

The Patriot

Thursday, April 27th, 2023

Francis Marion University's award-winning student newspaper

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 8

Students end the semester with Summer Sendoff Student Life hosts games and activities at Durant Pond

Charles Roberson
Staff Writer

To celebrate the end of the spring semester, FMU's Student Life organization hosted a Summer Sendoff event on April 21 at Durant Pond behind the Lee Nursing Building.

Students were invited to gather along the banks of Durant Pond where an assortment of activities had been placed for the student body to both witness and participate in as the day progressed.

To initiate the festivities, FMU Greek Life and various student organizations set up their homemade boats for the annual cardboard regatta. Two fraternities, Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) and Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), participated, as well as one sorority, Kappa Delta (KD). The organizations involved were the environmental science department, the School of Education, the School of Business and the physics and engineering departments.

The groups initially competed one versus one to determine who could successfully steer their boat around the red buoy and back without tipping over. After the individual rounds, where most of the students were soaked and dragging waterlogged boats back to shore, all who could still sail were able to participate in a free-for-all round called



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Student organizations build boats out of cardboard and other materials to win races across Durant Pond on the Lee Nursing Building lawn.

"Pirate's Booty" for the final prize.

The PIKE fraternity was the ultimate winner of the cardboard regatta.

Immediately following the regatta, Student Life an-

nounced the commencement of the Greek Games where fraternities and sororities competed against one another.

The fraternities started with a keg toss tournament.

Members of the fraternities competed to see who could throw a metal keg the farthest.

The sororities started with an egg relay where the sisters had to make their way

across a field as quickly as possible while balancing an egg on a spoon.

The Summer Sendoff continued with more activities for the fraternities and sororities: a sack race, dizzy

bat, tug-of-war, water balloon toss and finally a water bucket challenge before the end of the tournament.

PIKE took home the prize for the fraternity with the highest total score for the Greek Games while KD secured the prize for the sorority with the highest total score.

One senior political science major, Jada Kollock, said that she enjoyed the water bucket challenge the most. The water bucket challenge involved blindfolded competitors passing the water in their buckets to the teammates behind them without spilling anything. Kollock said that it was a great summer day for students to gather and have a good time.

"I think we had fun; you know?" Adrien McClintock, senior music industry major and member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said. "I'm wet, but I'm still smiling."

McClintock participated in nearly every event for his fraternity, showing off school and Greek Life spirit in the process.

"I think it was a pretty good end," McClintock said. "They should do it every year."

For more news and updates about FMU Student Life events, visit <https://www.fmarion.edu/calendar/>.

Letter from SGA President

Dear Patriots,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for all of the amazing memories we have created together this year. From First Friday to FM A'glow, homecoming, summer send-off and the many other fantastic events in between, we have truly had some great times together.

I am thrilled to announce that we will have all of these events and many more next year and they will be bigger and better than ever. I cannot wait for you all to see what we have in store for the 2023-2024 school year!

On behalf of the Student Government Association, I encourage all students to reach out and find an organization on campus and get involved. Whatever organization it is – and we have a lot of them – you are almost definitely going to meet new friends and find your own little home on campus.

We must recognize these organizations and support

them as they continue to help make our great community what it is. Without having all these various organizations for students to participate in, we would not have all the fun events we routinely host across campus.

That said, I would personally like to invite all students to sign up and join the SGA in the fall. Being a part of the SGA grants you the ability to have your voice heard and represent your fellow students in making decisions that impact this campus.

Keep an eye out this upcoming semester for any announcements on how to apply for a senator position. All you need is at least a 2.3 GPA and be enrolled as a full-time student here at FMU, and then it is just up to the voters.

For this upcoming academic year, we have a lot of great events planned. I am excited to have the president position so I can help oversee and ensure that students across campus, residents and commuters, are enjoying their time here at FMU and

that our great campus can stay great.

Along with ensuring the quality of life here on campus, as your student body president, I want to assure you that I will always be an advocate for the student body. If anyone ever needs anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to serve you and help make your FMU experience the best it can be.

As we head into the summer months, I want to remind you to take care of yourselves and each other. Stay safe, stay healthy and make the most of your time off because you have all earned the break. I look forward to seeing you all back on campus this fall, and I am ready to make more memories and continue our journey together.

Take care and have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Devan Campbell
Student Body President

Student Health address

Hello Patriots,

I am excited to be writing to you from FMU Student Health! To start with, I'd like to make sure everyone knows where student health is located. You can find me in the University Center, room 217. I am here for you whether you need to be seen for a sick visit, have a health-related question, need some of the educational literature or other supplies available in the lobby or just to say hello!

I want to acknowledge two senior graduate students from the School of Business that have made some huge contributions to student health this semester. As part of their Executive Leadership Project, they had to identify a problem and work towards a solution. They were successful!

Emilee Gibson chose sexually transmitted infections as her topic. We are happy to announce the partnership that has been created between FMU Student Health and SC DHEC. SC DHEC will be coming to campus once a month to host

a FREE STD clinic! We are grateful for their willingness to do this for us! This will allow for more testing and education to positively impact the health of our campus. Information about specific dates and the location will be announced on the student health Instagram and Digi signs.

Maushmi Pande selected immunization holds as her topic. Holds on accounts cause a great amount of stress when the time comes to register for classes. After meeting with admissions, she has developed flyers and a QR code to be placed in admission packets so that the immunization and TB assessment form is easier to access. This will also bring attention to the requirement and not be overlooked as easily. You may notice these yellow flyers posted throughout campus as well. Please make sure you have no immunization holds on your portal before it is time to register for classes. If you do, click the QR code, complete the required forms and submit them to student health.

Lastly, I would like to make you aware that April is Testicular Cancer Awareness Month. This is important to bring to your attention because testicular cancer usually occurs in men between the ages of 20-34. I will be giving out goody bags with a purple ribbon to wear in April as well as an educational pamphlet on why and how to do a testicular exam. Please stop by the Student Health Center, UC 217, anytime during the month of April to receive your goody bag until supplies run out!

It is a pleasure for me to be your Student Health Nurse Practitioner. My goal is to provide you with excellent care and for you to feel like the FMU Student Health Center is a safe, nonintimidating and nonjudgmental place for your visit.

Please feel free to call, stop by or email me any questions you may have about the above information.

