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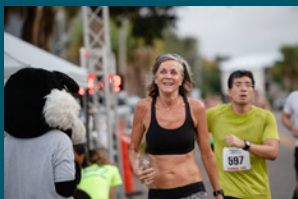
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HUMANITIES PRELAW PROGRAM HITS NEW LEVEL, ADDS FACULTY

By Kevin Boodoosingh,
The Communicator

The School of Arts and Communication has just hired two new law professors in the humanities prelaw program.

In efforts to boost the quality of the program, Renée Nicole "Nikki" Souris Smith, Ph.D., and Kenneth R. Pike, Ph.D., J.D., add a new level of specialization to the already existing prelaw program.

The program began about six years ago.

"[For] many Florida Tech students, when they finish their Florida Tech degrees, [they] want to go to law school, and there is no such thing as a required major to go to law or graduate school; you can major in anything, agriculture to zoology," said Robert Taylor, Ph.D., associate dean and head of the School of Arts and Communication (SAC).

He says that it makes a lot of sense for a student to major in something that is going to give them the skills they are going to need to get into their chosen law school and to do well once they are there.

To learn more about prelaw, Taylor studied the American Bar Association and their guidelines for a good program.

"I discovered that it was pretty simple and pretty cool. They want to emphasize reading, writing and critical thinking. Along with that, they want to emphasize a knowledge of history and political science, psychology—a well-rounded person," he said.

With the guidelines in mind, the courses for the prelaw program were determined.

"When you get to law school, they are going to teach you law, but we want to give students a taste of what they are getting into," Taylor explained.



Renée Nicole ("Nikki") Souris Smith, a new assistant professor in the School of Arts and Communication, teaches in the humanities prelaw program. Photo Credit: Kevin Boodoosingh

There are three main law courses students can take: Introduction to Law, which covers the American legal system, and two consecutive courses of Constitutional Law.

Students interested in prelaw can either major or minor in it.

"You can declare your major as humanities prelaw, or there is a prelaw minor, which people majoring in other things can do, it is kind of a core of the larger degree option. For example, if you want to be a patent attorney, they really prefer if you have an engineering degree or a science degree, you are working on those skills needed for those services," Taylor said.

He explained that Pike and Smith are both specialists in this field, adding that he is very proud and pleased to have them on the faculty.

Pike taught philosophy for six years and was an attorney in Arizona for nine years.

He was specifically hired as part of, and to help with, the growth of the humanities prelaw program.

Pike sees his role as helping to lay the foundation for a good law program.

"I would like for the program to prepare students to succeed in wherever they are going; that's our No. 1 priority—to fulfill students' needs," he said.

Pike says he is enjoying his experience at Florida Tech and that it is interesting to have students from different majors show interest in law.

"STEM students add a different perspective to the class," he said.

Smith—who was a professorial lecturer for five years at American University in Washington, D.C., in the Department of Justice, Law and Criminology—also feels that having students with such different fields adds a wealth of experience to the law.

Smith is currently teaching the Introduction to Law class and is in the process of developing a course on international criminal law, which she hopes to have implemented in the upcoming years.

"I want to provide exposure to students and lead them into the careers that they can have outside of law school. Having students in the science fields, that know about technology, allows them to come to the law and approach it in a fantastic way," she said.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION FACULTY AND STAFF, FALL 2019

SCHOOL HEAD

Associate Dean **Robert Taylor**, Ph.D., History, *Florida State University*

FACULTY

PROFESSORS

Andrew Aberdein, Ph.D., Logic and Metaphysics, *University of St. Andrews*
Randall Alford, Ph.D., Foreign Language Education, *Florida State University*
Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Georgia*
Gordon Patterson, Ph.D., History, *University of California–Los Angeles*

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Gabriella Baika, Ph.D., French, *University of Pittsburgh*
Kevin Burke, Ph.D., Musicology, *University of Cincinnati*
Natalie Dorfeld, Ph.D., English/Composition & TESOL, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*
John Lavelle, Ph.D., English, *University of Louisiana–Lafayette*
Debbie Lelekis, Ph.D., Literature, *University of Missouri*
Moti Mizrahi, Ph.D., Philosophy, *The Graduate Center, City University of New York*
Ted Petersen, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Florida*
Youngju Sohn, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Georgia*
Angela Tenga, Ph.D., English, *Purdue University*
Wanfa Zhang, Ph.D., Political Science, *University of Alabama*

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Danita Berg, Ph.D., English, *University of South Florida*
Melissa Crofton, Ph.D., Literature, *University of South Carolina*
Michael Finnegan, Ph.D., Literature, *University of Rhode Island*
Sharon Irvin, M.A., English, *University of Wisconsin*
Jacob Ivey, Ph.D., History, *West Virginia University*
Lars R. Jones, Ph.D., Art History, *Harvard University*
Joe Montelione, D.M.A., Trumpet Performance, *University of Southern California*
JoAnn Parla-Palumbo, Ph.D., Applied Linguistics, *State University of New York–Buffalo*
Kenneth R. Pike, Ph.D., Philosophy, *Arizona State University*
Alan Rosiene, Ph.D., English, *Northwestern University*
Matthew Ruane, Ph.D., Higher Education and Policy Studies, *University of Central Florida*
Renée Nicole Souris Smith, Ph.D., Law & Society and Political Theory, *American University*
Andy K. Stanfield, Ph.D., Instructional Design and Development, *University of South Alabama*
Dzmitry Yuran, Ph.D., Communication and Information, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

INSTRUCTORS

Annie Caza , M.Ed.	Keturah Mazo , M.A.	Alexandra
Elizabeth Dopira , M.M.	Anna Montoya , M.A.	Soya Brewer , M.A.
Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop , M.S.	Joy Patterson , M.A. and M.S.	

