

IN THIS ISSUE

ROTC Cadets Visit D-Day Battle Sites



p. 6

Perdigao Leads New Honors College



p. 7

Eighth Annual Free Speech Week Rocks



p. 8

Botanical Garden Dedicated to Pattersons



p. 12

FLORIDA TECH MUSIC PROGRAM ENJOYING INCREASED ENROLLMENTS, EXPANDED OFFERINGS

By Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop, The Communicator

Melissa Neary looks down at the sheet music for Beethoven's "Sonatina in G" and smiles at the handwritten words and sweeping arrows mingling with the musical notes on the page.

"I tend to write out a lot of what I need to do," she says, eyeing the words 'stretch' as a reminder to lengthen her fingers to hit the right key and 'move' for when her hand has to travel across the keyboard.

"I think seeing some sort of step-by-step process, some visual cues, kind of makes my brain focus on it," says Neary, one of seven students in Mariana Garciasgodooy Cervantes' group intermediate piano class.

This sort of thinking serves the sophomore biomedical engineering major well in her studies. Now, she is finding that it is helping her to learn to play the piano, too.

"I've had this piece for probably three weeks now, and I've gotten all the way through the first movement. Now, I'm starting on the second movement," Neary says before covering her ears with headphones and returning to practice in the new piano/keyboard lab located on the fifth floor of the Crawford Building.

In many ways, Florida Tech's music program is in its second act in recent years, adding additional classes and offering opportunities to students from all majors to learn or expand their musical interests.

"We've increased enrollments in our large ensembles (Concert Choir, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Panther Big Band) and created several applied group courses such as Beginning and Intermediate Piano, Beginning and Intermediate Guitar, and Recording Studio Workshop," says Kevin Burke, director of music programs since 2014.

"We've also bolstered our infrastructure in terms of marketing, record keeping and equipment, so



Group ensembles in the Florida Tech music program celebrated the university's 60th Anniversary with a special concert on Feb. 12 in the Gleason Performing Arts Center. Photo Credit: Chuck Van Riper.

we are reaching a larger and broader segment of the student body and are able to provide adequate resources for those students," he said.

And the students are responding.

This was evident by the need for risers to accommodate all of the student musical groups that participated in Florida Tech's 60th Anniversary concert in the Gleason Performing Arts Center on Feb. 12.

Burke said it was an amazing feeling to see the risers.

"At the end of my first year at Florida Tech, our Paris Artist in Residence, Paul Anquez, had an idea to write music for all of our student ensembles, which filled Gleason's stage. Four years later, it's amazing and gratifying to have programmed music for those same groups again and have them overflowing into risers in front of the stage," he says.

"It was a visual testament to our growth over four years and encouragement that we will continue to expand."

He added that the variety of programming, as well as the sheer number of students on stage that night, reflected Florida Tech's support of the arts in the curriculum and community.

Continued on page 9

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION FACULTY AND STAFF, SPRING 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
 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
 Dzmityr Yuran, Ph.D., Communication and Information, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

INSTRUCTORS

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

VISITING INSTRUCTORS

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

Marie Christine Baldini	Marietssa Griggs-Pastrana	Alycia Pardoe
Dana Beattie	Marci Hanks	Lucy Serody
Andrei Belyi	Lianne Kagunda	Chelsea Stripling
Erik Cole	Michael Kahn	Carol Tillema
Kyle Creedon	Jack Kirschenbaum	Charles Van Riper
Jeffrey D. Gallop	David Koenig	Fontaine Wallace
Mariana Garciagodoy-Cervantes	Julianne Mallak	
Stephanie Gonzalez	Pervin Muradov	

STAFF

Anushka Boyd, Administrative Assistant II, Student Services
 Amanda Culver, Administrative Assistant II, Faculty Services
 Margaret Moore, Administrative Assistant III

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Student Vocal Recital
 April 22 at 5 p.m. | Gleason Performing Arts Center

Spring Student Instrumental Recital
 April 22 at 7 p.m. | Gleason Performing Arts Center

**“Where Champions Are Born”
 Communication Senior Design Documentary**
 April 24 at 6:15 p.m. | Olin Life Sciences 130, Auditorium

COM Faculty Meeting
 April 26 at 2 p.m. | Crawford 611 Communication Lab

Academic Calendar
 April 24 | Last Day of Classes

April 25–26 | Study Days (no classes)

April 29–May 3 | Final Exams Week

May 4 | Spring Commencement Ceremonies

May 13 | First day of summer classes,
 8-, 9- and 11-week terms

May 27 | Memorial Day (no classes)

July 4 | Independence Day (no classes)

July 27 | Summer Commencement Exercises

Aug. 19 | Fall 2019 Classes Begin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty Promotions

Congratulations to **Lisa Perdigao**, promoted to assistant provost for Florida Tech’s Honor’s College. Also, congratulations to **Andrew Aberdein**, promoted to chair for the humanities programs.

Welcome aboard, Amanda!

Amanda Culver is the new administrative assistant II - faculty services in the School of Arts and Communication office on the sixth floor of Crawford.



THANK YOU

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

Andrew Aberdein, Kenika Bouchelle, Sara Carroll, Gregg Gonzalez, Melanie Langgle, Keturah Mazo, Sonja Michaels, Lisa Perdigao and Annika Sundquist

FROM THE CHAIR

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND COMMUNICATION LOOKS TO THE FUTURE AS UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

The world was a very different place in 1958.

