

# The Patriot

Thursday, December 9th, 2021

Francis Marion University's award-winning student newspaper

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 4

## FMU hosts “Doug’s Day” at the downtown PAC Celebrating the founding of FMU

**Andrew Brain**  
Staff Writer

To celebrate the founders of FMU, the Performing Arts Center (PAC) hosted a musical celebration from 7:00 p.m. to roughly 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 11, at the PAC in downtown Florence.

The celebration referred to as “Doug’s Day,” consisted of a few musical talents and food trucks before the main event, which was the performance of Atlanta-based band, Yacht Rock Schooner, inside the main auditorium. Reportedly, around 400 people attended this event.

The band performed covers of numerous songs from the ‘70s and ‘80s. With flashing lights above the musicians, each song performed was met with immense energy from the crowd, as people cheered, clapped and some even sang along to the hits they covered. Just a few of the songs they performed included Redbone’s “Come and Get Your Love” and Toto’s “Africa.” After everyone thought the performance was over, the band reemerged to perform the Gerry Rafferty hit, “Baker Street,” to the remaining audience members.

“Today is Doug’s Day; that is in honor of our first president, Dr. Doug Smith,



Yacht Rock Schooner performs for the crowds during Doug’s Day celebration.

PHOTO BY MORGAN ZASTAWNIK

and our founding faculty and staff,” said Lauren Stanton, vice-president of institutional advancement at FMU and main organizer of this event. “We are celebrating today as a founding day for the university – specifically for the president and the founding faculty and staff who established the university in 1970.”

After taking a year off due to the COVID-19 pan-

dem, Stanton said she was relieved to be able to bring people together again to celebrate the establishment of the university.

“The first time we did this event was during our 50th year celebration (2019),” Stanton said. “Unfortunately, we could not have it last year due to COVID, but we’re really happy to bring everyone together again. In 2019, we had Edwin McCain, and

several hundred attended his event.”

Stanton also said one of the goals of FMU’s institutional advancement was to reach out to more than just the current base of students.

“We wanted to bring this to the PAC so we would be able to draw in the students and the community,” Stanton said. “For our current students, we made sure that there were advertisements,

posters, emails, televisions on campus and student organizations who were pushing the message. As far as everyone else – our community members, faculty, staff and alumni – we also sent them emails, social media and newspapers; there were several outlets that anyone could have found a way to attend the event tonight.”

“Doug’s Day” was a big event for the PAC, but by no

means was it the last. The FMU PAC has a jam-packed schedule for the upcoming year, and they look forward to providing entertainment to FMU students and the Florence community.

“We have a couple of symphony concerts that are coming up,” Bud Simmons, director of the FMU PAC, said. “The Nutcracker, that dance company, is going to be here in December – all local artists.”

In addition to the upcoming Christmas show, the PAC will host a bluegrass concert with Bush, Marshall, Myer and Myer on Jan. 21, 2022; the Polish Wieniawski Philharmonic Orchestra on Jan. 27, 2022 and the Atlanta Rhythm section on March 26th, 2022.

“We have a lot of student activities that go throughout the year, too, with the FMU fine arts series,” said Simmons. “[There are] some activities with Christmas programs coming up with that pretty soon.”

For more information on upcoming dates and performances, Simmons encourages everyone to go to the PAC’s website at [fmupac.org](http://fmupac.org) or call the ticket office at (843) 661-4444.

## FMU dabbles in creative carving for FM’ Aglow

**Andrew Brain**  
Staff Writer

FMU welcomed over 200 cars to its fourth-annual FM A’Glow: drive-thru edition pumpkin decoration contest from 5-10 p.m. on Oct. 30th.

Spanning from Heyward Community Center to the Smith University Center (UC), the contest event surrounded pumpkin displays arranged along a pathway. The drive-thru began at dusk, featuring creations from over 30 different organizations, though crowd goers were also free to walk the path alongside the pumpkins. The night was centered around creativity and artistic ability, as teams carved and painted their pumpkins to represent their personalities and organization themes.

Though FM A’Glow is on its fourth year as an annual tradition, this was the first time the event featured the ability to drive through the path laden with the displays.

The UC Lawn provided parked food trucks for guests, along with an area for children to carve their own pumpkins.

The event also featured a “Pumpkin Chuckin’” competition, in which groups designed trebuchets to launch their orange cargo the fur-



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

University Communications wins King and Queen of Pulp

thest distance. This year, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers won the contest.

Along the path, some organizations took the display a step further by dressing up alongside their pumpkin arrangements. The displays

contained themes varying from traditional Halloween topics to more playful topics such as Mario Kart, McDonald’s and yellow minions.

Kelsey Ioffreda, Honors Student Advisory Council vice president and double major in biology and Span-



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

FM’Aglow: drive-thru edition offered many spooky displays for guests

ish, said she enjoyed the new ambiance provided by the decorations this year.

“I think the path is more ‘lit’ than it was last year,” Ioffreda said. “Also, the lights are really fun this year. I like that everyone did different themes compared to

last year where everyone had similar themes.”

The most creative pumpkin display was done by FMU Softball Team; their theme was “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.” The scariest display was done by the Intramural Council, their

theme was a graveyard. The best overall theme was FMU Teaching Fellows, their theme was “Wizard of Oz.”

“My favorite part of the path was definitely the Green Club setup, it looks amazing and is my absolute favorite because they did ‘Mario Kart’,” said mathematics major Taylor Boatwright.

The most creative organization was the FMU Green Club whose theme was “Mario Kart.” The king and queen of pulp was the university communications department. Another one of the scariest displays was the Patriot Players with their theme as slashers. And lastly, the Judges Award went to the Swim Club, whose theme was a circus.

“I liked how there weren’t only people driving but also children walking,” said accounting major Felicity Lucas, “The children walking in their costumes reminded me of home whenever kids would walk up to my door and say ‘trick-or-treat’ asking for candy. I’m glad that children were still able to have fun for Halloween with the coronavirus disease still around.”



Co-Editors

Finn Millions  
Julia Fulmer

Assistant Editor

Lesley Willard

Layout Editor

MaKayla O'Neal

Staff Writers

Andrew Brain  
Chanelle Hanberry  
Cassidy McKnight  
Camryn Cassetori  
Melanie Dozier  
Kynleigh Hobbs

Photographers

Cullen Dore  
Ainara Eizaguirre  
Irastorza  
Morgan Zastawnik

Webmaster

Julia Fulmer

Adviser

Kay Packett

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Francis Marion University's  
student newspaper

P.O. Box 100547  
University Center Room 201  
Florence, SC 29502

(843) 661-1350

e-mail:  
fmupatriotnews@gmail.com

advertising:  
fmupatriotads@gmail.com

www.patriotnewsonline.com

# FMU bids farewell to loved friend and professor

MaKayla O'Neal

Layout Editor

Francis Marion University faculty and students are mourning the loss of Steven Gately, who passed last week. Gately was a significant part of Francis Marion University, with nearly 50 years of teaching under his belt.