VISITING INSTRUCTORS

Ingrid Bradley , M.A.	Amy Laakman , M.A.
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ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS

Marie-Christine Baldini	Mariana Garciagodoy-Cervantes	Lucy Serody
Dana Beattie	Stephanie Gonzalez	Brandon Smith
Andrei Belyi	Marietssa Griggs-Pastrana	Chelsea Stripling
Erik Cole	Lianne Kagunda	Carol Tillema
George Cornelius	Julianne Mallak	Michael Tillema
Kyle Creedon	Linda Marks-Morgan	Charles VanRiper
Ellen Fleishman	Pervin Muradov	Lena Wyman
Jeffery D. Gallop	Alycia Pardoe	

STAFF

Anushka Boyd, Administrative Assistant III,
Amanda Culver, Administrative Assistant II

SAVE THE DATE

WINTER/SPRING 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAC Holiday Celebration

Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. | SAC Main Office

COM Faculty Meeting

Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. | Crawford 611 Communication Lab

2020 Julius Montgomery Pioneer Awards

Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. | Gleason Performing Arts Center

Free Speech Week

Feb. 17–21 | Florida Tech Main Campus

Academic Calendar

Dec. 6 | *Last day of classes*

Dec. 9–13 | *Final Exams Week*

Dec. 14 | *Fall commencement ceremonies*

Dec. 30 | *Last day for Melbourne campus students to register for Spring 2020 classes*

Jan. 13 | *Spring 2020 classes begin*

Jan. 20 | *Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)*

Feb. 28 | *Midterm grading opens*

March 9–13 | *Spring break (no classes)*

April 29 | *Last day of classes*

April 30–May 1 | *Study days (no classes)*

May 4–8 | *Final exams*

May 9 | *Spring commencement ceremonies*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Danita, Kenneth and Renée!

Danita Berg, Ph.D., is a new assistant professor of communication and humanities in the School of Arts and Communication. She also chairs the online liberal arts program.

Kenneth R. Pike, Ph.D., is the new assistant professor of philosophy and law.

Renée Nicole ("Nikki") Souris Smith, Ph.D., is the new assistant professor of law and society.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to those who contributed to producing this issue of *The Communicator*. We owe you a debt of gratitude!

Annie Caza, Kevin Boodoosingh, Jack James Clark, Keturah Mazo, Karla Medina, Sonja Michaels, Joy Patterson, Ted Petersen and David Thompson

FROM THE CHAIR

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR NEW HUMANITIES PRELAW PROGRAM

The law, and the course of studies that makes lawyers, is still important far beyond television dramas and the deluge of commercials for personal injury attorneys.

The lawyers of the future will have to be well versed in areas like technology, the sciences and, of course, the media. There will be a demand for such individuals and quality prelaw programs to prepare them for the challenges of graduate work in the legal field.

The School of Arts and Communication (SAC) humanities prelaw program is designed to prepare students for those hurdles of getting into the right law school and excelling while there. The curriculum is based on American Bar Association guidelines, as well as input from active judges and attorneys.

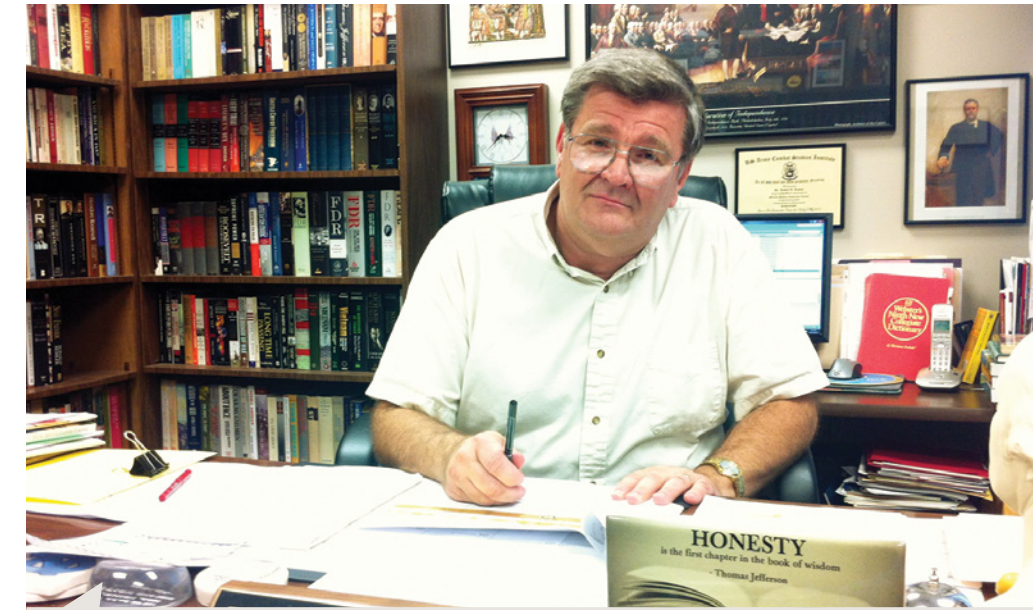
The course plan contains classes like Introduction to Law and a two-semester U.S. Constitutional Law survey. There also is a required class in logic to give students an opportunity to hone their analytical skills.

