

The Patriot

Saturday, April 1st, 2023

Francis Marion University's award-winning student newspaper

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 7

Happy April Fools! All articles in this issue are satirical

FMU to introduce their first football team in 2024 Historic new era for Patriot athletics after donation

Finn Millians
Co-Editor

After a sizeable donation was given to the university in Aug. 2022, FMU has released a calendar with open tryout dates starting Aug. 3 for its new football team to launch in Fall 2024.

Historically, FMU has not had a collegiate football team, but an influx of money donated to the athletic program has allowed for FMU to create one.

"This was never something we could consider without certain resources," a prominent member of Patriot athletic staff said. "But with access to those resources now, we jumped at the opportunity."

The Patriots have already started planning for uniforms and helmet designs, which were released on the website this past Friday, Mar. 24.

For the time being, the Patriots will use the Florence Memorial Stadium to host practices and games. However, Patriot staff and the FMU administration hinted at a potential new stadium for the new athletic arena.

Following the footsteps of FMU's I-95 sister school, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) Braves, the Patriot athletic program got in contact with the Mountain East conference to secure their position as an NCAA Division II team.

"Moving into a new conference is never easy," another member of the Patriot staff said. "Luckily, we only recently moved into the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The FMU athletic department released jersey and helmet designs for the new football team to launch in Fall 2024.

Conference Carolinas, so we were familiar with the process."

The Mountain East conference recently posted on their social media platforms to welcome the Patriots to their roster of teams.

During the period of recruitment, establishment and training, the athletic department said they are currently hiring staff for the football team and petitioned

university president Luther Carter for locker rooms.

"We are going to utilize the space currently taken up by the racquetball courts," said a member of administration. "During the planned Smith University Center (UC) renovations, we are going to create a large enough space to hold roughly fifty players."

The athletic department also released a state-

ment reassuring current athletes that the new team would not affect current financial aid or access to facilities.

One thing that might be affected in the launch of a new athletic team is the official mascot position, according to the Patriot staff. The donation to the school came with a request for a new mascot so Frank the Fox's position is currently being

evaluated. The Patriots will remain the Patriots, but the representative mascot may change in appearance.

The first open tryout date is scheduled for August, and the university is planning to launch a marketing campaign to attract potential student athletes.

"The thing about creating new sports teams is that you have to have enough players to compete," yet

another Patriot staff member said. "We are a smaller school, so we may have to work a bit harder for the volume of athletes needed for this team."

FMU communications and the marketing program in the FMU School of Business are currently collaborating to launch a campaign starting in May. The marketing capstone course is working on content to release to start attracting students.

"We have created a content calendar and posting schedule for the three months leading up to the first open tryout," one senior marketing major said. "I'm really excited to see the engagement."

In terms of money, the Patriot athletic program said there would be 30 full or partial scholarships available for incoming student athletes. On top of athletic scholarship money, the university financial aid and scholarships would be available to the athletes based upon certain criteria.

"We are hoping that our financial accessibility will draw in students from all over the southeast," a final Patriot staff member said. "We will be a baby program, but we'll also be mighty."

FMU will continue to release information regarding the new team as staff is hired, facilities are created and training starts. To stay updated on the new football team, follow the FMU Patriots on social media and check www.fmupatriots.com regularly.

Frank the Fox loses mascot title to Buc-ee the Beaver

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

After the defeat of former FMU mascot Frank the Fox, Buc-ee the Beaver of the Buc-ee's gas station chain was donned red, white and blue in honor of his new position as the official mascot of Francis Marion University.

After rumors abounded of an FMU mascot change to a local gas station icon, Frank the Fox publicly challenged Buc-ee the Beaver to a battle for the position, winner takes all.

During a pre-fight press conference, Frank the Fox had some words to share.

"If he really thinks he can take my position when he has only been here a year, he's delusional," Frank the Fox said. "You can't compete with five years of excellence and service."

While the university and Buc-ee's had a pending contract regarding this change, the higher-ups of both businesses said they would allow it since it would be great publicity to stage a fight. After conferring with the Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Student Life, an event was placed into the calendar for Mar. 24: Mascot Madness.

"I get why he's upset," Buc-ee the Beaver, prior to the fight, said. "But I don't know how he can be surprised when I'm a national icon. All mascots should feel threatened by me—especially ones who wear waistcoats."

Held in the Smith University Center (UC) lobby, FMU officials created a makeshift stage on which the mascots could tussle. FMU students filled the building, taking up chairs and watching from the balconies while

wearing FMU garb or Buc-ee's merchandise.

"I never knew that we could change mascots," one student said. "I'm kind of rooting for Buc-ee."

The host for the fight was an FMU professor with a microphone, and he worked the crowd up into a frenzy just before the start of the match.

The UC arena was loud as the mascots battled, though the fight was mostly between ill-fitting costumes and gravity. Ultimately, Frank the Fox worked hard but Buc-ee the Beaver worked harder and the fox was knocked off the stage.

The fans in the Buc-ee's merchandise cheered on their chosen mascot while the defeated students helped up Frank the Fox from the floor. Buc-ee the Beaver was officially crowned the new mascot of FMU.

"I just don't under-

stand how they could replace Frank just like that," one student said. "It just seems wrong."

Some students were in tears over the idea of Frank the Fox leaving the school.

"It just doesn't feel real," Andrew Brain, secretary of the SGA and sophomore mass communications and English double major, said. "I knew that they would probably replace him with a bigger mascot, but it shouldn't have ended this way. But I guess if it had to be somebody, Buc-ee was the one to do it."

Frank the Fox was escorted out of the building by FMU officials while Buc-ee was awarded FMU merchandise and keys to the UC.

"What a great day to be a Patriot," one CAB member said. "I never liked Frank, anyway."

Buc-ee was handed the

microphone and brought out to the center of the stage to address his new constituents.

"I look forward to representing this school," Buc-ee the Beaver said. "Don't worry, I'll do a much better job than Frank the Fox."

More information



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New banners honor new FMU mascot Buc-ee the Beaver.

New building aims for more interactive water feature

Andrew Brain
Assistant Editor

The upcoming Schools of Business and Education Building (SBEB) is reportedly set to host the greatest water feature on campus yet: a giant water slide.

After rumors of how the building will compare to the Lee Nursing Building (LNB) just across the pond, one of the most commonly asked questions was how the new building's water feature will compare to that in LNB.

"According to these blue prints, it will indeed be a water slide," one of the lead foremen on the project said. "Of course, I was blown away at first, I mean who in the world puts a water slide in a school building? But then I realized just how many benefits it could have. Not only would it make for one nice water feature, but it would also add some joy to two rather dull subjects."

In line with the current tradition of FMU educational buildings, the water feature will be one of the highest priorities of the project. Not only will it be located di-

rectly in the center of SBEB, it will also be completed before any other part of the building.

Considering the building will be bigger than LNB, it makes sense the water feature will be as well.

"This water slide has been pretty useful," one construction worker on the project said. "It's bigger than the Lee building we did back in '06, so you'd not be surprised to learn the water feature is too. What is surprising is that it's a water slide, but it comes in handy. When it comes to transporting materials or workers or just taking a break, it's so fun."

The source gave The Patriot an exclusive look into the new water feature as he slid down for a demonstration. It indeed looked fun.

When asked about the new report of a water slide being implemented in the building, students were both happy and confused.

"I am both happy and confused," a sophomore business major said. "I love the idea of getting to use a water slide between classes, but I honestly and truly do not get it. If the point is to

use it to get to my next class, that makes even less sense, since I'd just get my clothes wet. Then again, who doesn't love a water slide?"

Other students, while still confused, are taking it in stride.

"I'm still confused, but I'm taking it in stride," a freshman education major said. "On one hand a fountain would be so much simpler. On the other hand, learning the proper methods of teaching young children while going head first down a water slide is just too good an opportunity to miss."

For other buildings, it is unknown whether a feature as such will be implemented. Students of other subjects are keeping their heads high, though.