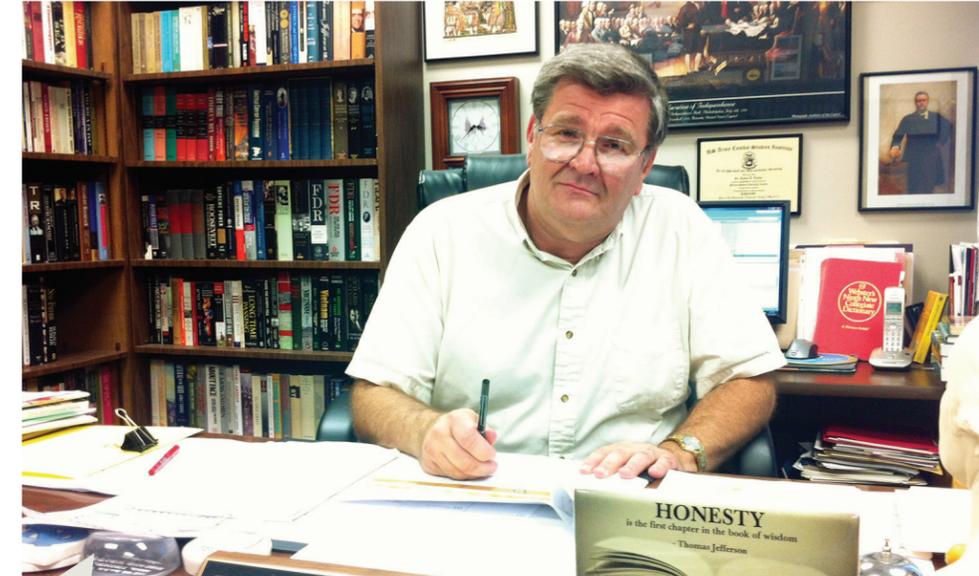
Dwight Eisenhower was president, and Nikita Khrushchev led Russia. NASA was founded to take Americans into the new space age, and rock and roller Elvis Presley was drafted into the U.S. Army.

The No.1 hit song in America was Domenico Modugno’s “Volare” (I did not believe it, either!) and a small band of visionary engineers and scientists founded the Brevard Engineering College in Melbourne, Florida, that—in a decade—would become Florida Institute of Technology.

Some 60 years have passed, and the world and our university have seen many momentous changes, but our commitment to quality education and student success remains the same.

The School of Arts and Communication (SAC) played—and continues to play—a major role in the life of Florida Tech. Moreover, as our 60th anniversary celebrations continue, we are reminded of the truly remarkable progress of this university since the late 1950s. Seeing the success of our graduates warms our hearts and stokes our pride in them. The efforts of generations of faculty and staff here have helped these people accomplish amazing things in their fields and their lives.

Our graduates, faculty and staff are living testaments that the Florida Tech story is a great one and that we all have a part in it.



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

They are living testaments that the Florida Tech story is a great one and that we all have a part in it.

However, too much can be made of nostalgia for past achievements and glories. To quote the famous western philosopher, actor John Wayne, in the film “True Grit,” “Looking back is a bad habit.”

The SAC looks to the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow as the next chapter in Florida Tech’s life is written.

A new Asian civilization humanities core sequence goes online in fall 2019, making that core truly internationalized. Our humanities degree is now reconfigured to offer separate degree options in history, literature and

philosophy. At the same time, our strategic communication and multiplatform journalism programs continue to gain strength with new courses and ideas.

Lastly, the music program flourishes with a new piano lab and faculty offices on the fifth floor of the Crawford Building. In addition, the hugely successful 60th anniversary concert held in February was surely a prelude to the ambitious and beautiful performance events of tomorrow.

I know I can join with faculty, staff and students in welcoming future semesters with confidence.

As the poet Robert Browning said, “our best is yet to be.” ■

Robert A. Taylor

CONNECT WITH US:



EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION CONNECTION: FROM PLAY TO WORK

By Keturah Mazo, for The Communicator

Building connections through skills of prior knowledge is a well-known fact in the world of education. However, how does this apply to teaching writing in the college classroom? Better yet, how does it apply to design in the communication class?

My poster presentation at the Southern Conference of Teaching and Learning in Savannah, Georgia, this past January addressed this issue.

An ice breaker in both my scientific and technical communication course and my professional communication course gradually introduces students to some of the concepts we will be exploring throughout the term.

Using a child's building toy called Connectagons (roughly \$25 per box from *Hearthsong* catalog), I divide the sets into groups of six making sure to have no more than three colors per set. In groups of four, the students have ten minutes to build a structure and present its story to the class. They must also answer the question of how they would improve this structure with more time and money. Not only does this allow for some fun and bonding, but by incorporating the sense of touch with the visual of color and by listening to the story of each group, it appeals to the overall learning that takes place in such a simple assignment.

As a class, we review how the simple scheme of colors aids in design and how we will often explore how time and budget affect projects we will write.

An interesting side note from this activity is seeing the types of sets the students from different majors often create. The aviation and aerospace students often build sets that explore elements of flight. The engineers like to build practical objects such as tablets or cell phone holders.

