

The COMMUNICATOR

The newsletter of the School of Arts and Communication

Spring 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

Education Connection:
Experimental Pedagogy

4

Saying Goodbye:
Dean Kenkel to Retire

5



Taylor Helps Bring
Civil War Battles to Life

8



Milligan Tackles Tough
Issues In New Short Film

11

First Amendment Celebrated at Seventh Annual Event

By Lindsay Isaac, For *The Communicator*

The Crimson, Florida Institute of Technology's student-run newspaper, celebrated its seventh annual Free Speech Week from Feb. 20–23.

This year's events included a keynote address by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Ted Jackson, a debate on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution with Melbourne attorney Michael Kahn and several journalists from the *Florida Today* newspaper, and a panel discussion between Florida Tech professors on tenure and academic freedom.

In addition, the week also featured a workshop on accessing and using government documents and a free speech wall for students to express themselves.

Participants were also given the option between a free meal—a slice from Old School Pizza or a sub from Jersey Mike's—and their First Amendment rights in the cornerstone "Eat Free or Live Free" event on the final day of activities.

The annual celebration is designed to remind students, faculty and staff of the importance of the First Amendment and how *The Crimson* functions as a truly free press.

"It's a chance to celebrate the First Amendment, which seems to constantly be under attack," said Ted Petersen, Ph.D., a journalism professor and faculty adviser to *The Crimson*. "Every year, this event feels more and more relevant and important."

He added that this year's Free Speech Week was a success.

Ted Jackson gave a moving keynote speech about the role photos play in telling important stories," Petersen said.

"The panel discussions and workshops were well attended, and the students who experienced life without the First Amendment at our free food festival seemed to have a renewed appreciation for those rights."



Students line up to post their thoughts on the free speech wall, a popular attraction during Free Speech Week. Photo credit: Mary Kozaitis

Heidi Hatfield Edwards, communication program chair and associate head of the School of Arts and Communication, said this year's Free Speech Week events were timely.

"Continually, the First Amendment comes under fire," she said. "To have panels that remind us why it's so important that the First Amendment exists and how it's challenged is always important."

The First Amendment is the first amendment for a reason, Edwards added.

"It's highly important, and it's vital to a democracy," she said.

"For an informed citizenry, we have to have a free and uninhibited press. So, in my opinion, we have to continue to fight for our First Amendment freedoms."



Florida Institute
of Technology

continued on page 6

Save the Date: Spring/Summer 2018 Calendar of Events

Communication Programs' Senior Design Presentation

611 Productions presents "Dr. Johnson's Lab"
April 24 at 8 p.m.
Olin Life Science Building, Room 130

The Jazz Syndicate Spring Concert

"With a Little Help from Our Friends"
April 25 at 7 p.m.
Gleason Performing Arts Center

Communication Faculty Meeting

April 26 at 10 a.m.
Crawford 611 Communication Lab

Senior Student Recital

Erick Celedonio, violin, and Coleman Olson, viola
April 28 at 3 p.m.
All Faiths Center

Academic Calendar

April 30– May 4	Final Exams Week
May 5	Spring 2018 Commencement Ceremonies
Aug. 6	Faculty Report Date (Non-Adjunct)
Aug. 20	Fall 2018 Classes Begin

Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to **Natalie Dorfeld**, Ph.D., and **Debbie Lelekis**, Ph.D., assistant professors of English, and **Moti Mizrahi**, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy! All have been promoted to the rank of associate professor.

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

Kevin Boodoosingh, Markeema Crawford, Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Lindsay Isaac, Abeer Janakat, Mary Kozaitis, Kat Redner, Andrew Stanfield and Aaliyah Thomas

The Communicator

A publication of Florida Tech's College of Psychology and Liberal Arts
School of Arts and Communication

150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6975

Phone: 321-674-8082 • <http://cpla.fit.edu/hu-com>

Editor: Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop • Designer: Christena Callahan

FACULTY

Professors

Andrew Aberdein, Ph.D., Logic and Metaphysics, *University of St. Andrews*
Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D., Mass Communication, *University of Georgia*
Gordon Patterson, Ph.D., History, *University of California–Los Angeles*
Lisa Perdigao, Ph.D., English, *Northeastern University*

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

Melissa Crofton, Ph.D., Literature, *University of South Carolina*
Michael Finnegan, Ph.D., Literature, *University of Rhode Island*
Chris Frongillo, Ph.D., English Literature, *Vanderbilt University*
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*
Bill Leach, Ph.D., Texts and Technology, *University of Central Florida*
Joe Montelione, D.M.A., Trumpet Performance, *University of Southern California*
JoAnn Parla-Palumbo, Ph.D., Applied Linguistics, *State University of New York–Buffalo*
Alan Rosiene, Ph.D., English, *Northwestern University*
Matthew Ruane, Ph.D., Higher Education and Policy Studies, *University of Central Florida*
Andy K. Stanfield, Ph.D., Instructional Design and Development, *University of South Alabama*
Dzmitry Yuran, Ph.D., Communication and Information, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION FACULTY AND STAFF SPRING 2018

SCHOOL HEAD

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

Instructors

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

Visiting Instructors

Ingrid Bradley, M.S.
Amy Laakman, M.S.