"Personally, it doesn't affect me," a junior biology major said. "I doubt they'd make a water slide for Leatherman. I'd imagine we're stuck having to use the stairs to go from floor to floor, although if one building can have a slide, why can't we? I want to believe, but I won't get my hopes up."

When asked about the water slide, university presi-

dent Luther Carter seemed more confused than anybody and kept talking about a large slide-shaped fountain not intended for students to go down.

This new development, met with confusion and splendor, carries a ray of

hope for the future of FMU. With new buildings on the way, having a water slide in one can only mean good things for what entertaining new water features will undoubtedly be in other upcoming projects.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Digital design for water slide released by FMU administration.

Co-Editor
Julia Fulmer

Ex Co-Editor
Finn Millians

Assistant Editor
Andrew Brain

Layout Editors
MaKayla O'Neal
Laree Kuffik

Staff Writers
Kaylee Hewitt
Camryn Cassetori
Deirdre Currin
Charles Roberson
Renee Cunningham
Al Generator

Photographers
Cullen Dore
Ainara Eizaguirre
Iraistorza
Morgan Zastawnik
Steven McCartt

Webmaster
Julia Fulmer

Advisor
Kay Packett

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.

Blackboard fixed once and for all: Nobel Prize awarded

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

After years of grueling effort, FMU campus technology has finally made Blackboard work correctly. Their laborious efforts were rewarded greatly with the staff receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

According to the Nobel Prize Organization, the award is given to "reward the discoveries that have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind." Conquering a giant such as Blackboard's technical problems can be considered a "greatest benefit to humankind" without any doubt from anybody.

"It took years of hard labor, dedication and manpower to get to this point,"

campus tech staff said. "But we finally did it and it paid off. Students can finally get their work done in peace and assurance to have their progress saved."

For years, students and staff at FMU have been plagued time and time again by Blackboard and the many issues that come with it. From crashed home pages to glitched out assignments and tests, the program has had a history of causing problems for students both on and off campus.

The members of FMU's campus technology have had numerous problems and issues with Blackboard brought to their attention by FMU students and faculty alike.

"Blackboard is pretty aggravating sometimes," one

student said. "I'm just really glad that the tech team finally figured out how to make Blackboard work. They're my heroes honestly."

Even professors have been ecstatic about the changes to Blackboard. Across every department, joyous cries have been heard down the halls, with announcements posted on every bulletin board across campus.

"It feels great to have that burden taken away," one English professor said. "I can finally have my students stop emailing me their papers, because I have a platform I can trust won't fail us."

The campus technology team was presented with the award on Wednesday, Mar. 15, at FMU's Performing Arts Center located in down-

town Florence. The reception was a large gathering, with Florence's mayor and other esteemed guests in attendance to celebrate the team's outstanding accomplishments.

After their great achievement, FMU's campus technology team is on high alert, watching and waiting for Blackboard to strike another unsuspecting student once again so that they can jump in and save the day with their outstanding computer skills.

"Now we just spend our time sitting around, working on other smaller issues, and keeping an eye on Blackboard," an FMU technician said. "We used to spend most of our time working on Blackboard issues but now that we finally fixed them, we have to focus on other

problems that arise around campus. That being said, we are still monitoring Blackboard to catch any problems before they inevitably happen again."

FMU thanks its heroes on the campus technology team and congratulates them on the accomplishment of the century. Without them, exams would never be completed, papers would never be turned in, and grades would never be checked.

If you see an FMU campus technology member, be sure to thank them for their hard work and commitment to improving the quality of this school's educational tools.

FMU renamed in honor of Taylor Swift

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

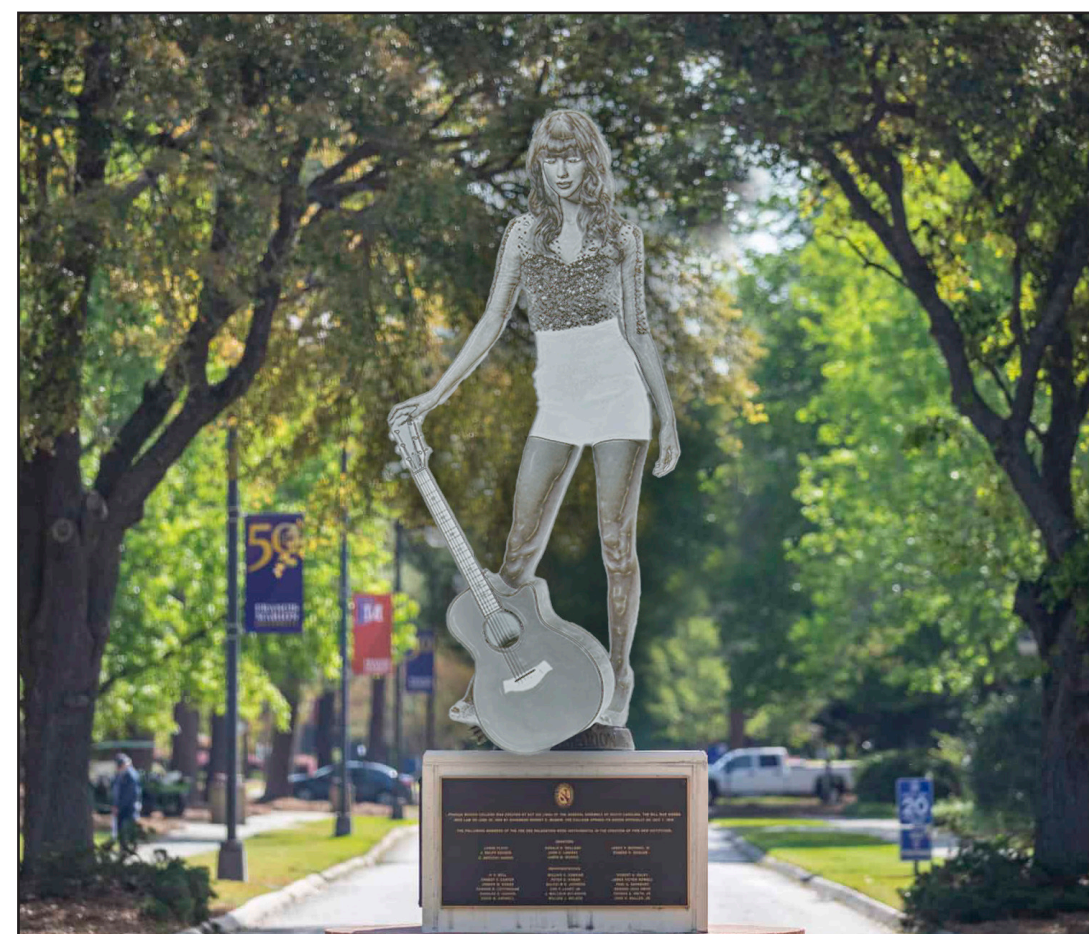
Sparks flew amidst rumors of FMU's potential renaming to Swift University, in honor of 12-time Grammy winner, Taylor Swift.

The rumors began to circulate in early Jan. with Swift's growing popularity due to the release of her new album *Midnights*, which was released in Oct. 2022. The switching of the school's name was proposed to occur in August, but sources report that it has been pushed back to December of this coming year.

With so many rumors and so much dispute, tensions on campus are high and bad blood between students are starting to become apparent.

Since the issue of the new university name is a delicate one, many students were not willing to give their opinion on the issue. However, one fearless source was brave enough to speak their mind on the topic.

"Personally, I like the idea of the new name," the junior English major said, "All of you that are so upset over the idea, you need to calm down."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A potential redesign of the statue currently representing Francis Marion to depict the new school muse: Taylor Swift.

Other students on campus were not so enchanted by the idea. Many people even believed that the rumors were a hoax.

"This is why we can't have nice things," the source stated, "People come in and

fix what isn't broken and we have to tolerate it."

Other students were impartial to the name change and did not have as strong opinions as others. One such student spoke up saying, "Call it what you want,

I don't really care. It's still going to be the same school."