However, the law is much more than a legalistic chess match.

In the words of the great American jurist and Civil War combat veteran Oliver Wendell Homes Jr., "the life of the law has not been logic, it has been experience."

The prelaw program offers a wide variety of subjects that touch on the life experience.

The new humanities prelaw program gives future law graduates plentiful opportunities to grow in their ability to be effective communicators in a multitude of settings.



Robert Taylor, Ph.D., associate dean, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, and head of the School of Arts and Communication

These include history, literature, philosophy and psychology.

Good law students, and good lawyers, must be good communicators with both the written and spoken word. The program gives these future law graduates plentiful opportunities to grow in their ability to be effective communicators in a multitude of settings.

The high point of being in the prelaw field of study is bringing together all the knowledge and skills to create a significant and original piece of research. In a capstone senior thesis, all the knowledge and skills learned are used in researching and writing a scholarly work under the direct direction of two humanities faculty members.

Capstone thesis topics span the legal spectrum from international peacekeeping forces and human rights to the impact of drone technology on the law. Students have a real

sense of accomplishment when they present their work to the greater faculty and their undergraduate peers at the end of their studies.

The SAC is very pleased to welcome two new professors that specialize in the law and legal studies to our faculty.

Assistant Professors Kenneth Pike and Renée Nicole "Nikki" Souris Smith bring considerable background in legal and philosophical issues, as well as solid records as teachers. They can only add strength and diversity to the program and its course offerings, as well as solid advice about issues like law school applications.

The humanities prelaw program is but one of the many interesting and valuable major/minor options for Florida Tech students.

The path to success begins here! ■

Robert A. Taylor

CONNECT WITH US:



WRITING A NEWS STORY

By Ted Petersen, for *The Communicator*

One of the most important things a journalism professor can do is give assignments similar to real-world journalism experiences.

I try to do that with this breaking news on-deadline assignment that I shared at the 2019 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Toronto.

Class begins at 9:30 a.m. As soon as students arrive in their “newsroom,” they get a tip that Palm Bay High School is being evacuated.

I then ask the students what they should do.

Some suggest visiting the high school, but others suggest they might be able to gather more information before leaving the newsroom.

They typically decide to try calling the high school. They look up the number for the school and check the spelling of the principal’s name.

I pretend to “answer the phone” as the principal, who confirms the evacuation but gives no more information.

Deadline 1—9:40 a.m.

Reporters compose a headline and tweet, then upload them to Canvas.

At 9:40 a.m., I ask students what to do next.

Someone usually suggests calling the Palm Bay Police Department. Students look up that number. I pretend to answer for the police department and suggest they call Brevard Public Schools (BPS).

Students then look up the telephone number of the public information officer (PIO) for BPS, who confirms the evacuation and says there was a bomb threat called. The PIO (Matt Reed, played by me) declines to answer any questions, as the situation is being handled by Brevard County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO).

Deadline 2—9:50 a.m.

Reporters write a two-to-three-paragraph story that would run under their original headline.

At 9:50 a.m., students begin to realize what else they need to do. They look up the number to BCSO and contact the PIO (David Jacobs, played by me). Jacobs reads a prepared statement:

“We were alerted to a threatening comment via Twitter. School officials reported a backpack that had been left on a bench outside the cafeteria. The BCSO bomb squad team has been deployed. All students and staff have been evacuated for their safety.”

Reporters have a chance to ask two or three questions before the PIO has to leave.

Deadline 3—10:05 a.m.

Reporters are to write a two-to-three-paragraph update to their original story.

At 10:05 a.m., Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey (played by me) reads a statement to the reporters.

“At 8:15 a.m. this morning, an assistant principal for facilities at Palm Bay High School was notified of a threatening tweet made by a 16-year-old sophomore student named Jeremy Schottler. The assistant principal called my



Associate Professor Ted Petersen presented at the 2019 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Toronto in August.

office and notified the rest of the administration. A teacher noticed a backpack on a bench outside of the cafeteria. The principal called for an immediate evacuation of the premises. The bomb squad located the pack and found two empty shoeboxes. The young man who posted the tweet has been arrested. Thank you. I will be available for questions in 20 minutes.”

He tells them he’ll be available in 20 minutes for questions. During that question-and-answer period, usually a student-reporter asks what the tweet said. The sheriff reports, “The tweet said, ‘As a new follower of ISIS, I am proud to f---ing blow up PBHS #isis4life.’”

Deadline 4—10:45 a.m.

Reporters file copy before the 10:45 a.m. deadline. It should be a final version of the story to be printed the next day.

They have to wrestle with things like where in the story to place the hoax, what to do with the ISIS reference and the ethics of profanity in journalism or naming a minor as they rewrite the story from mostly chronologically organized updates to an inverted pyramid style in the final piece. ■

FACULTY RETIREMENTS



The SAC bade farewell to two illustrious faculty members over the summer. Bill Leach, assistant professor of English and chair of the online liberal arts program, retired in June after 18 years of service to the university. Fontaine Wallace, M.Ed., a professor emerita who retired from the university in 2012, retired as an adjunct writing instructor in May.

Wallace traveled to Seattle, Washington, and to parts of Alaska in June. In addition, she saw “Musicians are Superheroes,” a multimedia production based on a play by her daughter, author Michele Wallace Campanelli, make its debut with the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra in early November. “Of course, I edited the play,” Wallace said.