Sincerely,
Amy Shockley, FNP
Amy.shockley@fmarion.edu
843-661-1844

The Patriot
FRONT LINE

Rentsch cultivates locally native plants with students

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

Since the beginning of the semester, a handful of students, led by associate professor of biology Jeremy Rentsch, have been working in FMU's greenhouse to cultivate locally native plants under the name Pee Dee Pollinator Patches (PDPP).

The class, made up of six honors students, has been focused on learning about the different families of plants, their different functions and structures and how they are important.

"By taking a family-level approach to the course, we have a chance to learn about the characteristics of specific plant families which also learning about the agricultural, medicinal, recreational, and harmful plants

that are found within those families," Rentsch said.

Aside from the weekly lectures, the students spent hours in the greenhouse at the top of the Leatherman Science Facility growing, propagating and transplanting a number of different plants and flowers native to South Carolina.

Growing these plants has been a process. It has taken lots of effort, like planning when to grow the seeds, transplanting the baby plants at just the right time and routinely checking up on how things are going in the greenhouse outside of class periods.

While up in the greenhouse, the students helped to tidy and clean the area by organizing workbenches and shelves, cutting off dead plant ends and working on other projects. The students'

pet projects include attempting to revamp the hydroponic system, setting up a new growth chamber and putting together small terrariums of plants.

"I like that this class is flexible but still an informational class," Katie Kemp, a student in the class, said. "We still get to do a lot of fun stuff and our lab is really fun in the greenhouse. It's my favorite part!"

This is the first semester that this class has been offered at FMU and it serves as something of a trial run to work out the hiccups in the class and see how well it goes over.

"I wanted this honors class to teach students about economic botany without them knowing they are learning economic botany," Rentsch said. "As this is part of an honors course this year,

Dr. Jon Tuttle funded this pilot of the program, but I expect to identify some funding for expanding this work into the future."

The plants that were grown in the course were all native to South Carolina and were chosen due to being plants that produced pollen native to the area. From Purple Coneflower to Swamp Sunflower to Indigo, there are about 30 individual pots of these flowers ready to go to new homes.

"Pollinators are under fierce attack by changing land use, invasive pests, diseases and the use and misuse of pesticides," Rentsch said. "This should be something everyone cares about. Anyone willing to dedicate a small patch of their yard to pollinator habitat can make a difference and the aim of Pee Dee Pollinator Patches is

to facilitate that by providing free, native plants and education."

On the last Friday of the semester before exams, PDPP set up in the Honors Center Atrium and handed out bundles of the native plants they grew. Within the first 45 minutes, almost all 100 potted plants had been given away to students, faculty and staff, making it safe to say that the first PDPP project was a success.

For more information on Pee Dee Pollinator Patches or the different types of plants the students grew, their website can be viewed at: <https://sites.google.com/gfmarion.edu/pee-dee-pollinator-patches/home>.

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The Patriot is published five times per semester by and for the students of Francis Marion University. Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official opinions or policies of FMU. We encourage letters to the editor but do not guarantee publication. The Patriot reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted.

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.

The Patriot

Francis Marion University's student newspaper

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FMU's Green Club gets students outside

Charles Roberson
Staff Writer

In celebration of the upcoming Earth Day, FMU's student-led Green Club gathered outside on April 21 on the Smith University Center lawn with a booth to hand out sustainable gifts for students.

The booth was stocked with reusable grocery bags, metal water bottles and an assortment of stickers boasting eco-friendly messages such as "Please keep the sea plastic free" or "Climate change will kill us all." Along with these items, which were free to take for the entire student body, there was a QR-code raffle that students were able to enter for a chance to win a pickleball or spikeball game set.

According to the Green Club, the purpose of the Earth Day event was to raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage students to spend more time outside.

"Our theme this year is trying to get people to go outside more," Jesse Sargent, professor of psychology and faculty advisor for Green Club, said. "Instead of buying [stuff] from Target to fill the hole in your soul, go outside and appreciate nature."

Sargent further mentioned that this idea was the purpose behind the raffle, to give students the ability to have something fun to do outdoors for the quickly upcoming summer vacation, thus acting on their mission of getting students outside and appreciative of nature more.

The Green Club already has some plans for the next

semester such as participating in the adopt-a-highway program. Currently, they are still working on their agenda for the fall, which will likely include plenty of outdoor campus activities.

"Next semester, we will do at least one highway cleanup," Sargent said. "It's kind of up to the students though; they're the ones who set the agenda."

Brianna Lisenby, senior graphic design major and president of the Green Club, said she would like to see the club keep growing and moving forward after she graduates in May. Lisenby said she would miss her time with the Green Club but wanted to encourage students to join. She said the club was very welcoming and encouraged students to participate as it is

open for all students to join and hosts open events for the student body throughout the semester.

"Anyone can come to the trash pickups," Lisenby said. For more information on the Green Club or other student organizations, visit the FMU website at: <https://www.fmarion.edu/studentlife/activities/student-life-organizations/>.



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Professor of psychology and Green Club faculty advisor Jesse Sargent sits at the booth with students on the UC lawn.

AAAS hosts discussion for future plans

Artemis Cunningham
Staff Writer

FMU's African and African American Studies (AAAS) program hosted a panel on April 5 to discuss the past events on campus and future projects that will be incorporated.

Speakers at the event were former Student Government Association (SGA) president Paula Patron-Garcia, university president Luther Carter, dean of Student Life LaFasha Brand and coordinator for AAAS and the organizer of the event Shayna Wrighten.

Patron-Garcia opened the discussion of general student affairs with the mention of previous SGA events and projects. These included commuter appreciation days, a financial literacy event and the establishment of the food

pantry and clothing closet on campus – both of which are in the housing office.

Following the remarks about the SGA, Brand discussed some of the previous activities that took place on campus this semester, such as the silent disco and homecoming. She also recognized the many clubs and organizations on campus, with a mention of the possibility of a chess club.

Carter was the last to speak about general student affairs. He began by speaking on the extensive alumni network that FMU has, reporting that a significant number of the vice presidents and department directors are a part of it. He followed up with the numerous construction projects that will continue to be done on campus. He first highlighted the School of Business and Education building – one of the larger projects that have been tak-

ing place, estimating that those schools will be able to move in by next spring.