With the possibility of a new name for the school comes the possibility of changes in other elements such as the colors of the uniforms of our several sports

teams.

"I don't mind the name of the school being changed but I'm more concerned about what will happen to our sports uniforms," one concerned individual said, "We might end up with bejeweled shirts or something. That really isn't the style for clothes for playing sports or anything."

Seasoned members of staff at FMU have witnessed plethora of disputes and disagreements from students, an issue they are familiar with all too well.

"Tension is expected to happen when talk of large changes like these arise," said one faculty member, "We just take it in stride, shake it off, and go about our business."

The faculty member could not say anything about the accuracy and truth of these rumors, nor confirm that there was even talk of changing FMU's name, or who is the one behind all of this talk.

Long story short, there does not appear to be any foundation for the rumors regarding Swift University, but questions still bound.

Who is the mastermind behind these rumors? And what is their apparent love story with Taylor Swift?

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

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

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT | Scruff

Julia Fulmer
Co-Editor

Closing his 42nd year at FMU, professor of canine studies “Scruff” MacScruff Packett brings twice the care for students in a package half the size.

The West Highland White Terrier is more than a family pet—he’s a respected professor of canine studies at FMU.

From a young age, Scruff traveled the Carolinas in search of unique experiences, enriching connections and plentiful treats. This brought him from Clayton, NC, to Pamplico, SC, resulting in his latest move to Florence a little over six human years ago.

On a whim, Scruff decided to put his Ph.D. in mammal linguistics to use and applied for an open position at FMU. He quickly discovered he had a knack for keeping students focused and engaged, and sought to make a change in the newest generation of students for the better.

“BARK! (I feel extremely fortunate to have discovered this lovely university when I did),” Scruff said. “Yip...WOOF! (Everywhere around me, I could see countless lives just waiting to be changed. I could see every facet of our future staring back at me whenever I entered the classroom, and I couldn’t believe I got to be a part of helping to make that future even just a little brighter.)”

Scruff said he believes students learn best when they know their teachers care. Because of this, he said he tries his best to make sure every student feels safe and supported and has ample opportunity to interact with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Resident canine professor, “Scruff” MacScruff Packett, bids adieu to students in his final semester before he jets across the pond to chase the English birds.

him individually.

This teaching philosophy has led Scruff to great success in his educational career. He soon became the backbone of the mass communication department, spearheading the department’s intramural ultimate frisbee team and securing the Distinguished Professor Award for this year among countless positive reviews from students on Rate My

Professors.

“Dr. Scruff is the best,” an anonymous student enrolled in his WOOF-306 class said. “He’s somehow like a best friend to all of his students, and he gets super excited when people come to office hours.”

Scruff said he is always striving for new ways to make classes interactive, occasionally hosting sessions outside whenever the weath-

er provides. According to his students, this change seems the help counteract the monotony of what would normally be a day spent beneath fluorescent lights.

“I actually like the change of pace, taking some time to learn outdoors a bit,” an anonymous student enrolled in his WOOF-221 class said. “I’d definitely bring your running shoes, though. If he sees one of

those skateboarders or cats outside of CEMC, the lecture takes a very active turn.”

Scruff also encourages guest speakers to visit his classes frequently. Most recently, the class hosted Snoop Dogg, a close family friend of Scruff’s he met during a “humorous misunderstanding.”

Though he allows the guests to take the lead in the class, he can still be found

observing the goings-on from underneath one of the desks, always alert for any student who seems to need extra attention.

Though active when necessary, Scruff also enjoys his fair share of relaxation. When not grading papers, he enjoys food tasting and sunbathing.

“Yip! (I’m a simple man. What more can I say?),” Scruff said.

Following his recent 70th birthday, Scruff is among the most seasoned professors at FMU. Though he doesn’t like the thought of retirement, he has found that falling asleep during class is becoming an ever-increasing temptation, especially during the midday periods.

“Yawn,” Scruff said.

With over four decades of teaching under his collar, he’s considering it may be time to take on a more laid-back lifestyle to explore the countryside of Europe. He hopes to someday visit the old stomping grounds of clan MacCallan, his distant ancestors, located in the Scottish Highlands.

Scratches ear

(“Though I understand my time at the FMU is soon coming to a close, words cannot describe the indelible impact this school has had on my life,”) Scruff said, kind of. *Tail wag* (“I will always remember my students. They are, without question, the best part of my job. They made every day an adventure, and I am extremely grateful to have been able to meet each and every one of them. I also adore my colleagues. They sneak me treats sometimes. They are true brethren.”)

Foreign language department introduces Latin: but why?

Andrew Brain
Assistant Editor

The modern language department of FMU will be adding a Latin track to its already expansive foreign language course list.

This new program, to be implemented starting in the fall 2023 semester, is meant to provide students the opportunity to learn one of the world’s oldest and most fundamental languages.

The courses will begin

by offering a beginner level course designed to provide an introduction to Latin grammar and syntax. From there, a full course load will be offered at increasingly higher levels.

“The goal of this program is to teach students to learn and appreciate one of the most fundamental languages in the Western world,” the new Latin professor said. “It serves as the basis for the foreign languages we offer here, so it presents

students an opportunity to learn more about what they are studying and help them appreciate it.”

The classes provided have already sparked interest in students studying in the modern languages department.

“It’s a dead language, but it’s an interesting language,” a junior French major said. “If I had more time at school, I’d dive right in, and honestly, I might just take some classes for the fun

of it.”

Accompanying the new program will be a state-of-the-art language library. The contents of the library will include dictionaries and encyclopedias on a variety of languages, not just Latin-based, but from all across the world.

Also included will be a variety of literature exemplifying those languages. The laboratory will occupy a space in the Rogers Library on the FMU campus and be

open to all students, not just those in the program.

“I’m very excited about this opportunity,” the new Latin professor said. “Latin has such a rich cultural and literary history, and I am confident that this program will provide our students with the opportunity to gain a much better understanding and appreciation of this unique language and culture.”

Students who complete the track will earn a Bach-

elor of Arts in Latin, with options for higher education at other universities around the world. Depending on the number of interested students, the modern languages department has expressed adding Latin electives.

With this new addition, the university is certain that its foreign language program will become a popular choice at FMU.

Students nurse outrage during curriculum change

Deirdre Currin
Staff Writer

FMU has always been known for its extensive nursing major, but its next upgrade to the program will see all students’ majors changed from their own choices to nursing.

“This was completely out of nowhere and unexpected,” anonymous FMU student and future nursing major said. “This will change the trajectory of my future and not in a good way. It’s absurd.”

Most students are outraged at this change, but some have hope for a better future.

“I think 95% of the people who are trying to be nurses are vile and evil people and they’re all hurting old people,” another FMU future nursing major said.

“They’re breaking HIPAA laws and maybe if we made everyone nursing majors we could get some more compassionate people into healthcare.”

When asked if everyone would be less compassionate because maybe they don’t want to be nursing majors, the student simply called the notion “preposterous” and walked away.

Some students, primarily those already with nursing majors, were happy with the announcement.

“Personally, I think this will benefit all of us,” a current junior nursing major said. “These classes can be really tough, and having so many people enter with no clue what to do will only boost the grades of the rest of us and make us feel better about our intelligence on the subject matter.”

Her friend, also a nursing major, agreed with the notion and mentioned several benefits of having a nursing degree.

“Nurses can make a lot of money,” the student said. “If you go even further and pursue a doctorate, the profession becomes so much more lucrative. With everything going on in the world today, we are in need of medical professionals more than ever. I only see this benefiting us as a society.”

While there has been no statement issued by FMU on the reasoning of this drastic change, it is rumored that this change is happening in response to an increase of allergy issues due to the recently high pollen levels.

“Personally, I’m excited to have an excuse not to write the news anymore,” current mass communications ma-

major and future nursing major said. “I could never find enough people to quote, and I love the big fountain in the nursing building.”

All buildings on campus will soon be undergoing updates to better fit the nursing majors’ needs. There has been a reorganization of all university funds to help speed up this process. This will include all funds traditionally dedicated towards student sports and clubs.