Born in West Palm Beach, Florida, Gately dove into his passion for art by earning his Associate of Arts degree from Palm Beach Junior College. He continued his education, acquiring a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida Atlantic University and a Masters of Fine Arts from Florida State University in 1971. Gately began his career at Francis Marion University in 1973 and served as a primary professor for visual art students. On top of his career as a professor at FMU, Gately was named the C.B. and Marlene Askins Professor of Art in 2006, a position created for increasing the creative and cultural life on campus.

In his years at FMU, it would be an understatement to say Gately left quite the mark on the students, as well as his colleagues.

"He was always the perfect colleague," Samuel Howell, a fellow professor who worked alongside Gately for many of the years said. "[He was] supportive, yet non-interfering, a firm believer in the Liberal Arts (especially art history) and the mission of FMU, always attentive to details, ever concerned about maintaining the professional instruction of students in our Visual Arts Program. Steve clearly was the backbone of the program and carried with him a vast institutional memory."

Not only was Gately recognized for his profound in his works as a professor, but he also was a dedicated artist. A jack-of-all-trades in the art world, his legacy continues living through his unique pieces.

"He left us in the absolute prime of his talent, as his recent retrospective showed every one of his artistic capabilities on full public display in a wide range of styles," Howell said.

Gately's artwork is featured in a variety of public collections, such as the Southeastern Center For Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem and the Columbia Museum of Art.

Gregory Fry, also a close colleague to Gately, spoke of Gately's contribution to FMU.

"When something like this happens, it makes it painfully clear how much Steve brought to the art department, the FMU campus and the community," Fry said. "On a personal level, I will miss his steady presence, his artistic vision, and his firm conviction in the Arts. It's clear from the outpouring from students, alumni, faculty, and the community just how intrinsic he was and continues to be to us. He will be missed, but the impact he has left on those that he touched will continue to be evident for generations to come."

A memorial service will be held for Gately on January 24th, 2022, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. It will be hosted at the Mainstage Theatre in the FMU PAC on 201 South Dargan Street. Grief counselors are available to students and staff via appointment at 843-661-1840



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gately started working at FMU in 1973, dedicating 48 years to the university.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Steven Gately's legacy continues through his artwork.

# Florence comes together at the PAC to remember Senator Leatherman

Andrew Brain

Staff Writer

On the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, a memorial service remembered the late Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. in the FMU Performing Arts Center (PAC) in downtown Florence from 3-4:30 p.m.

Hugh K. Leatherman was born on April 14, 1931, and passed on Nov. 12, 2021, due to complications from a cancer diagnosis. Attending the service were various South Carolina state politicians, including but not limited to state Gov. Henry McMaster and state Attorney General Alan Wilson.

Sen. Leatherman served in the South Carolina state senate from 1981 until his death in 2021. He represented the 31st district, including the Florence and Pee Dee area. During his tenure in the state senate, he oversaw the introduction of Boeing to South Carolina as well as a great deal of financial backing to the Florence infrastructure. His contributions to the state and its people were truly influential, as evidenced by the hundreds that attended the memorial service.

"He was usually the humblest person at the table," said Fred Carter, president of FMU, during his eulogy for the late senator. "[He] seldom got angry, and in 33

years, I can't recall him ever raising his voice. He never wanted to make permanent enemies, and he believed that no disagreement – personal or professional – should ever devolve into bitterness or discord."

Humility seemed to be one of the key aspects of Senator Leatherman's personality, as not only President Carter but two reverends who spoke also mentioned his humble character quite a few times in their remarks. He is also remembered as a man of great professional stature and capabilities, with many words on his achievements and abilities beyond others in his field.

"No one better understood the nexus between politics and policy, and no one was more shrewd strategically at applying it," President Carter said in his eulogy. Carter went on to list three "pillars" that made up Senator Leatherman's life: the family, the people and the senate.

During a personal interview, Carter further elaborated on the late senator's contributions to Francis Marion University. "He went into the Senate when the school was 10 years old, and every year, worked hard to get funding and support for Francis Marion University. He was an emeritus member on

our board of trustees; he was actively involved in almost every aspect of the University. There are about nine buildings on campus that he got some level of funding or support to help build and develop, with roughly four or five other programs he got appropriations to help develop, including the nursing program, the nurse practitioner program and the industrial engineering program. All those came with financial support from Sen. Leatherman."

Along with the Leatherman Science Facility on campus, there is a medical education center in downtown Florence named after him and his wife Jean. He also has a bust located in the PAC – which he, of course, helped fund with roughly \$14 million – honoring his efforts and impact on the Florence community.

Senator Hugh K. Leatherman was a man both respected and loved by his many: his friends, his family and the community he represented for 40 years.

"At the end of a trying day, Hugh would frequently smile and remind everyone that the 'sun will come up again tomorrow morning,'" Carter said in closing.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senator Leatherman was a man respected and loved by the community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nine buildings on campus have recieved funding from Leatherman.



# English Film Series partners with Gender Studies

**Chanelle Hanberry**  
Staff Writer

The English department showcased their second film of the semester “Little Women” at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Nov. 9 in the Lowrimore Auditorium. The English Film Series showcases two films per semester for students to come out and watch while also discussing their thoughts about the film. Students discuss with the organizer and associate professor of English, Shawn Smolen-Morton, before the film about different genres of films. Afterwards, Smolen-Morton leads discussions on the film itself. The English Film Series partners with various programs and groups when showcasing the films to highlight certain themes found within them. They partnered with the “Gender Studies” program on campus when they showcased “Little Women.” Previously, they have also partnered with “Women in Stem” when they showcased the film “Hidden Figures.” The purpose of the

English Film Series is to “get as many people into the seats and watch a film that they wouldn’t have watched on their own,” said Smolen-Morton. Many students at the showings had discussed how they had never seen a film like “Little Women.” According to Smolen-Morton, the film is a coming-of-age story that follows young women as they grow up and become middle class. “I thought the film was really great and fun to watch,” said biology major Sherly Garcia. “I actually like being able to come and watch something and participate in something at Francis Marion.” Different students watched the film all with different thoughts and motivations; some may have attended for extra credit for a class while others attended for the enjoyment of watching a film. “I really like the film, I saw it in the theatre when it first came out and I saw the original one in the 90’s. I also read the book when I was little with my mom, so I really enjoyed the movie,”

biology major, Eleanor Rosenberry, said. According to the FMU website, the “Gender Studies” program is an “interdisciplinary field designed to allow students opportunities to study gender identities, experiences, and conditions through social, cultural, psychological, political, and theoretical lenses.” “Little Women” is a movie based on a series of realities faced by women in the past, some of which are still relevant in today’s society. It was written by Louisa May Alcott as a semi-autobiography of her life. In the film, four sisters are experiencing lives from childhood to womanhood. The film allows for audiences to see the challenges and obstacles that women face as they get older. For example, in the film Jo was portrayed as getting married in the end and the book ending off as a happy ending while really, in reality, Jo never got married. In the past novels needed to end off as a happy ending for women according to the editor in the film. Either Jo, in her novel, could have