STANFIELD WINS FLORIDA LITERARY AWARD



Congratulations to Andy K. Stanfield, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, who was one of the winners at this year’s Royal Palms Literary Awards sponsored by the Florida Writers Association. He was recognized for his novel, *Global Tribal*, which placed in the silver category in the Best Science Fiction Published Book division of the awards.

Global Tribal, a dystopian sci-fi novel set in the near future, is one of two novels Stanfield released this fall. He also released *The Battle of Rattler’s Bluff: 2018 Remix*, a new edition of his 2011 novel, which is a satire of the Iraq War set in New Mexico 1847.

Andrew Aberdein published “Eudaimonistic Argumentation” in *Argument Schemes to Argumentative Relations in the Wild*, edited by Bart Garssen and Frans van Eemeren, Cham: Springer Verlag, pp. 97-106 (2020). He also published “Courageous Arguments and Deep Disagreements” online in *Topoi*:1-8 in October.

Gabriella Baka presented “La Piazza: The Beating Heart of Italian Life” on June 19 at the American-Italian Club of Brevard and “Magonia: The Wrath of Agobard of Lyon and Its Cosmic Implications” on Sept. 20 at the University of Pittsburgh.

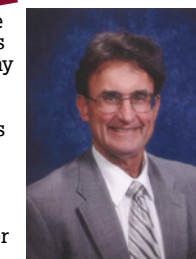
Kevin Burke had two book chapters published this summer: “Navigating the EdTech Marketplace: When to Jump and When to Pass,” pp. 145-153 in *The Norton Guide to Teaching Music History*, edited by C. Matthew Balensuela, New York: Norton, 2019; and “Alien Waves: Sonic Reverberations of the RPG Interface in Lagrange Point,” pp. 57-75 in *Music in the Role-Playing Game: Heroes & Harmonies*, edited by William Gibbons and Steven Real, New York: Routledge, 2019.

Burke also delivered the paper, “Genesis Does What Nintendo’t: Sound Chips and Composer Culture in the 16-bit Era,” on Nov. 7 at the annual meeting of the Society for Music Theory in Columbus, Ohio.

Melissa Crofton delivered the paper, “Nasty Woman or Medieval Mystic? The Perplexing Case of Margery Kempe of Lynn, Medieval Rebel Extraordinaire,” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Natalie M. Dorfeld presented “Sixty-Four Crayons: Using Multiple Genres to Improve Writing Skills” at the Midwest Modern Language Association/Writing Across the Curriculum Conference in Chicago in November. She also presented “Professional Respect and Disciplinary Authority: A Call for NTT Faculty Inclusion” at the Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference in Baltimore in July.

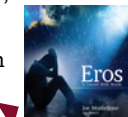
Michael Finnegan, one of the founding members of the Florida Hemingway Society, delivered the paper, “Drinking as Ritual with Hemingway’s Characters,” in May at the annual meeting of the American Literature Association in Boston. He also delivered another Hemingway paper at the Florida College English Association’s annual conference in Boca Raton in October.



In addition, Finnegan published “Another Look at Sherwood Anderson’s Craftsmanship in Winesburg, Ohio” in *MidAmerica*, the annual journal for the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. This year marks the centennial publication of Sherwood Anderson’s *Winesburg, Ohio*.

Jacob Ivey presented his paper, “Thirty Policemen Could Not Find Employment Among Two Hundred Thousand Natives: Natal’s Colonial Police and a Crisis of Confidence in the 1860s,” at the Cambridge Settler Colonial History Workshop at Queens College in Cambridge University. He also travelled to the Republic of South Africa for six weeks to complete field research related to a book project on the history of the Natal constabulary in 19th-century KwaZulu-Natal. While in South Africa in June, he presented “Badges and ‘Sticks’: Police Power and African Agency in Nineteenth Century Colonial Natal” at the Southern African Historical Society’s 27th biennial conference at Rhodes University in Makhanda (Grahamstown).

Joseph Montelione released the album “Eros: A Concert with Words” in July. The album presents a diverse body of repertoire that includes original transcriptions, newly commissioned works and well-known classics. The CD can be found anywhere music is streamed, including Amazon Music, iTunes, Spotify, YouTube, etc. It also can be purchased via store.cdbaby.com or montemusicservices.com.



Gordon Patterson published “2019 AMCA Memorial Lecture Honoree: William Richard OPP 1942–2017, A Life Well Lived Helping Others” in the *Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association*, 35(3):238-240, 2019.

Kenneth Pike’s book review on David Hamilton Golland’s *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Arthur Fletcher and the Conundrum of the Black Republican* published on H-Florida in October.

Robert A. Taylor published book reviews in both the *Journal of Military History* and H-Florida. His piece “Swimming Goes to War” was posted on the U.S. Naval Institute blog. Additionally, Taylor gave the lecture, “D-Day Plus 75 Years: Revisiting the Invasion of France,” at Florida Tech’s Lifelong Scholar Society in May.