Adjunct Instructors

John Almasi	Mariana	Jack Kirschenbaum
Christina Apelgren	Garciagodoy-	Julianne Mallak
Douglas Bailey	Cervantes	George Maxwell
Marie Christine Baldini	Nancy Garmer	Pervin Muradov
Dana Beattie	Morana Goldfarb	Jillian Sedivy
Andrei Belyi	Mizrahi	Lucy Serody
Erik Cole	Marietssa Griggs-	Brian Tarquin
George Cornelius	Pastrana	Browne
Kyle Creedon	Rosalind Harvey	Carol Tillema
Jeffery D. Gallop	Lianne Kagunda	Charles VanRiper
	Michael Kahn	Fontaine Wallace

Staff

Anushka Boyd, *Administrative Assistant II, Student Services*
Sara Torabi, *Administrative Assistant II, Faculty Services*
Margaret Moore, *Administrative Assistant*

From the Chair:

A Buzzing Spring for SAC Faculty, Students

The spring 2018 semester is coming to a close across Florida Tech and especially here in the School of Arts and Communication (SAC).

The number of special events we have in the SAC and the ones we participate in around campus are statements of our energy and diversity in very meaningful ways. At times, there are so many events or functions going on that one is hard-pressed to decide which one to attend!

The music program remains a jewel of SAC, and its concerts are always special and entertaining. Our newest music faculty member, Joseph Montelione, recently conducted and performed in a memorable original concert of his own composition.

Leading an ensemble made up of student musicians and local volunteer players, Montelione made the Gleason Performing Arts Center ring with trumpets and strings. It was a night to be long remembered by all in attendance, and it laid the foundation for future concerts of this caliber.

In short order, the SAC communication program and *The Crimson* newspaper celebrated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in February with its annual Free Speech Week.

Freedom of speech and the press are bedrock American principles that must always be nurtured and defended. Panels and presentations from legal experts, local journalists and a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist showcased a wide variety of opinions and experiences for their audiences.

Among the events, the most popular, and perhaps most chilling, was the "Live Free or Eat Free" lunch giveaway held on the Crawford Building green. The activity demonstrated the real price of surrendering your First Amendment rights and the consequences of such an action. It proved to be a fun, but frightening, exercise!

SAC remains a close partner of the Florida Tech Army ROTC program.

Once again, we helped with the program's Senior Battle Analysis "staff ride" field trip this semester. Senior cadets toured the grim grounds of the infamous Civil War prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia, the major U.S. Army base at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the site of the 1864 Civil War battle of Pickett's Mill near Atlanta.



Robert Taylor, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, and Head of the School of Arts and Communication.

All in attendance came away with an enhanced appreciation of military history and its impact on the United States over time.

The poet T.S. Eliot once wrote that "April is the cruellest month." While perhaps not severe, last month was a busy one on campus in terms of events SAC faculty and students are involved in.

The university's leading honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, held its annual ceremony April 11 and inducted our own Professor Michael Finnegan into its distinguished ranks.

I was honored to be there and, in full regalia, announce the names of all the new members as they completed their initiation. Professor Heidi Edwards will soon ascend to the presidency of Phi Kappa Phi's Florida Tech chapter.

A few days after the induction ceremony, the university's annual Academic Honors Convocation presented an opportunity for SAC undergraduates and graduate students to be recognized for their achievements in and out of the classroom.

At this same event, SAC's own Matthew Ruane received the Florida Tech Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Award. He joins four of his SAC colleagues in this distinguished category.

"We touch faculty and students every day in very positive ways and [can] be proud of all we do."

I also would like to take this time to acknowledge and congratulate SAC's three newly minted associate professors: Natalie Dorfeld, Debbie Lelekis and Moti Mizrahi.

Another SAC professor, Sharon Irvin, was honored in April for her 40-plus years of teaching and service to the university.

All of these activities clearly show the key role SAC plays in the greater life of our Florida Tech family. We touch faculty and students every day in very positive ways, and have a right to be proud of all we do.

A special salute and "well done" to all who labor to make these things happen every year.

Robert A. Taylor

Connect with us:



Education Connection: Building Motivation into the Writing Classroom

By Andy Stanfield, For *The Communicator*

Writing is a skill, and honing skills takes practice.

Using the mean is an easy way to calculate grades, but is it the best approach to encourage students to write more? With the mean, each poor performance will drag down the range of scores, affecting the final average. If at the beginning of a semester, a student does poorly on several assignments, the grade range may drop so low the student loses motivation, dropping the course or, worse, simply failing.



Andy Stanfield

Without hope, what is left?

My teaching philosophy is a motivation-based model that builds upon research in game theory, motivation, mastery learning, and long-term memory and storage.

Let's look at two different classrooms.

In the first, there are five essays averaged for the final grade. In the second, there are 20 assignments worth varying amounts, with 900 earned points equaling an A grade.

In the first classroom, a student who is not a strong writer does poorly on the first two papers, earning a 51 on the first and a 68 on the second. The student will probably pull out his/her phone

and crunch the numbers. Even if the student made a 90 on the next three assignments, it would still result in a grade of a C. Motivation drops (See Figure 1), and students on scholarship or obsessed with GPAs may begin mentally checking out of the course.

