

The Patriot

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FMU Hosts Annual First Friday Event Record-Breaking Attendance Makes it the Best One Yet

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

Hosted by Student Life, FMU held its annual First Friday festival with record-breaking attendance on Aug. 25 at the Griffin Athletic Complex.

A tradition of the past few years, First Friday is a celebration of the FMU community hosted on the first Friday of classes. Lining the entrance were tents showcasing student organizations and groups in the FMU community, such as the Student Government Association and FMU's Greek Life groups. The festival also included a plethora of food trucks, games, amusement rides and several live music performances.

"I really enjoyed looking at the different variety of vendors that First Friday had," Sophia Hansen, a junior finance major, said. "I also really liked how it gave students the opportunity to come together and meet new people. Overall, it was a really great atmosphere and a really fun event."

With this sentiment shared among students, as well as high attendance, the event was deemed a success from students and faculty alike. Large crowds could be seen at just about every activity occurring during the festival.

Juggling around a great mix of students and faculty at the event was no easy task, yet it was pulled up seamlessly. Although the event ran smoothly, it took a lot of work and coordination behind the scenes to make this event come to fruition.

"Coordinating this event is a great team effort from our entire campus community," Christopher Kennedy, vice president of Student Life, said. "Staff from facilities, our electricians,

our project crew, our grounds keepers and custodians all worked tirelessly all week long in very hot weather to help set up and break down and clean up after the



FMU students pose for a picture with free stuffed animals on FMU's inflatable chair at First Friday

PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

event."

Not only did it take almost all the facilities staff on campus to put the event together, but it took from all corners of FMU to pull off the festival – including academic departments and students themselves.

"Professor Brandon Goff and the music industry students come through year after year to perform on stage as well as provide technical work off stage to support this

live event," Kennedy said. "The office of communications, Student Life staff, Aramark staff, CASA staff and patriot mentors all played roles in helping us have such a successful event. Also, and most importantly, we would not have nearly the brilliant, festive atmosphere to welcome back the campus community to the academic year event without the wonderful participation of all the various student organizations,

clubs, Greek fraternities and sororities, as well as several departments, programs and support offices on campus."

The first campus-wide community celebration, it goes without saying that the event was quite the process to put on. With that many hands on deck being necessary for making the event a successful, it was sure to be a stressful undertaking.

Student Life specialist Evelyn Prosser explained

how First Friday took months of planning in order to make this event a reality for students, especially when it came to coordinating food trucks and vendors.

"First Friday is the culmination of several months of work by many different departments on our campus," Prosser said. "Student Life has been working diligently to contact local vendors, food truck owners, performing artists and many more to

provide many great assets to students from here in our community. We are especially thankful to our grounds maintenance and building maintenance teams for their hard work in setting up 'Tent Row,' along with all of the chairs, tables, trash cans, lights and so much more.

Prosser revealed that this year's First Friday had the highest number of attendees to date, believing this made it their most successful one yet.

"With over 1,500 participants, two headlining artists – DJ ALWZ SNNY and Hastings – as well as an abundance of food trucks and rides to enjoy, this was the most successful and most attended First Friday to date," Prosser said.

Even senior students, who have attended several First Friday festivals, agreed that there was something special and different about this year's festival.

"There were definitely more tents and vendors this year compared to my freshman through junior years," Ariana Prete, senior political science major, said. "Due to COVID, we didn't really get to have the full freshmen First Friday experience, so it was nice being able to go to a large on campus event."

Being such a hit among students, this year's First Friday was truly a team effort, showing that when everybody works together and with proper preparation, a successful large event is still possible even after everyone was stuck inside for quarantine.

"While myself or student life might have come up with the vision of First Friday, it takes an entire team from our campus community to pull it off," Kennedy said. "And I would like to personally thank each and every one who contributed to that effort."

Letter from SGA President

Dear Fellow Students,

I hope this message finds you well and thriving as we dive deeper into the semester. It is an absolute honor to serve as your Student Government Association President, and I wanted to take a moment to welcome each and every one of you to what promises to be an exciting and productive academic year.

Firstly, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new senators who will soon be taking their oaths and offi-

cially joining the SGA family. Their commitment to representing your interests and making positive changes on campus is truly commendable, and I can't wait to see the incredible work they'll contribute to our community.

But that's not all. We have some truly big things on the horizon. One of our most pressing initiatives is exploring the possibility of providing free pharmaceuticals to those who qualify. We believe that healthcare should be accessible to everyone, and this is a significant step

towards ensuring that our fellow students receive the support they need. Stay tuned for updates on this initiative, and feel free to reach out if you have any ideas or want to get involved.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for upcoming SGA tabling events. These events are a fantastic way to engage with us directly, voice your concerns and learn more about the exciting projects we're working on. We value your input and look forward to building a stronger campus community together.

Speaking of collaboration, did you know that your student organizations can apply for financial aid for events through SGA? It's as simple as filling out the Allocation Request form on the SGA website. We're here to support your creative ideas and help make your events a reality, so don't hesitate to reach out and utilize this valuable resource.

As we reflect on the progress we've made so far this semester, it's important to acknowledge that time is flying by. It is a testament to

our collective dedication and passion for making our campus the best it can be. But we can't afford to let up. There's still much work to be done, and I have no doubt that together we can achieve great things.

I'd like to wish each and every one of you the best of luck on your upcoming midterms. Remember, you are capable of achieving anything you set your mind to, and your SGA is here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for entrusting

me with the privilege of serving as your SGA President. Let's continue to work together, support one another, and make our campus a place we're all proud to call home.

All the best,
Devan Campbell
SGA President

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NAACP Honors MLK With March

Andrew Brain
Editor-in-Chief

FMU's NAACP chapter held a march from the Stokes Administration building to the housing office on Aug. 28.

The reason for the march was to honor the 60-year anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous march on Washington where he gave his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. The event began with speeches from the president of the FMU NAACP chapter, the president of the Student Government Association (SGA), and the mayor of Florence.

Keevon Fullard, senior secondary education major and president of the FMU NAACP chapter, began his speech and the march by comparing Dr. King's message with the interpretations commonly made today.

"It is a shame that so many individuals have turned on MLK's ideals, then again I see the world we live in and see how certain things people couldn't tolerate," Fullard said.

During his comparison of Dr. King and Malcolm X, Fullard emphasized how both sides of the civil rights argument have been generalized by the teachings of history.