My psychology and biology students often like to build small replicas of what they feel could be incorporated into a playground or an open outdoor art space for public enjoyment. Business students usually just build the tallest structure they can with the parts given. Again, I feel that the students may be gleaming from their prior knowledge with this activity, but this is an area for further study.



Keturah Mazo at the Southern Conference of Teaching and Learning in Savannah, Georgia, in January

Later in the semester, the Lego build became an assignment in my scientific and technical communication course. Here the students are given a Ziploc bag of Legos and one class period to build a set of their own, complete with an introduction, parts list, build steps, photos and a restricted estimated build time of no more than 10 minutes for their classmates in the next class to rebuild. Then, during the next class, the students must move round robin around the class every 10 minutes to see which set of instructions is the most user-friendly in the time given for rebuilding.

By using Legos, a best-selling toy globally, most students connect with instructions and enjoy creating while also visualizing and understanding all the steps that go into clear instruction writing.

Overall, the poster session succeeded in sharing a few of my best teaching practices with instructors from all over the east coast of the United States. It is easily adaptable to many different subjects and involved simple steps to get students thinking more creatively in the classroom.

While building on childhood experience and knowledge, these activities also utilize our critical thinking skills which is a transferable need in our daily jobs. ■

THE SAC FIVE

FIVE FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT JOHN LAVELLE, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

1. I grew up in northern Appalachia outside a town of 500 people. My graduating class was one of the largest they'd ever had—32 students.
2. My first job was in a furniture factory.
3. My first profession was racing motorcycles.
4. Last summer I toured Europe for two months, one month on a motorcycle in France.
5. I have 13 short stories published, a novel, an academic book, one on the way (I hope), and I am now drafting a creative nonfiction book on my adventures riding a motorcycle around Europe last summer. ■



MAKING MOVES

PERDIGAO RECOGNIZED BY FACULTY SENATE



Congratulations to **Lisa Perdigao**, winner of the Faculty Senate's Andrew W. Revay, Jr. Award for Excellence in Service at the 2019 Spring Honors Convocation on April 11. Perdigao, the former humanities program chair, is now assistant provost of the new Florida Tech Honors College launching in the fall. Perdigao joined the Florida Tech faculty in fall 2004 after receiving a Ph.D. in English at Northeastern University (2004). She is a recipient of the Kerry Bruce Clark Award for Excellence in Teaching (2008) and Charles E. Helmstetter Award for Excellence in Research (2014).

Faculty Service Awards: Congratulations to these SAC faculty members recently honored during the 2019 Service Awards:

35 years: Randall Alford

25 years: Alan Rosiene

15 years: Andrew Aberdein
John Frongillo

10 years: John Lavelle
JoAnn Parla-Palumbo
Wanfa Zhang

5 years: Anushka Boyd
Rolanda Hatcher-Gallop
Joy Patterson

Andrew Aberdein is the new humanities program chair in the School of Arts and Communication.

In addition, Aberdein, along with Matthew Inglis, edited *Advances in Experimental Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019). They also presented "Testing hypotheses about mathematical practice: Are aesthetic judgments in mathematics purely aesthetic?" at the Florida Academy of Sciences annual meeting (FAS 2019) at Florida Tech in March. With Alison Pease and Ursula Martin, Aberdein also published "Explanation in mathematical conversations: An empirical investigation" in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A* 377, 2019.

Alexandra Soya-Brewer, and her husband, Jared, welcomed daughter Emery Eesha Brewer on Jan. 5.

Natalie M. Dorfeld recently published "Tenure, Academic Freedom, and Consequences: Oh, My!" in *Forum: Issues about Part-Time and Contingent Faculty*. Also, she presented "Enough is Enough: Re-imagining the Adjunct Crisis in Humanities" at the College English Association conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in March.

Eliza Dopira is a featured soloist in Brevard Community Chorus' "Mass in B Minor" concert featuring the music of Johann Sebastian Bach at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at the King Center for the Performing Arts.

Jacob Ivey published "Devote the Best Years of Their Lives": British Solutions to Natal's Defence Concerns in Nineteenth-Century Southern Africa" in *Britain and the World* 12, No. 1, 2019.

Keturah Mazo presented her poster "Building Connections in Writing from Play to Work" at the Scholarship for Teaching and Learning Southern Conference in Savannah, Georgia, on Jan. 24.

Debbie Lelekis presented her paper "Florida as Tapestry: The Influence of Harriet Beecher Stowe's Depictions of the Sunshine State" at the American Literature Association Symposium on Sights and Sites: Vision and Place in American Literature in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Nov. 1-3, 2019.

Gordon Patterson attended the American Mosquito Control Association's 85th Annual Meeting, held Feb. 25-March 1 in Orlando, Florida, where he delivered the memorial lecture, discussed the importance of mosquito control to the development of the Kennedy Space Center and participated in a symposium on the worldwide management of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. He also published "An American Original: Edward F. Andrews" in the Spring 2019 issue of *Wing Beats*, vol. 30.



Patterson also was recently lauded as one of six outstanding faculty during the university's 60th anniversary celebration.