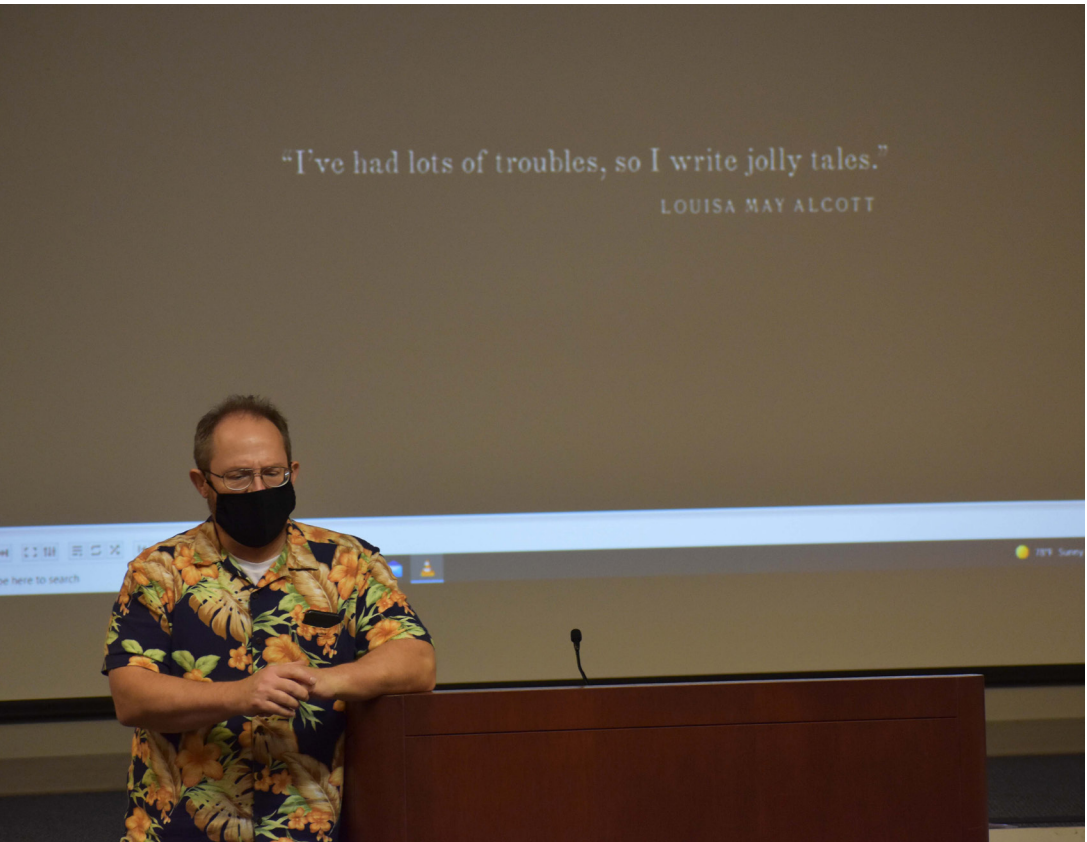


PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA  
Dr. Shawn Smolen-Morton introduces the English Film Series.

passed away or been married off. Another reality is that women were expected to get married. The aunt in the film wanted for the sisters to marry off rich because of their financial status. Jo believed that she was not ready to give away her freedom, so she denied marriage claiming that she did not need it. She believed that she could live freely and happy without being married, which is how she continued to live her life.

# Students create altars to celebrate Dia de los Muertos

**Lesley Willard**  
Staff Writer

The modern languages program at FMU presented an altar contest for students currently taking Spanish in honor of the Hispanic holiday Dia de los Muertos, beginning Oct. 27 and ending Nov. 3 in the Cauthen Educational Media Center (CEMC). “Interestingly enough, it [Dia de los Muertos] has become quite popular here in the United States, particularly in border states where there is a large Mexican population,” said Wendy Caldwell, professor of Spanish. “I like to think that it gives a more positive spin on death, which makes it a healthier way to grieve the loss of these loved ones and celebrate their lives.” To participate in the contest, students created altars to honor those close to them who passed. They also submitted a short description of the person to whom the altar was dedicated or explain the meaning of the holiday itself.

In total, there were 11 entries, with each numbered so students could remain unbiased when voting for their favorite. At the end of the competition, junior mass communication major Melanie Dozier was named the winner. “My altar was for my girlfriend’s cousin Ivan Ramirez, who was killed because he got involved with the cartels in Mexico,” Dozier said. “When I won, I was honestly surprised. Each altar had someone that the author felt close to. I didn’t think I’d win since Ivan and I weren’t close; I did the altar for my girlfriend and her aunt, not for myself.” Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is mostly celebrated in Mexico, where it is believed that those who have passed can come back to visit their loved ones, and creating an altar helps the spirit find their way home. Typically, altars consist of photos of a family’s deceased loved one along with items they enjoyed, such as their favorite candy or food. They also contain

incense to cleanse the air around the altar so spirits can come through freely, marigolds to decorate the altar and add more color, pan de Muertos (bread) and Calaveras (sugar skulls). To ensure that her altar was done well, Dozier did a good bit of research before beginning. She said after looking at several other examples of altars, she decided the most important thing was to represent the honored person as a whole. She said she wanted to make sure her altar was colorful, detailed and full of food because those things represented Ramirez well. “I think my altar stood out because of all the time I put into it, and I included Ivan’s story in English and Spanish for the readers,” Dozier said. “I wanted whoever was looking at my altar to feel the impact of Ivan’s life beyond the cartel. I wanted it to be understood that he made a mistake, but that it doesn’t damage his family’s view of him because he never treated anyone around him badly.”



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Junior mass communication major, Melanie Dozier, poses with the prize for her altar

Each year, the winner receives a cash prize, and their altar is left on display for a short period after the other entries have been picked up so students can admire it as they pass. The Dia de los Muertos altar competition occurs annually, giving FMU students a peek into Mexican culture and hopefully sparking an interest in Spanish.