In the second classroom, the scores of 51 and 68 result in 119 points the student has earned. The goal is still possible, and the student keeps working, knowing

additional work will be rewarded with points (see Figure 2).

Students often seem more in control of their learning as they realize each error eliminated results in more points earned on future submissions.

Now, let's look into some of the theories behind this approach.

Some research into educational games (Garris, Ahlers, & Driskoll, 2002) suggests the level of challenge is a factor that increases engagement. If something is too difficult or appears impossible, people often give up. If something is too easy, people tend to grow bored and possibly give up. Provide enough challenge to keep



Figure 1. Example with Mean



Figure 2. Example with Earned Points

continued on page 8

The SAC Five

FIVE FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

Gabriella Baika, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Foreign Languages



1 My body lives in Melbourne, but my mind constantly wanders in European cities. As a professor of foreign languages, you have to live with this as a natural condition.



2 In Melbourne, after speaking five languages all day (four at work and a different one at home), I appreciate one to two hours of total silence in the afternoon. During this time, I don't have to say anything; I just listen. It's my version of Silenzio Stampa (Italian for "not talking to the press").



3 No matter how much I love Italian culture and lifestyle, I don't like pizza or pasta (not even in Italy). I prefer to eat seaweeds and miso soup. This is how the hiring committee at my department won me over nine years ago: they offered me lunch at Matt's Casbah, where I had a seaweed salad on top of an open glass globe, in which a little fish was swimming. I found this exquisite!

I have Sumerian DNA through my father, who is Hungarian. (Some linguists believe that Hungarian is a remnant of ancient Sumerian, like Finnish and Basque languages.) Perhaps this is why I am so drawn to books about forgotten civilizations, like the ones in Mesopotamia or at Gobekli Tepe in Turkey.

◀ In a picture at the Louvre in Paris, you can see me as Gudea, ruler of Lagash (Southern Mesopotamia).



4 In the evening, when no students can see me, I watch European soccer games and sometimes yell at referees or players. My family and I are huge fans of Bayern München and Paris Saint-Germain!

THE SAC BIDS FAREWELL TO A DEAN MARY BETH KENKEL

The School of Arts and Communication will soon bid farewell to one of its champions, Mary Beth Kenkel, Ph.D., who retires in June.

Kenkel, professor and dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts, is leaving Florida Tech after 17 years of service.

"I am retiring because I am of that age where you feel you have done your part and can now start a new chapter in life filled with new adventures and with the time to engage in activities that have been too long on the 'one of these days' list," she stated in her retirement announcement last October.



Mary Beth Kenkel

While Kenkel's imprint on the university is indelible, one of the achievements she will be remembered for is crafting CoPLA into a strong, cohesive college and successful academic arm of the university. She was appointed dean in 2005.

Under her leadership, CoPLA grew from a college with one school to two schools—the School of Psychology and the School of Arts and Communication—as well as the department of Military Science and the division of languages and linguistics.

Robert Taylor, Ph.D., head of the School of Arts and Communication, said Kenkel opened new

avenues of education and scholarship for the university.

"She took what was then a psychology department and humanities program and transformed them into the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts—no easy feat. The impact Dr. Kenkel has had, not only within the college, but also throughout the university and in the field of psychology, has been tremendous," he said.

Taylor said Kenkel has always been a friend and staunch supporter of liberal arts.

"We will miss her generous support and commitment to this university, its students and its faculty," Taylor added.

A retirement reception for Dean Kenkel will be from 3–5 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, on the Crawford Green.

Making Moves: SAC Faculty News Roundup

Faculty Service Recognition

Congratulations to these SAC faculty members recently honored during the 2018 Service Awards:

5 years: Melissa Crofton, Elizabeth Dopira, Natalie Dorfeld, Debbie Lelekis, Keturah Mazo

10 years: Annie Caza

15 years: Anna Montoya, Angela Tenga

40 years: Sharon Irvin

Andrew Aberdein's article, "Virtuous Norms for Visual Arguers," published in *Argumentation* 32(1), 2018, pp. 1–23. He also authored the chapter "Redefining Revolutions" in Moti Mizrahi's book, *The Kuhnian image of science: Time for a decisive transformation?* (London: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017), pp. 133–54.

Aberdein also will present the paper "Virtues, Arguments, and Mathematical Practice" at the 7th Biennial Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice conference in late June at the University of Ghent in Belgium. In addition, he will present "Eudaimonistic Argumentation" at the 9th Conference of the International Society for the Study of Argumentation in July at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Kevin R. Burke presented the paper "Terpsichorean Vox: Hitoshi Sakimoto's Choral Synthesis in the 16-Bit Era" at the North American Conference for Video Game Music in January at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI.

Natalie M. Dorfeld was the keynote speaker for the 49th College English Association Conference (Contingent Faculty Caucus portion) on April 7 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Her presentation "Life on the Adjunct Track: What Are My Options?" discussed the current academic landscape for contingent faculty members.

