 changed the game, as the company found a way to refine the concept by using lithium-ion batteries in their cars, allowing significantly greater speeds and distances. Since 2015, the company experienced a boom in sales, peaking in 2018, and experienced an additional spike in 2020.

Elon is a mastermind; he understood the means to reach out to people and did it while having fun, even taking the time to joke around with people on Twitter. He strongly advocates the industry toward more sustainable solutions, and, regardless of his competitors’ stances on the matter, they have begun swaying to join in the electric market. Even huge automobile companies such as Mercedes-Benz have announced their termination of funding into the Formula One car development, as the racing vehicles were far too environmentally impactful. Instead, they pledged to shift their finances toward the electric car development budget. Although this is a crucial moment for humanity, we still hold the key in our hands to make the difference and go green.

Though it may be years before electric cars are more accessible to the everyday household, it is worth considering more environmentally-friendly routes to take in our daily lives. After all, understanding inefficiency leads to innovation, so why not look around and see what needs some change?

POPULAR CULTURE & SOCIETAL CHANGE

Felipe de Moraes
Staff Writer

It is neither a bird nor a plane, it’s Jon Clark, son and successor of the famous Superman. The new illustration portrays Clark and his new boyfriend, the hacker Jay Nakamura - the last name already indicates that the chosen one has the advantage of not being a white Westerner, which counts additional points in the politically correct system. We are currently experiencing one of the strongest pushes that modern society has ever seen in the direction of breaking gender taboos. Said that, this is a very delicate subject in which has to be analyzed and broke down into many different layers and perspectives.

In order to understand why this recent push is happening, it is valid to look at how the powerful women’s rights movement took flight since late 1960’s till basically today. Right after the first contraceptive measures were created, it gave autonomy of controlling birth to humanity. That was a huge milestone, it gave women the power of being and feeling free for the first time ever. So, whenever the movement was gaining stronger support, it had to push fiercely, it had to be extreme and literally overflow the cup of man’s ideals in society. And that is precisely what is happening nowadays, the same push seen into the women’s rights movement is happening to the gender equality movement, it just has a different name, a different vehicle as most of the campaigns are performed online now and most important it has a different cause.

It was Tom Taylor, the Australian screenwriter who announced Superman’s son new sexuality in a way that brought

up so many repercussions, he left behind the Black Superman that will be filmed with a script by writer Ta-Nehisi Coates, who is best known for books that take a radical approach to the racial issue.

The new Superman, son of Clark Kent and Lois Lane, also has a redesigned outfit, with even more polished muscles and questions about his true role as a superhero, but obviously what calls attention is your sexual orientation. Those who don’t like it, let them not buy it, not access it, not see it. This is the easiest answer that can be given to those who react negatively to the changes of which a bi-sexual Superman is one of the most recent results.

Generation Z will be exposed to an unmeasurable number of discussions and polemical subjects across their lives. We as humans are in a very interesting turning point for the race; we are more connected to the internet than ever, technology fast-placidly connects people without the need of meeting in person ever and that is a very interesting, dangerous and futuristic milestone. The crypto universe is stretching realities with it so called “metaverse,” where you can be a different person—literally overstretch reality—and that is extremely abstract and conceptual but it is certainly going to happen much quicker than we think! So, hang tight because this is not the first time, we see important pop culture figures being used to express ideals of a cause important to society, and it certainly won’t be the last.

THE RISE OF NFTS & DIGITAL CURRENCY

Felipe de Moraes
Staff Writer

NFT is a digital certificate, established via a connection to the blockchain, that defines originality and uniqueness to digital assets. A meaning to “Non-fungible Token,” NFTs have attracted attention after millions of dollars have been used to buy such assets on the Internet. For example, a digital Ape, made of pixels sold for exactly 1.5 million dollars (420 Ethereum’s for the as of today price of 1 ETH = \$3,720).

An NFT attached to any digital item - an image, photo, video, music, message, social network post, etc. - makes that item unique to the world. - makes that item unique in the world, creating scarcity around the item and opening space for a market to take hold, involving collectors and investors interested in investing real money in the acquisition of digital works and assets. You might be asking yourself: how is this possible? The term for creating an NFT is known as “minting,” and when you mint a token (an image, video, music, etc.) you create a smart contract with the blockchain of the cryptocurrency in matter. The contract states that given the “hash code” provided after the mint, that token is not fungible anymore, it is unique and along those lines; it is scarce. Many platforms prefer to use Ethereum, the most known cryptocurrency in terms of NFTs, but others would prefer to use Cardano or Solana due to low transaction fees compared to Ethereum.

The bigger picture here is, the cryptocurrency environment has the ultimate goal to decentralize—break centralized power and distribute it in a healthy fashion. It also diminishes bureaucracy as huge transactions can happen at any given time without any logistical problem. It is shaping the world to eliminate those remaining steps for the 100% online step. There is one sociological model known as “Laggard’s Technological

Adoption Curve” which measures the progressive adoption of technology.