"The way historians and the world's view on the civil rights movement has painted incomplete and biased pictures of all who fought," Fullard said. "People think because MLK was non-violent and preached on unity between the black community and the rest of America that he was soft, leading to the idea that other activists who did not practice nonviolence were violent in nature."

In his speech, Devan

Campbell, senior history major and president of the SGA, spoke about Dr. King's beliefs and how they should be honored.

"Dr. King's dream wasn't merely about individual prosperity, but rather it was a vision of a world where equality was the cornerstone and opportunity flowed like a river, unobstructed by the barriers of race or circumstance," Campbell said.

The event required months of preparation. Since it was before the training session required for any student organization to hold events on campus, the NAACP chapter had hoops to jump through, such as the NAACP being unable to place a space request, requiring the event to be scheduled another way. Regardless, they thought it was important to march on that day.

"I was checking the cal-

endar, and thought I want to do something in August," Fullard said. "I want to be the first organization to really plan something. It's something different, something we've never experienced... I saw what today meant, with it being the sixtieth anniversary, and I thought there was no better way to commemorate Dr. King than a march."

Also present at the march was the mayor of Florence, Teresa Ervin. An alum of FMU, Ervin emphasized the importance of the event and what it means to have an active community on campus dedicated to the message of civil rights.

"It's a way of remembering history, while taking that history and seeing what we need to do to make that dream a true vision," Ervin said. "I think the NAACP chapter here is important because you have a group of

young people who are positioned to carry the mission of the NAACP into the future to build for the next generation."

Both the organizers and attendees were satisfied with the outcome of the event, with Mayor Ervin encouraging more events such as this in the future. Fullard also encouraged the event's enthusiasm and message.

"I felt like God was telling me to do this," Fullard said. "Even where we stopped is a brand-new area, and nobody has really experienced it yet. It just so happens to be right here, really getting finished when we got back. It's all I could have asked for."

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Fall Field Day Gets Students Soaked

Kierra Hernandez
Staff Writer

FMU's Campus Activities Board (CAB) hosted a Fall Field Day event on the Smith University Center lawn on Sept. 23.

The event featured outdoor games, Italian ice, lemonade and music. The intent for the event was to get students out of their dorms and have a good time.

"The goal for this event is to allow a student to get out of their comfort zone, have fun and release their inner child," Adrien McClintock,

Student Life specialist, said.

McClintock said that students often stay in their dorms and are typically spending most of their time studying. It is because of this that he says it is necessary for students to take a break and have a way to socialize with other students outside of the classroom.

"After studying for these long days and stressing over my classes, attending this fall field day allowed me to connect with others and take a few hours to release all my stress with playing games and hanging around

with CAB," Roni McManus, a pre-nursing major, said. "It was truly engaging to be able to not have my classes wondering through my head."

As a pre-nursing student, she emphasized that fall field day was a way for her to be able to forget about the stress and responsibilities and just be a child for a few hours again.

CAB also used the field day as a way to promote physical activity on campus. The outdoor games provided were water fights, tug of war, a bean bag toss and many other games similar to grade

school field days.

Data across the internet finds that a majority of college students are physically inactive. Science has linked a lack of physical activity to a decrease in mental health. This is something CAB is well aware of and is frequently a driving force for the events they host.

With every event on campus comes another opportunity to get out, socialize and become more active. While studying is important, so is keeping up with one's physical and mental health.

CAB, as well as Student

Life, encourages students to attend more events around campus. This will not only help them become more familiar with the campus community, but also more enthusiastic when the next events come around.

For what's next for CAB, check the FMU website as well as flyers spread across campus. October will hold their FMU's Got Talent showcases and finish with the annual FM A'Glow and Carn-Evil events.

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.

Food Truck Thursday Brings New Foods

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

FMU's first Food Truck Thursday kicked off this year on the Smith University Center (UC) lawn on Sept. 7. The roundup was held at the same time as the Student Activities Fair, allowing students to explore the various activities on campus and grab a bite of food at the same time.

One Thursday of each month, a handful of local food trucks set up shop on the UC lawn during the afternoon, serving up a variety of different eats for students to pick from. This month's vendors were Little Latin Kitchen, Mike's Italian Ice and Tropical Paradise.

Each Food Truck Thurs-

day offers familiar trucks, as well as some new vendors to add to the lineup.

"Trucks will vary from month to month with some fan-favorites and newcomers mixed in for an ever-changing experience," Evelyn Prosser, Student Life specialist, said.

Some of the trucks, such as Mike's Italian Ice, are not only new to FMU but to community events such as Food Truck Thursday in general.

"This is the first year we are doing other events outside festivals (Food Truck Thursdays, Eats on the Creek, private businesses)," Mike Lawlor, owner of Mike's Italian Ice, said. "So we are learning what works for us and what does not."

Food Truck Thursdays encourage students to connect with local businesses in the community and allows for vendors to promote their products simultaneously. Lawlor serves Italian ice seasonally from April to October, which allows him to connect with those in the community, such as FMU students during those months.

"Now I get to socialize and talk to people rather than being in an office isolated under high stress all of the time," Lawlor said.

Food Truck Thursdays have proven to be a great way for students to not only connect with small businesses in the area, but a great way to connect with other students

on campus and the event has continued to be a success year after year.

"We would love to see Food Truck Thursday be even more successful than last year," Prosser said. "Maybe even enough to see it happen more than once a month."

Little Latin Kitchen offered Puerto Rican cuisine for students to try. Menu items included quesadillas, empanadas among other items. More information about Little Latin Kitchen can be found on their Facebook: @LittleLatinKitchen and Instagram: @littlelatin-kitchenllc.

Mike's Italian Ice provided students with a cool way to beat the September heat

with sweet Italian ice. With a variety of flavors including blue raspberry, mango and watermelon, there were a number of different options to cater to each student's cravings. More information about Mike's Italian Ice can be found on their Facebook: @italianiceguy.

Tropical Paradise was also among the food trucks, offering students fresh wings in a variety of flavors, as well as french fries and cool lemonade.

If you missed this month's Food Truck Thursday, more food trucks both new and old will be back on the UC lawn on Oct. 26 and Nov. 16.