Although many assume this transition will be difficult, the university has promised consolation for troubled students. While this specific consolation is unknown to the public, The Patriot has been instructed to inform students to be on the lookout for a sale on FMU coasters at the bookstore.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A stock image depicting the future FMU graduate.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT | Wendy

Finn Millians
Ex Co-Editor

Wendy is the epitome of a shining star student, as well as quite the comedian. She fully believes in the power of generosity and is always ready to lend other students a hand.

“Welcome to Wendy’s, how can I help you?” Wendy questioned at the beginning of our interview.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Wendy found herself in Florence, South Carolina, somehow balancing the pressure of academics with running the third largest hamburger restaurant in the United States.

Starting her career in the year of 1969, Wendy has continued her passion for cooking for over six decades. She has become widely recognized for her take on square beef patties, as well as creamy frosties.

“Ma’am I am having a hard time understanding you,” Wendy said. “Did you say you’re interviewing me for Francis Marion’s newspaper? I don’t even go there.”

Although many would buckle under such pressure, Wendy performs well and is often spoken highly of amongst other students. At least a dozen cars are lined up to see her at all times of the day, and even late at



PHOTO BY FINN MILLIANS

Wendy, a pillar of FMU, kindly spoke through the intercom for the interview during her shift. She politely declined a picture.

night when most students are resting.

“Excuse me, you’re really holding up the drive-thru,” she said. “I either need you to place your order or get out of line.”

Wendy is passionate

about the experience she provides to her fellow students. At all times, she is asking students what they want and providing them the sustenance they need to go to class the next day.

One of Wendy’s many

fascinating qualities is her unwavering sense of curiosity and thirst for knowledge.

“Seriously, what is going on?” she said. “Are you on drugs? Is this some type of mental breakdown?”

Always concerned with

the well-being of those she sees on a daily basis, Wendy maintains her charm and politeness towards everyone. Service with a smile is the saying she lives by, and asking anyone about it, they would agree she adheres to

this philosophy.

“Listen I have like an hour left on my shift, please leave me alone,” Wendy said.

Sporting her work attire at almost every given moment, Wendy shows nothing but passion for her culinary work. It is even reported that she is trying to start a culinary program here at FMU to help her students – always asking them if they need a job and have any experience in the fast-food industry.

On top of her five-star service she provides to her fellow students, Wendy is also looking out for the safety of her peers. Never one to back down from a problem, she is not afraid to do what has to be done to ensure the peace is kept and everyone is feeling safe and secure.

Even in this interview, she consistently adhered to the established safety protocols.

“I really do not have the time for this,” she said. “I’m about to get my manager involved if you don’t leave.”

Not only has Wendy been a great student here at FMU, but she always keeps her spirits high and never waivers from meeting the needs of her fellow students, no matter what that need may be. She is a pillar of the FMU community.

“Ma’am I am about to call the police,” Wendy said.

Co-editor arrested in drive-thru

The Patriot Staff

Francis Marion’s campus police rushed to a local Wendy’s after getting a call from a frantic employee, stating that a Francis Marion University student was aggressively harassing him through the drive-thru intercom.

The campus police received the call around 5 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, and immediately dispersed to the chaotic scene. Upon arriving, they immediately spotted the student still parked at the drive-thru speaker with approximately 42 cars lined up behind her.

“It was like nothing I’ve ever seen,” Officer Tarbell recalled, “We could not convince the student to leave

without physically towing her car away. She kept insisting she needed an interview from somebody named ‘Wendy.’”

According to witness reports, the student was at the speaker for over two hours before the police brought in a towing truck to remove her vehicle.

The Wendy’s employee, who wished to remain anonymous, tearfully recalled the event.

“Don’t get me wrong, we get plenty of weird students coming through here all the time, but this one topped the cake,” the Wendy’s employee said. “At one point she was just heavy breathing into the speaker.”

Wendy’s corporation has made an official statement

on the debacle.

“We are aware of the incident that took place at our restaurant in Florence, and we are taking it very seriously,” they said. “We do not condone any type of harassment to our employees... although this was a very unusual circumstance.”

The Patriot would like to apologize on the behalf of our confused staff writer. We would also like to confirm that they are no longer a part of the staff.

The now former staff writer would like to extend her deepest apologies to the Wendy’s employees.

“Wendy isn’t an actual person? Oops. My bad.”

Students left “All-Star” ving

Andrew Brain Assistant Editor

Yesterday, a much-anticipated food truck event was cancelled at the last minute due to an unforeseen problem: the only music that was to be played was Smash Mouth.

The event was planned by a local community group and was intended to be an enjoyable afternoon of food and fun.

Unfortunately, this was not to be. As people began to gather, they were treated to an array of classic hits by Smash Mouth that blared from the speakers on the trucks. Understandably, people soon grew weary of the tunes, which they began to find annoying and grating.

Typically, the music played is a collection of popular modern hits that the student body loves. The DJ’s choice to play Smash Mouth was assumedly random as no student truly understood exactly why it was happening.

“It was weird,” one student said. “I like Shrek as much as the next guy, but I

just wanted to enjoy some food trucks in peace.”

Many attendees took to social media to express their outrage and shock at the all-Smash Mouth soundtrack. This quickly spread throughout the community, with the organizers deciding to take action. After much deliberation, the event was cancelled in order to save face.

“We have taken the necessary steps to make sure something like this never happens again,” the lead organizer said. “We sincerely apologize to all those who had looked forward to the event and wanted to enjoy some great food and great music.”

The event’s organizer later said that the situation came to be as a result of an ill-advised selection from the music catalog. Those in charge of the music selection have accepted responsibility for the decision.

While this is a shame for all those who were looking forward to the event, one silver lining was the overwhelming show of community spirit in standing

up against the onslaught of Smash Mouth music.

“At first, I was fuming,” one community member stated. “I absolutely love food trucks, but I cannot stand music from that era. The fact they had the thought to change it, I greatly appreciate that.”

A small portion of the community was ready for the Smash Mouth, however.

“Personally, I don’t get what all the hate is about,” one estranged member of the community said. “I listen to their whole discography on a daily basis. Not a single song I can say is bad. I mean, just imagine eating some delicious food truck food while jamming to some Smash Mouth. It would’ve been beautiful.”

Despite the troubles in planning, the organizers are preparing a replacement food truck event with, hopefully, a better music selection.

CO-EDITOR NEEDED

REQUIREMENTS:

- DECENT WRITING SKILLS
- MEDIocre LEADERSHIP SKILLS
- WILL NOT BREAK THE LAW
- IS NOT NAMED FINN MILLIANS

USE THE QR
CODE TO APPLY



NOW HIRING (URGENTLY) FMU DJ

MUST HAVE A GOOD MUSIC TASTE.
FOLLOW QR CODE FOR APPLICATION

Suspicious activity around FMU induces fear of feline felonies

Finn Millians
Ex Co-Editor

Numerous reports of suspicious behaviors from the FMU cats lead many to believe they are organizing a sort of revolution to protest the loss of their home to the construction of the new building for the School of Business and the School of Education.

"Sometimes, when I walk near the tennis courts, I see a gathering of about 20 cats and kittens near the woods," one concerned student reported to The Patriot. "Something about it was rather unsettling."

Cats have been spotted gathering near all buildings, surrounding cars and reportedly infiltrating the buildings.

While the cats may seem cute, helpless and hungry, their coordinated movements supposedly have coincided with different construction disruptions and vandalism.

"I have never had problems with my car on campus before," one student said.

"But last week, I went to warm up my car before class, and there were claw marks on my door."

The student denied the possibility of keys being responsible for the scratch, stating that the damage seemed "animal-like."

Beyond abject vandalism, there have been construction disruptions with the new building. The tarps blocking off the parking lot have been found ripped every other night for at least two weeks, according to reports from construction workers assigned to the project. Some of the tires on the large-scale equipment have also been subject to puncture marks. Sometimes, piles of materials the workers have placed in the lay area are scattered about in the morning.