Debbie Lelekis and **Melissa Crofton** co-presented their paper "Where are the Students and How Do I Engage Them?: A Survival Guide for Literature Professors at Technical Universities" at the 49th College English Association Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida on April 7.

Gordon Patterson was the keynote speaker at the Armed Forces Pest Management Board's 21st Department of Defense Triennial Pest Management Workshop, held March 19–23 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The title of his talk was "Waging War on the Insect Menace."



Additionally, Patterson will serve as a consultant on the film series "Invasion of the Man Bites," which is being directed for public television. The series will present the role of two invasive species of mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, as vectors of diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever and, most recently, the Zika virus.

Andy Stanfield presented "Mastery and Motivation in the Digital Writing Classroom" at the Sunshine State Teaching and Learning Conference 2018 in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Matthew Ruane

Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to **Matthew Ruane**, Ph.D., assistant professor of humanities and director of Academic Program Assessment for the School of Arts and Communication, this year's recipient of the prestigious Kerry Bruce Clark Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Robert A. Taylor published a chapter titled "Florida Hispanics in the Civil War" in *A Forgotten Front: Florida In The Civil War*, Weitz and Shepard ed., University of Alabama Press, 2018.

Wanfa Zhang gave a talk on "China's 'One Belt One Road Initiative' and Implications for the World" at an investment forum held by the American Center for the Belt and Road Initiative and the Artisan Business Group, Inc. The talk was given March 14 at the Trump International Hotel in Washington D.C. He was interviewed by AACNTV in DC at the end of the forum.



Zhang also spoke to Florida Tech's Lifelong Scholar Society on April 19 about China's foreign policy and impact on the world. The event was held at the Buena Vida Retirement Center.

SEVENTH ANNUAL FREE SPEECH WEEK AT FLORIDA TECH

continued from page 1

Edwards said the discussion about tenure was particularly timely here on Florida Tech's campus because the university is considering a tenure system.

She also said the keynote address was a compelling reminder of the power of images and the role of journalists.

"Our keynote was wonderful," Edwards said.

"We must always remember that we as journalists are serving our communities and to produce the images that are going to best serve those communities," she added.

Top: From left, Florida Today editors Isadora Rangel and Bobby Block, along with attorney and SAC adjunct instructor Jack Kirschenbaum, debate the First Amendment during a Free Speech Week workshop.

Bottom: From left, SAC professors Gordon Patterson and Natalie Dorfeld talk tenure and academic freedom during a panel discussion as part of Free Speech Week.



Here are a few takeaways from students who attended activities during Free Speech Week 2018.

Well, I think the First Amendment is vital to any society. You need to have the ability to express whatever ideas or thoughts you have without having any fear of those being struck down. So, I just think it is very important.

Arpad Marsh, sophomore forensic psychology major

The panel discussion was really awesome because it is a topic that really frustrates me—but in a good way. I think it's really important to think about free speech critically, especially in a political sense. I think it's really important that we analyze the way we communicate with others and that we have the ability to trust the press and people who are speaking freely.

Nicole Kern, junior communication major

Everyone should be able to express themselves, however they are—but without crossing the line. I am a photographer, but taking photos of people in these events (like Ted Jackson), I've never tried or thought about. But someone has to do it.

Ahmed Alfadala, senior electrical engineering major

Journalists can never actually stay completely emotionally unattached when they are dealing with any story because there is a part of them that wants to help—but to do their job, they have to observe as an objective bystander. That was my takeaway. Free speech is good, but you still have to manage what you say. Depending on what you want, you have to be able to know what you can and cannot say. Even though you want what's ideal, you can't say everything.

Andrew Thompson, sophomore mechanical engineering major

"Know and appreciate your First Amendment rights—whether you're a democrat or republican, black or white, man or woman—in a world where not all nations were granted with the liberties we have. And fight for them every day.

Mary Kozaitis, senior communication major and editor-in-chief of The Crimson newspaper

COM HONOR SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS, CONTINUES TO 'SPREAD THE LOVE'

By Abeer Janakat, Special to *The Communicator*

As the spring semester nears an end, members of the Lambda Pi Eta Upsilon Xi Chapter welcomed two new members into the communication honor society: Kiayna O'Neal and Annika Sundquist.

The induction ceremony, held March 21, began with faculty advisor Keturah Mazo presenting society officers with gifts of appreciation. The event ended with the lighting of two candles for the new members as a representation of the chapter's commitment to progressing in the communication field.

The ceremony capped a productive semester for the society, which included a successful Candy Gram fundraiser and an ongoing Random Acts of Kindness challenge.

The Candy Gram fundraiser, held around Valentine's Day, reached about 100 students, faculty and staff.

By spreading the love, the society put together its most successful fundraiser all year. Not to mention,

some of the group's members got to experience the Florida Tech mailroom in full swing as they delivered their Candy Grams.

The Random Acts of Kindness challenge also aims to "spread the love."

As a partnership with Florida Tech's UNICEF Campus Initiative group, the challenge encourages students to take part in changing the world one step at a time.

Lambda Pi Eta is the National Communication Association's official honor society at four-year colleges and universities. With more than 450 active chapters at universities across the country, LPH recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement in communication studies.