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# FMU gets Thermo-Fluid lab

**Julia Fulmer**  
Co-Editor

Beginning in the spring 2022 semester, FMU’s Physics and Engineering department will offer a brand-new lab course for seniors in the mechanical engineering program. The new Thermo-Fluids lab resides in Room 116 of the McNair Science Building. According to Mark Kanaparathi, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, the motivation behind the lab’s creation stemmed from a need for practical experience for the students. Until this point, mechanical engineering majors took physics labs, including some overlapping content; however, this will be the first lab dedicated solely to mechanical engineering concepts. “To graduate with a degree in mechanical engineering, you need to do at least one course that sort of compliments what you’ve learned in the lecture classes,” said Kanaparathi. “Mechanical engineers don’t get to do many mechanical

engineering lab courses until they come to their senior year, and this is the first senior class.” Led by Kanaparathi, the upcoming “ENGR-400” lecture and lab courses in the spring will offer up to 12 experiments focusing on the concepts of fluid mechanics, thermodynamics and heat transfer. “The whole idea of fluid mechanics and thermodynamics are two very important subjects that you learn as a mechanical engineer,” Kanaparathi said, “you really want to know what real-life flows look like.” One of the key pieces of equipment used in the lab is the subsonic wind tunnel used to assess the performance of small-scale airfoils. Kanaparathi said he hopes one day the students will be able to design and print 3D models of their concepts to test them in the wind tunnel. “[The wind tunnel] is what we show during the open houses, which generates a lot of interest,” Kanaparathi said. “I hope more students

get to see this and want to do mechanical engineering. If anybody wants to come and see the wind tunnel, they’re most welcome. It’s definitely a cool tool to have.” Though the first graduating class of mechanical engineers in 2022 is in the single digits, Kanaparathi said the program is steadily increasing. “At the moment, we have about seven seniors in mechanical engineering who are set to graduate,” Kanaparathi said, “The next cohort will have about 12, and the cohort after that will have about 20 as I foresee it, so I’m excited to see that number grow.” Those interested in further information on the program may visit the FMU website at <https://www.fmarion.edu/mechanicalengineering> or contact Rahul Renu, associate professor and coordinator of the mechanical engineering program.



# FMU's career fair helps students find their future

Andrew Brain  
Staff Writer

FMU's Career Center introduced students to job opportunities offered throughout the Carolinas by hosting a career fair from 1-3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov 10, in the Smith University Center (UC).

"It is an opportunity to match the business community beyond just the local Florence community with Francis Marion students," said Will Carswell, director of the Career Center. "Giving them the opportunity to find out more information about possible jobs, part-time jobs, internships, and just the experience of talking to an employer is good whether they're looking for a job or not."

Carswell said over 70 employers came to the event, most of which were looking to fill the gaps within their payroll.

"Because so many employers are needing employees right now, we had no problem filling out the gym and the University Center... Everything is represented," Carswell said.

The Career Center worked to incorporate employers and job opportunities from North and South Carolina to offer a wider range of careers for students.

"It's not just within the



PHOTO BYAINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Businesses line the floor of the UC gym to offer information to interested FMU students.

Florence area. It reaches out over the entire state [of South Carolina] and North Carolina as well," said Aylin Kruse, graduate assistant for the Career Center. "With the employers, it's been a good turn-out. It's good that we're able to get this room and the other room filled up with possible employment for students or any opportunity that they could offer the students."

Together, Carswell and

Kruse came up with the list of the different employers that came to the fair: health care, education, law enforcement, state and federal agencies, recreational businesses, counseling services, restaurants, insurance, county agencies and city governments.

Jonathan Murray, a senior political science major, said he had a conversation with a U.S. Marshall. Interested in law enforcement, Murray said

he was pleasantly surprised to see law enforcement present at the fair.

"He was the first person I talked to, I looked around a little bit, and I went to him," Murray said. "I previously knew a little bit about it, but I learned more about how federal law enforcement works and the pay scales and the day-to-day activities... I'm particularly looking at law enforcement in general, so it was nice to see them

here."

Murray said he appreciated the laid-back atmosphere of the career fair because it allowed him to learn more about potential job opportunities in the area.

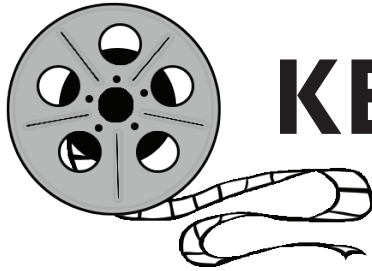
"I think it's cool, you have people coming in, and it's like small interviews," Murray said. "It's less formal, and you can talk to anybody. It's a more relaxed situation; you get a better feel for the job, and what you want to do,

so it helps with that."

Dasia Council, a sophomore English major with a track in education, said she went to just about every education table. She said she felt welcomed and encouraged to talk to the employers because they seemed to be genuinely interested in future education workers.

"It showed me how many opportunities there actually are," Council said. "It's the best visual indication. They encouraged me a lot. They told me all the different opportunities and how much they're needed, so I feel like I can have a job when I leave without struggling. They provide some inspiration, motivation [and] drive."

The career fair provided many students with an opportunity to gauge their career options both after and during college. With large amounts of employers and businesses taking part in the event, there were plenty of jobs offered to those who sought them. In addition to the occasional career fairs, students may find more opportunities through Handshake, a job search platform partnered with the FMU Career Center, specifically offered to students to aid in locating jobs.



## KEEPIN' IT REEL

"Red Notice"

Initially, Netflix may have been known for its TV series (and still is), but its investment in movies is undeniable. In 2021, the platform committed to releasing one new feature film per week, bringing together big Hollywood names. But no bet has been as gigantic as "Red Notice," which features a trio of stars adventuring through the most diverse landscapes around the world. Rumor has it that the final budget for the project was \$200 million, the largest ever for the streaming service. So now we ask, was it worth it?

Red Notice revolves around John Hartley (Dwayne Johnson), one of the FBI's top analysts, responsible for studying profiles of major criminals. His next mission is to stop a daring robbery by the creative thief, Nolan Booth (Ryan Reynolds), whom he has been investigating for years. Another famous thief, introduced as The Bishop (played by Gal Gadot), is supposedly the greatest art thief in the world.

But Hartley never imagined The Bishop would frame him for a robbery he did not commit. Now, in a race against time to prove his innocence, the protagonist is forced to form an unusual partnership with Booth, who seeks the same target as his rival. This great adventure will take the trio on a journey around the world, on the run from International Police, but to achieve their objectives, they will have to put up with the worst of it all: each other's company.

The problem with Red Notice is that it tries to sell itself as a film full of twists and surprises, but it ends up becoming a rather forgettable story, saved only by the chemistry of its protagonists. Plot twists must shock the audience, but they also have to make sense in hindsight. It's as if finding out Bruce Willis's character was dead in "The Sixth Sense" all along and you didn't see the pieces of the puzzle until they came together. You have to have that magic, and Red Notice, unfortunately, fell short.