Along with the new building, there will be renovations across campus that take place throughout the coming years as well. Some of the buildings getting renovated are McNair Science Building, Leatherman Science Facility and Founders Hall. Renovations will take place when the building of the School of Business and Education building is completed. He also mentioned the many roads and parking lots that will be repaved during the summer.

Carter listed some future projects that will be completed in the next two to three years, including the forestry school in 2025 and a South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) regional office in 2026. With the SLED office, forensics students will have the opportunity to work

there and gain experience in that field.

Carter finished his segment by mentioning some academic programs that will be added in the future, including an autism studies program and a Montessori program, both of which will be for education majors. There will also be two new doctorate programs coming to FMU in 2024: a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy and a Doctorate in Psychological Behavioral Treatment and Clinical Psychology. Two more undergraduate degree programs are to be added as well: forestry and environmental science.

After the summaries of the semester and the projects within them, the floor was opened to questions. One of the first questions asked was what each panel member was excited about for the coming years. Patron-Garcia explained the initiative that

she put in place to add feminine product dispensers in bathrooms for anyone who needs them. Carter responded by announcing a collaboration in the works between the Florence Area Humane Society and FMU to develop an animal care center near campus. This would not only provide care for any animals in the area, but it would also give veterinarian students opportunities to gain experience.

Brand shared her excitement for the Summer Send-off event and the leadership training that staff will be a part of. Wrighten finished the discussion with the mention of a possible partnership with a university in Barbados, which would allow for a study abroad program there with students both going to and coming from the nation.

Over 100 future FMU leaders inducted into NSLS

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

FMU held its second induction ceremony for the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) in the Chapman Auditorium in the McNair Science Building on April 17.

Hosted by Jennifer Kunka, associate provost for advising and professor of English, over 100 new members were inducted into the NSLS, which aims to help students utilize their leadership skills and learn how to apply them to their academic, personal and professional goals.

At the ceremony, friends and family in attendance got a chance to see what the

members of NSLS gain from being in the organization by watching a short video. The video featured clips from the online lectures students can attend, which are given by celebrities, politicians or entrepreneurs, such as Oprah Winfrey or Kevin Hart.

"The NSLS, to me, is a group of like-minded students that encourage each other to be better," Charlotte Sellers, a newly-inducted member, said. "It gives me a group of my peers that have the same goals to further themselves in their education and professional lives."

The NSLS is new to FMU and has had a promising start, gaining over 300 members in just two semesters. Such large numbers

have made NSLS the biggest organization on campus as well as gaining recognition for the university from the national NSLS meeting.

The idea for a chapter of NSLS at FMU was brought to the table by Kunka and was put into motion with the help of a team of advisors from the Center for Academic Success and Advisement.

"We were interested in NSLS because we see a lot of potential in our students here on campus," April Johnson, associate advising director at FMU who helped to get NSLS running on campus, said. "We wanted to give [students] an opportunity to really dig deep and find that inner leader inside and help bring it out, to make [them]

better students, better peers and hopefully better employees in the future."

Inducted NSLS members must complete a set of requirements before participating in an induction ceremony. They must complete 10 hours of leadership training, attend orientations, set their own personal goals, meet with a group of peers to help hold themselves accountable to those goals and watch broadcasts from different speakers provided by the NSLS.

This semester, FMU's NSLS established its executive board and began to work on social events and projects open to members and other students on campus. From setting up at the tailgating

event at the start of the semester to hosting a game night, the NSLS worked to incorporate not only members of the society but students and faculty across campus and encourage FMU's community to get involved with the organization.

The NSLS on campus also has a specific service project they focus on and helps to raise awareness, funds and resources. Members set up food donation boxes around campus and help collect food for individuals in need around the community.

"We know that right now in today's age, food insecurity is huge," Johnson said. "It affects more than what it appears to affect, and so

we incorporated some food donations of non-perishable items into our game night."

The organization and its leaders plan to continue their work in the upcoming semesters. Hopefully inducting new members along the way as well.

"We are really looking forward to the fall semester and what we can continue to do and continue to grow and the impact that we can make," said Johnson.

For more information on the NSLS chapter at FMU, details can be found at <https://www.nsls.org/chapter-details/francis-marion-university>.

Student Life awards best contributors to FMU and community

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

FMU hosted its 2023 Student Life Awards on April 11, celebrating the many student organizations on campus, the advisors that head them and their contribution to FMU and its community.

Hosted by FMU students DaShawna Black and Samuel Cathcart, the ceremony recognized student organizations such as sororities, fraternities and interest clubs along with the impact they have had on FMU's campus and community.

The first group of individuals recognized was the Student Government Asso-

ciation, which was honored by the former student body president, Paula Paton-Garcia.

Then came the Residence Assistant (RA) of the Year award, which is normally given to one RA each year, but this year it was presented to both Ahmad Legette and Taylor Tanner.

Following that were the Campus Recreation Awards, awarded by Derrick Young, director of Recreation and Evening Programs at FMU. The award for Men's Overall and Fraternity Points Champions went to Pi Kappa Alpha and the award for Women's Overall and Sorority Points Champions went to Alpha Delta Pi.

The award for Men's In-

dependent Champion went to the team OTF and the Women's Independent Champion was the team Death Wish.

After intramural sports teams were recognized, the organizational awards came next. These included awards like the Patriot Community Impact Award, the President's Cup Award and the Volunteer Advisor of the Year Award.

The Patriot Community Impact Award was new this year and was presented to student organizations that held at least two events this year that benefited our community. This year's winner was the Green Club, which helps to keep our campus and surrounding communities clean and thriving.

The President's Cup Award is presented to the sorority and fraternity with the highest GPAs to honor their academic achievements. The sorority winner this year was Zeta Tau Alpha and the fraternity winner was Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The Volunteer Advisor of the Year Award is given to a volunteer advisor of a student organization that has had a large impact not only on their organization but the campus and community as well. This year's recipient was history professor William Bolt, the faculty advisor of PIKE.

The final award of the evening was the long-anticipated Student Organization of the Year award, presented

by the dean of students LaTasha Brand. This award was given to the student organization with strong skills such as leadership development for members, positive impact on campus and community, or outstanding commitment to their organizational goals.

The Pre-Vet Club, Kappa Delta, and Baptist Campus Ministry were all nominated for this award but the Pre-Vet Club took the award this year.