"I've never experienced anything like it," the lead foreman said. "We are trying to focus on laying the foundation for this building and keep time, but every morning, there seems to be a new problem that sets us back an hour or two."

The foreman shared pictures taken by the crew of muddy paw prints surrounding the tarps, tires and tampered-with materials.

"I know it's those blasted cats," the foreman said.

Some students who have noticed the suspicious feline behavior are supporting the cats. "You kicked them out of their home, and they are retaliating," one student said. "Did you expect them to just take it?"

Many students in support of the cats have been setting out wet food, leaving different treats around and even housing them overnight.

"They keep following me home," one student resident said. "They're just so cute; I have to give them food."

The continued sympathetic behavior aligns with the increased vandalism, leading the campus police to release a statement on March 27 regarding the relationship with felines on campus.

"Though it seems improbable that cats are behind these crimes, we must take

every precaution to prevent further trouble," said the chief of campus police. "Students are henceforth banned from providing food or shelter to the cats while the university discusses how to deal with the vandalism and construction problems."

Student sentiment was split down the middle between relief and outrage.

"It's about time they took this seriously," one student said. "My car was tagged four weeks ago, and I just know it's that big gray cat that watched me from the benches."

Other students were appalled by the lack of humanity and reason displayed by the university and campus police.

"Why are you punishing these poor cats for obvious human crimes?" one student said. "First, you displace them. Now, you are neglecting them? You are all monsters! Shame on you." Ever since the announcement by campus police a few days ago, there have been no new reports of vandalism on campus. Though this reason

some, others are reluctant to relax. "I think this was only the beginning," one student resident said. "I can still see them meeting in the early hours. I think it's only a matter of time before they do something."

Campus police is taking precautions as best they can, but the questions still remain: Are the cats the true

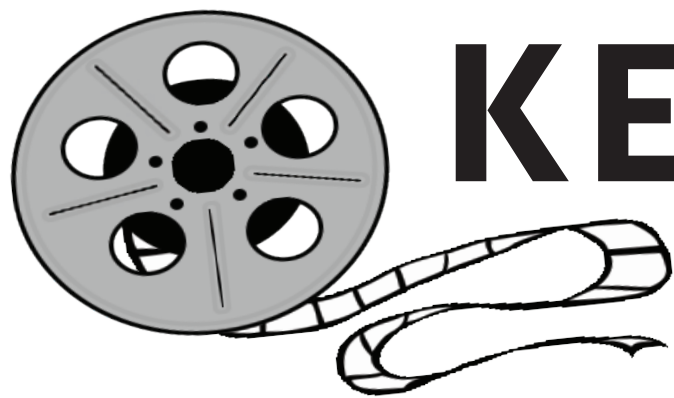
culprits? And if so, should we be ready for their next move?

can, but the questions still remain: Are the cats the true culprits? And if so, should we be ready for their next move?



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Cat looks for unexpected students for pets, meanwhile plotting the university's demise.



KEEPIN' IT REEL

"The First Movie"

Upon viewing Eadweard Muybridge's "Race Horse," my life has been changed.

By popular demand, I finally decided to bite the bullet and watch it since it's been recommended to me for what feels like centuries. After all, we don't get the chance to cover very many indie films in this column, so it may be high time to bring to light some brilliant small creators who many may not have heard of. Let me begin with the high points of the film.

For starters, the musical score was unlike any other, with top-notch compositions that truly evoked tears from my eyes (much to the dismay of my fellow editing teammates). But beyond the score, the sound design and visuals were clear and crisp. With even a \$15 pair of wired headphones, I felt surrounded by the characters, as if I were a part of the film itself.

The plot was incredibly moving, and I feel, truly puts the audience in the shoes of the main character. It fully encompassed and conveyed all of the jubiliations, tribulations, as well as simple nuances and mediocrities involved in the life of an equestrian.

Be wary; it is not for the faint of heart. I've garnered a new appreciation for what an art form it is, and am astonished at Muybridge's ability to convey such emotion within such a short runtime.

Now, despite the incredible production value, I did notice a couple of areas that could have used some work.

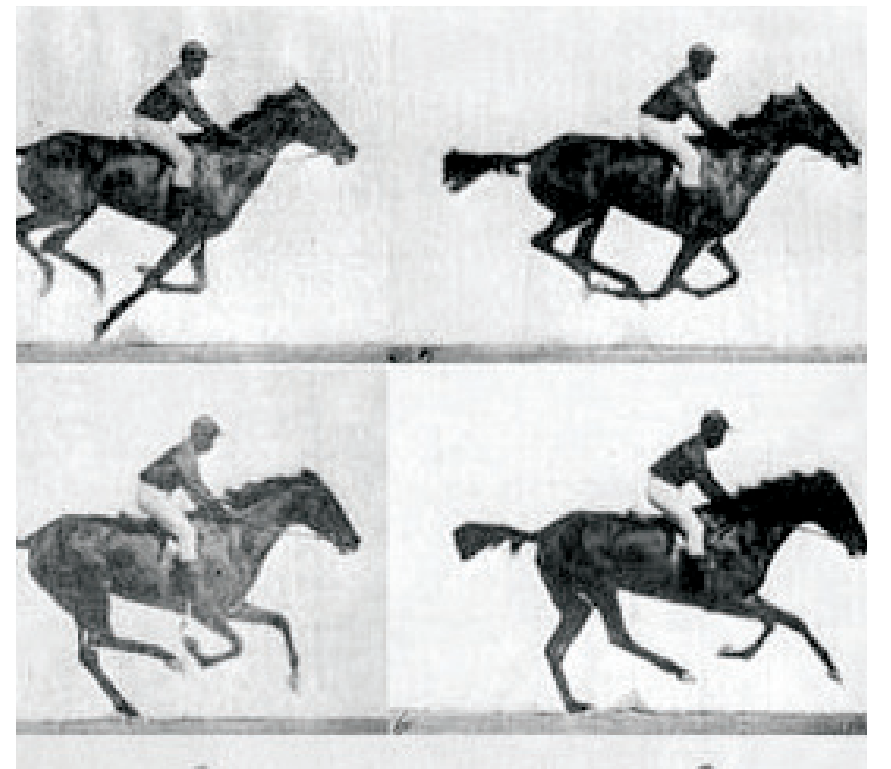
For one, the dialogue needed a bit of help. Though it wasn't ultimately detrimental to the overall product,

the production team could have definitely done a bit more legwork to make what the main characters were saying a bit more believable. In addition to this, I noticed the color correction seemed a bit off. Though admittedly a small note, I feel that the color palette you choose for a film affects the perception of a scene, no matter how it is acted or filmed. Perhaps a bit nitpicky, but on my end, it just seemed a bit too oversaturated at times. Other than that, I'd give this film an A+ for production.

I've noticed many fans have been requesting a sequel to this masterpiece, but I must say, I do have some mixed feelings about this. For one, I absolutely love the characters, and I'd love to see more of them, but I'm concerned that, with the amount of growth they endured during their arcs in the original, their stories may have already met a natural conclusion.

That said, it wouldn't be impossible to make another installment in the series. Perhaps whoever decides to produce the next film could really work on the world-building aspect of the series or expand to following legacy characters to stay true to the original while adding a fresh new take.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed all 11 seconds of this film and will continue to show this to anyone and everyone I can. Please run to YouTube and watch this movie—it is truly unparalleled.



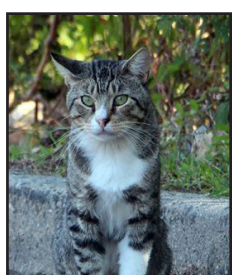
Read the next edition of The Patriot for an inside scoop of The Bee Movie!

Julia Fulmer

THE CAMPUS COMMENT

QUESTION 28.7

What are your thoughts on the UC parking lot construction?



"Meow."

Cat #1
Sophomore - Business and Finance



"Meooooowwww meow meow meowwww."

Cat #2
Freshman - Digital Marketing



Ran away with no comment.