Florida Tech's chapter started in April 2016.



Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society new member induction ceremony on March 21. Members include: (from left) Aaliyah Thomas, vice president; Audrey Gangloff; Kiayna O'Neal; Annika Sundquist; and Abeer Janakat, president. Photo credit: Keturah Mazo

Florida Tech Lives Out Loud During Annual African American Read-In

By Kat Redner, For *The Communicator*

Diversity took center stage in February as area poets, musicians, dancers and performers joined students and faculty in celebrating Florida Tech's third annual African American Read-In.

This year's theme, "Living Out Loud," really resonated with students like Nicholas Joy.

"It's important because it shows people elements of black history that might not have been known before," said Joy, a senior engineering student who recited the poem "I, Too" by famed poet and activist Langston Hughes.

More than 200 people packed the first floor of Evans Library on Feb. 9 for the event, which was free and open to the public.

Raghav Ringshia, a freshman from India, said the read-in brought people together and offered a chance for them to learn more about other cultures.

"When my professor mentioned this event, I came to see and understand more about the African-American culture," Ringshia said.

That culture was not only shown through poetry but also through music.

Florida Tech student Ariana Bishop sang "Dream a Little Dream of Me" by Ella Fitzgerald. As she sang, some audience members mouthed the lyrics while others nodded their heads to the music or recorded Bishop with their cell phones.

"The spirit of love that is in this room, the comradery—you can feel that love just radiating—it's just beautiful," said Joni Oglesby, Ph.D., who served as mistress of ceremonies for the event.

A section of the library was designated Zora's Soul Food Café, named after famous Florida writer Zora Neale Hurston. Attendees were treated to foods—including fried chicken, beef stew and collard greens—highlighted in Hurston's book, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Most of the food was prepared by performer Claudette King-Welcome, owner of Montego Café restaurant in Palm Bay.

The Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society provided pound cake.

The event drew a diverse group of performers and audience members ranging from toddlers to the elderly, black to white—showing how the community came together for equality.

"There's still tension in the U.S. and people don't understand the value of equality, but I think our campus is so diverse and it gives the professors and students an outlet to speak out about what they're passionate about," said sophomore Olivia McKelvey.

Top: Florida Tech students Ebubechukwu Ubochi and Princess Noboluwaduro Akande performed "No One" by Alicia Keys at the African American Read-In. Photo credit: Kat Redner

Bottom: More than 200 people attended Florida Tech's 3rd Annual African American Read-In in the school's Evans Library on Feb. 9. Guests enjoyed poetry, readings, songs and a full-course soul food dinner. Photo credit: Markeema Crawford



Taylor Helps Bring Civil War Battles to Life

By Kevin Boodoosingh, For *The Communicator*

Indiaella Kemm-Pineiro thought she was ready.

The senior U.S. Army ROTC cadet did her homework, researching and analyzing American Civil War-era battles in the state of Georgia, including the Battle of Pickett's Mill.

But it wasn't until she toured the expansive field where the bloody skirmish occurred that the realism of the situation began to sink in.

"Even though I did my prior research, it did not compare to actually being there and having Dr. Taylor walk us through the grounds," Kemm-Pineiro said.

Robert Taylor, Ph.D., head of the School of Arts and Communication, accompanied Florida Tech's senior ROTC cadets on their battle analysis trip in mid-March. The excursion was led by MSG John D. Stafford, senior military instructor U.S. Army ROTC, and Captain Sheiloh Carlos, assistant professor of military science, U.S. Army ROTC.

"As an Army ROTC cadet, when you're a senior, the Army requires you to do a battle analysis where you go to a battle site and walk the actual ground and explain various aspects of it and see what you can learn by physically being there," said Taylor, a history professor and an associate dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts.

The cadets visited many sites in Georgia, with each containing a different aspect to their analysis. In addition to Pickett's Mill, they also toured the Andersonville National Historic Site and Fort Benning.

Within those sites were various battlegrounds and museums that the cadets had the opportunity to interact with, including the National Prisoner of War Museum and the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

Stafford said the trip focused on the logistics not the politics of the Civil War battlegrounds.

"Each cadet talked about what happened and about what decisions were made and how they would have done it differently. Interpersonal skills were highly developed," he explained.

Carlos added that cadets studied the tactical and technical side of the battles.

"Having the cadets actually walk the grounds and feel what it means to be a leader and what an actual assault really is like, and how it feels, really gives them a new perspective and ultimately prepares them for anything the United States Army asks of them in the future," he said.

Taylor said one highlight of the trip was the group getting the opportunity to hike Pickett's Mill.

"We spent several hours going over the battle that was fought there, and I can assure you, the three-mile hike was not easy," he said.

Kemm-Pineiro said it was a cool opportunity to walk the battlefield.

"It was an awesome experience also because all the cadets bonded even more," she said

continued on page 12

Robert Taylor, Ph.D., and Florida Tech's senior Army ROTC cadets tour Civil War sites in Georgia as part of the students' MS4 Battle Analysis trip.