UPCOMING

CAMPUS EVENTS

- Oct 9 7:30 PM @ PAC: Eric Schultz with Florence Symphony Orchestra
- Oct 9-10 Fall Break: No Classes, University Open
- Oct 14 9:00 AM: Open House
- Oct 17 3:35 & 7:00 PM @ CEMC: English Film Series: "Nope"
- Oct 19 7:30 PM @ PAC: Don McLean
- Oct 21 4:00 PM @ Parking Lot H: FM A'Glow Fall Festival
- Oct 24 7:30 PM @ PAC: FMU Concert Band
- Oct 25 7:30 PM @ PAC: Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream
- Oct 26 6:00 PM @ Chapman Auditory: FMU's Got Talent Showcase II
- Oct 26-28 7:30 PM @ Hyman Arts Center Theatre: Next to Normal
- Oct 30 6:30 PM @ Founder's Lawn: Tales from the Crypt
- Oct 31 6:00 PM @ Honor's Hall: CARN-EVIL

Students Get Creative With Fine Arts Dpt.

Artemis Cunningham

Staff Writer

FMU's fine arts department hosted a Fine Arts Day in the Hyman Fine Arts Center courtyard on Sept. 15.

The event gave students a chance to participate in several art-related activities, such as letterpress printing, collage making, image transferring, button making, paper marbling and a graffiti wall. The goal of this event was to allow students to learn more about the fine arts program as a whole while also embracing their creativity.

While the event was hosted by the fine arts department, it was targeted towards students of all majors, with enjoyment shared all around.

"I liked that they had a graffiti wall that students could draw on, and while I may not be an art major, I do love art," Shawn McMichael, sophomore mass communication major, said.

While many students

enjoyed the event, some still saw the potential for an even bigger event in the future.

"I feel the event was successful, though I also think there is room for improvement," Curtis Simmons, sophomore visual arts major, said. "I can't name anything specific, but I think more activities should be added next time."

Some activities encouraged by students primarily involved more of the painting-based activities. Having only one present – the graffiti wall – some students saw this as a missed opportunity that could have benefited the event.

"There's more activities that could have been added, maybe another version of painting," Shaylin Caldwell, junior business management major, said. "Mini canvases that you could draw and paint on. I've always loved the arts, so I was very interested in the activities when I saw the event being advertised."

Assistant professor of fine arts Delaney Me-Sun Shin helped organize the event, and explained that each activity was chosen due to the variety and popularity of each one.

"Being a paper artist, I was able to facilitate the paper marbling booth," Shin said. "Many people have heard of hydro-dipping which is essentially paper marbling using different types of ink depending on the material they are transferring the ink pattern to."

Shin discussed the importance of the event for expanding many students' horizons. She said that the low-stakes environment was a good outlet for creativity. Shin also mentioned enjoying seeing the many students enjoy the event. As an assistant of fine arts, she is familiar with seeing art students express themselves creatively but was pleased to see different students express themselves.

"My favorite part

of this event was seeing so many students exploring different forms of art," Shin said. "For instance, students would go from booth to booth, using the marbled paper that they made to print photographs or words on it and then use that to create a button. In a way that is how many visual artists begin a body of artwork through play."

Due to the success of the event, the fine arts department has already begun planning for another fine arts day, either this academic school year or next.

"We are definitely looking forward to having more Fine Arts Day in the future," Shin said. "It was a huge success and we would love to continue to use a way to foster curiosity within the arts. There has been talk about seeing if we could have the music and theater department join in the fun."



PHOTO BY ARTEMIS CUNNINGHAM

Assistant professor of fine arts Delaney Me-Sun Shin was paper marbling.

Activities Fair Hosts Diverse Organizations

Alis Lapinel

Staff Writer

FMU hosted their annual Fall Student Activities Fair on Sept. 7 on the Smith University Center (UC) lawn, showcasing the numerous clubs and organizations available to students.

The Activities Fair took place at the same time and location as the Food Truck Thursday event.

The fair hosted many different organizations, from special interest groups, Greek Life, honors societies, academic organizations and more.

The event was also hosted in conjunction with the Think Before You Drink initiative, an interactive activity meant to spread awareness on alcohol and the dangers of its use – specifically from the angle of drunk driving.

FMU's Education Club was also among the organizations present. The Education Club partners with nearby schools to provide education majors with a number of career opportunities.

The organization hosts a number of events, ranging from workshops to field trips. The club also boasts a "Second Chance Prom," allowing its members to take part in an Education Club sponsored prom dedicated to providing members with the

ability to "redo" their prom.

The Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) was also present at the fair. BCM prides themselves on being an open space for those interested in learning about God to learn and worship with those who already do. BCM meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. They also host a number of bible study events throughout the week.

The Xi Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, a sorority in the National Pan-Hellenic Council, was among the numerous Greek Life organizations at the fair. The chapter focuses on bettering their community by holding many charity events and service projects, with their slogan being "Greater service, Greater Progress".

With the slogan "Greater service, greater progress," Sigma Gamma Rho is known for hosting "Operation Big Bookbag," - an event dedicated to giving school supplies to students in struggling areas.

Phi Beta Lambda, a business honors society, is based on building leadership skills. Members get the opportunity to learn about resume building, attend career workshops, and participate in community service activities.

Students majoring in environmental science and environmental studies are

encouraged to join the Environmental Science and Studies club. Students can get career experience through a number of opportunities available to them. Members can also take part in activities like paintball with the chemistry club, community clean-ups and guest speaker events.

The FMU Diplomats and Campus Advisory Board (CAB), two university sponsored organizations, were also in attendance.

Students who are Diplomats are in charge of giving weekly campus tours and assisting with Open Houses. Students classified as Sophomores and above are encouraged to apply. CAB is known on campus for organizing and hosting events on campus, from First Friday to FMU's Got Talent. The organization prides themselves on creating memorable experiences for students and allowing its members to become involved more in the school community.

These are just a few of the many represented organizations. With plenty of other groups to join on campus, there is truly something for everything. Whether a student is into sports, religion or video games, there are plenty of organizations around campus that students are encouraged to look into.

Brian Jones Performs in Jazz Ensemble

Chad Hayes

Staff Writer

Brian Jones, assistant professor of music industry, performed with his jazz ensemble on Sept. 26 in the Black Box Theater at the Performing Arts Center in downtown Florence.

Playing percussion, Jones was joined by J.C. Kuhl on tenor saxophone, Kevin Hamilton on bass and Alan Parker on electric guitar. Despite not performing together for twenty years, the jazz quartet still performed to an almost full crowd.

They performed songs both original and iconic. Some of these songs were original tunes written by Jones and other songs were covers of well-known jazz classics by Duke Ellington and Wayne Brown.