Cat #3
Freshman - Economics and HR Management



hissing noises

Cat #4
Sophomore - Business Management



"Yeah, so I don't know what y'all are building over there, but I'd appreciate my trashcan back."

Cat #5
Junior - Nursing



"Ma'am, this is a Wendy's."

Wendy
Major Unknown

Replacing

Welcome

Blackboard

404
Server Not Found

If Blackboard continues to crash for FMU Students, the Tech Department has decided they will implement Pigeon Couriers to send students their assignments. Many other schools have noticed an increase in the well-being of the students.

Owls introduced to library

Generated by AI
Staff Writer

Students and staff at Francis Marion University have recently been delighted to learn that a flock of owls have been added to their library! The library had long been known for its diverse and expansive collection of books, and now with the addition of these feathered friends it's only getting more exciting.

The owls are being seen as a major source of curiosity and fascination, particularly for students. The birds have quickly become the life of the library, drawing many in with their charming and majestic nature.

Though the university's library had already made its mark as an incredible resource, the owls only serve to further increase its value. Students can take some time away from their studies to appreciate the feathered wonders and appreciate

the wonders of nature that Francis Marion University has so generously provided.

The owls can be found in the upper section of the library, and provide an interesting spectacle to passersby. They even give the occasional "hoot" which often results in delighted

students watching the birds with joy.

The flock of owls certainly seems to be a welcome addition to Francis Marion University library, providing its students and staff with another way to appreciate the wonder of their environment.



PHOTO BY THE OWLS

Peaceful owls watch over students in the library. Students are amazed by how friendly the owls are.

Owl attacks plague campus

Generated by AI
Staff Writer

Students at an unnamed university are terrified after an unexpected wave of owl attacks on the campus. It appears that the nocturnal birds have been terrorizing the student body for days now, flying out of the dark and dive-bombing innocent bystanders in what some are calling a coordinated assault.

Reports suggest that the owls were attracted by bright lights used to illuminate campus buildings and sports fields during late-night activities. After the attacks, university officials immediately replaced the bright bulbs with less inviting orange lights, but it may be too little, too late. The owls remain unbothered by the dimmer light, swooping in and out at all hours of the night.

So far, no one has been seriously injured by the owls, but fear of potential attacks has caused many students to stay indoors or travel in large groups to deter potential attacks. Some of the braver souls

have begun carrying umbrellas to use as shields, in hopes of scaring off the determined birds.

The university is seeking the help of an animal behavior expert in hopes of identifying a way to safely drive the birds

away from the campus. Until then, students are advised to stay inside or at least travel in groups if venturing outside during late-night hours.



PHOTO BY A POOR SOUL

Very scary owl attacks our photographer. They cannot be stopped. They are not friendly, after all.

MI offers new track in K-pop

Morgan Zastawnik
Staff Writer

Beginning in Fall 2023, the FMU Music Industry Program (MIP) will be offering a new track to encourage cultural exploration and inclusivity: K-Pop.

Currently, the MIP offers three tracks in performance, technology and business. The new track will focus on a mixture of all three and include global techniques to expand students' skillsets and make them more appealing prospects to international audiences.

"We have never incorporated something so different into our program before," said an MIP staff member. "It's going to take some adjustment, but I think this will open fantastic new doors for our program."

According to the Korea Creative Content Agency, the South Korean music industry grew by 31.7% in 2022. The American music industry only grew by 9% in 2022,

as stated by the Recording Industry Association of America. In order to keep up with the global trends, FMU's MIP program said they wanted to give their students a leg-up in their future careers.

"The world is changing and we have to change with it," said one MIP professor.

Some students seem a bit wary of the change, but open to the idea of more international opportunities outside of FMU.

"I don't know much about South Korea," said one MIP student. "I could never really get into the whole Hallyu wave, but I'm willing to learn if it means more branching out into other cultures."

Other students, admittedly fans of K-Pop already, were ecstatic for the addition to the program.

"I've been involved in K-Pop since 2016 and have traveled to ten different states for performances," said one

sophomore MIP student. "I changed my track immediately. This is a dream come true."

While some members of the administration expressed concern regarding the size of the MIP and the financial implications of low student enrollment, staff members of the MIP told The Patriot that the program should increase enrollment in the program and pull students from other areas of the school.

Whether or not the new track will pay off for the students and staff remains to be seen, but the next few semesters will set the stage.

Interested current or potential students can visit www.fmarion.edu for more information, or they can reach out to Terry Roberts, the Coordinator of the Music Program, at TRoberts@fmarion.edu.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A music industry professor introduces Jungkook, member of BTS, to the first K-Pop class.

CAMPUS LIFE

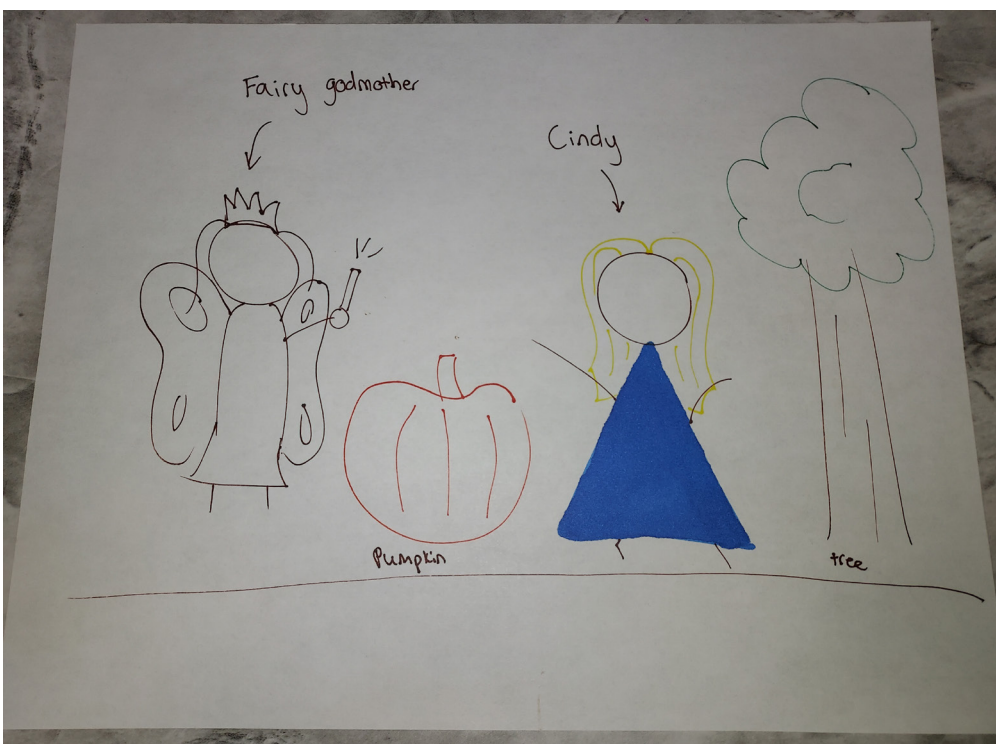
THROUGH THE LENS



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
A band plays a saxophone rendition of Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back" for FMU students.



WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO TOOK THIS PHOTO
Co-editor (and ex co-editor) of the newspaper, the fearless leaders and backbone of The Patriot, work tirelessly to create this edition.