Obviously, I'm not going to demand too much credibility in an action movie. It doesn't try pretending to be a realistic story; on the contrary, it shows ridiculous situations that would ordinarily result in death or at least immediate detainment. This is a positive point, but it needs to make sense within its own universe. The first two acts of the film have absurdities, one of which was a missile flying through the doors of a helicopter without hurting anyone. Considering this

would be just another ordinary Tuesday in a Fast & Furious movie, fans of action movies learn to accept it.

Despite the fairly average movie logic until this point, the third act comes as a bomb, exploding surprises everywhere, while its main twist makes no sense concerning the rest of the story. This made the characters lose all development until this point just to shock the audience. Again, it's probably an okay movie for those who like adrenaline and big, explosive blockbusters; however, it is not a sin to want something more, especially when you have three such capable stars.

As already mentioned, the cast is one of the best things about Red Notice. After all, the trio is full of charisma, and each member finds themselves in roles that fit them very well. Dwayne Johnson is always the ideal choice to play an alpha male while also conveying comedy in recent years. His partnership with Ryan Reynolds is more believable than the one presented in "Hobbs & Shaw," as the two of them mesh well together.

Ryan Reynolds was practically born to be Deadpool, so his comedic style is being put to great use in his recent projects. However, what could become repetitive is saved by the actor's charisma that brings differences to his respective characters. Wade Wilson is more of a joker, Guy in "Free Guy" was more innocent and here he is as Booth, a shrewd troublemaker.

Gal Gadot is the one who had the most complicated challenge since The Bishop has a very different personality from the heroic Diana in "Wonder Woman." She is a very in-your-face villain, but you can see the actress is having a lot of fun in the role, which is entertaining for the audience. Gadot steals the scene, always with a powerful pose, being the one person who knows how she can reel in the other two protagonists with ease.

Finally, "Red Notice" is a good choice for those who like the action genre but don't expect an uber-original story. Here we have a somewhat generic plot, but one that knows how to exploit great landscapes and stars. After all, this is as close as we're going to get to a crossover between "Black Adam", "Deadpool" and "Wonder Woman."

Felipe de Moraes  
staff writer

## WINTER BREAK IS HERE!

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.  
HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP:



DEC. 6 : CLASSES END  
DEC. 7: READING DAY  
DEC. 8-14: FINAL EXAMS  
DEC. 13: GRADES DUE (SENIORS)  
DEC. 15: GRADES DUE





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT | Ariana Prete

**Finn Millions**  
Co-Editor

For Ariana Prete, a sophomore double major in political science and English, a limited number of hours in the day is not enough to keep her from excelling in her busy academic schedule and holding positions in multiple organizations on campus.

For some students, a double-major may be enough to fill their time, but Prete needed more. Though she is only a sophomore, she is the secretary for the intramural council and was appointed the community service specialist for her sorority, FMU’s Alpha Delta Pi.

“I was able to be

appointed secretary of the intramural council as a sophomore because I became involved with intramural sports at the beginning of my freshman year,” Prete said. “When I applied for the intramural council this year, I had the highest GPA out of all the applicants, which was the deciding factor to make me secretary.”

For her secretarial position, she takes the minutes and reviews the agenda, and for her position with her sorority, she organized a Halloween event for the Miracle League.

Despite the packed agenda, Prete still keeps her eyes on the prize with her academics. She has

maintained a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the honors program. Prete’s reasoning for coming to FMU was related to her academics.

“I chose FMU because the honors program here has a lot of opportunities, and it is a smaller campus so I am able to connect with my professors on a more personal level,” Prete said.

Academics are important to Prete because her ambition is not limited to her college career; she has big plans after graduating.

“My future goals are to go to law school and become a prosecutor,” Prete said. “I want to help people feel safe in their communities and find justice for those who may

have lost a loved one.”

Her dream of becoming a prosecutor started her sophomore year of high school. She originally planned on being a prosecutor for the military but changed her mind after a week in Fort Jackson.

“I realized that I wanted to do more for people in my community in legal terms instead of militant terms,” Prete said. “I always enjoy my government classes and learning about how lawyers could bring justice to families by working to put criminals away. This inspired me to want to do the same and bring closure to friends and families who maybe have lost loved ones.”

Her drive brought her to where she is today, but she attributes all she has accomplished to two key figures in her life: her parents.

“I would like to shoutout to my mom and dad for always believing in me and pushing me to do my absolute best,” Prete said.

Though her ambition and successes may seem like the product of superhuman drive, Prete is still subject to the human trial of stress. She is no stranger to the harrowing feeling of increasing deadlines, overly filled schedules and varying demands across all aspects of life; however, she has learned how to manage it.

Prete incorporated small habits and goals throughout her everyday life to help relieve stress. She enjoys playing sports or card games with her friends. She feels that anything she finds joy in can help to clear her head of stress.

“For any struggling students, I would suggest fitting at least thirty minutes of something you enjoy every day into your schedule,” Prete said. “This helps me to relieve stress and to keep a positive mindset when school gets tough.”

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | Kenneth Swaringer

**Lesley Willard**  
Assistant Editor

After having the opportunity to shadow six medical occupations through a Health Careers class offered his senior year of high school, Kenneth Swaringer, a graduate from the FMU spring class of 2021, knew he wanted to become a doctor.

“I have always known I wanted to go to medical school,” Swaringer said. “After experiencing firsthand what several careers in the medical field were like, there were two in particular that I enjoyed more than the others: anesthesiologist and pharmacist. That’s how I knew I wanted to do something that involved working directly with medicine.”

After graduating from West Florence High School in 2016, Swaringer initially wanted to attend the University of South Carolina. However, with the plan of attending medical school in mind, he decided to remain in Florence and attend FMU because of its affordability. He graduated from FMU with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a minor in chemistry.

“Science and mathematics have always been my favorite subjects,” Swaringer said. “The biology and chemistry combination tied them together perfectly.”

While he sometimes found his coursework challenging, Swaringer continued to make the dean’s list consistently, an accomplishment that encouraged him to continue pushing forward. He credits some of his success to FMU’s class sizes because they



PHOTO BY BRANDON DION

**Recent graduate, Kenneth Swaringer, continues to strive for medical school while he works as a pharmacy technician at MUSC.**

allowed plenty of student-professor interaction.

Swaringer is currently working as a pharmacy technician at Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Florence Medical Center while he continues working toward attending

medical school. He said he did not think he would ever work in a pharmacy, but he is blessed to have the opportunity to gain experience and learn from the job.