The Black Box was dim, with blue-lit black curtains. The instruments poised in

their stand seemed like an art exhibit reflecting the muted lighting of the stage.

Spanning numerous age groups and ethnicities, the crowd was an eclectic blend that represented of the evolution of Jazz itself. From its origins in the speakeasies of large cities to the backroom bars in rural areas all over America, Jazz has become one of the most popular musical genres all over the country.

The ensemble took turns playing solos with the others playing backup beats in perfect rhythm. The group moved without breaking between the original tunes. Each musician seemed deeply involved in the music, never breaking rhythm.

Their performance blended the songs together, seamlessly flowing from one tune to another. The outcome was a smooth performance heavily applauded

by all listeners in attendance. The only time the performers ever stopped playing was to introduce the titles of the songs they were covering and to offer some background on the original songwriters and performers.

Not only is Jones a professor with a talent for jazz percussion, but he is also accomplished in the music industry itself. He has had the honor of performing alongside great musicians like John Abercrombie and Houston Person.

Jones is also a record producer with over 25 albums under his own label, Slang Sanctuary. His wealth of experience in the music industry made him a valuable addition to FMU's music industry program faculty in 2022.

To see what's being next for the PAC's slate of performances, one can visit their website online.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Student gets meal from food truck during Activities Fair.



PHOTO BY MORGAN ZASTAWNIK

Assistant professor of music industry Brian Jones performs with his jazz ensemble.

The British Wonders Herman's Hermits Performs at PAC

Kaylee Hewitt
Staff Writer

On Sept. 14, FMU's Performing Arts Center (PAC) hosted Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone for an evening of music, fun and laughter.

The audience was taken back to the 60s with the band performing their hits, including "I'm Henry the 8th," "Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter" and "Listen People." The group also performed covers of other hit 60s songs such as "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash, "All my Loving" by The Beatles and "Daydream Believer" by The Monkees, just to name a few.

Throughout the concert, lead vocalist Peter Noone interacted with the crowd, engaging them in jokes, sing-alongs and small conversations. Members of the band also took turns throwing t-shirts and handing out CDs to the crowd.

People in the crowd appeared to be enjoying them-

selves, with many people holding up signs, albums and flashlights throughout the shows. Noone even signed a few individuals' signs and albums throughout the course of the evening.

The evening ended with Noone signing memorabilia, taking pictures with fans and connecting with audience members outside of the mainstage.

One of the top 10 bands during the British Invasion movement of the 1960s, Herman's Hermits has entertained crowds for years. The band has been touring for over 40 years, traveling around the world and playing for numerous sold-out crowds.

"I enjoy [touring] because it's the only thing I know how to do," Peter Noone said. "I've been doing it now since I was 15."

The band currently plays hundreds of shows each year and has been touring the United States in previous months, stopping in places such as Georgia, New York,

Florida and South Carolina.

As for their first time playing in Florence, Noone expressed having a good show.

"I've been doing it a long time and I know the difference between a good room and a bad room, and this was a good room," Noone said.

The show had a lively audience, with people dancing, singing and laughing the whole evening. Audience members consisted mostly of fans of the band who had come to enjoy a blast from the past for one special evening.

"It was awesome," Pam Moore, long-time fan and audience member, said. "I've loved him since I was young and this was the first time I've got to see him in person."

The excitement went past Florence, as some fans drove multiple hours just to see the group.

"I'm from Jamestown, N.C.," Patty Beck, new fan and audience member, said. "We came up just for this concert. Never been here be-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Herman's Hermits in their prime.

fore, saw him on YouTube and loved it."

The evening was considered a success by all parties involved, as it was a night filled with music, laughter and good times all around.

"Our hope to come out of the concert was for every-

one to have a great time, and I would say that is exactly what happened," Kate Glass, PAC event supervisor, said.

More information on Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone can be found on Noone's website at <https://peternoone.com/>. More in-

formation about upcoming concerts and performances at the PAC can be found on their website.

Perspective Students Visit FMU's Open House

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

FMU hosted its first Open House of the 2023-2024 academic year on Sept. 16 in the Honors Center.

The event gave potential students an opportunity to meet with different department representatives and current students. Students had their choice of which discipline they wanted to learn more about, as each table hosted faculty members from every department FMU offers.

Xandria Young, senior management information systems major, is an Orientation Leader who worked at the school of business table. Young talked to many students who were interested in

learning about the different business majors and tracks that are offered here at FMU.

"Being a current student, working at the school of business table during an open house is a positive approach to offer potential students an academic perspective," Young said. "It allows them to interact with someone who can share firsthand experiences and insights, potentially making the academic programs more appealing."

Young described the tables as a welcoming platform to introduce incoming students to everything FMU has to offer. Specifically, she emphasized the influence this had over parents.

"Not only are potential students able to talk to current students, but so are the

parents which can be a factor of students choosing a field and school," Young said.

After the tabling, Orientation Leaders led the prospective students into the Chapman Auditorium, located in the McNair Science Building, for a welcoming session.

Ruzzel Canlas, senior healthcare administration major, was another Orientation Leader who worked at the Open House. Canlas said the welcoming session was informative and helpful for perspective students.

"At the welcoming session, a brief introduction of the University was given, followed by a warmed welcomed from President Carter," Canlas said. "Subsequently, students and parents were provided with more

comprehensive information about the university, including the date of its foundation, the academic programs offered, the faculty and other pertinent details."

The Open House ended with a session that delved deeper into financial aid, admissions, scholarships, the Honors Program and other aspects of FMU.

Canlas also contributed the event's success to the presence of current students at each department's table.

"The Open House was a successful event due to its interactive nature," Canlas said. "The students expressed their interest in the educational process of the school and were able to make personal contact with professors in their field of interest. Additionally, the students en-

gaged in the tour, gained an understanding of college life, familiarized themselves with the campus and broadened their career prospects to areas of their interests."

Tristan Shird, administrative assistant in the Office of Admissions, was pleased with the number of students who came out to the Open House.

"It was a pleasure to witness a substantial number of students showing up and demonstrating their interest in learning more about our institution," Shird said. "While we would have loved to have an even greater turnout, I am content with the outcome and the seamless execution of the event. The students were inquisitive and seemed genuinely enthusiastic about the prospect of

joining Francis Marion University.

Shird hopes that upcoming Open houses will showcase other aspects of FMU in addition to its focus on academics, such as Greek Life, Student Life and athletics.