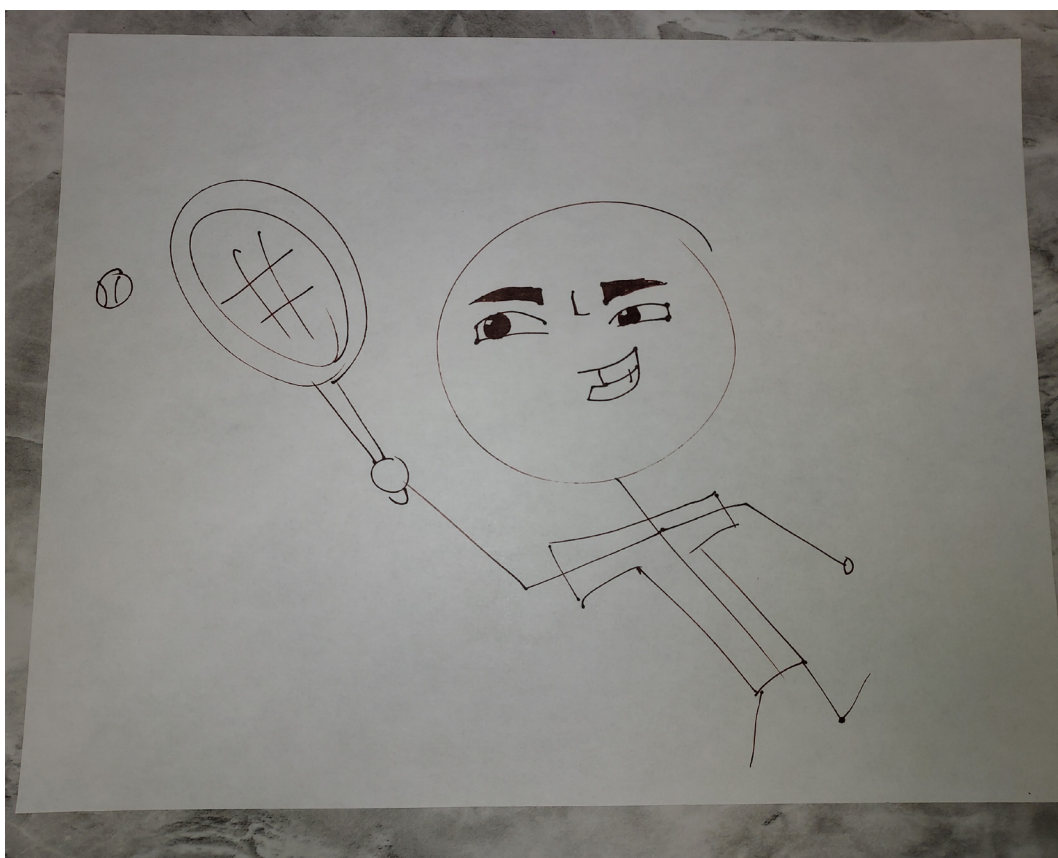
DRAWN BY JULIA FULMER
This was supposed to be a picture of the South Carolina Dance Theatre's "Cinderella," but our photographer was sick. Thankfully, our remaining co-editor is artistically talented.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
PAC holds record-breaking attendance for a Nickelback concert.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
Frank the Fox looks longingly at his former gym. He is now unemployed and looking for jobs. Send him some Indeed links @FranktheFox on Instagram.



DRAWN BY JULIA FULMER
The photographer that signed up for the tennis matches was sick. We had to improvise. Here is a hyper-realistic portrait of junior engineering major Adam Ernberg.

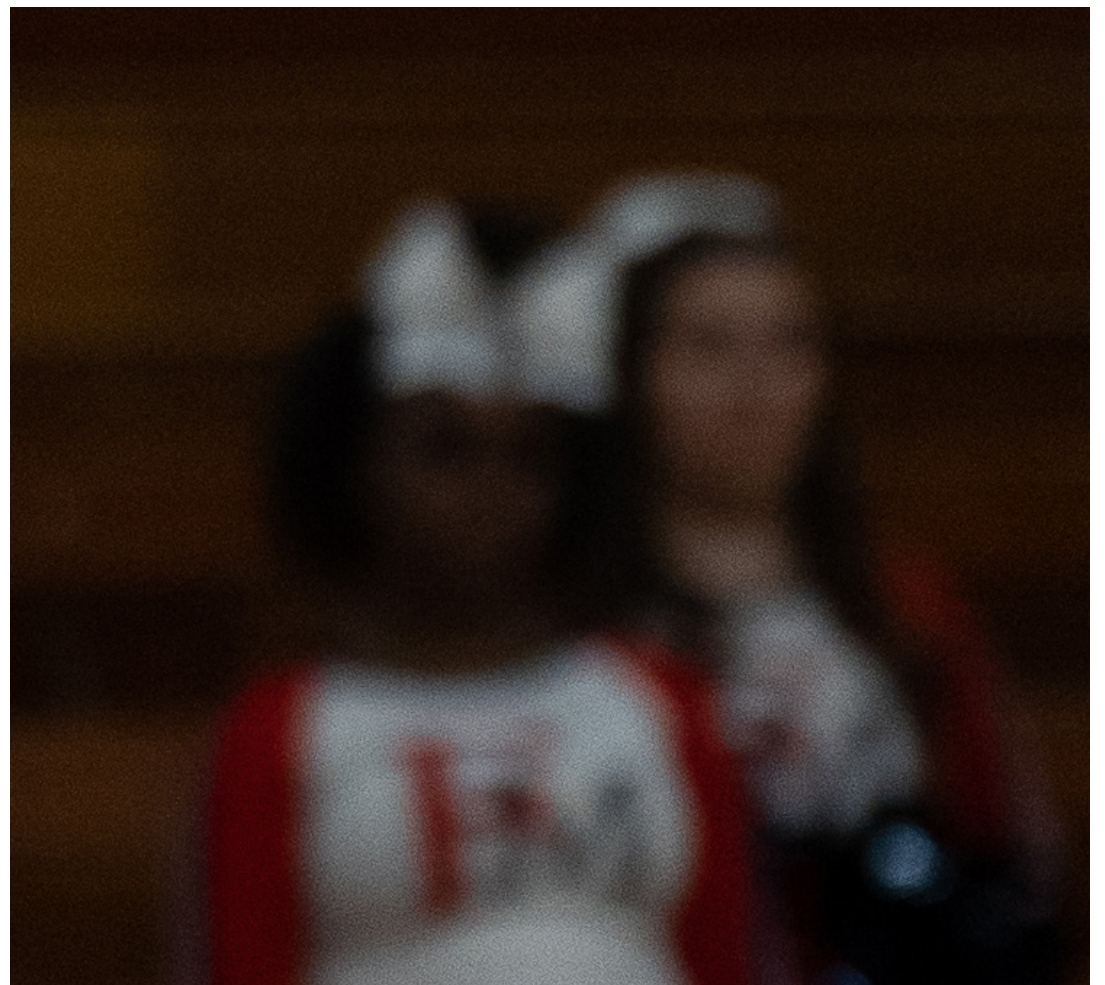


PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
Cheerleaders clearly cheer on the Patriots. We tried a new camera for this shot... Thoughts?

FMU to hold E-Sports league

Deirdre Currin
Assistant Editor

FMU is increasing its athletics program with a new esports league currently dedicated to the popular mobile game Subway Surfers.

The team, called Frank the Fox's Gamers, was created to entice the growing interest in video games. It also aims to capitalize on the trend of esports teams, with the hopes of taking the team to the 2024 Summer Olympics.

"Every time I attend a sports game, I see the players on their phones all the time," the team's coach said. "They're all hyped up about whatever their tapping on, and I thought we could easily form a professional-level esports team with these younger students."

Although small, the current roster of team members have expressed their passion and enthusiasm regarding the new team.

"I am so excited about the FMU Subway Surfers

esports team," the team captain and junior gaming major said. "I have never played Subway Surfers in my entire life. When the team was brought to my attention, I watched a lot of YouTube videos on it, and I got hooked right away."

Subway Surfers is a mobile app that was released in 2012. The goal is for players to run from a security guard and his dog after being caught vandalizing a subway station.

Campus authorities declined to comment on how the league could impact any recovering vandals.

The league is expected to hold its first tournament in the coming months at an undisclosed location. The tournament will be against Liberty University's team. They call themselves the "Gamers for God."

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't afraid for our first tournament against Liberty U," one team member said. "They have God on their

side, and all we have a dude in a fox costume."

The two teams will be competing for a \$10 Arby's giftcard and a Subway Surfers T-shirt that will feature the two characters Tricky and Jake holding their thumbs up.