Taylor also served as an on-camera historian and consultant for a United Kingdom television production company filming a documentary on German U-boat sinkings in Florida waters during World War II. ■

THE SAC FIVE

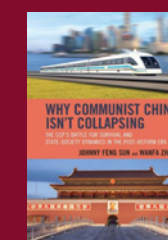


FIVE FACTS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT NATALIE DORFELD, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

1. I had rabies in second grade from a raccoon, but I received all my shots, so I am no longer a danger to society.
2. I have been ambidextrous and a vegetarian for 28 years. I got stuck in a skiing chairlift, which forced me to be right-handed for a spell.
3. I backpacked across Europe (without a map) in 2007 for 21 days. My favorite place in the world is Gimmelwald, Switzerland.
4. In my spare time, I run marathons and rehabilitate animals with special needs. One of my latest cats had a broken leg and pelvis, but he’s fine now.
5. I got married in a roller-skating rink to '80s music. My guests dressed up like Vikings and frogs. I am not sure why. ■



ZHANG EXAMINES COMMUNIST CHINA IN NEW BOOK



Congratulations to Wanfa Zhang, associate professor of political science, on the publication of his book, *Why Communist China isn’t Collapsing: The CCP’s Battle for Survival and State-Society Dynamics in the Post-Reform Era*, on Oct. 31. The book, co-authored by Feng Sun, associate professor of international relations at Troy University, is published by Lexington Books.



School of Arts and Communication

Netherlands 2020 Study Abroad

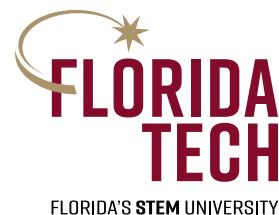
June 5-19, 2020

Visit Iceland, Belgium and Germany.

Meet with multinational companies.

Scholarships are available.

For more information, contact
edwardsh@fit.edu or tpetersen@fit.edu.



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ALUMNUS GIVES TO MUSIC PROGRAM

By David Thompson, for *The Communicator*

Milton Stafford, '16 B.S. Computer Science, was fully entrenched in the music program while studying here.

Currently a master's degree candidate, he joined the concert choir

during the fall of 2012, and after missing a few practices and feeling out of place, he found his love for it during the first concert.

"I was immediately struck by the joy I felt from hearing and feeling my voice join harmoniously others' voices," Stafford said.

"The music program, rather unpredictably, gave me the chance to explore and develop a side to myself I had not yet explored."

—Milton Stafford, '16 B.S.

Concert choir is just one of many large ensemble groups offered in the music program. There are also beginner piano and guitar classes, humanities elective courses and now a music minor option.

The 12-year-old program at Florida Tech has had steady growth over the years, according to the director of music programs, Kevin Burke.

"Our mission really is to try to canvas as much of the campus as we can and provide that outlet for people who want either to continue doing music or to experience it for the first time," Burke said.

According to Burke, they have many international students join the classes because some didn't have the opportunity to study music in their home countries due to their school systems not offering it.



Alumnus Milton Stafford, '16 B.S. Computer Science, says participating in the music program helped further his skills as a scientist. Now, he is a patron of the program.

Burke said the music minor has 12 students currently enrolled and thinks that studying music could have a positive effect no matter what your major is.

"If someone is studying engineering, but they are also doing a music activity, then they're working on things like public performances and public speaking," Burke said.

Continued on page 8

MAZO'S CLASS PROJECT HELPS BUILD AWARENESS OF LOCAL SHELTER DOGS

Special to *The Communicator*

On Sept. 16, three students in Keturah Mazo's Scientific and Technical Communication course presented their video about the animals available at the Brevard County Sheriff's Office South Animal Care Center.

With the rising popularity of emotional support animals among college students, and personal experience with a rescue from the facility, the group—Gianna Petrazzulo, Ballard Barker, and Alicia Maldonado—began their journey of spreading awareness about our closest local shelter.

As a part of their project, the students' assignment was to show an online video about their chosen topic and to create and distribute a survey to their chosen audience as a focus group for the rest of their study. Petrazzulo and Barker didn't find any available videos in their search and decided to visit the shelter themselves to create what their class would view for the project.

"As an instructor, I was so moved by the video they made for us, that I shared it to my personal web page," Mazo said.

"Within six hours, the video had over 1,000 views and 45 shares. Within 48 hours, I had

confirmation that at least one cat had been adopted as a direct result of this viewing."

To date, the video has over 9,300 views and over 240 shares.

Petrazzulo, a junior biomedical sciences major who is also in the Army ROTC program, said she never expected the video to gain so much publicity online.

"Making this video was one of my favorite experiences of college so far," she said.

"I hope the project continues to raise awareness for how many shelter pets are looking for loving homes and families, resulting in multiple adoptions, helping the shelter keep their no-kill status," Petrazzulo said.

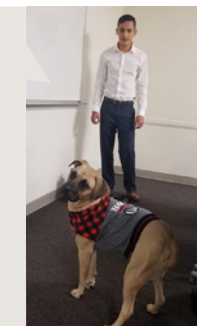
Mazo said the video was instrumental in connecting shelter pets with their forever homes.

"We know of at least three adoptions due to the viewing, with others possible," Mazo said.

In addition, in the month of September, adoptions were free.

Consequently, free adoptions were extended into October.

Ballard Barker shares the spotlight with a dog from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office South Animal Care Center during his team's project presentation in Keturah Mazo's Scientific and Technical Communication class. He, along with team members Gianna Petrazzulo and Alicia Maldonado, created a video highlighting animals at the local shelter.



Mazo has been contacted by an additional local shelter requesting a video be made for them as well.

"Overall, the final project's goal of raising awareness was a success," she said.

Barker, a junior aerospace engineering major, said the project was a truly humbling experience.

"Going forward, I just hope we help get more animals adopted from the shelter and that we help get more people to adopt from shelters instead of breeders," he said.