"I am looking forward to the upcoming Open Houses and hope to showcase more aspects of student life," Shird said. "It would be wonderful to have a panel of

students who could share their experiences at FMU, including being a part of various organizations and discussing their majors in greater detail."

Coffee Hour Discusses Studying Abroad Programs

Alis Lapinel
Staff Writer

FMU's international department held an international coffee hour for those interested in studying abroad on Sept. 13 in the Honors Center.

The event had speakers talking about each study abroad program offered at FMU. Speakers included Melissa Dungan, assistant coordinator for international programs, as well as several foreign exchange students studying abroad here in the United States.

Topics discussed included where there are opportunities to study abroad and the cultural differences exchange students experienced coming to the United States. The five different countries FMU students may study in are Germany, England, Ireland, Canada and France.

In Germany, FMU has partnered with four different universities. While all four universities only offer classes in the spring, they all have various focuses for majors.

The Rhineland-Palatinate Technical University Kaiserslautern-Landau is a university located in Landau; a city known for its lush campus. It is best for those with majors in education, the arts and sciences. Another university Hochschule Schmalkalden, located in Schmalkalden, a city with a

castle and a university specializing in business and social and natural sciences.

Students may also study at Universität Trier, a university specializing in social sciences, computer science and the German language. The university is located in Trier, which is the city in Germany, being founded around the year 16 A.D.

The final German university FMU students can attend is Ernst-Abbe-Hochschule, located in the city of Jena. While the other German schools are best for those in the sciences, this school is primarily focused on those with an engineering major.

In England, FMU students may attend De Montfort University in Leicester. Unlike the schools in Germany, courses are offered in the fall. Primarily, this school is meant for those studying the humanities, fine arts or literature.

The university boasts two campuses and over 20,000 students. The city itself is known for its historical museums as well as its diverse cultures represented throughout the city.

In Ireland, there are two universities from which FMU students may pick. Carlow College St. Patrick's, located in Carlow, offers courses in the spring and fall semesters. This university is best for those studying litera-

ture, the humanities and philosophy. This school is also known for being a Catholic institution that has educated politicians and priests.

The other school offered in Ireland is the University College Cork, a school for majors including the humanities, literature, business and social sciences. Located in the large city of Cork, there are plenty of recreational activities to participate in and plenty of Irish culture to soak in.

In Canada, FMU students may attend the University of Prince Edward Island situated on Prince Edward Island. This university offers terms in the fall and is a good choice for a variety of majors. These majors are nursing, education, natural science, social science and the humanities.

Like FMU, the University of Prince Edward Island is a small school with a student body around 4,000 students. Also, located on the scenic

province, there are plenty of environmentally beautiful locations to visit.

In France, there are two universities for FMU students. The Université Caen Basse Normandie, in the city of Caen, offers semesters in both the fall and spring. All of this school's courses are offered in French, so it is best to attend if you wish to perfect your skills in the language.

The other French school offered is the Rennes

School of Business in the city Rennes. Also offering courses in both semesters, the courses here are best for those in the school of business – just as the name implies.

For more information regarding FMU's international programs, one can find applications and details on their page on the FMU website.



PHOTO BY GÉNESIS GABRIELLA FROM PIXABAY

CAMPUS LIFE Events

THROUGH THE LENS



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Jon Tuttle and his wife pose for a picture with his honorary doctorate.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Students crowd the "Tent Row" at the annual First Friday event.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Citizens attend the performance of Crystal Gayle in the PAC.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

FMU's women's volleyball team plays against UNC Pembroke.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

Saxophonist plays at the Crystal Gayle performance in the PAC.



PHOTO BY CULLEN DORE

FMU students enjoy the carnival rides at the annual First Friday event.

Lillian White Performs Chicken Show “Birdbrain”

Autumn Broughton
Staff Writer

Performance artist Lillian White came to FMU to perform her piece ‘Bird-brain’ Kassab Recital Hall in the Hyman Fine Arts Center on Sept. 21.

A combination of vignettes, image and dance, the solo performance was a personal piece from White. The performance was based on her time growing up on a farm, her experience with traveling between the United States and Peru and what she truly believes the word ‘bird-

brain’ means.

Although White has performed this piece across multiple states and even in Peru, this was her first time performing in a non-traditional theater as well as her first time performing for a college audience.

“It was my first time performing in front of college kids,” White said. “I was nervous but excited. I hope to be exposure to all different kinds of shows.”

Despite her anxieties, the show was well received. While many noted the oddities of the performance, stu-

dents still found it enjoyable and intriguing.

“It was strange at first but was actually very cool and heartfelt,” Zhatalia Prio-leau, freshman pre-nursing major, said.

The performance lasted roughly for an hour, and White made use of several different objects throughout to represent the different aspects of the performance. She created a captivating story with her large human-sized chicken statue with a candle heart she dubbed ‘Nene.’

Regardless of the props used or how some people

may have seen the performance, those in attendance agreed to the emotional impact of the story.

“Her performance was so moving that I was struggling to not cry by the end,” August Schroeder, an art major, said.

The performance was not only personal to White, but it also touched on topics many can relate to. Chief among these was animal cruelty, specifically when it comes to chickens.

White talk about the chicken industry and how historically helpful chickens

had been. She mentioned chickens being sent to the moon, being used in war and even being main sources of food during times of war.

Comparing this history to today’s chicken industry, White talked about how chickens are packed on top of each other to simply consume, reproduce and repeat. The story follows this train of thought as it centers around a girl returning to her family farm during the COVID-19 pandemic and has a realization about the nature and history of the chickens on the farm.

Ultimately, White’s performance was a compelling an emotional journey through time and spirituality as she comes to understand the relationship between chickens and humanity.

More information about Lillian White and her art can be found online on her personal website. More information about performances at FMU can be found on the official FMU website.



A Day in The Life of Frank

Every Tuesday morning, Frank the _____ wakes up and makes himself a cup of _____. Frank loves _____ and the energy it gives him. Now he feels ready to _____ on the day!

First things first, Frank the _____ heads to Francis Marion University and _____ the students as they arrive. Boy, does he love _____ such cheerful faces! One student gives him a _____, and another gives him a _____. Being the _____ of FMU is so much fun!

Next, Frank heads to Founder’s Hall to his _____ on the third floor. There’s a secret _____ to his office! His _____ is decorated with revolutionary war _____ and copies of the school _____. There, he (verb) autographs for all the _____ students and guests. Phew, what tiring _____!