Andy Stanfield presented "Chunking History: Using Organizational Instructional Strategies to Increase the Retention of Information" at the Sunshine State Teaching and Learning Conference in Daytona Beach on Jan. 30.

In addition, his band, The Slackadaisicals (with fellow bandmate Jason Griggs, an instructional designer at Florida Tech) recently released a new digital single titled "32 K" on CD Baby.

Robert A. Taylor evaluated a manuscript under consideration for publication by the University Press of Florida on Key West during the Civil War. He also chaired a history forum at the Vero Beach Book Center with Abraham Lincoln novelist Jonathan Putnam. ■

STANFIELD RECEIVES TOP COPLA HONOR

Congratulations to **Andy Stanfield** on being named this year's CoPLA Professor of the Year. Stanfield, who has been at Florida Tech since September 2009, teaches such courses as Civilization and Introduction to the Humanities. He is grateful for the recognition and feels that students appreciate what he does in the classroom. "I want them to learn about the rich history of humanity and their place in this tapestry, along with improving their writing skills and professionalism," he said.



ROTC CADETS LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP AT D-DAY BATTLE SITES

By Sonja Michaels, for The Communicator



Florida Tech's senior ROTC cadets participated in a U.S. flag-lowering ceremony at a cemetery in Normandy. Photo credit: Eric Pereira

Over spring break in early March, Florida Tech's senior ROTC cadets completed their staff ride, a battle analysis trip with interspersed discussions and presentations.

During the trip, students analyzed the logistics of a battle site to determine the reasons for key events and how they could apply the experience to their own leadership skills.

The trip began in London, where the cadets visited underground headquarters used by Winston Churchill in World War II before crossing the English Channel and arriving at D-Day battle sites.

Robert Taylor, head of the School of Arts and Communication (SAC), said the battle analysis instills in the attending students the importance of having capable leaders with the ability to adapt to changing situations.

"It's all about the importance of leadership," Taylor said. "We want our army officers to be prepared to win decisively."

The weeklong trip included a busy itinerary.

"The Panther Battalion staff did such a phenomenal job in planning it," Taylor said.

Eric Pereira, a senior ROTC cadet studying computer science, said that as busy as they were, they still found time for discussion. He said he gained a greater understanding of the region's terrain and what the troops at Normandy went through.



"It's one thing to hear about it and read about it, but then when you actually see the terrain you can sort of imagine them rolling in at low tide and having to push through before high tide, trying to take the terrain and how difficult it must have been," he said.

Pereira described the experience of seeing battlefields less than a century old as incredible.

"It seemed a bit surreal to think that someone my age, less than a hundred years ago, was storming those beaches to try and take land back," he said.

Continued on page 11

NEW HUMANITIES MAJORS BEGIN IN THE FALL

By Andrew Aberdein, for The Communicator

This fall will see a bold innovation in the School of Arts and Communication's offerings: three new majors—B.A. Humanities-History, B.A. Humanities-Literature and B.A. Humanities-Philosophy.

Each of these new majors replaces one of the tracks within the old humanities degree. They are also intended to capitalize on the success of B.A. Humanities-Prelaw (which will receive a more modest overhaul for the new catalog year).

The new majors share a common skeleton with the Prelaw degree, including many of the same freshman- and sophomore-level classes as well as the research-focused capstone design project sequence in the junior and senior year.

They diverge in the specific requirements. Philosophers, for example, will now be expected to study some psychology classes as well as philosophy options.

These new majors were made possible by two recent developments within the SAC.

First, the successful introduction of minors in history, literature and philosophy provided an essential foundation. The minors lay out the expectations for students in each field much more clearly than the tracks within the old humanities degree. In the future, the relationship between each minor and its corresponding major should be transparent.

Second, revisions to the general education core curriculum have allowed us to offer a broader range of survey courses on a predictable schedule. Crucially, students of all majors may now choose from a menu of humanities survey courses, rather than just Civilization 1 and 2. These survey courses form the nuclei of the new majors.

We hope that the new majors will be more attractive to potential students. Because humanities cover such a broad range, and because the humanities B.A. was a relatively unusual major, it could be a hard sell.

Marketing materials were obliged to cover a very wide range of our activities. This meant that the specific strengths our faculty possess within their individual disciplines risked being overlooked.

In the future, we will be able to produce separate materials for history, literature and philosophy and let the world know what we do well.

Continued on page 11

FLORIDA TECH LAUNCHES HONORS COLLEGE THIS FALL WITH PERDIGAO AT THE HELM

By Lisa K. Perdigao, for The Communicator

This is an exciting time for Florida Tech as we prepare to launch an Honors College in the fall with inaugural classes of freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

The Honors College recognizes the talents and initiative of high-performing students across the university's four colleges—College of Aeronautics, Bisk College of Business, College of Engineering and Science, and College of Psychology and Liberal Arts.

In my role as assistant provost for the Honors College, I will be

working directly with students, administrators and faculty. A group of honors faculty fellows representing the four colleges will be involved in reviewing student applications and faculty proposals for courses, participating in honors curriculum and planning honors activities.

Incoming and current Florida Tech students have already been invited to join the Honors College for the 2019–2020 academic year. Their selections were based on their GPAs, class ranks and test scores.