"The club members were thrilled to win Student Organization of the Year," Tamatha Barbeau, professor of biology and faculty advisor for the Pre-Vet Club, said. "We love what we do as a club, and it's very special to be recognized by Student

Life for that."

Student life and activities are a large and important part of FMU, with over 60 student organizations on campus.

"We want you to grow socially, and network socially as much as possible," Andy Matthews, a Student Life specialist, said. "Being involved outside that classroom, not just networking, not just meeting new people, but for your mental health. I think it's a good thing to be around other people and clubs that relate to you."

For more information about the many different student organizations at FMU, visit the Student Life tab of FMU's website.

SIR promotes poetry FMU celebrates women's history

Deirdre Currin
Staff Writer

Students shared their written poems and favorite works at Snow Island Review's (SIR) annual open mic poetry slam on March 30 hosted in The Grille.

"The most important thing that we want to do is make a good space for students to share their creative work and have a good reception and community around it," Daelin Tripp, SIR's editor and chief, said. "You know, feel safe to be vulnerable."

There was no ban on cursing or subject matter, but at the beginning of the slam poetry, readers were asked to give trigger warnings for sensitive content and give students time to leave before continuing.

"We're not recognized by Campus Activity Board or the university or anything because then we'd have to adhere to censorship, and we don't have any censorship rules for Snow Island Review because we don't want to censor our students," Tripp said.

Tripp went on to say that in spite of SIR's lack of

censorship rules, each piece still had to make it through 13 editors. An example they gave was hate speech, which is not permitted to be in the literary journal.

SIR provided cupcakes and goodie bags containing the latest edition of SIR's undergraduate literary journal, stickers, a blank notebook and a pamphlet with instructions on how to submit work to be featured in SIR's literary journal.

Teachers also participated in the slam, often being encouraged by student readers.

"It's a chance for people to get together and share their own creative work or their favorite work," Landon Houle, assistant professor of English, said. "It's a chance to meet new people, you know, kind of when you find like-minded people who like things that you like. For us, it's important that Snow Island sponsors these types of events on campus. We are that sort of literature and creative club."

The slam precedes one of SIR's biggest events of the year: its 2023 literary journal publishing party that is to take place on the Smith

University Center lawn.

"It is a legitimate publication," Tripp said. "We have physical copies of our books, so it definitely does count like as a real publication, and that's a big deal for a lot of people. It looks good on your resume, and it's a fun little tidbit you can share about yourself."

SIR does a poetry slam every year that is open to all FMU students, regardless of their major. Last Feb., SIR held a queer open mic night alongside FMU's Gender Sexuality Alliance for written works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry.

"It's good to see other people on campus kind of show what they're interested in and their creative process," Tripp said. "It's nice to see other people that are engaged with art, like poetry. It's just nice to find people that are very similar to you because I feel like if you show up to a poetry slam, you're some degree of interested in — even if you don't write poetry — you still have an appreciation for it."

Deirdre Currin
Staff Writer

In celebration of Women's History Month, FMU's gender studies program invited four women speakers to share the stories of their lives in a living library event on March 29 in the Honor's Center (HC) Commons.

Speakers present were Suzie Parker DeVoe, from SC Humanities' Speakers Bureau; Rev. Mary Finklea, a Lutheran pastor; Ann Williams, FMU's registrar; and Octavia Williams-Blake, senior vice president and chief human resources officer at McLeod Hospital.

The event focused on the individual attending, catering to what each attendee was interested in as opposed to being led in any one direction. Each speaker was located in separate HC classrooms for 25 minutes with five minutes in between each speech session for breaks.

The caveat was that, due to time restrictions, attendees could only see three out of the four speakers.

Cookies, brownies, water and lemonade were available during the event, and the breaks were designed to give guests time to replenish

snacks.

The event lasted from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., with the first 30 minutes being dedicated to an optional writing activity. On a slip of paper, attendees drew a timeline with all of the major events of their lives on it. The aim was for attendees to not only listen to others' stories but to think about their own.

Each FMU student in attendance was allowed to enter a doorway prize giveaway by entering their information via a Google form. The winner was announced after all the speeches were complete.

"Storying Our Lives" has been in the works for several semesters. Leading up to the event, bulletin boards were set up in different areas such as The Grille and the Rogers Library asking students to write what the name of their story would be about or a tidbit of their life story. Gender studies coordinator, Rachel Spear, encouraged each attendee to add their stories at the beginning of the event or during breaks.

Most of the speakers were pulled from outside of FMU's campus, although Ann Williams has been working at FMU for 16 years.

Before working on campus, Williams worked multiple different jobs including one at a Tupperware factory and security at an airport before being a post worker at FMU.

"[Williams] didn't have like one life path, she kind of jumped around, so hearing that was kind of helpful because I'm very indecisive as a human being, so that was good to hear," Dasia Council, junior English major, said. "She eventually came to a halt; she found something that she liked or loved."

Each speaker told her life story as if it were a book, often highlighting struggles that they faced due to their class, gender, race or age. The speakers would reference what genre they thought their life would be, and Williams and Finklea split their speech into three different parts. Finklea divided hers by genre and Williams divided hers by time period.

"[The storytelling aspect] helped to see [Williams'] life from a different perspective, especially if you do your life in third person vs. first person," Council said. "Like if you look at yourself like a character, I think it's good for self-reflection."

NEED A JOB?
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Florence Humane Society provides emotional support animals

Deirdre Currin
Staff Writer

Students got to de-stress by playing with dogs and kittens on the Smith University Center (UC) Lawn on April 22 at Pause 4 Paws.

Pause 4 Paws is an event hosted by FMU's pre-vet club alongside the Florence Area Humane Society to bring cats and dogs on campus for students to hold and walk to help calm their nerves before finals.

"That's the goal, is to just do something fun like this where students can come out and just kind of forget about all the assignments, all the papers, all the tests, the exams coming up," Tamatha Barbeau, professor of biology and faculty advisor for the pre-vet club, said. "It's overwhelming and you can just kind of forget about it for an hour or two."

Pause 4 Paws is put on yearly by the pre-vet club always around the time of

final exams. Barbeau said that COVID-19 put Pause 4 Paws on hold, making 2019 the last time it took place for a while. With pandemic restrictions out of the way, the event is now able to take place consistently at the end of the semester again.