Photo credits: Army Lt. Col. Terrence O'Connor, professor of military science at Florida Tech



FINNEGAN INDUCTED TO PHI KAPPA PHI

Michael Finnegan, Ph.D., an assistant professor of literature and composition, was inducted into the Florida Tech chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi on April 11.



Michael Finnegan

Finnegan was one of three faculty members initiated into the prestigious honor society. About 200 students also were inducted as new members.

Phi Kappa Phi membership is by invitation only to Florida Tech's top 7.5 percent of second-term junior and the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students.

Heidi Hatfield Edwards, Ph.D., communication program chair and associate head of the School of Arts and Communication, is the president-elect.

EDUCATION CONNECTION *continued from page 4*

students engaged but do not make it appear impossible.

Keller's ARCS model (2010) is a method of designing instruction by gaining Attention, making content Relevant, which should increase students' Confidence, resulting in increased Satisfaction and use.

To gain attention, I highlight the importance of proper grammar and strong sentence structure, providing examples of cover letters being rejected for grammatical errors. The focus on how they can improve their writing skills, making it relevant. The confidence comes from the frequency of assignments, and the satisfaction comes from higher earned scores.

Writing is one of the most important skills related to academic success, but to master

the complexities of academic writing takes a great deal of time. Ericsson and Kintsch's (1995) research into long-term memory states mastery of some performance-based skills such as music or writing may require 10 years to achieve mastery.

Students don't have that long.

Writing is one of the most complex cognitive skills. To do it properly requires making mistakes.

If every mistake lowers the final score, what is the motivation to truly discover all errors in one's writing? The cruel mean may make some students risk-averse, fearful of lowering their average.

We should encourage them to write more, not less, so don't penalize the learning process.



Some members of the Florida Tech Concert Band and Panther Big Band really got into the swing of things during their joint concert on April 16 in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. The bands, directed by Joseph Montelione, D.M.A., assistant professor of music, presented "Sounds Like it's From a Movie," complete with a dinosaur costume.



The Gleason Performing Arts Center came to life April 10 with the blended voices of concert choirs from Florida Tech and Eastern Florida State College. The choirs, along with the Florida Tech String Orchestra, presented "Majestic Music: Mozart to Modern Day." The concert was conducted by Eliza Dopira, music instructor and director of choral and string studies in the SAC, and Robert Lamb, D.M.A., chair of EFSC's Department of Performing and Visual Arts.

Photos courtesy of Florida Tech's Music Program



WORLD MUSIC CULTURE COURSE BACK THIS FALL

For those looking for a global musical experience, Florida Tech's music program will offer its Intro to World Music Culture course again in the fall.

The 3.0-credit hour course is a Humanities and cross-cultural elective offering a cultural survey of non-Western music from across the globe.

"Students will learn to play djembes, panpipes and other instruments in a weekly performance lab," states Kevin Burke, Ph.D., associate professor of music and director of music programs.

"No prior music experience is necessary."

The course, MUS 2290, will help students develop skills in describing various musical styles while working toward understanding music's role in identity formation, community and expression.

Classes will meet from 9:30–10:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact Burke at kburke@fit.edu for more information.

FLORIDA TECH ESTABLISHES NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS CLUB

By Lindsay Isaac, For *The Communicator*

It's official—Florida Tech now has a public relations club.

The Florida Tech Public Relations Club, known as FTPR, was approved by the university's Club Approval Committee in February and has grown to 12 members.

FTPR allows members to gain professional experience in the field of public relations while still in school through collaborations with on-campus organizations, the Space Coast chapter of Florida Public Relations Association and the surrounding community.

The club recently teamed up with the university to help plan the annual Day of Giving event scheduled for the fall semester. The 24-hour fundraising event is held in conjunction with the international effort known as Giving Tuesday.

According to Florida Tech's Office of Annual Giving, the Day of Giving has grown over the past two years

to become the most popular way alumni and friends give to the university.

In addition to special event support, the student chapter plans to offer services such as website development and updating, publicity and awareness generation, news release writing and social media management.

FTPR student membership is open to all full-time students pursuing studies in communication, journalism and business, or demonstrating an interest in pursuing a career in public relations.

The organization's faculty advisor is Ingrid Bradley, a visiting instructor in the School of Arts and Communication. She has been recognized by the U.S. Air Force for her excellence as a public affairs officer.

For questions about the club or membership, please email lisaac2015@my.fit.edu.



File photo of Florida Tech Public Relations Club around the sixth floor elevators.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL MARTIN

My name is Rachel Martin, and I am a senior Humanities major with a passion for history.

I first got interested in history when I was 5, courtesy of "The Mummy" movie franchise starring Brendan Fraser. Because of that, I read everything I possibly could about Ancient Egypt for the next five years or so.

I actually still have a "Build Your Own Mummy" set in my room. (Just to clarify: There was no murder involved; it's a plastic figurine with removable organs that can be wrapped up in bandages.)

My entire life, I've been allergic to dogs, which was a big problem since I always wanted one. When my family finally decided to adopt one, I was in charge of selecting the breed, going for the (mostly) hairless Chinese Crested.

Since we now have three of them currently ruling the house (despite one of them laying waste to every pencil he sees and the other two being complicit in the destruction of a beloved antique book of mine), I'd say it worked out well.