Honors College students have the opportunity to enroll in interdisciplinary seminars and advanced study in their disciplines, work with faculty members on independent research projects and participate in social and cultural activities that

foster a global mindset, civic engagement and professional and personal development. Students that fulfill Honors College requirements will graduate with university honors, which are distinct from departmental/program honors (honors in the major) and graduation honors (cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).

The School of Psychology offers a Psychology Honors Program that begins in junior year and culminates in a senior thesis, and Florida Tech is looking to expand its Honors in the Major program beginning in 2020–2021.

There are three tiers of university honors that can be attained by Honors College students—*Mercury* (honors), *Gemini* (high honors), and *Apollo* (highest honors).

Requirements for GPAs, honors credit hours and honors activity hours increase at each level. For example, Mercury Scholars are required to fulfill 15 honors credit hours and 20 honors activities hours while maintaining a 3.2 university GPA and 3.0 honors GPA.

Gemini Scholars are required to fulfill 21 honors credit hours and 24 honors activity hours while maintaining a 3.5 university GPA and 3.2 honors GPA.

Apollo Scholars are required to fulfill 27 honors credit hours and 28 honors activity hours while maintaining a 3.7 university GPA and 3.5 honors GPA.



Photo credit: Rolanda H. Gallop

Honors College students have the opportunity to participate in advanced study, independent research, civic engagement and professional and personal development.

Continued on page 11

STUDENTS BECAME TEACHERS IN COM CLASS ACTIVITY

The Communicator staff reports

The tables were turned in Amy Laakman's Professional Communication for Executives class (COM 3070) when student groups were assigned a textbook chapter to teach.

"Each group was assigned 50 minutes to instruct their classmates in topics ranging from concepts of teams and meetings, conflict, negotiation and technology to cultural awareness and nonverbal communication," Laakman said.

Students created interactive demonstrations, showed instructional videos, used PowerPoints and other activities to complete the assignment.

The exercise made an indelible impression on many of the students, said Kareemat Kehinde Kofoworola Onitiju, a junior accounting major from Nigeria.

"It made us interact more with our classmates. I got to talk to some people I had never spoken to throughout the semester," she said.

"We also had a lot of fun." ■



Students in Amy Laakman's Professional Communication for Executives course engage in instructional activities and demonstrations designed by their peers. Photo credit: Amy Laakman

FOURTH ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN TAKES AUDIENCE ON JOURNEY

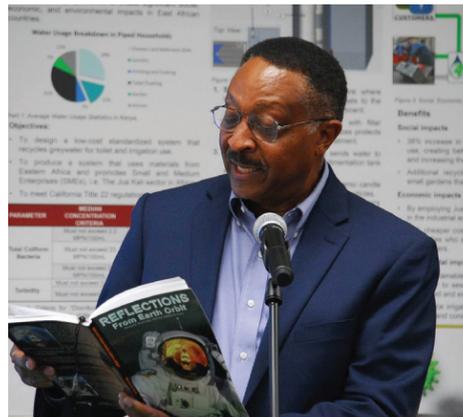
The Communicator Staff Reports

More than 120 people attended the fourth annual African American Read-In on Feb. 22 in Evans Library, where they were taken on a journey celebrating “Black Migrations: To the Stars and Beyond.”

The event, sponsored by the School of Arts and Communication and by Evans Library, featured poetry, readings and music by students, faculty and local residents commemorating the Great Migration. The migration marks nearly a 50-year span in the mid-20th century when millions of African Americans in the United States migrated from the South to the North and West in search of better employment and living opportunities.

In addition to the readings, patrons also were treated to a free soul food buffet provided by the SAC. ■

Photo credit: Roland Hesmondhalgh



EIGHTH ANNUAL FREE SPEECH WEEK ACTIVITIES RESONATE WITH STUDENTS

The Communicator Staff Reports

Be it students writing thoughts and quotes on a wall, folks temporarily exchanging their freedoms for food on the Crawford Green or award-winning journalists discussing developments in the media industry, Lindsay Isaac looks forward to Free Speech Week every year.

The eighth annual event, sponsored by *The Crimson* student newspaper and held Feb. 18–22, was no different.

She enjoyed the week’s activities. However, it was the message behind them that resonated the most with Isaac, a 2018 communication graduate now pursuing her

master’s degree in global strategic communication.

“While attending these types of events, I am able to reflect on the rights afforded to us under the First Amendment,” she said.

This year’s Free Speech Week featured a talk by professor Heidi Hatfield Edwards about the 1974 book and 1975 film “All the President’s Men,” and a keynote speech by Robyn Semien, a radio producer for “This American Life” who recently won a Peabody Award for her work telling the story of a rape survivor whose accounts weren’t believed by those around her.

Continued on page 12

Here are a few takeaways from students who attended Free Speech Week 2019 activities.