NEW CLUB AIMS TO CARE FOR BOTANICAL GARDEN

Special to *The Communicator*

A group of Florida Tech students have organized the Keuper Palm Botanical Society in support of the Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden.

The society, named after the founder and first president of Florida Tech, aims to preserve, cultivate and share the university's rich botanical heritage while fostering a personal connection with the garden.

Gordon Patterson stated that the "jungle," the university's botanical garden, was a key element in making Florida Tech's home in Melbourne.

He referred to a quote from Keuper reflecting on how he secured the Melbourne campus: "I believe the critical factor in our favor was my pledge to maintain the natural hammock that threaded through the property and not to disturb any of the trees unnecessarily," Keuper said.

Officers for the new club are Karla Medina, president; Conner Cadenhead, vice president; Joshua Weissman, treasurer; and Patrick Futch, secretary.

The society meets on Monday evenings, twice a month. All Florida Tech students are invited to join the organization. ■



Officers with the new Keuper Palm Botanical Society enjoy the sun in the Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden.

ALUMNUS GIVES TO MUSIC PROGRAM

Continued from page 7

Stafford said the music program was "extremely effective" at furthering his skills as a scientist.

"The music program, rather unpredictably, gave me the chance to explore and develop a side to myself I had not yet explored," Stafford said.

Burke said the music program offers a lot of transferrable skills that could be used in many different fields of study.

"We want students to have that opportunity to differentiate themselves," Burke said.

Stafford is one of those students who differentiated himself. Currently a software engineer at Maxar Technologies in Melbourne, FL, Stafford also is slated to receive his master's degree in computer science this fall.

The music program had such an impact on Stafford that he now contributes a set monthly donation to the music program.

"[Stafford] very proactively came to us and said, 'Music was an important part of my whole time at Florida Tech, both with my bachelor's and my master's degree, and I want to give back,'" Burke said.

Typical donors are not recent graduates like Stafford, according to Burke, and this shows how the music program is student-driven.

"Having recent alumni be patrons is really special because they've been here," Burke said. "They've actually



The Florida Tech Wind Ensemble performs works by Holst & Shostakovich in a Nov. 18 concert that featured music from Star Trek, narrated by Daniel Batchelder, head of the Department of Aerospace, Physics and Space Sciences. Florida Tech alumnus Milton Stafford said the music program helped further his skills as a scientist.

seen our program firsthand. They haven't just watched our performances. They know the ins and outs, the resources we have, the resources we don't have."

Stafford said that college is an excellent time to have different experiences and step into new worlds.

"For the fellow student musician, I would want to see their skills blended into the mix and to see them share and learn new abilities," Stafford said.

Stafford added that each group, large ensemble and class brings a different flavor to the program.

"The music program at [Florida Tech] is ambitious, inclusive, challenging, supportive and massively fun," Stafford said. ■

PRELAW PROGRAM

Continued from page 1

Smith wants to develop the program in any way that would be successful for the students based upon what they want to gain out of their coursework; she also wants to help students understand their options, whether it be politics or law.

Ian Handler, a prelaw major minoring in sustainability, is currently in Introduction to Law. He says that even though he has just taken a couple of history and politics courses, he loves the intro class.

"It's great. It is so much more mentally stimulating than doing calculus all day."

Handler says that he can see himself excelling in this field.

Another prelaw major, Dania Saleh, says she definitely sees herself going to law school.

She is currently taking such courses as Constitutional Law, Legal Social Environments of Business and Introduction to Law.

"I definitely think the two new prelaw hires are super helpful when it comes to any question you have. They are always in their office, even beyond office hours," said Saleh.

She says the professors are super flexible whenever she needs help.

In terms of help for beyond Florida Tech, Taylor is continuously refreshing the prelaw program in order to accommodate the always-changing needs of law schools.

"We have to make sure that we are current and are giving the students the opportunities they need. We would certainly like to expand our law course offerings, and we are working on that right now," said Taylor.

Not only are the current offerings being constantly evaluated, but the law school prospects for students are being looked into as well.

"We work very hard to maintain contact with various law schools, and our

program was once reviewed by a then-dean of the University of Miami Law School, and she liked it very much," Taylor said.

He adds that they have had students do very well; many have gone on to a variety of top-ranked law schools and continue to do well.

"That's really the ultimate final grade for the law program, how well do our students go on and how well do they do when they get there."

Both Smith and Pike want to develop and explore all options for students in the prelaw program.

Smith wants to make a bigger name for the program as well as make it as inviting as possible.

"We are trying to grow the program, in terms of numbers of students who enter the prelaw program and to also put out quality prelaw students into the world." ■



Kenneth R. Pike, Ph.D., J.D., one of the two new law professors in the humanities prelaw program, sees his role as helping to lay the foundation for a good law program.

"I would like for the program to prepare students to succeed in wherever they are going, that's our No. 1 priority—to fulfill students' needs," he said.