“Working in a pharmacy, especially a hospital

pharmacy, allows me to familiarize myself with a large variety of medicines that I will have to use in my future career,” Swaringer said. “As an anesthesiologist, I will have to administer medications to patients that need to undergo surgery, and

as a technician, I am working with these medicines every day, learning their uses and understanding the effects that they have on the human body.”

In his free time, Swaringer enjoys playing basketball and football

in addition to practicing guitar and piano. He said he has always used music as a mechanism to escape reality and express himself. This was particularly helpful when he hit an unexpected bump in the road during his sophomore year at FMU and began struggling with depression.

“My workload became almost unbearable, and I had reached my breaking point,” Swaringer said. “Instead of reaching out for help from my friends and family, I allowed my feelings to stay bottled up inside of me, but eventually, I turned to music to help me through it.”

In addition to using his music to help him get through school, Swaringer said his family and his girlfriend have been extremely supportive of him and his goals. He is the younger of two children, with his sister also working in the medical field. Swaringer said she has set a great example for him and inspires him to always be the best version of himself.

Currently, Swaringer’s top priority is medical school, but during his schooling, he hopes to get married and continue enjoying life with his girlfriend. She is working toward becoming a dentist while he works toward becoming an anesthesiologist, so he is hoping they will find careers in a city where they can both be successful.

“Ultimately, I thank God for just giving me the strength and the wisdom to continue my studies and strive for excellence,” Swaringer said. “None of this would be possible without Him.”

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# VOICES of the PATRIOT

## SUBTLE WISDOM IN SOUTH PARK

Felipe de Moraes  
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of South Park? No? Okay, I'll explain (but you're missing out on a lot of laughs). The production is an animated series that portrays the lives of four American elementary students whose mouths are not the least bit clean. They are Eric Cartman, Kenny McCormick, Stan Marsh and Kyle Broflovski. Far from being well behaved, the boys' vocabulary consists mostly of swear words and make jokes at the expense of everything and everyone from pop culture icons to Jesus Christ, for example. No matter what local or global tragedy strikes, Cartman will never be respected, Kenny will always be dying and Stan and Kyle's friendship will remain intact. In all of these things, there are three main episodes of South Park that I find the most impactful and address topics that you wouldn't typically expect from animated shows.

The first of the three stories mentioned is from Season 2, Episode 17 of the series, titled "Gnomes." One day, in the town of South Park, the father of Tweek, one of the secondary characters in the series, asks his son to do a project on corporate takeovers. But why? At the time, the Harbucks coffee company (a satirical play on Starbucks) was about to open a branch, threatening the small coffee shops of the metropolis.

The residents of South Park, however, were against Harbucks' opening and expected Tweek and his friends to make a presentation about why the company couldn't set up shop. However, with the help of some mysterious panty-stealing gnomes (yes, you read that correctly), the populace concludes that legal force should not be used to remove Harbucks from the game. The reason? Healthy competition. City dwellers soon realized that the more options they received, the better.

It is interesting to note that, in reality, as well as in the episode, the idea of state interference is commonplace. That said, in this case, the lesson the episode is pointing toward is that competition might seem like a threat to businesses, but for customers, it provides more variety and freedom in their purchases. Because of this, we shouldn't restrict any company that can operate in a market. Rather, we should let consumers decide for themselves.

Onto the second: Season 7, Episode 13: "Butt Out." One day at South Park School, Cartman, Kenny, Stan and Kyle are caught smoking cigarettes. The crucial detail: they are all children/teenagers. The episode shocks the town, which calls on anti-smoking activist Rob Reiner to fight against the local tobacco companies.

This episode fosters some deep reflections about the ends justifying the means in some cases. It shows how people act for noble causes but use unethical means to promote them. For example, it may be noble to want someone to stop smoking since it is bad for you. However, it is unethical to fight for no one allowed to smoke. Though it is advised against, it is an individual right.

Certain quotes within the episode exhibit this ideology. For example, when the group of young protagonists visits Big Tobacco Co.'s headquarters. After explaining a brief history of tobacco within the U.S., Kevin Harris, vice president of the company, concludes with the statement, "So now, all people know the dangers of smoking and some people still choose to do it; and we believe that's what it means to be an American." Later on, in a heated argument between anti-smoking efforts at the tobacco company, Kyle yelled in frustration, "You just hate smoking, so

you use all your money and influence to force others to think like you. That's called fascism." Any resemblance to the real world is not a mere coincidence. Though certain ideas are considered the "right way," it is our directive to allow a choice between right and wrong. This is not to condone such actions, but as humans have observed previously during the prohibition era, telling people "No" will not stop them from doing it; it will only make them turn to alternative sources to do it.

And last in the list: Season 13, Episode 3: "Margaritaville." In this episode, South Park is flooded by an economic panic when a recession hits the town, seemingly without warning. According to a monologue by Randy Marsh early in the episode, the crisis occurred when people began taking out too many loans to buy frivolous items to suit their wants rather than their needs. With interest rates so low on the loans, citizens began buying too much without being able to pay. This accumulated countless debts and formed a massive negative snowball for the local economy. For example, brought into reality: If I am in debt to a store and cannot pay it back, the retailer will feel the expense; so, if necessary, he will fire his employees. And so on. Layoffs ensue, the economy suffers, companies go bankrupt, etc.

Instead of understanding the problem and reducing their debts, the characters of South Park turn to the government to issue paper money. One slight issue with this solution is, with more money comes less value. Currency gains its worth from how much people value it. It has no intrinsic value. So, for example, if everyone suddenly received a million dollars, nobody cares as much about one or two hundred, maybe even thousands, because they know in the grand scale of things, it's not a lot of money anymore. Because of this, everything will cost a lot more, a concept we frequently refer to as inflation.

You can see where we are headed. Can't you? This episode takes on the message that you should never spend more than you take in. At the very least, it makes the case that loans should be reserved for those who need them to progress in life, such as educational needs, rather than extraneous items that rely on personal wishes. Essentially, money doesn't grow on trees, and every dollar you spend has to come from somewhere. In the words of Milton Friedman, "There is no such thing as a free lunch."

South Park can be very controversial, disrespectful and exploit the limits of comedy in society, although, just like "The Simpsons," there are some hidden takeaways or different interpretations that surely can be made. However, it will always depend on what are you looking for and how you choose to perceive the information presented to you. In all of it, one of the most interesting facets of the show is the ability to make absurdly immature jokes and also address real-world topics. The show uses shocking dark humor to disarm the audience just before swooping in with a topical lesson. This creates a polarizing effect within viewers, as they are either promptly turned away from the viewpoints of the show, or they are on board with the experience. In all of this, it's important to remember that you shouldn't discount a message just because of where it came from.