“Free Speech Week is important for the student community to be a part of because of what it represents: the fact that we often take our right for granted.” - *Eleanor Mathers, editor-in-chief of The Crimson*

“It was really interesting to hear how they balance opinion and fact in their stories. It seems like a difficult thing to do.” - *Patrick Banks, junior sports psychology major, at the Florida Today panel*

“Ethical concern can be illuminated by participation in these types of events.” - *Sarinthree Udchachone, aviation science doctoral candidate, at the Reel Reads event*

“I asked for pizza and they gave me a roast beef sandwich. I don’t even like roast beef.” - *Kiana Zanganeh, junior biomedical sciences major, at the Live Free or Eat Free event*

“It was an interesting idea, but I definitely wouldn’t like it if it was real life.” - *Veronica Thordardottir, sophomore mathematical sciences major, at the Live Free or Eat Free event*

“Fake news is two things: it shapes a particular narrative (bias). And their sources may not be ‘creditable’ but, merely suit a particular political agenda.” - *Mikayla Thamm, sophomore business/entrepreneurship major, at the Florida Today panel*

“The key to achieving a good community is journalism. We give a voice to people who don’t have one.” - *Mara Bellaby, executive editor of Florida Today, at the newspaper panel*

MUSIC PROGRAM

Continued from page 1

Robert Taylor, associate dean of the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts and head of the School of Arts and Communication, said interest in the music program was on full display at the university’s recent Discovery Day. Nearly 700 potential students and their parents visited the campus on April 13.

“People came to our table and I spent most of the time talking about our music program. The prospective students were curious about being able to take our music courses without being music majors, something that a lot of colleges and universities require,” Taylor said.

“Our program enables students to pursue things they are passionate about, not as a major, but as something that is a part of their lives,” he said.

Garciagodoy says students are coming to the program because it is very inclusive of all majors.

“We are able to offer something to all Florida Tech students, regardless of their major, that they can use as a creative outlet. Our music program enriches the lives of students by giving them the opportunity to engage in artistic expression. It helps to make them more well-rounded human beings,” Garcigodoy says.

The 500 Suite in the Crawford Building was officially assigned to the SAC on Jan. 1. It now houses a piano/keyboard lab and office spaces for Joe Montelione, band director, and Eliza Dopira, string and choral director.

Both previously worked in the music house, a renovated space on University Boulevard.

Plans are underway to possibly remove a wall in the Crawford suite and enlarge the classroom space in order to accommodate new keyboard tables, creating a multiuse classroom.

Burke added that the program is fortunate to have received many generous donations from a dedicated group of patrons that regularly attend concerts and receptions.

“We’ve established an active Facebook page and are now livestreaming most



Members of the String Orchestra played several musical selections at the board of trustees dinner on April 15.



Melissa Neary gets tips from music instructor Mariana Garcigodoy Cervantes as she learns Beethoven’s “Sonatina in G.” Neary, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering, was a student in Garcigodoy’s group intermediate piano class this spring. Photo credit: Rolanda H. Gallop

of our concerts,” he said, adding that people can support the program by checking in on all the great music students are making, whether in Gleason Performing Arts Center or online.

“We’re always trying to offer something new, combining different ensembles, integrating film and live actors and programming a diverse selection of music,” he said.

“Our patrons empower us to try new things like livestreaming our concerts. They also allow us to make good on our open-door policy by acquiring large instruments like a tuba, double bass and bari (baritone) sax that most students would not own personally.”

Neary, who is a member of the school’s string orchestra, says taking music classes and participating in a musical ensemble are stress relievers for her.

“I’ve played the violin for almost 13 years and now piano for nearly a year. When I’m playing music, I don’t think about the deadlines I have in other classes. I focus on learning the music and playing the music,” she says.

“It gives my brain time to settle down a little bit.” ■

Michelle Verkooy, B.S. Business & Marketing Communication ’04 and M.S. Technical & Professional Communication ’11, is the communication advisor for the Sandwatch Foundation, a nonprofit organization partnering with schools and communities around the globe to monitor beach environments and implement sustainable activities.

Verkooy, along with Gillian Cambers, foundation co-director, presented “The Role of Informal Education in Climate Change Resilience: The Sandwatch Model” at the International Symposium on Climate Change and the Role of Education on April 12 at Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln, U.K.



Zohra Fazal, M.S. Technical and Professional Communication ’06, is associate director of career development at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.

Jenny (McCoy) de Oliveira, B.S. Communication ’06, is a Brooklyn, New York-based digital marketing consultant, primarily focused on helping awesome small businesses and startups.

Madelaine Elam, B.A. Humanities ’15, has started the master’s program in library and information science at the University of South Florida. She currently works for the Brevard Public Library.

Brandon Hatzel, B.S. Communication ’17, graduated from the Law Enforcement Academy at Eastern Florida State College in March. He is now a deputy sheriff with the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office.

Mary Kozaitis, B.S. Communication ’18, is a public relations representative at Northrop Grumman Corporation in Melbourne, Florida.

Aaliyah Thomas, B.S. Communication ’18, is a technical publication specialist at ARES Corporation at Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County, Florida.

Alexandra “Allie” Wood, B.S. Communication ’18, is a marketing assistant at Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox in Washington, D.C.



(L-R) Sara Torabi and Kathryn Broderick popped in to the School of Arts and Communication’s main office on March 18 for a quick visit. Torabi, B.A. Humanities/Prelaw ’14 and M.S. Global Strategic Communication ’17, is pursuing a degree in music business at New York University. Broderick, B.A. Humanities ’10 and M.S. Global Strategic Communication ’14, is assistant counsel with Global Legal.

MEET KHEMARI HOWARD

Hello, my name is Khemari Howard, and I am a senior multiplatform journalism student in the School of Arts and Communication.