LEARNING THE AIRWAVES

Dmitry Yuran's Introduction to Communication course explored iHeartMedia Melbourne with Ken Holiday on Oct. 23. Holiday, a radio broadcasting veteran with nearly 40 years of experience, is area senior vice president of programming. ■



HELPING THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

Heidi Hatfield Edwards holds an oyster mat she made Oct. 25 during a community service activity with the Florida Tech chapter of the honor society Phi Kappa Phi. Society members made oyster mats to help the Indian River Lagoon Research Institute's Living Docks program. The mats will be attached to dock pilings as a way to help the lagoon repopulate certain areas of the waterway with oysters and other animals that can filter water. ■



REEL READS POE EVENT STRIKES PERFECTLY SPOOKY CORD

Dozens of people filled Evans Library on Nov. 1 to explore film adaptations of Edgar Allan Poe's most famous and chilling stories as part of Reel Reads After Hours, a joint venture of the School of Arts and Communication and Evans Library. Debbie Lelekis, Melissa Crofton and Angela Tenga led the lively conversation, which focused on key scenes from "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Premature Burial" and "The Masque of the Red Death." ■



COPLA ACES HOMECOMING 5K FUN RUN/WALK

Congratulations to our SAC faculty on the Homecoming 5k Fun Run/Walk on Oct. 24 in Downtown Melbourne. The College of Psychology and Liberal Arts took first place in college ranking for participation, with 54 faculty and staff participating. Here are some of the results:

Dzmitry Yuran finished first in his age group with an impressive time of 20:43.

Jacob Ivey finished fourth in his age group with a time of 23:07.

Renée Nicole "Nikki" Souris Smith finished first in her age group with a time of 24:40.

Natalie Dorfeld finished third in her age group with a time of 28:24.

Annie Caza finished first in her age group with a time of 29:14.

Ted Petersen (running with his son, Wesley) finished with a time of 23:07.

Amanda Culver finished with a time of 39:06.

Heidi Hatfield Edwards finished with a time of 42:03.

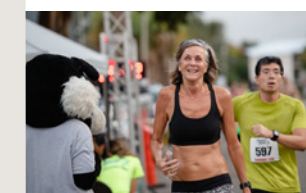
Anushka Boyd finished with a time of 52:19.

Joy Patterson finished with a time of 56:36. ■

Top: Those participating in the Homecoming 5K Fun Run/Walk included (left to right, standing) Dzmitry Yuran, Anushka Boyd, Joy Patterson, Annie Caza, Jacob Ivey, and Nicole Souris Smith, along with (kneeling, front l-r) Amanda Culver and Natalie Dorfeld.



Bottom: Annie Caza crosses the finish line, finishing first in her age group.





MEET KEVIN BOODOOSINGH

I'm Kevin Boodoosingh, a senior multiplatform journalism major. Here are five things I would like to highlight about myself:

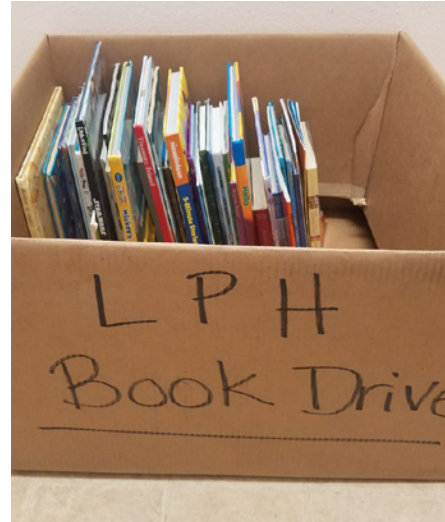
The person I am today is because of all the plethora of individuals I have met in my short life thus far. With each person I interact with, I try to learn and gauge perspectives from that person and try to figure out ways I can better myself from what I have learned from individuals. The most inspirational people in life have always been my parents; not only have they given me the opportunity that not many people have, but they also have taught me what hard work and dedication truly are. I admire their support of me.

I am part of *The Crimson* staff, and I cherish every single experience I get from it; it has been an amazing experience thus far. And not only *The Crimson*, but I along with my good friend David Thompson have created a new branch of FTCS called Panther Podcasts. On Panther Podcasts, David and I have multiple shows ranging from talks with *The Crimson* to random unscripted conversations about anything under the sun. It's awesome.

My dream in life is to eventually become a motorcycle racer. Over this past summer I got the opportunity from my uncle to take part in motorcycle racing. I had an absolute blast and would love to make it my profession.

More appropriately, my goal is to become an automotive journalist. I have a passion for cars and motorcycles and would love to be a part of the automotive journalism world.

I have huge respect for musicians. I cannot comprehend how they put together sounds to make me feel emotion, but they do. I completely adore music and would consider it a major part of my life, to the point that I have music playing 24/7 in my room; even when I am not home, I leave it playing, just to know when I get home I would enter hearing music. ■



LAMBDA PI ETA BOOK DRIVE

The Upsilon Xi Chapter of the Lambda Pi Eta communication honor society collected 47 books in its annual children's book drive Nov. 5–25. The books, for ages 3–12, were donated to students and teachers at University Park Elementary School. ■

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT LETS STUDENTS BE HORSE RANCH HANDS FOR DAY

Several students from Rolanda Gallop's Business and Professional Writing classes volunteered at Walk on Water Equine Ranch in Merritt Island on Nov. 9. They cleaned the shed, fed the horses and cleared debris from around the lake. The ranch, a nonprofit organization offering equine therapy to those with



special needs, is the focus of a class service-learning team project. A few students from Jeff Gallop's Scientific and Technical Communication course also joined in on the fun. ■



Several business communication students spent a half day as ranch hands for Walk on Water Equine Ranch to gain insight for a class project.

SAC GRAD NOW SENIOR EDITOR, REPORTER AT LOCAL NEWSPAPER

By Jack James Clark, special to *The Communicator*

Chris Bonanno '08, '13 M.S., recently took on the role of senior editor and reporter at *Space Coast Daily*.