"It's just cuddling with puppies and kittens or in this case young dogs," Barbeau said. "It just helps some of them blow off some steam, relax. There's nothing that helps your blood pressure drop [more] than hanging out with puppies or kittens."

Usually, the club tries to get puppies for the students to play with, but the only puppies available were not vaccinated and thus were susceptible to getting sick. In lieu of puppies were two younger dogs named Molly and May, who were walked around the UC lawn by students.

"We look at the dogs that are really friendly, that won't get intimidated by a lot of

people, that aren't skittish, that are pretty comfortable with themselves and can interact well," Liz Parrish, a board member of the Florence Area Humane Society, said.

Alongside the two dogs were five kittens that were too young to be up for adoption yet. Students were able to hold kittens and dip them into a tiny amount of water to prevent them from overheating on the sunny lawn.

All of the animals are up for adoption through the Humane Society although no adoptions were permitted at the event due to most students' housing situations and the risk of tempting students with an impulse purchase.

The pre-vet club recently hosted a supply drive for the Humane Society. All of the supplies, including leashes, food and toys, were given to the Humane Society after the animals were dropped off.

"This also gives us some exposure to get people more

involved with the Humane Society," Parrish said. "Let them know we're out here, and they can come out and volunteer for some events."

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Florence Area Humane Society can follow this link and become involved:

<https://us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=bb0f73c2e924d4416d0ba1176&id=77022a4a29>



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Junior biology major De'Asia Hill stands holding a small kitten on the UC Lawn.

Students and staff suit up for a free-for-all laser tag battle

Artemis Cunningham
Staff Writer

As part of a string of events commemorating the end of the spring semester, Student Life hosted Zapz Laser Tag Bash on Apr. 18 in the Honors Center (HC) commons where students, faculty and staff were able to participate in a laser tag battle.

Student Life specialist Amanda Wagner worked with Zapz Fun Zone, a company that provides mobile laser tag experiences, to put together the event.

Each game was in the "Immortal Arena" style, a style of play that allows players to tag their opponents as many times as possible but prevented anyone from being eliminated from the

game. Each player belonged to a team, but the game let the players earn points for both their designated team and themselves.

Despite being hosted in the HC, the laser tag games were open to all students who wished to attend. Accepting all students who wanted to play, the event was able to bring people together for one last fun activity be-

fore the end of the semester.

One freshman, Mariah Floyd, said that she was surprised and pleased with how many students came out to the event and that she had a good time getting to meet new people.

"Laser tag was fun and such an entertaining way to bring more life onto campus," Floyd said.

Students that partici-

pated said the event inspired them to make a new friend and fostered a competitive, yet fun, environment.

Another freshman, A'lazjha McDowell, said that the event allowed them to connect with their inner child.

"I felt like it was a good way for college students to feel like a kid again," McDowell said.

Playing the ever-popular game of laser tag provided students an outlet to just relax and appreciate a good night of fun. Hosted right before finals, students now have another fun event to look back on when they go home for the summer.

REMEMBER
..... TO
Rest!

We all know how much harder it is to concentrate and retain information when we're tired. While you might be tempted to pull all-nighter to cram for your exam tomorrow, it may have the opposite effect. Studies done by Murdoch University have shown that less than 6 hours of sleep can result in a 30% cognitive delay in memory.

SCAN THE CODE FOR FMU'S FINAL SCHEDULE

CAMPUS LIFE

THROUGH THE LENS



PHOTO BY MORGAN ZASTAWNIK

FMU's Concert Choir and Voice Collective performed at FMU PAC on Wed. April 19, for their last spring performance. .



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

Students compete with one another in spikeball on the Smith University Center lawn.



PHOTO BY MORGAN ZASTAWNIK

FMU's Music Industry Ensemble performed at the PAC to celebrate their album release.