First, I can usually be seen with a blue marching band jacket. It is part of a tracksuit that I wore during a competition back on St. Thomas called 'Battle of the Bands.'

It was my first year in the marching band. I'd never played marching snare—which was considered one of the hardest marching instruments. I made the line through sheer dedication and continued practicing until I became Rookie of the Year. That same spring semester was the competition.

Though it was my first time competing, I played my heart out, and I won.

I continue wearing the jacket today because it's a reminder that I can do almost anything I put my mind to. It's also the only piece of the tracksuit I still have left.

Second, I've been told a lot that my personality doesn't match my size.

Throughout high school, I was always asked why I didn't play football. Truth be told, I like the sport and do enjoy watching it, but I don't think playing it is for me.

I chose marching band over football. I'd rather sit and read a book while listening to some kind of classical music. I love writing. I've probably written more short stories than I can count. While I like reporting and editing, my ultimate goal is to be a novelist.

Third, my first major "life" accomplishment was surviving pneumonia at the age of two.

My mother told me that she spent several days in the hospital with me and wasn't sure if I'd make it out alive. At the time, I was her only child. After what seemed like forever, things were starting to look better. I've been told by both my parents that they knew I'd be fighter after I survived that.

Also, despite my current internship at WFIT—a job that has me recording PSAs almost every day—I suffer from serious stuttering.

My stuttering dates back to a very young age. Back then, any sound that required my tongue to touch the top of my mouth (such as pronouncing B's, D's and T's) or making S and hard C sounds were horrible.

I developed a fear of talking publicly due to childhood humiliation from stuttering. Eventually, I got better over time, and now I rarely even notice when I do it. I've kind of circumvented it by developing a speech pattern that puts more emphasis on the end of words than the beginning.

But my stuttering really only comes out whenever I'm talking excitedly or discussing something that I really love, like writing or reporting; I'm trying to speak faster than I can think! ■

SUNDQUIST, ISAAC NAMED OUTSTANDING STUDENTS DURING HONORS CONVOCATION

Congratulations to Annika Sundquist, a senior multiplatform journalism major, on her recognition as this year's outstanding undergraduate student for the School of Arts and Communication. She was recognized during the university's Spring 2019 Honors Convocation on April 11.

Lindsay Isaac also was recognized as the SAC's outstanding graduate student of the year. A 2018 communication graduate, Isaac is now pursuing a master's degree in global strategic communication. She also works part-time at Harris Corporation in Melbourne, helping to develop strategic marketing, media relations and communication efforts for the company's Commercial Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Solutions. ■



LAMBDA PI ETA INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

By Annika Sundquist, special to The Communicator

The Upsilon XI chapter of the Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society has been hard at work this semester, participating in a phone-a-thon, holding elections, having meetings and recruiting new members.

Five communication majors were inducted into the society on April 8 during a ceremony in the Link Room of Evans Library. The group welcomed Alexandra Bettermann, Dylan Fleming, Julia Hutton, David Thompson and Ebube Ubochi.

Members must have a cumulative GPA above 3.0 and a department GPA above 3.25.

Robert Taylor, associate dean and head of the School of Arts and Communication (SAC), generously decided to sponsor the costs of induction for each student. Taylor said he believes that Lambda Pi Eta is noteworthy because of the work it does.

The society is now under the SAC's wing instead of being a student government organization.

In addition, the chapter held elections in the fall, with new officers assuming their roles in January. Emily Walker serves as vice president; Ashley Letendre is the treasurer and Nicole Kern is the chapter's secretary. They joined Annika Sundquist, who continues to serve as president.



Students participate in Lambda Pi Eta Honor Society induction ceremony on April 8. Photo credit: Dzmitry Yuran

In February, as an on-campus organization, Lambda Pi Eta participated in the university's phone-a-thon. This was the group's required service event for the semester, and it consisted of calling all of the students that have been accepted to the SAC and answering any questions they may have about the campus, housing or course selection and scheduling. Letendre and Sundquist called over 30 prospective Florida Tech students.

The chapter plans on holding its spring luncheon soon and always invites local alumni to attend. Former members are invited to attend along with SAC faculty members, including chapter advisor Keturah Mazo.

The luncheon's purpose is to connect past and current members, providing a place where they can share their experiences about what they have encountered in the workplace.

Continued on page 11

ROTC CADETS LEARN IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP AT D-DAY BATTLE SITES

Continued from page 6

Recruiting Operations Officer John Hudacek said that visiting Normandy provided specific benefits over other destinations.

"The fact that we went to Normandy and the depth of the operation really gave a good perspective for these future officers on the types of operations that they may be participating in in the future," Hudacek said.

"Generally speaking, in America, they go to Civil War battle sites or Revolutionary War battle sites, and the tactics and use of equipment were so different then, that there is very little direct correlation."

Dana Washington, the human resource assistant for the ROTC program, said that students get more out of a trip to Normandy than to older sites like Gettysburg.

Hudacek said although the group did not specifically

ask to visit a World War I cemetery, doing so ended up being his most notable memory from the trip.

"It's an American cemetery in France, and we were given the honor of lowering the flag over the cemetery," he said. "It was a very impromptu, yet moving, ceremony."

Washington also noted the lowering of the flag as a significant experience.