Absolutely whoever is having exposure to the NFT market right now, it certainly is at the “innovators” stage. You might be thinking, “Some random pixel Ape was sold for \$1.5 million at the earliest stage of the market, how is that possible?” and the answer to that question is: extraordinarily rich people. There are many tax incentives for art buyers, and NFTs qualify at that sphere, so in simple terms, it is a way of rich people pay less taxes. That is not the absolute only reason, there are uncountable projects in progress around the NFT world, and very soon we will see movie scenes or even TikTok videos being commercialized through these marketplaces, and you will be able to purchase these moments and say that they are yours! A hint: if you ever be in possession of such, congratulations. You just became very wealthy.

To truly be successful at this universe, you must understand the concepts, the projects and be up to date with news; one spark can change everything, and you must be one of the first ones to see it. The Laggard’s curve displays to you that whoever is an early adopter, has the biggest chances to acquire some rare NFTs. It is important to know that there are millions of people that are trying to profit from FOMO buyers—the famous “fear of missing out” is extremely present in crypto.

This universe is simple, whoever enters early will benefit the most, whoever enters early and is educated will be an NFT king in the future. With that said, be patient and calm, educate yourself the most and do not FOMO in. Try not to buy too many NFT, punks!

Creative Corner

You

You make my sun shine brighter Rays
and like Charles
I'm A Fool For You.

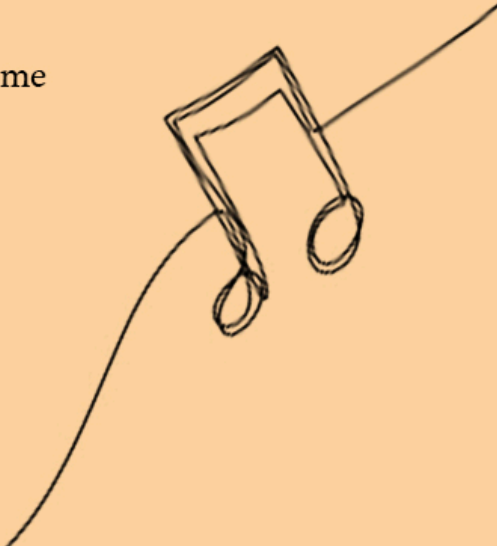
You make my words stumble
like loose shoes
on clumsy feet
and my heart forgets its own beat
like I'm singing on the wrong keys
but to the right doors.

You send our souls into dance
with your baseline
as you play keys on my waistline
and I can't imagine how quiet
my world must've been without you.

You make me brave enough
to lose myself
in what I had feared would end me
But this tune feels different.
and I find myself craving for
this melody;

For this song.
For this love.
For You.

-MaKayla O'Neal



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT | Kaylee Gillespie

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

A sophomore business major, and native from Pickens, SC, Kaylee Gillespie recently hit 1,000 assists in the FMU women's volleyball game against North Greenville University.

Gillespie sees the crucial role her team plays in her success.

"My team is definitely one of the biggest contributors to my success," Gillespie said. "Without a pass, I can't set, and without my hitters killing the ball, I don't get assists. I also think our practices and film sessions have helped me lead the offense as well. I've learned a lot since being here about the game of volleyball and how to run an effective offense."

To be successful on the court, athletes must dedicate countless hours to refining their skills alone. With the added responsibility of being a student athlete, balancing the rigorous demands of sports and academics could pose a challenge. Despite this obstacle, Gillespie rose to the occasion, eventually receiving the FMU McCrimmon Award for one of her essays.

"I've always enjoyed school, but college has definitely been more difficult



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

For sophomore business major Kaylee Gillespie, volleyball runs deep in her family.

when it comes to balancing playing and learning," Gillespie said. "I think our team's goal of academic accountability has helped me tremendously in taking

pride in getting good grades and having the responsibility to stay on top of my work. This year has been more of a challenge for me because our schedule is twice the size of

my freshman COVID year." For the Gillespie family, volleyball runs deep. With a mother who was a college player and setter, herself, and a former collegiate coach as

a father, Gillespie had many forms of inspiration for her volleyball career, starting right at home.

"My mom has been a big inspiration to me," Gillespie

said. "She was a setter during her career at Pickens High and Presbyterian College. She loves to give me pep talks before every game and is always there to support me, no matter if she's here in the stands or watching from back home. My dad has been a key person, as well. As a former collegiate coach, he gives me helpful advice in how to navigate my years as a collegiate athlete and pushes me to be the best leader I can be for my team."

On top of acquiring 1,000 assists, Gillespie also received recognition as The Conference Carolinas Specialist of the Week, making it a week full of accolades for the sophomore setter. Gillespie said she hopes to live up to the title of MVP she received last season during her freshman year at FMU.

The women's volleyball team is currently first in the conference, with a record of 10-0 in conference play and 15-8 overall.

FMU fans can live stream the Lady Patriots' battle against Chowan University on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. on the Conference Carolinas website.

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COACH SPOTLIGHT | Jay Evans

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

After living up north for three years, Jay Evans, former head men's and women's tennis coach of West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC) moved seven hours south as he recently became FMU's new head tennis coach last month.

"My goal for us is to be competitive in our new conference," Evans said, "ideally finishing top four in the regular season and competing deep in the conference tournament."