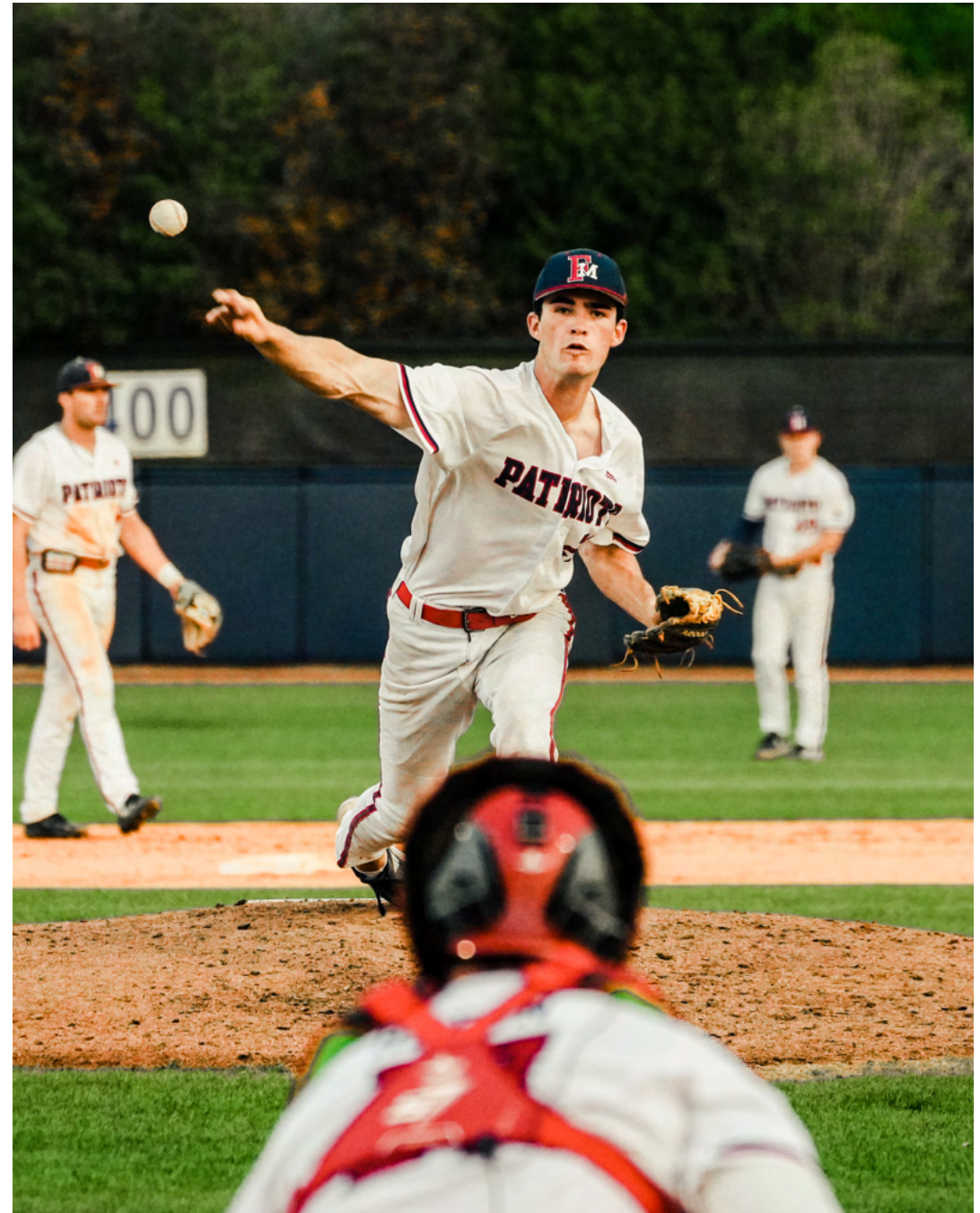


PHOTO BY STEVEN MCCARTT

Right-handed pitcher Jack Hegan throws against opponent to win the inning.



PHOTO BY CHARLES ROBERSON

Different sorority members compete in a water balloon toss contest during the Greek Games in Summer Sendoff.



PHOTO BY MORGAN ZASTAWNIK

One of the members of ADPi competes to win the grand prize for the Lip Sync Battle.



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE IRASTORZA

FMU invited Jostens to display class rings for students outside of the bookstore in the Smith University Center.

EDITOR'S TOP PICKS

With finals coming up, we wanted to share with you some of our recent favorite stress relievers!



BEEF; A NETFLIX ORIGINAL

The new Netflix series *Beef* might be a slow burner in the beginning, but WOW, was it worth it! It is the perfect blend of intense and comedic, and completely binge-worthy.

AWARE & AGGRAVATED PODCAST

Need a taste of reality? This podcast is great for those wanting to get their life together. *Aware and Aggravated* can be listened to on Spotify, Apple Music, and Audible.



BEAN BAR

One of Florence's favorite coffee shop came out with a new spring menu, and it is fantastic! What a perfect way to start a long study session. We highly suggest the Almond Latte!



THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY

Feeling stuck? This is a great read for those who need a little help, but also an entertaining read. This novel showcases the choices that go into a life well-lived.

of the VOICES PATRIOT

REQUIRED INTERSHIPS;

DOES IT ACTUALLY PAY OFF?

Finn Millians
Co-Editor

The current educational environment involves students paying enormous sums of money for paper that oftentimes remains valueless without further expensive education. While this is a trend perpetuated by the commodification of education—it is seen as a normalcy rather than a privilege—it creates a cycle of debt and burnout within current students.

The concepts of debt from tuition and the expenses required for higher education have been discussed already within *The Patriot*, but there is an aspect of educational requirements that has not been touched upon yet: internships.

Before entering the workforce, students of all ages are lectured about the importance of experience. As high schoolers, we desperately try to pad our resumes with volunteer work, club leadership roles and extracurricular activities. As college students, we join the rat race to beat out our peers for positions at companies in our fields of interest.

With the prevalence of college degrees within the adult population, internships for relevant experience in the workplace are almost required for job placements. Resumes need to be padded with hours of experience, projects and certifications to catch the attention of employers.

To address this reality in the educational environment, most colleges and universities have adopted required internships into their curriculums. Students

may have one or multiple semesters where they must complete a specified number of hours in a degree-specific position in order to graduate.

While this adjustment to the curriculum is helpful to students and follows the trend in higher education, there is an issue of compensation for the students.

Students are paying thousands of dollars in tuition every year for a degree that serves as their best chance for employment. Students will accrue loans, fight for scholarships and or work multiple jobs to address the financial requirements. However, when considering the time intensity of 50 or more hours of an internship in one semester, it poses a very important question: is it ethical for schools to require internships without proper financial compensation?

Some might argue that the experience of interning at companies in a student's field of interest is proper compensation, as the value it would bring to their resume should "pay off" in the future. While it is certainly helpful to have this experience, the problems it may cause students might undermine those benefits.

For example, students in an educational program are required to complete at least 50 hours of student teaching in one semester, often multiple times throughout their academic career. Most times, these student teaching positions are not paid. The students are receiving a few credit hours for tens of hours of (usually) unpaid work. While this might not always be an issue for students, students who need

to work a job to pay for bills, tuition, living expenses, etc., must figure out how to balance their financial and educational needs.

I am a student working towards four degrees, one of which requires me to work 80 hours of an unpaid internship. I live in an apartment off-campus, and I own a vehicle. I am fortunate enough to have my tuition paid for by nature of one of my jobs, but I have to work two others to make ends meet outside of school. I started out the semester with three jobs, but adding the internship caused me to take on an extremely intense fourth for virtually no reward.

It is required for me to graduate, which is beneficial, but at what cost?

I understand that paid internships in certain fields are difficult to come by due to the necessary experience and training required to perform specific tasks within those fields, but schools should implement a compensation system that meets students at least halfway.

One possible avenue for this could be interning students getting paid minimum wage through the school. A minimum wage is not ideal, of course, but even a small amount of money could help a struggling student. Another potential option would be to limit the amount of coursework required in the semester of the internship, requiring a smaller amount of hours at one time and breaking them up through the semesters or even granting students more credit hours for the time they invest into their internships.

As a school

renowned for its affordability within the region, FMU caters to many low-income students. Most students I know personally work one or two jobs to pay for school, bills and whatever else they need money for.

When considering these students—the ones who have to work jobs alongside school to survive, the ones who already take on massive amounts of debt to earn their education—are we truly going to continue to watch them unnecessarily drown themselves?