There, he covers breaking news and local events throughout Brevard County, writing stories and producing live and recorded video content. He also gives play-by-play and color commentary at local sporting events, hosts a daily weather report and occasionally broadcasts weather live.

"I gave many live weather broadcasts, in particular, as Hurricane Dorian threatened our area recently," Chris says.

Chris began his professional journalism career at *Florida Today*, where he spent several years working his way up from a freelance reporter to part-time sports assistant to a full-time breaking news reporter.

In 2016, Chris decided to take a break from journalism to pursue his passion for teaching. He spent two years teaching English and social studies at Cocoa High School along with a stint at Johnson Middle School in Melbourne teaching English. Chris has also given back to his own place of study, working as an adjunct professor at Florida Tech.

"I taught University Experience at Florida Tech, and I enjoyed it a ton!" Chris says. "It was great being able to teach at the school after spending so many years there as a student."

Chris completed his undergraduate degree in environmental science with meteorology option, a field that incorporates several scientific subjects but through which Chris focused on meteorology.

"The bulk of what I studied related to meteorology, but I also learned a lot about the environment in a marine field projects course, which included trips to the Indian River Lagoon and a

multiple-night stay in the Atlantic aboard the research vessel *Delphinus*."

Chris says it took utilizing the Academic Support Center, regularly visiting his professors for help in office hours and sheer hard work to earn his walk across the stage to collect his degree at commencement.

"Earning my bachelor's degree was the most challenging thing I've ever done, and the sense of accomplishment I felt that day was something I'll never forget. I consider that day to be the greatest of my life so far."

Chris had such a great time as part of the campus community that he wanted to continue his experience at Florida Tech. Deciding to enroll in the technical and professional communication master's degree program stemmed from his then desire to explore a career in public relations. However, he always had an interest in journalism and joined *The Crimson*, Florida Tech's student-run newspaper.

"Perhaps the best part of my time while getting my master's was being the editor-in-chief of *The Crimson*, which helped guide me into my journalism career ... I also owe a lot of my career success to Dr. Ted Petersen and Rodd Newcombe, who served as advisors while I was editor-in-chief."

Going forward, Chris aspires to be the best journalist he can be.

However, he won't rule out the possibility of returning to Florida Tech for his doctorate degree, and he could see himself teaching again in the future.

"My bachelor's degree from Florida Tech helped me prepare to be able to talk accurately about the weather, and my experience as a graduate student helped make me a far-better storyteller."



Chris Bonanno's live broadcasts on everything from the weather to sports can be seen on the website of *Space Coast Daily* newspaper.

Chris is a humble character, and his sincere hope is that the work he does helps to inform people about what's going on in their community. He has always liked helping people—hence, his teaching career and volunteer work.

"There is no greater satisfaction I get than when someone tells me what I did helped them."

In his spare time, Chris takes part in multiple sporting activities, including playing basketball and running 5Ks. He is a volunteer coach for the Cocoa High School baseball program, where he enjoys helping players with life skills and academics while improving their baseball abilities.

"I am a die-hard fan of the New York Yankees, Giants, Knicks and Rangers, and though I, of course, root on all Florida Tech sports, I'm also a big fan of the Miami Hurricanes."

Chris advises future Florida Tech graduates to work hard first and foremost, to pursue real-world internship opportunities and, beyond that, have fun while in college.

"You'll remember the good times you had at Florida Tech for the rest of your lives, and you'll make friends who'll be with you for life, too."

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Shannon (Redman) Caldwell, '14 M.S. global strategic communication, is the change manager at NextEra Energy Resources in Stuart, Florida.

Audrey Gangloff, '17 B.S. communication (minor in prelaw) and '18 M.S. global strategic communication, is a law student at Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Abeer Janakat, '17 B.S. communication and '18 M.S. global strategic communication, is a senior protection assistant with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations' refugee agency.

Kiayna O'Neal, '18 M.S. global strategic communication, is a freelance writer and digital content creator in Melbourne.

Hershlay Raymond, '15 B.S. business marketing communication, is associate manager of brand marketing and insights at *The Atlantic*.

Gary "Duke" Richardson, '16 B.S. business marketing communication and '17 M.S. global strategic communication, is a communication specialist at Horrocks Engineers in Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Lauren Suarez, '17 B.S. communication, works in sales development at Automotive Mastermind Inc. in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Jordan Symonds, '17 B.S. communication, is a brand strategist at Competitive Edge Consulting AS in Oslo, Norway.

Aaliyah Thomas, '18 B.S. communication, is coordinator of student life—Greek focus at Florida Tech.



Jordan Symonds finishes a presentation at Competitive Edge Consulting AS in Oslo, Norway, where she is a brand strategist.

BIG BAND HEADS OUT ON TOUR IN SPRING 2020

The Florida Tech Big Band, under the direction of Joseph Montelione, will go on a three-day performance tour for the first time in university history.

They were invited to perform by the Outdoor Resorts of America in Melbourne Beach and

the West Melbourne Parks and Recreation Department.

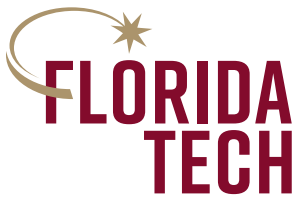
In addition, the Peabody Auditorium in Daytona Beach has invited the band to perform as one of their featured guest artists for the 2019–2020 season.

The dates for the tour are March 26 in Melbourne Beach, March 27 in West Melbourne and March 28 in Daytona Beach.

Adam Lowenstein, Florida Tech's director of media communication, contributed to this report. ■



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