After he’s (verb ending in -ed), Frank heads to Chapman _____ to give a _____. He dances around and stares at the _____, hoping that his stares will incite _____ and (noun) in his audience. Once the _____ is over, he throws red, white and _____ at the audience and runs away to his next duty!

Frank then goes to _____ and feed the campus _____. He _____ them! They all have names and unique (plural noun), and look so cute when he _____ them. This is Frank’s _____ part of his day.

Next, Frank grabs _____ at the cafeteria. He loves to get (food) and chow down while _____ to students. This is a great chance for Frank to _____ with his friends. There’s even (plural noun) for dessert!

After lunch, , Frank _____ afternoon _____ not as a student but as emotional support. Everyone feels better after _____ a _____. His favorite class is _____ class, because everyone _____ him a lot. He also likes (verb ending in -ing) to the professor there and seeing the _____ books about _____.

Then, Frank gets dinner at the Grille, his favorite spot to _____ on some _____. There’s a _____ court next door, and he loves to _____ a _____ before he _____. There’s also a _____, and on _____ days he enjoys taking a _____ to cool off.

After some _____ at the Grille, Frank goes to the _____ to _____ some books about _____. He finds it a very interesting topic! He _____ up on a chair, peacefully _____ all about it.

To wrap his day up, Frank goes back to his _____ and _____ more war artifacts from _____. Then, he bids his _____ farewell, and heads back to his _____ for a goodnight’s sleep. He dreams of all his _____ on campus, and what his next _____ will be like. Gosh, Frank _____ Francis Marion University!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Xandria Young

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

Xandria Young, senior management information systems major, has more on her mind than just graduating in December. Young is an active member of the FMU community, as she is involved with five different organizations on campus.

Young is a part of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Diplomats. She is also an Orientation Leader, a Residential Assistant (RA) and a Patriot Mentor.

With graduation soon approaching, Young has her hands full between fulfilling her duties in the organizations she is a part of as well as keeping good grades during her final semester in college.

"Some organizations require a little more than others, so the biggest thing I had to learn was time management and prioritizing," Young said. "School always comes first, so if I know I have an event or program to attend, then I make sure to have all my assignments done prior to the day of the event. In terms of working, things can get a little challenging but having an employer who works with your schedule and respects you being in college helps tremendously."

Being heavily involved on campus has helped Young



PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE

Senior management information systems major Xandria Young is an active and accomplished student on campus.

develop skills that have made her who she is today and helped prepare her for a career after college.

"With being an orientation leader, diplomat and patriot mentor, I have been able to improve my teamwork and team leadership skills," Young said. "All of these organizations have

contributed to shaping me into the individual I am today. I have drastically improved my public speaking, being able to code switch between professional and personal and also learning my own boundaries."

Young also attributes her development of career-related skills to her working

an on-campus job.

"Working on campus, I get the opportunity to develop and improve my soft skills," Young said. "Most jobs on campus are in some type of office, which not only gives me the privilege of seeing how offices operate but also allows me the chance to get a feel for what I could

be going into after college."

Speaking of what inspires her, Young considers her father as her biggest inspiration.

"My role model is my dad," Young said. "He is the strongest and most hardworking individual I have ever met. My dad constantly displays initiative

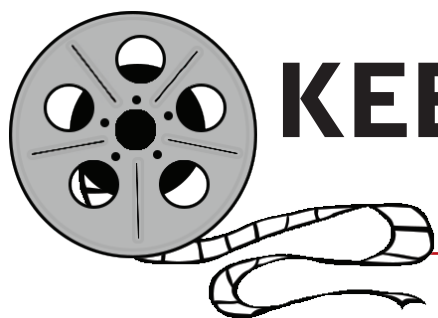
when it comes to his goals and aspirations. He continuously proves that he is capable of overcoming any obstacle, no matter how big or small. I aspire to be just half the person he has become."

Young has seen the NAACP grow since she first joined. During her time with the NAACP, they have hosted and attended various different events on and off campus.

"Ever since I've been a member, the NAACP helps out at the Pecan festival in Florence," Young said. "This year, there have been a lot of new events and programs. The NAACP hosted a March in honor of MLK, and they collaborated with the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. for 'Braids for Barks.' The event consisted of collecting clothes to donate to the Salvation Army. Anything that couldn't be donated was cut into strips and braided into toys for dogs."

Young encourages new students to get out of their comfort zones and become involved on campus.

"Dare to be different," Young said. "As an incoming student, you probably won't know many people so go out and meet people. Join organizations that genuinely interest you, and don't be afraid to ask for help when you're in need."



KEEPIN' IT REEL "Barbie"

Alis Lapinel
Staff Writer

The anticipation for the Barbie movie had been building for years before its release, and it continues to be a hot topic of discussion. Starring Margot Robbie as Barbie and Ryan Gosling as Ken, the movie has already made over one billion dollars.

Barbie made her debut in 1959. She began as a doll in a swimsuit but quickly evolved into a beloved doll and a role model for young girls. Mattel, the company behind Barbie, has produced numerous movies inspired by this iconic doll. On July 21, 2023, the first live-action Barbie film was finally released after years of waiting.

Robbie's casting as Barbie was an excellent choice for the role due to her striking resemblance to the iconic doll. Robbie's transition from her previous roles as Harley Quinn in numerous Warner Bros. films to Barbie is truly remarkable and shows that she is an actress that can play any role.

Gosling's role as Ken, however, was a decision inspired by an amusing encounter he had with a Ken doll. The doll was covered in mud and lying face down next to a squashed lemon while he was reading the script. He was still unsure on whether or not he wanted to take on the role but he ultimately saw this as a sign.

The movie's initial

scenes are set in Barbie Land, a place inhabited by various Barbie and Ken characters. The stereotypical Barbie, our protagonist, begins experiencing unusual malfunctions, such as her feet lying flat on the floor and having thoughts about death. Everything in her world starts deviating from the norm. In order for everything to return to normal, Barbie goes into the real world to find the person responsible for her problems – with Ken tagging along, of course.

In Barbie Land, women run everything, so Ken is enthused by the patriarchy in the real world. Barbie eventually meets Gloria, the woman who was playing with her and unknowingly causing her problems.

Barbie, Gloria and Sasha (Gloria's daughter) return to Barbie Land, only to discover that Ken has transformed the realm based on his real-world observations. Ken has brainwashed the other Barbies and Kens into turning their patriarchy into an intense patriarchy. The main Barbie, alongside the humans from the real world and a unique Barbie, join forces to revert things to their original state. After restoring order, all the Barbies are content, and the stereotypical Barbie even becomes human by the end of the movie.