"Especially as a veteran, it's hard to put into words the moment with "Taps" playing in the background, as the flag is lowering over a cemetery of Americans that are in France," she said.

Taylor added that the moment was one all in attendance won't soon forget.

"I was so proud of them as ROTC cadets and Florida Tech students," Taylor said. ■



SAC OFFERS THREE NEW HUMANITIES MAJORS

Continued from page 6

The new majors should also be an asset for our future graduates. In the last few years, we have had some notable successes in placing people in good graduate schools. However, it can be a challenge to explain what we do to such schools and to reassure them that our students are as well-qualified for graduate study as we know them to be! We trust that putting the student's primary area of study in the name of the degree will be helpful for everyone.

Exciting as these changes are, it is important to remember that each of the new

majors is still a humanities degree. One of the great strengths of the humanities faculty at Florida Tech is our commitment to interdisciplinarity. In most universities, history, literature, philosophy and other humanities disciplines are the responsibility of separate departments who may seldom interact; yet, the nature of their work is often deeply intertwined.

Our students will learn that their disciplines are integral parts of a greater whole. ■

LAMBDA PI ETA GROWS, PROMOTES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continued from page 10

Members also see the luncheon as an exceptional way to promote the six values of Lambda Pi Eta, which include recognizing, fostering and rewarding outstanding scholastic achievement in communications; stimulating interest in the field of communication and promoting and encouraging professional development.

The chapter also strives to provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas, to establish and maintain close relationships between faculty and students and to explore options for graduate education in communication. ■

HONORS COLLEGE LAUNCHES THIS FALL

Continued from page 7

Honors College students take a range of honors courses that satisfy the general education core and program requirements. Many academic units introduced honors sections in 2018–2019 and others have added honors sections to the 2019–2020 catalog.

Honors sections of core and elective courses offer distinct approaches to the material and require students to explore issues and problems in depth. Such courses are often discussion-oriented rather than lectures and involve research projects to facilitate the analysis, synthesis and understanding of scholarly work.

Honors options add requirements to non-honors courses or sections, and the student and faculty member sign a contract outlining the additional work for the course. Honors College students are also able to fulfill honors credit hours with graduate courses and honors research, which includes directed and independent study.

Honors College students must successfully complete an honors seminar—a 2000-level interdisciplinary course that highlights the relationship between the humanities, social sciences and STEM fields and features guest lectures by faculty across disciplines—in their freshman or sophomore year. The seminar fulfills one three-credit humanities (HU) elective and three honors credit hours.

In the course, students read primary and secondary sources on the topic and complete numerous writing assignments, including a research paper. This spring I offered a Special Topics in the Humanities course on the topic of "Engineering the Body" to a group of students in the Panther Distinguished Scholars program as a pilot for the fall 2019 honors seminar. The course contained units on the creation of life, cloning, the body as a machine and artificial intelligence.

Examples of future honors seminar topics include "Artificial Intelligence," "Race to the Moon" and "War and Technology."

Beyond the classroom, Honors College students can expand their studies through lectures, panel discussions and colloquia with faculty members, alumni and guest speakers. As mentorship and leadership opportunities promote personal and professional development, we are establishing programs in which Florida Tech alumni mentor Honors College students and honors students mentor first-year Honors College students.

Honors activities also inspire students to become involved within local and global communities. Honors College students are able to participate in state, regional and national honors councils and their conferences.

In addition, field trips within and outside of Florida, study abroad and civic engagement activities also count toward honors activity hour requirements. ■



Photo credit: Amanda Stratford

SAC PROFESSORS HONORED WITH GARDEN RENAMING

Florida Tech's 15-acre Botanical Garden is now the Joy and Gordon Patterson Botanical Garden.

Gordon Patterson has been an English professor in the School of Arts and Communication for nearly four decades. His wife, Joy, recently celebrated her fifth year as a full-time English instructor in the SAC. The couple made a generous commitment to the health and vitality of the Botanical Garden.

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

FREE SPEECH WEEK EDUCATES STUDENTS ON FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOMS, *Continued from page 8*

In addition, there was a discussion panel with four journalists from the local newspaper *Florida Today* on issues facing their organization and industry as well as a banned book reading outside the WFIT studios.

"I had never even heard of or considered the idea of banned books before today," Kiana Zanganeh, a junior biomedical sciences major, said while attending the reading.

And that's the kind of sentiment that drives Ted Petersen when planning the week each year.

"I think students appreciate a lot of the aspects of Free Speech Week," he said, adding that the event is designed to celebrate the First Amendment as well as spur on conversations about the freedoms it guarantees.

Petersen, a journalism professor and faculty advisor to *The*

Crimson, said the free speech wall shows that the First Amendment covers everyone and pretty much anything.

"Dr. Edwards' talk about Watergate showed how journalists hold politicians accountable. The *Florida Today* panel shows that local journalists are fighting on behalf of their citizens.

"The free food festival shows what you get through the First Amendment, and the banned books reading shows what you'd lose, namely powerful stories, without the protections of the First Amendment," he said.

"But for me, hearing Robyn Semien talk about the power of storytelling was the best part," Petersen added. ■

Additional reporting by Kenika Bouchelle, Sara Carroll, Gregg Gonzalez, Melanie Langgle and Sonja Michaels.



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