Before I realized that the Humanities major was an option for me, I wanted to be a marine biologist with a specialty in deep sea life.

This interest developed after playing Wii: Endless Ocean. I still get a little rush of nostalgia when I see a picture of a goblin shark or a pelican eel.

Also, I'm absolutely obsessed with musicals in any form.

I started off with Broadway hits, especially "Phantom of the Opera," but I've since shifted a lot of my attention towards German, French, Japanese and other foreign musicals as well.

When I was brainstorming for Capstone project topics, "Hamilton: An American Musical" was actually one of my strongest candidates.

In my spare time, I sometimes do stained glass work, a hobby I picked up from my mother.

It is time-consuming, so I rarely have the opportunity, but I do have two solo projects to show for it.

One of them is a tree I did for Dr. Lisa Perdigao's young adult literature class. The other is a Roman statue of a dog I did while I was competing in the Regional Latin Forum back in high school.



Rachel Martin

NEW PHILOSOPHY CLUB TAKES STUDENTS ON THOUGHT-FILLED JOURNEY

By Aaliyah Thomas, For *The Communicator*

FITlosophy may be the only place on campus where students can thoroughly discuss the values of argumentation, censorship, and obscenity all in one month.

Such were the topics of weekly meetings in March by Florida Tech's new philosophy club. The group, with its portmanteau name, provides students with an informal, student-friendly environment to discuss openly philosophical questions that are important to them.

FITlosophy is the brainchild of Eleanor Mathers, a junior communication major who also is the first Florida Tech student to declare a philosophy minor.

"We go to a technical college where everything has a conclusion. Math has the answer, science has the answer, and that's their whole point," Mathers said.

Philosophy is all about the journey to finding an answer rather than finding the solution because sometimes there is no answer, she added.

The club meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Evans Library. All are welcome.

Discussion topics vary for each meeting.

The club's faculty advisors are Andrew Aberdein, Ph.D., and Moti Mizrahi, Ph.D., who teach philosophy courses such as Survey of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy, and Philosophy of Science.

Both professors publish research on philosophical issues, such as the nature of mathematical and scientific knowledge.

"I believe philosophy is important because you learn how to think," Mizrahi said, adding that

the process of thinking is important when pursuing an academic major or career.



The new FITlosophy club meets in the Evans Library every Tuesday during the school year. All are welcome. Photo credit: Aaliyah Thomas

He said it helps with evidence and how to filter through news and information that is accessible to mass amounts of people.

Ilya Salinnyk, a chemical engineering major with a minor in nanotechnology, is a member of FITlosophy. He agrees that philosophy requires individuals to think outside of their norm.

"This club is very casual. Many people consider philosophy to be very formal, but the atmosphere could not be friendlier, and we welcome anyone that has an opinion on anything," Salinnyk said.

Jacob Ivey, Ph.D., assistant professor of humanities, said the fundamental questions that come up in a philosophy club are beneficial to all students.

"Seeing that there is a vibrant and very diverse community of individuals that are dealing with these kinds of questions—not just from a historical standpoint, but sociologically and politically, it is incredibly important for students' greater understanding," he said.



Congratulations to (photo on left) Brigitte Bonaci, Anushka Boyd, Mengling Cao, Steven Gilbert, (photo on right) Shantel Hanna and Brandon Hatzel on their graduation in December. Photo credits: Heidi Hatfield Edwards

CONGRATULATIONS FALL 2017 GRADUATES

These students graduated from the School of Arts and Communication in December.

M.S., Global Strategic Communication: **Brigitte Bonaci, Anushka Boyd, Mengling Cao, Steven Gilbert, Shyla Soundararajan**

B.S., Communication: **Shantel Hanna, Brandon Hatzel** (*Commissioned Second Lieutenant, Florida National Guard*)

B.A., Humanities: **Karlyn Prisco**



Florida Institute of Technology's Spring Commencement ceremonies will be

held Saturday, May 5, in the Charles and Ruth Clemente Center. The undergraduate ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m. The graduate ceremony starts at 2 p.m.

SAC Alumni News

- **Shannon R. Caldwell**, M.S. Global Strategic Communication '14, and her husband, Jamie Caldwell, welcomed their “eclipse baby” son, Gabriel, on Aug. 21, 2017. The couple also owns and operates UBU Brands, a branding, website, digital advertising and promotions company in Port St. Lucie, Florida.



Gabriel Caldwell

- **Christena Callahan**, M.S. Technical and Professional Communication '07, is the new director of Florida Tech's Office of Creative Services. Callahan has held the position of university editor for 13 years and editor of *Florida Tech Today* magazine for eight years.

- Army 2nd Lt. **Jessica B. Kerney**, B.S. Communication/Military Science '17, recently began training in her selected aircraft, the UH-60 Blackhawk at Fort Rucker, Alabama.



Army 2nd Lt. Jessica B. Kerney

- **Jillian K. Sedivy**, B.A. Humanities '11, and her husband, Michael, welcomed their daughter, Vivian, on March 1. She joins her two-year-old big brother, Oliver.