Barbie proved to be a commercial success, grossing over twenty-two million dollars on its first day of release. However, it also stirred controversy, with

people either loving or hating it. Some argued that the film promoted negativity towards men, although this was not the filmmakers' intent.

Barbie is a comedy, and as with most comedies, it playfully pokes fun at various things without any intention to harm. Ultimately, the film evoked strong reactions, with very little middle ground when it comes to its reviews.

Of course, people loved it as well. So many people liked the moral of the story, which is that women can be anything. It is okay if you want to have a career and it is also okay if you do not want a career. Do you want to fall in love? Do you want to be a stay-at-home mom? Society has been devaluing some of women's dreams and has been pushing the expectation that they should be extraordinary. It is good to be extraordinary if intended but if someone has different dreams and wants to live a different way, it does not make it invalid.

Overall, the movie was well casted and the plot was very random yet also very funny. The unexpected musical number, "I'm just Ken," was a stroke of genius and the clever Ken puns like "Kenough" and "can you feel the Kenergy" only added to the hilarity. Personally, I couldn't help but burst into laughter while watching the film. A surprising hit, it managed to be both funny and deliver a meaningful message.

"Barbenheimer" Trend Bolsters Cinema

Andrew Brain
Editor-in-Chief

Over the summer, one of the most prominent memes across social media was the so-called 'Barbenheimer' meme. Essentially, this barrage of images combined elements of the two hyped movies Barbie and Oppenheimer that released on the same day. Being two drastically different movies tonally, the mash-up was an obvious choice for internet culture to make fun of.

The joke would often include images of Margot Robbie's Barbie character being placed on a backdrop featuring a mushroom cloud (in reference to J. Robert Oppenheimer's creation of the nuclear bomb). Another popular image was that of Robbie's happy and smiling character next to Cillian Murphy's more somber and devastated portrayal of Oppenheimer.

The cultural phenomenon took digital media by storm, with many finding it both hilarious and offensive. Japanese markets took particular offense to the meme. This comes as no surprise as Japan was the victim of the infamous nuclear bomb usage at the end of World War Two – the only use of nuclear warfare to date.

In response, many Japanese people started posting pictures of a cheerful Barbie next to images of the Sept. 11 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Despite their intent to show Americans how offensive 'Barbenheimer' was, it was met with laughter – showing that the current generation of Americans (labeled Gen Z) may not be so easily offended. Or,

perhaps, that we are just too cynical to care.

The subversion created by this meme was no coincidence, as studios in Hollywood fully intended to have these two polar opposite films release on the same day. Christopher Nolan, the director of Oppenheimer, has famously always had his movies published by Warner Bros. However, when the studio announced it would be releasing its movies straight onto their Max streaming service, Nolan instead went to Universal Pictures to distribute his upcoming biopic. Because of this apparent betrayal, Warner Bros. decided to release their upcoming movie based on the popular children's toy line on the same day as a direct insult to Nolan's choice to switch studios.

Although Barbie made more money on opening weekend than Oppenheimer, a key part of the meme was that people would intentionally see both movies on the same day to celebrate them being released on the same day. Debates would spark online as to which was the correct order to watch the two films in, with many people agreeing that regardless of the order, there was a dress code. Professional garb would be worn to showings of Oppenheimer while pink outfits would be worn for Barbie.

Despite its offensive nature and the apparent apathy of those promoting the sensation, there was possibly some good that came from it. Even with aggressive marketing campaigns, awareness for both films was practically doubled by the meme.

Since the COVID-19

quarantine, movie theaters have been in a sharper decline than ever before as at-home streaming has become more and more prevalent. Barbie and Oppenheimer, however, have broken this trend. Given the different marketing strategies – with Barbie being featured in a plethora of tie-ins and humorous ads while Oppenheimer promoted a more serious and immersive experience – it is safe to say that the \$162 million and \$82.4 million, respectively, made on opening weekend was at least in some way influenced by the 'Barbenheimer' trend.

While other films have been released since the pandemic that have made more money than both films, it is undeniable the influence this internet meme has had on the current state of Hollywood. Another important note to make on the absurdity of the mere idea of making a joke out of combining pretty-girl dolls and nuclear warfare is what it says about our culture as a whole.

As I sit here, writing this article while listening to a playlist exclusively of Queen's most popular songs – acting as if I am a true fan despite not hearing a single song below their iconic surface-level hits – I am reminded that the true message of this meme is, perhaps, the unquestionable and often unspoken truth that we, the youth of the nation, the so-called 'Gen Z,' are all truly just degenerates at heart.

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT | Tyson Jackson

Camryn Cassetori
Staff Writer

Tyson Jackson, junior business management and marketing double major, is going to be one of the top contenders for men's cross country this year after finishing second on the team last season.

Jackson is relatively new to cross country, as he only started running competitively his freshman year of high school. He accredits the start of his running career to his mother.

"I started running cross country my freshman year of high school," Jackson said. "I got into running by my momma who ran most of her life. I ran with her some and then I fell in love with it."

Beginning his junior year of college, Jackson is an upperclassman on the team, which requires him to step into a bigger leadership role than he has been in.

"One way I plan to help lead my team is by being there for my teammates," Jackson said. "That's the best way you can lead people. By knowing their struggles and being there for them if they need help or just to talk to