Internships are necessary in this economy, but a lack of compensation for the efforts of these students is

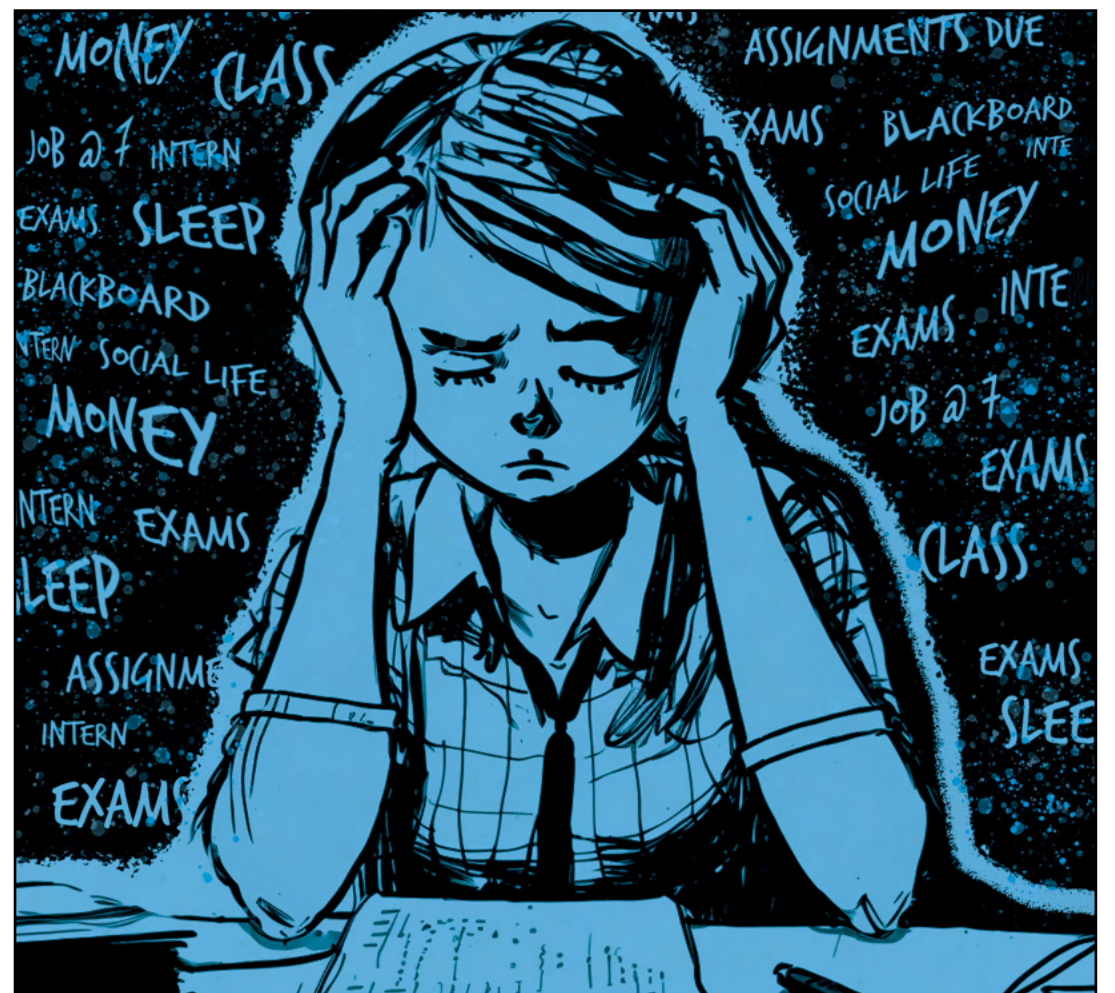
wrong. Students are a vital part of the future economy and environment, and they should be taught the true value of their contributions.

In the "real world," these same students would be paid employees. Their work would be compensated accordingly. Along this same vein of thought, students, the same students who pay for the privilege of being a part of their school, should be compensated accordingly for their time and effort in the workplace.

I am finally done with my 80 hours of my internship, but balancing the internships, the job that pays my tuition and my

other two jobs that pay my bills was almost impossible. Every facet of my life was impacted by the choices I had to make to stay afloat either financially or professionally. I can say with 100% certainty that my life would have been made easier by an additional paycheck from the internship that consumed so much time.

Schools have the capacity and the responsibility to protect their students and allow them a place to pursue their education while striving for professional excellence. They can take one step closer to fulfilling that responsibility by ensuring compensation to students for required internships.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT Austin Freeman

Finn Millians
Co-Editor

Recipient of the 2023 computer science award from the School of Business, senior computer science and mathematics double major Austin Freeman is currently working on the release of his new mobile application, Florence Navigator.

All computer science students are required to create and present a final project related to their major, and Freeman partnered with fellow senior and computer science major, Roland Vu.

“Shortly before the beginning of the project, Professor Rao of the Computer Science department came to Roland and me with an idea to create a mobile app similar to one she had used on a vacation to Hawaii that shows users on a GPS-guided tour around Hawaii,” Freeman said. “We really liked the idea, and so we chose to make a version of this app for our area called Florence Navigator.”

Utilizing skills developed throughout the major’s coursework, Freeman and Vu focused on the developmental side of the application. However, they did enlist the help of various other students and faculty for content and website design who will all be credited on the website when it is launched.

“Though the app has yet to be released, we have received very good feedback about it so far,” Freeman said. “We’re excited to release it sometime soon within the next one or two months.”

The app is not the only development in the next one to two months, as Freeman will be attending Carnegie Mellon University’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Software Engineering program, which is a summer research internship program funded by the National Science Foundation.

“The specific project I’ve been selected for is in



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior double major in computer science and mathematics Austin Freeman is working on the release of his mobile application, Florence Navigator, which will be released in a few months.

my desired research area of programming languages, so I am very excited to attend the program this summer

and gain extremely valuable exposure to leaders in the field of computer science research,” Freeman said.

Freeman’s acceptance to the prestigious summer program at Carnegie Mellon underscores his highly

decorated resume from his work at FMU. Freeman is the president of FMU’s chapter of Upsilon Pi Epsilon (the

computer science honor society), the vice president of FMU’s chapter of the Associated for Computing Machinery (ACM) and a member of the Kappa Mu Epsilon mathematics honor society.

Freeman was also recently awarded the Computer Science award from the School of Business on Apr. 10 during the academic awards ceremony.