- **Kimberly D. Schaefer**, M.S. Technical and Professional Communication '15, is a new systems analyst at Engineering Research and Consulting Inc., a subcontractor with Jacobs Technology Inc., the NASA Test and Operations Support Contract team.

Army 2nd Lt. **Brandon Hatzel**, B.S. Communication '17, was recognized in March by the Lawton, Oklahoma Police Department for helping officers to capture and arrest a would-be carjacker outside of a business in the city.



According to the *Fort Sill Tribune*, Hatzel, a student in the Air Defense Artillery Basic Officer Leaders Course class at the U.S. Army base, assisted a police officer in chasing and subduing a man who tried to carjack a middle-aged woman in the parking lot. Hatzel physically fought off the attacker and sat on him until the police took over.

Reflecting back on his actions, Hatzel told the newspaper that he would not have been able to sleep again had something happened to the woman involved in the incident. "I didn't want to be there, but I had to, though. My only concern was for that woman," he stated.

COM Student Tackles Tough Issues In New Short Film

By Aaliyah Thomas, For *The Communicator*

René Descartes would be proud.

The French philosopher's famous quote, "I think, therefore I am" and the theory of solipsism—that only the self exists or can be proven to exist—play prominent roles in "Certainty," a new short film by Florida Tech student and basketball star Michael Milligan Jr.

Certainty is the quality or state of being certain, especially by evidence. Through the basis of solipsism, the characters in the film experience several revelations.

Milligan, a senior global strategic communication major, said it was a fitting title.

The film is loosely inspired by tragic events that happened in Charlottesville, Virginia, when a woman was killed in a hit-and-run during a protest.

"I took essences from that experience and made it into my own story," Milligan said.

Students can screen the film on April 20 in the F. W. Olin Engineering Complex Room 118.

"Certainty" centers on a black man who goes through a virtual reality experience through the perspective of a white man.

Thomas Carter Rochester, a Florida Tech alumnus and current staff member, plays a character named Tyler. Tyler is a college student who is tired of his history and heritage being cast out from the forefront.

"To sum up Tyler in a word: racist. The hardest part about playing Tyler is that I am not racist, so I had to pull from negative experiences from my childhood," Rochester said.

Rochester grew up in a town that was racially and class divided. He said that everyone seemed to hate each other.

"I pulled the hatred and 'holier than thou' attitude of the character from various people and interactions I witnessed growing up," said Rochester.

Amy Laakman, a visiting instructor of communication, reviewed Milligan's original script and helped with practical issues. She also encouraged Milligan throughout the strenuous filmmaking process.

"I thought the film was very doable because it was a small cast, and there weren't any huge technical issues or special effects," Laakman said.

She added that the film is very timely due to the culture of society today.

"One problem I thought he might have is, without too many spoilers, that the racism is very important to tell the story, but I think it might be hard for people to accept," Laakman said. "I think having seen "Get Out," the timing is really good for it."

Ebube Ubochi, a graduate student in global strategic communication, saw the original script and said he was very intrigued by it.

"I think those who see it will be jolted into reconsidering what they hold as the 'status quo' or their own reality," Ubochi said.



Filmmaker and senior COM student Michael Milligan, right, talks with Brett Twery, left, a member of FITV productions who served as the cinematographer and an editor on the film. Photo credit: Aaliyah Thomas

Laakman said it's important for students in any major to be able to express themselves artistically.

"The humanities are why we are working to be scientists. If we don't understand the human condition, we're not going to understand what our needs are, and technology just for the sake of technology is useless," Laakman said.

Ubochi also expressed the importance of keeping an open mind while viewing the piece.

"The film kind of makes you ask retrospective questions regarding positions of acceptance, race, friendship, peer pressure and those around you," he said.

TAYLOR HELPS BRING CIVIL WAR BATTLES TO LIFE

continued from page 8

Though the trip heavily focused on the battle analysis, Stafford said he couldn't help but feel humbled by the experience.

Just knowing that he was at the infamous Andersonville civil war prison camp where 13,000 American soldiers lost their lives in the earth beneath his feet was a feeling he will not forget.

“Having Dr. Taylor there really enlightened a lot of things for me, and that's coming from 24 years of military experience.”

—MSG John D. Stafford, senior military instructor U.S. Army ROTC

For Carlos, it was the experience with the cadets that left him amazed.

“The cadets showed much appreciation; there's something about taking what you've learned and presenting it. You can use Powerpoint all you want and have as many classroom meetings as you want, but being on the ground, well, there is a true sense of awe and wonder when you're there,” Carlos said.

Although he spends much of his time in administration, Taylor said he loves teaching and always learns as much as students when going to historical places.

“You want to learn about a battle? You can look at maps, you can look at pictures, but there's no substitute for walking the ground yourself.”



Top: Robert Taylor, Ph.D., discusses Civil War battles with senior ROTC cadets during a visit to several war sites in Georgia.

Bottom: Taylor (second from left, back row) stands with Florida Tech ROTC cadets at the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville, Georgia.

Photo credits: Florida Tech Army ROTC

SC-236-418



Florida Institute of Technology

School of Arts and Communication
150 W. University Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901-6975