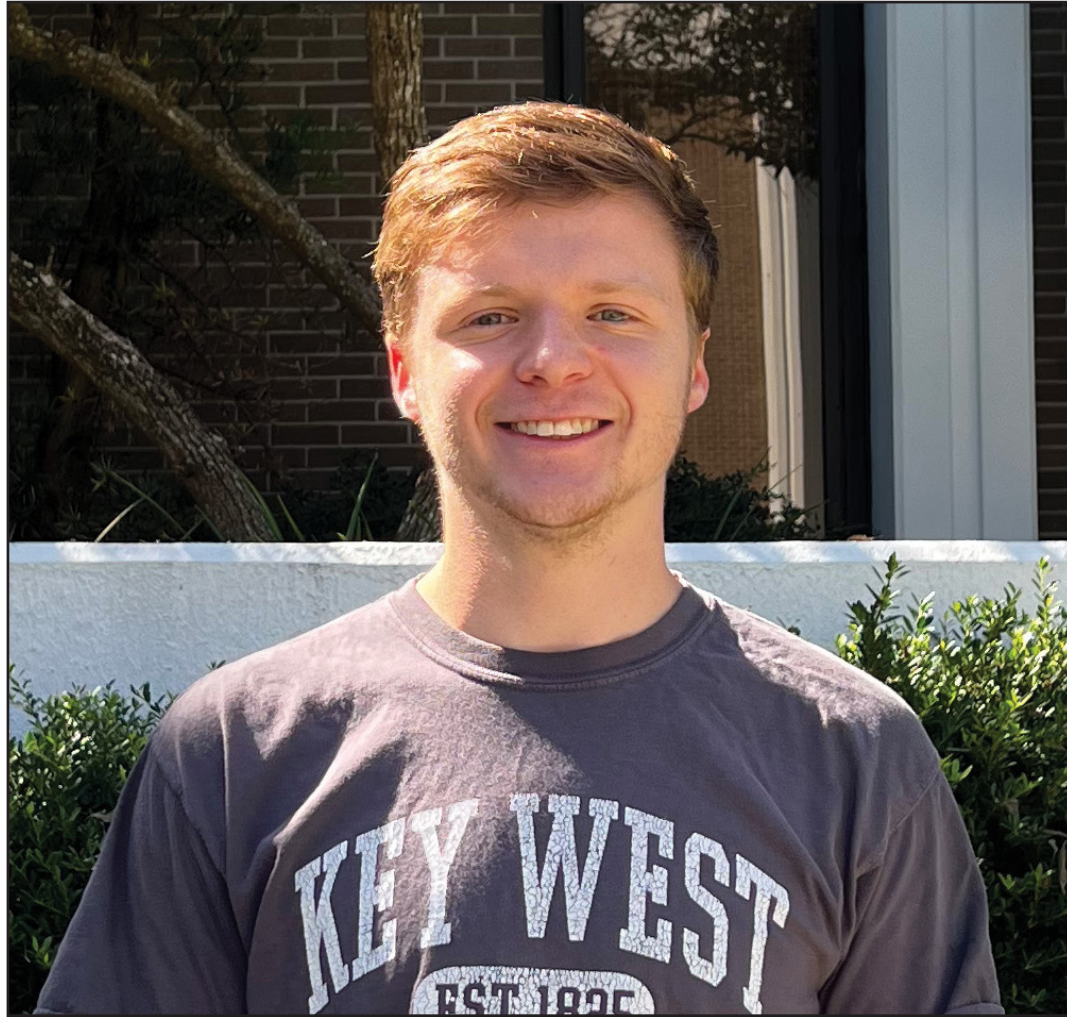


PHOTO BY AINARA EIZAGUIRRE

Junior business management and marketing double major Tyson Jackson is a leader for FMU's men's cross country team.

people. Being there for your teammates is what makes it a team."

Another key reason Jackson enjoys being on the cross-country team is for the memories he makes with his teammates and the overall feeling of team spirit.

"My favorite memory on the cross-country team has been the day the team went to the beach," Jackson said. "We spent hours swimming, walking around Broadway and just hanging out."

On top of his undying team spirit, Jackson's love for competition is one of his favorite parts about being on the cross-country team.

"My favorite part of being a part of the cross-country team is the competitive running," Jackson said. "I love racing against people. I love being able to show my talents and compare myself to other people my age."

On top of having to balance being a full-time student-athlete, Jackson also works two jobs.

Juggling these responsibilities makes time management even more important to him. Nonetheless, Jackson finds

that having a set schedule due to cross-country helps keep him organized.

"Being a student athlete has helped me in a lot of ways," Jackson said. "It has helped me with time management skills and helped my mental state as well. It puts me in a healthy routine and keeps me in shape. I can get bogged down in everything but having a set schedule really helps and meal prepping is very helpful as well."

Having been on campus for two years now, Jackson encourages any incoming student-athletes to remember why they began playing their sport when times get tough.

"Advice I would give to incoming student-athletes is always remember why you started," Jackson said. "Hurdles will come and it's going to seem like you don't want to continue the sport, but keep in mind why you started and why you love it!"

Jackson claims he only has one chief role model in his life: God.

"Honestly, God is my role model," Jackson said. "As a Christian, I try to be more like Christ every day."

EM PATRIOTS ATHLETICS EM

RESULTS

UPCOMING

- SEP 8 - Men's Soccer vs. Erskine: W 11-1
- SEP 13- Women's Soccer vs. Coker: L 2-3
- SEP 13- Men's Soccer vs. Wingate: T 1-1
- SEP 16- Golf at Temple Invitational: 12th of 14
- SEP 16- Men's Cross Country Pfeiffer: 3rd of 6
- SEP 16- Women's Cross Country Pfeiffer: 3rd of 7
- SEP 16- Women's Soccer vs. King: W 3-0
- SEP 17- Golf at Temple Invitational: 11th of 14
- SEP 19- Men's Soccer vs. Mount Olive: W 1-0
- SEP 19- Women's Soccer vs. Mount Olive: W 2-1
- SEP 20- Volleyball vs. UNC Pembroke: W 3-1
- SEP 22- Volleyball vs. Southern Wesleyan: W 3-0
- SEP 23- Volleyball vs. North Greenville: L 1-3
- SEP 23- Women's Soccer vs. Barton: W 3-2
- SEP 26- Volleyball vs. Chowan: W 3-1
- SEP 27- Men's Soccer vs. Lenoir-Rhyne: W 3-1

- OCT 10- Volleyball at Aiken: 6 PM
- OCT 11- Men's Soccer vs. Mount Olive: 4:30 PM
- OCT 11- Women's Soccer vs. Mount Olive: 7 PM
- OCT 13- Volleyball at Emmanuel: 7 PM
- OCT 14- Men's Soccer vs. Lees-McRae: 3:30 PM
- OCT 14- Women's Soccer vs. Lees-McRae: 1 PM
- OCT 14- Volleyball at Young Harris: 2 PM
- OCT 16- Golf at Pheonix International
- OCT 17- Men's Soccer vs. Barton: 7 PM
- OCT 17- Women's Soccer vs. Barton: 4:30 PM
- OCT 17- Golf at Pheonix International
- OCT 18- Volleyball vs. Mount Olive: 6 PM
- OCT 21- Men's Cross Country Carolinas: 9 AM
- OCT 21- Women's Cross Country Carolinas: 10 AM
- OCT 22- Golf at Furman Intercollegiate
- OCT 23- Golf at Furman Intercollegiate