Despite only having five years of coaching experience under his belt, Evans is entering the program with a successful resume. After working at WVWC for less than a year, Evans led the men's team to a 7-6 record during their season last year, attaining runner-up status in their conference and making their 12th NCAA appearance. The WVWC men's team also ranked fourth in the region during his time as head coach, with the women's team performing well alongside them, going 3-6 in the season.

Coach Evans is succeeding Garth Thompson, an All-American player during his time at FMU and former



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Jay Evans joins the staff at FMU as new head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams.

professional player in the Davis Cup. As a coach, Thompson won more than 700 matches combined.

Because of this, Evans said he has big shoes to fill, but he is up for the challenge.

"I feel that I bring a lot

of energy and passion to our program, and my mentality will help revitalize a program that has declined a bit from

historical success," Evans said.

Although he found success as a coach at his

previous two schools, Evans arrived on the tennis scene later than most in his life.

"I came to tennis at age 14, much later than my peers, so I had to rely on passion and heart to become the player I was," Evans said. "I like to think this mentality has carried over into my coaching career."

Evans believes this passion is what propelled him to success as a collegiate tennis player at Piedmont University.

The recent hire has high expectations for his athletes during his first season as head coach of the Patriots.

"I'm passionate about bringing a lot of positive but real energy to my program," Evans said. "There are certain values I expect my players to follow, but also maintain a strong competitive spirit."

Evans highlighted some of the things he learned throughout his time coaching.

"I've always tried to improve my 'practice coaching' and become more organized and less of a player's coach," Evans said. "Coaching is so enjoyable for me because of the relationships I build and the impact I can have on people's lives."

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF FMU SPORTS

A look into Francis Marion Universitys’ previous games



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
Sophomore outside hitter Lexi Albright prepares to swing.



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA
#16, Kimo Lemke works to get around opposing defender.



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA
Freshman defender Jadelyn Taylor, prepares to pass a ball up the field.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
The Lady Pats celebrate a point in their winning game against UNCP.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
#21, Scarlett Gilmore prepares to shoot during Homecoming game against Georgia Southwestern.



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA
#11, freshman midfileder, JG Gauron, keeps possession of the ball from opponents.

Patriots win five-set match against UNCP

Finn Millions
Staff Writer

Despite some mid-match challenges with second and third-set defeats, the Lady Patriots prevailed passed the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) Braves with a 3-2 final set score, making their record 9-0 for the volleyball season.

After both schools transferred to the Conference Carolinas this year, this was a defining match for both programs. As always with the battle of I-95, the competition was intense, and the Patriots spent the week preparing for the match.

“In the days leading up to the match and during the match, our team decided to have a mindset focused on us,” Kaylee Gillespie, sophomore setter and double major in business and biology, said. “Pembroke has many talented players that are the leaders in statistics for the conference, and we specifically studied them in film to know their tendencies and weaknesses. Keeping in mind that the match would be one of our toughest conference match-ups all year, I think collectively we knew we would need to be aggressive, strategic and consistent.”

During the match, the Patriots seemed to lose a bit of their game plan in the second and third set. Gillespie claims Lauren Baufield-Edwards, head women’s volleyball coach, had to remind them of their overall goal.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Senior outside hitter, Alysaa Hansen, looks to score with a tip

A few key players from the Patriots were senior psychology major and middle blocker, Lily Walton, with 13 kills and 10 blocks, and Gillespie with 42 assists and 24 digs. With both Walton and Gillespie leading the offense and defense, the Patriots could bounce back

after the third set and take home the victory.

“The match was a battle from start to finish,” Gillespie said. “At the end of the fifth set, when the final point was scored, it felt amazing.”

A few other notable moments in the match came

from a career-high 17 kills from junior biology major and outside hitter, Gracie Davis, 16 kills and 11 digs from sophomore political science major and outside hitter, Lexi Albright and 24 digs from freshman biology major and libero, Zoie Larkins.

“At the end of the set, my teammates and I met together and agreed that we would play the next set for each other, and that it was time for us to mentally decide that we were taking this set,” Gillespie said.

With multiple players achieving double-

doubles and finding success in key moments, it seemed the Patriots decided to play for each other.

With nine consecutive wins under their belt for the season, the Patriots look to continue improving and maintain their winning streak.

“As a team, we continue to look at one game at a time,” Gillespie said. “Pembroke definitely gave us momentum and confidence for the matches to come, but also confirmed the fact that our road to a championship title will be tough. We’ve seen what we can do when we use our game plan to attack the opponent and continue to work on certain skills that we need to improve.”

The Patriots plan to fight their way into a conference victory and the NCAA tournament at the end of the season. Gillespie and the rest of the Lady Pats remain hopeful for success during the rest of the season.

“We haven’t hit our potential yet, which is exciting because we have a lot of season left in front of us to work towards that,” Gillespie said. “We have a really special team, so if we can become more consistent in all aspects of the game, I think we will continue to do great things.”

Fans can find the Lady Patriots next on the home court playing Lees-Mcrae College at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5 at the Smith University Center (UC) gym.

WORD SEARCH

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