## ELIMINATING "SHOULD"

Finn Millions  
Co-Editor

Recently, I have been reading a wonderful book by Louise Hay titled, "How to Heal Your Life." It is both a guide and a workbook to rewiring the brain to serve your best interests. It is amazing how societal conditioning teaches us to be our own worst enemies; we engage in self-doubt and entertain limiting beliefs. At the end of the day, our ingrained thought patterns hold us back from the limitless potential found in all of us.

One of the simple changes she pointed out was to stop using "should" to describe future actions. At first, when reading this, I was quite skeptical. How would the absence of a single word help anything? Even if that seemed plausible, why in the world would "should" be a bad word to use?

While reading her reasoning, however, it all made perfect sense. "Should" is a comparative word; it would not exist without the implication of something other. In the context of a sentence, "should" is used to compare your current actions or state of being with your desired state of being. It implies the other state is ideal, which, by nature, means ours is not the ideal.

When we are told that we "should" do something or act a certain way, we are being told that something about us is wrong. There is an ideal of behavior and action that we are not meeting at that moment. This causes us to feel guilt afterward for not achieving what we "should've done." In a society that conforms to this ideal, Hay has taken it upon herself to point out this need to make everything right. In a world that seems to pride itself on differences, how could we possibly think people should be some specific way?

I now believe that the word "should" is damaging. The constant comparison to some unknown standard is unhealthy. It is internalized as a source of self-hatred and a lack of self-worth in most people.

How many times have you wanted to pursue something you are passionate about and thought to yourself: "I shouldn't," or, "I should do this instead?" Think back to when an internalized standard has prevented you from living freely simply because you feel you should conform to these standards.

Kids learn from a young age the "correct" way to act in society. In theory, this is important to their development and can prevent behavioral issues in adulthood; but with these standards of behavior comes a standard for life. There are textbook paths for successful adults, and deviations from those paths are frowned upon. Pride is placed on the conformists, and we are told we "should" act like them to find our own success.

Why is it wrong to choose our own standards and values? Must we truly adhere to these silent judgments?

Honestly, we "could" do anything we wanted. The issue is that "should" is so deeply ingrained into our vocabulary that we forget the choices that come with the word "could." We automatically assume that we "should" live a certain way rather than understand that we "could" live in any way we desire.

I think it would benefit everyone to try using the word "should" less in conversations with others and themselves. This is only a small piece of thinking that could free the mind from the cage of societal conditioning, but one that could easily be explored.

## THE LAND OF THE FREE

Felipe de Moraes  
Staff Writer

Amid the War of Succession (1861-1865), 13th President of the United States Abraham Lincoln gave a speech in Baltimore about the tragedy of the conflict, pointing out that it was an example of how difficult it is to define what "freedom" is.

"The northern colonies claim to be fighting for freedom, but the southern colonies also claim to be fighting for freedom," Lincoln said. "After all, what is freedom? The truth is that the world has never had a good definition for the word freedom."

By using the same word, we do not mean the same thing.

Linguistically, something tangible is easy for readers to understand. In this case, a simple solution to naming something is merely pointing to the item we are trying to define. Thus, two words that refer to the same thing would have their equivalence proven by a physical example. This form of conversation allows dialogue between people of different languages and cultures.

This is also how European explorers were able to communicate with Native Americans when they arrived at what is now the United States, and how a child slowly learns to understand its mother. Unfortunately, it is much more difficult to define words that are not material objects and are simply ideas. In this case, we cannot rely on a tangible article to translate our thought; we must connect several ideas to form one single definition.

You cannot point to something and say, "This is freedom." It has many

different meanings depending on the term's usage. In just the historical context, freedom has different definitions in ordinary language and the languages of politics and economics.

In this sense, the word freedom seems to float without an anchor, with several different people in different places introducing semantic changes at all times. Currently, the definitions of freedom in philosophy, economics, politics, morals and so on are different, increasing the number and the severity of the possible confusion. This became a problem in the way that people are able to take the word freedom and the connotation connected with it and use it in whatever way benefits them the most. Freedom, and its many interpretations, has been used to persuade others to change their behavior to actions that no longer support their personal definition of the word, resulting in pro-freedom speeches for anti-freedom movements.

The conclusion is that defining freedom is not easy, but it is my opinion that freedom is a basic principle of good political systems. Although it is difficult to define freedom, an effective definition might be that it is a word commonly used by individuals to mean psychological experiences with positive connotations. After all, no one uses the expression, "I am free" in the sense that they are without something they consider positive. For example, no one says, "I am free of money," or, "I am free of health." Just saying "freedom" may be insufficient, but I do not believe this is bad.



# ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT | Alex Cox

**Camryn Cassetori**  
Staff Writer

Basketball senior guard and finance and accounting double major Alex Cox has had a successful first few games to start his final season, which he is dedicating to his recently deceased grandfather.

“My grandpa was one of the most important people in my life that I looked up to,” Cox said. “Unfortunately, he passed away due to Covid-19 in early October of this year, but he has always kept me motivated to keep playing.”

Cox’s grandfather saw him achieve great success last season and was able to witness him earn the Patriot’s Most Valuable Player Award for the 2020-2021 year.

“On top of all that, he would randomly send me links of basketball videos he would like me to watch and take notes on, or he would text me to see how I was doing or feeling,” Cox said. “All that he did kept me motivated to keep him proud of me, and I will greatly miss those texts this year, and for however long I keep playing basketball.”

FMU Athletics recently moved from the Peach Belt Conference to the Conference Carolinas, which means all athletes have worked hard to rebuild the university’s reputation.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

**Alex Cox, senior guard and finance and accounting double major, celebrates after scoring a point for the Patriots.**

This change brings new opponents, new challenges and new opportunities. During the pre-season rankings, the Patriots basketball team took the eighth spot in the conference. They are hoping for a more successful season this year than last year.

“The goal for the team

this year is to win the conference,” Cox said. “That would be the biggest one, and then make a run for a national title. Switching from Peach Belt to Conference Carolinas this year, I think we have a good shot at making some noise in this new conference.”

Cox’s family played

a huge role in basketball becoming such a central part of his life, and they have been heavily involved in his career success since he was a toddler. Along with his grandfather, Alex’s grandmother also encouraged him consistently and helped ignite his passion for the game.

“I started playing competitive basketball when I was about two and a half years old, but before that, my grandma bought me a Little Tykes basketball goal that I loved shooting on,” Cox said. “So, I guess you could say my grandma is to thank for me falling in love with basketball.”

In addition to his grandparents, Cox’s father played a major role in realizing his potential and supporting his devotion to the sport.

“One person I would say has been a big contributor to my success in basketball is my father,” Cox said. “He wasn’t one of those dads that made me go to the gym and get shots up. He never pushed sports or basketball on me at a young age; he let me choose what I wanted to do, which I think was one of the best things he could have done.”