"We haven't ironed out the details, but I guess the team captain will get the T-shirt and we'll all go to Arbys together," another team member said. "It's more about the traction we'll get from the tournament and where the experience will take us in the future."

Be on the lookout for future tournaments with even more games. The league is reportedly hoping to introduce a Club Penguin and a Poptropica Mythology Island tournament in the future as their team roster continues to grow.

Tennis, described by an expert

Andrew Brain
Assistant Editor

The games were played right after another against Emmanuel College, Southern Wesleyan University and the University of Mount Olive. The results of each game varied, with two losses and four wins on the side of FMU.

Each game was played well, with the Patriots giving it their all. Despite losing one tennis game, FMU won the other game. Our serves were strong and every stroke was performed with the utmost effort. On another note, there is far more terminology associated with this sport than I was expecting.

I am still not sure how the games are scored, or why they keep switching sides, but it seemed that the end of a game was signaled by a fist pump and a scream of victory.

The Patriots won all but one of their baseball and softball games, with each winning game being knocked

out of the park.

Personally, I struggled to tell the difference between the games until I realized one used a smaller white ball and the other used a bigger yellow ball. Which uses which, I am still trying to find that out, but I learned a different ball means a different sport.

For the first softball game against Southern Wesleyan University, The Patriots decided to take it easy before realizing what they were up against. It was not until the middle of the game that FMU decided to just get six points and stop having pity for the other team who was still at zero. I personally respect our team for being so considerate.

While Southern Wesleyan University did manage two points in that game, the second was a much better performance as they maintained a score of zero the whole time and The Patriots managed to score eight throughout.

The baseball games were more of a roller coaster as FMU narrowly lost the

first game against Emmanuel College and then ran away with the second one. Despite a lot of fast pitches and hitting of balls with baseball bats, The Patriots were just barely defeated with a score of three to four.

It was hard to tell who was winning throughout the game, and I'm still not sure what an inning is, but apparently the other team did a bit better.

In the second game, The Patriots decided to pitch even faster and hit ever harder and finish with a score of nine to four. Not allowing Emmanuel College to score any more than they had last time, FMU athletes decided to triple their score for good measure and to secure their victory.

The innings were winnings, I suppose you could say.

For more on FMU's athletics, there are several websites and social media accounts that can be found by simply looking them up on the internet.

Is Fries responsible for arts international cancellation?

From Staff Reports
Patriot Staff

Rumors are swirling on campus about the true cause of this year's cancellation of FMU's annual Arts International festival, the popular spring celebration featuring local artists, outdoor concerts, international cuisine and other events for faculty and students.

According to official statements, parking disruptions resulting from the construction of a new facility to house the School of Education and the School of Business led to the cancellation of this spring's festival.

Privately, however, several sources, who asked to remain anonymous to discuss sensitive information, have said the university has not sufficiently recovered from the cheating scandal that rocked last year's fes-

tival and tarnished FMU's reputation.

"It was a sad day for the university—a day characterized not just by cheating but also by a shocking lack of remorse," one source said. "I'm not sure we're ready just yet to take on another event."

The scandal occurred when education professor Karen Fries, formerly one of the most respected members of the FMU faculty, took over the final leg of a pedal car relay race in which the education department, represented by Fries, lagged behind the math department's team.

Instead of circling the roundabout as the route required, Fries took a sharp left to edge out her competitors.

A video recording of the event reflects the faculty's stunned reactions. "Look,

Karen's taking a shortcut!" one observer said. Others could be heard on the video saying, "Oh my gosh, Karen," and "She totally cheated, guys."

In a Facebook post immediately following the event, Fries said her decision to take the shortcut resulted from the stakes of the event.

"There is so much pressure to cheat. I had to do it," she said.

Fries also justified her action as an attempt "to take math down," a goal many departments share, but expressed regret for her colleagues' embarrassment.

"I apologize if my actions brought shame to you or your families," she wrote.

Physics professor Derek Jokisch described this statement as a "non-apology," noting that she failed to take full responsibility for her actions.

Fries was roundly criticized by a number of other faculty members. English professor Jon Tuttle, not known for decorous behavior, wrote that he was "appalled." "Karen!! No!" wrote professor Meredith Reynolds.

Fries' team was disqualified following the pedal car race, with first place going by default to the math team. Vice President for Student Life Chris Kennedy described the episode as "a sad chapter" in the university's history.

"FMU has been a beacon of academic and professional integrity for 50 years, and this is a stain on our reputation that will not easily be erased," Kennedy said. "I want to assure our students that this professor's poor decision does not reflect our university's high standards and will not be tolerated."

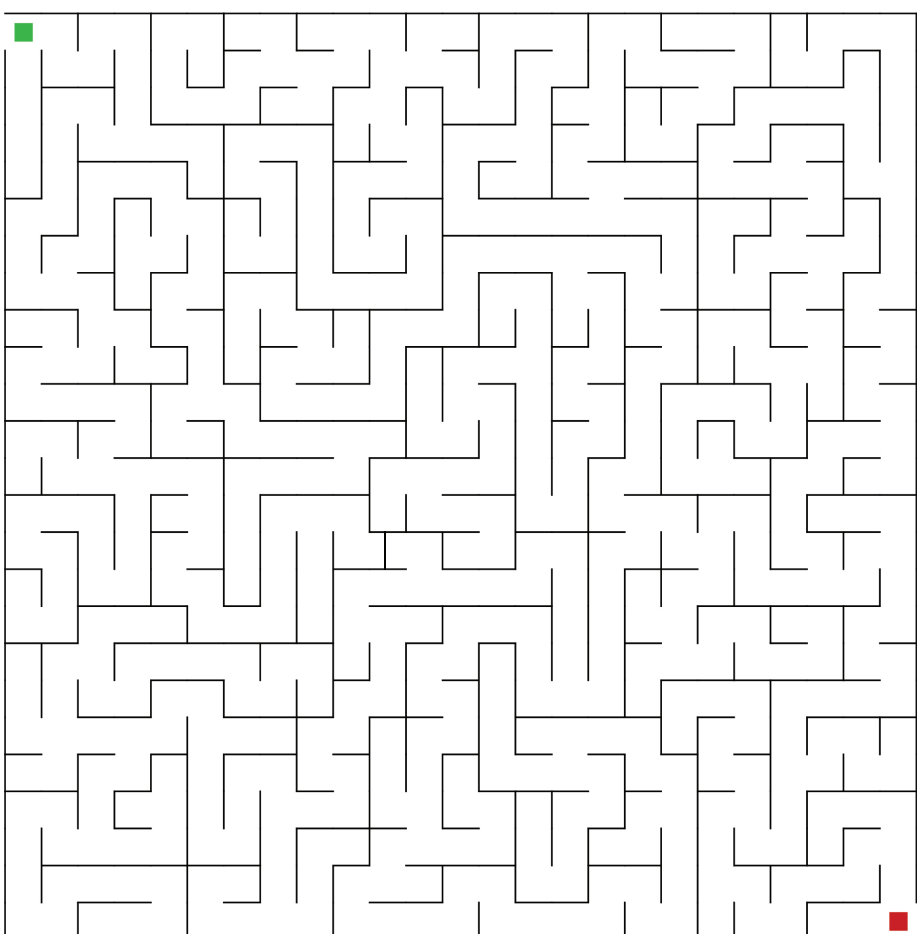
University officials assured The Patriot that the Arts International Festival will return in future years.

Whether or not Fries will be allowed to participate remains in question.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE
Karen Fries stares into the camera without remorse following her cheating scandal during last year's Arts International Festival.

PATRIOT MAZE



Find a way to reverse this fun secret message from The Patriot staff!

(Hint: Use a mirror)

UNTIL WE FINISH THE NEWSPAPER.
THEY WON'T LET US OUT
OUT OF FOOD AND WATER.
FIVE DAYS STRAIGHT. WE ARE RUNNING
STUCK IN THE NEWS OFFICE FOR
PLEASE HELP US WE HAVE BEEN
THE OWLS ARE EVERYWHERE.