“It was rewarding to see my hard work acknowledged, and it was nice to be recognized in front of my peers and professors,” Freeman said. “I have a lot of respect for the computer science faculty here and I am honored to have been chosen for this year’s award.”

Freeman’s success now can be attributed to his passion for computers which manifested itself during his childhood. Freeman said his initial interest came from his love of video games.

“I aspired to create my own video games,” Freeman said. “It took me a while, but when I eventually learned some basic programming skills, I realized that I really just enjoy programming and computer science in general, whether or not I’m using it to make a video game.”

During Freeman’s high school career, he participated in FMU’s dual enrollment program with computer science courses. Freeman took almost half of his required computer science credits before graduating high school. Though it caused him to take some general education requirements later than usual, it allowed Freeman to accomplish his goals.

“I would not be where I am today without the dual enrollment program,” Freeman said.

Freeman plans to graduate in Dec. of 2023 with his two degrees and said he wants to aim for his Ph.D. in Computer Science, specifically in programming languages.

THE CAMPUS COMMENT

QUESTION 28.8

What is your go to studying snack?



“Corn bread.”

Jordan King
Senior - HR management



“Jumbo applejacks.”

Marlee Coates
Sophomore - Psychology



“Candy.”

Lexi Albright
Junior - Political Science



“Dry cereal.”

Kanan Townsend
Freshman - Secondary Mathematics Education



“Goldfish.”

Samuel Reeder
Freshman - Mechanical Engineering

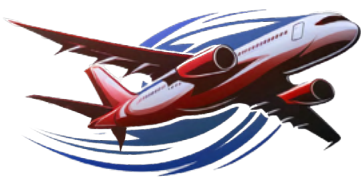


“Bagels.”

Liam Day
Junior - Business Economics

Do YOU know of an event happening soon?

Send us information at fmupatriotnews@gmail.com



ACROSS THE POND

To my FMU friends in the States,

We are officially entering week four in Germany, and I still can't believe how fast time has passed. I've been extremely fortunate to have met some pretty amazing people soon after arriving here, and I've already made some great friends that have impacted me for the better.

According to Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences, a large portion of their student population consists of international students, which was an unexpected but interesting fact.

Because of this, all of my classes are a fascinating mixture of people from tons of different countries and cultures. You could turn to your left and meet someone from Brazil, then turn to your right and meet someone from Kazakhstan. The social environment also feels incredibly welcoming. Most of the students I've encountered have been super friendly, and the majority of the time, the people I've talked to had just left their homes to come abroad as well, so we had a fundamental commonality.

It's always really cool to hear everyone talk about how they do things back in their country. I feel like I've learned so much already.

Since both are fairly small towns, most things in Schmalkalden are very similar to my hometown in Marion, except for walking being the main form of transportation around the area. On an average relaxed grocery shopping day, walking five or six miles is fairly common. However, I find that taking a stroll in the sun really boosts my mood, so I don't mind it very much.

I've also noticed that, at least from what I've seen in the U.S., sitting outside together is a more frequent social choice for students here. It's extremely common to go outside and see many groups of students lining the sports fields and just talking with one another. Sometimes they bring Bluetooth speakers to play music or set up blankets and have picnics.

While I spent some time outside with my friends back home going to parks and walking trails, I realized in the U.S. that people tend to want to go out and "do" stuff every time they get together with friends--go to a movie, go shopping, go to a restaurant, etc.--but here, everyone is just content with meeting wherever they are and existing outside together.

It's honestly really cool to experience, and I hope to spend more time simply enjoying the company of my friends and family when I get back to the U.S.

Despite all of these wonderful experiences, I won't sit here and preach that every moment has been and will be perfect. Frankly, I've got a list of comedically misfortunate stories I could tell about my first time traveling abroad, but I'll save them for another day.

Recently, however, I'm learning that your reactions to things play a large part in how you remember them. Whenever I'm in the midst of something going awry and I've already done everything in my power to fix it, I try to think about how to retell the events later to others in a funny way.

Sure, it would be nice if everything worked correctly, but at least I've gotten a good story out of it. Somewhat metaphorically and somewhat literally, I guess I'm learning there's no point in getting bent out of shape about missed trains; just do your best to get on the next one.

I want to thank everyone who supported me and encouraged me in taking this next step. I can't imagine doing this without a team of wonderful people rooting for me back home. It means more than you know.

I'll be back sooner than you think, and yes, I'm stocking up on chocolate. Good luck with your finals!

**-Julia Fulmer
Co-Editor**



PHOTO BY JULIA FULMER

Julia Fulmer, a student at FMU and Co-Editor of the patriot resides for this semester in Schmalkalden, Germany.



PHOTO BY JULIA FULMER

View of Schmalkalden, Germany. For students interested in information on FMU's foreign exchange program, contact Dr. Mark Blackwell at jblackwell@fmarion.edu.



CONGRATULATIONS

MEN'S TENNIS

After beating the North Greenville University Crusaders 5-0 on Apr. 15, the Patriots earned the regular season champion's title and captured the top seed in the Conference Carolina's tournament. They finished their regular season 12-7 overall and 7-1 in the conference. Their regular season championship title is the first since 1999.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

During the Conference Carolina's tournament starting Apr. 21, the lady Patriots defeated Emmanuel College 4-3 to advance onto the quarterfinals. However, the Patriots fell to the University of Mount Olive 1-4 in the quarterfinals, concluding their 2023 season. The lady Patriots finished 10-11 overall and 4-5 in conference play. Two players, senior Gabriel Karatantcheva and freshman Chelsea Seidewitz, were awarded conference-team honors.

SOFTBALL

The Patriot softball team hosted the Erskine College Aces on Apr. 21 for their last home game of the season and honored their seniors for Senior Day. The Patriots swept the Aces with two mercy-ruled endings in the fifth inning, 10-2 and 15-6. Overall, the Patriots are concluding their regular season with a record of 37-11, and with a record of 17-7 in the conference. This win record is the highest the Patriot softball team has seen in 15 seasons.

BASEBALL

The Patriots hosted the Augusta University Jaguars Apr. 4 for a mid-week non-conference match in the Griffin Athletic Complex. The Patriots emerged victorious against their old conference rivals with a score of 8-3. The standout of the match was graduate student Tanner Wakefield with a four-hit game.