After Cox made his decision, however, his father was all in, showing his support by driving him to all of the basketball tournaments that he had in high school, going to the gym to rebound with him, participating in weight workouts and being there through all of the behind the scenes practices and workouts. Cox said his dad did everything he could just to be the best father he could be.

Cox has received high praise in the three games the Patriots have played so far, scoring a career-high of 30 points in their home opener game on Nov. 13, 2021. Cox is currently ranked 22nd in the NCAA DII regular season leaders for points per game, with an average of 24.5 points.



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# Patriots secure win against Pfeiffer University

**Camryn Cassetori**  
Staff Writer

After fighting for a lead during the first half of the game against the Pfeiffer University (PU) Falcons, the FMU Patriots utilized their defense in the second half to secure a win, finishing the game with a score of 94-76 on Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the Smith University Center (UC).

“We moved the ball around a lot more [in the second half],” said Jonah Pierce, freshman center. “And we improved body language by cutting harder and doing everything faster.”

The Falcons’ sophomore forward, Dorian Miles, set the tone early, playing aggressively once he stepped on the court. The Patriots had a bit of a sluggish start but adjusted quickly to PU’s defense. They sped up the pace of the game and made the opposition adjust to their tempo.

“We started taking pride in individual defense and communicating more to ensure he [Miles] was always accounted for, as well as the outside shooters,” Pierce said.

After working to catch up and with 10 minutes left in the first half, freshman guard Farid SaintCyr Jr. had a timely steal that led to a fast-break layup to close

the score to a one-point margin. Graduate transfer and center Neija Jordan was right behind SaintCyr with a post fadeaway from the left corner, putting the Patriots ahead, where they would stay for the remainder of the game.

To further their lead, Jordan and Tionne Rollins, junior guard and forward, continued playing tight defense, totaling four steals throughout the night, which helped the Patriots build a 33-point lead with five minutes left in the first half.

During the second half of the game, FMU’s defense locked in on Miles. After scoring 18 points during the first half, the Patriots made adjustments to trap him when he got in the paint. As a result of FMU focusing on Miles, PU’s offense stalled. They took several early shot-clock jumps due to the clogged paint, allowing FMU to capitalize on every mistake they made.

After halftime, Pierce stepped up and led his team to a strong finish. With a little less than six minutes left in regulation, he came in with a well-executed alley-oop and continued with multiple successful defensive plays down the stretch. His high activity resulted in a lot of seemingly easy baskets and continued momentum for the Patriots as they used



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

**Freshman center, Jonah Pierce, goes up for the dunk against Falcons.**

his performance to build an 18-point lead early in the final half.

“Pierce was blocking everything for the Patriots,” said Typril Simon, junior healthcare administration

major. “He was a key component to the Patriots’ strong finish.”

With 14 rebounds, six assists, five blocks, three steals and 16 game points, Pierce was one of the night’s

top performers. Other key players included senior point guard Alex Cox, along with SaintCyr, Rollins and Jordan.

“We [FMU] started slow, but our defense and

intensity allowed us to catch up,” said Darian McDaniel, sophomore finance and supply chain management double major. “This was a strong team win for the Patriots.”



# Patriots take the title from the Braves

Finn Millions  
Co-Editor

The FMU Lady Patriots' women's volleyball team concluded their regular season as champions, rallying against the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) Braves in a 3-1 win at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at Pembroke.

The end of the regular season showcased the battle of I-95 with the Braves—the only team from the Peach Belt who transitioned to Conference Carolinas with the Patriots. The last match-up with the Braves at home was close, but the Patriots prevailed with a five-set win. With the Braves having a similar record to the Patriots going into the match at 14-2, this match-up proved even more crucial with the regular season on the line.

FMU dominated the first two sets of the match with high hitting percentages that the Braves could not handle. In the third set, the Braves achieved an early five-point lead and kept the momentum throughout the game. The fourth set in the match was the most intense, with no significant leaning until around point 13, when the Patriots hit the gas. With four



PHOTO BY MORGAN ZASTAWNIK

Junior outside, Gracie Davis, and senior middle, Lily Walton, jump to block the Braves.

consecutive kills, three more kills after a UNCP point and then two blocks, the Lady Patriots secured their victory.

The victory against Pembroke resulted from high production from the

team's offense. Sophomore outside hitter, Lexi Albright, registered 17 kills, graduate student and opposite, Kayla Arthur, registered 13 kills and junior outside hitter, Gracie Davis, registered

11 kills. The team's overall hitting percentage was a .242 compared to Pembroke's .174.

However, a great offense could not be without an equally productive defense. The Patriots dug 79 balls

compared to the Braves' 68 digs. Freshman libero, Zoie Larkins, tallied 20 digs while three more players totaled digs in the double digits. Sophomore setter, Kaylee Gillespie, totaled 49

assists and 16 digs, earning her fifteenth double-double of the season. Arthur, Davis and senior middle blocker, Iyanla Thigpen, registered three blocks each.

"It felt like everything we had worked for all season was coming together," Gillespie said. "Getting to take down our rivals was a great ending to [our] regular season."

The Lady Patriots fought hard during the 2021 season, securing a 15-2 conference record, a coup for the team after a 5-9 record the previous year in the Peach Belt. Their hard work earned them a triple-bye in the conference tournament directly to the semifinals.

"We dwelled on the win for that night but turned around the next day for weights and practice, with our next focus being on the conference tournament," Gillespie said.

The women's volleyball team is lined up to face Emmanuel College at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19, in Bristol, Tennessee, for the Conference Carolinas semifinals match. The match is open to fans but can also be streamed online through [fmupatriots.com](http://fmupatriots.com).

## UPCOMING GAMES

Cheer on your FMU Patriots at the following games!

**Friday, December 3rd**  
**W Basketball**  
**v. King**  
**(5 p.m.)**  
**M Basketball**  
**v. King**  
**(7 p.m.)**

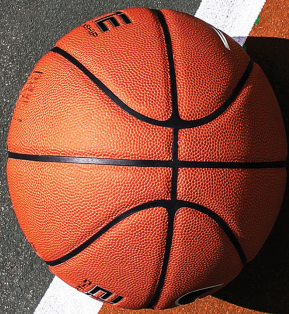
**Saturday, December 4th**  
**W Basketball**  
**v. Lees-McRae**  
**(2 p.m.)**  
**M Basketball**  
**v. Lees-McRae**  
**(5 p.m.)**

**Tuesday, January 11th**  
**M Basketball**  
**v. Chowan**  
**(6 p.m.)**

**Saturday, January 15th**  
**W Basketball**  
**v. Southern Wesleyan**  
**(2 p.m.)**  
**M Basketball**  
**v. Belmont Abbey**  
**(4 p.m.)**

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