



# Connect Collaborate Innovate

A Newsletter From The Provost's Office

## Friday the 13th

In honor of this date, I will start this version of Connect, Collaborate, and Innovate with 'When not to Connect', 'When not to Collaborate' and 'When not to Innovate'.

'When not to Connect' is easy. As the cold weather and holidays approach and a little bunch of atoms, not so lovingly known as COVID-19, lurks on surfaces and in the air, connecting with them should be avoided. But like so many

things that we should avoid – in my case fries – we tend to slip more as time goes on. I have heard of professors having to remind students to wear their masks properly. In the last few weeks, there have even been rumors of more belligerent students questioning the right of the College to have a mask mandate. My worst nightmares of students and professors coming down with

COVID-19 weren't realized as the Fall semester started; I don't want them to come true as the hoped for a vaccine comes closer. So, if you have ground classes, please continue to enforce the mask policy, and encourage students to wash their hands frequently. To date, the College community has done so well in limiting the spread of this disease and we can continue if we are all vigilant.



**Dr. Martin McClinton**  
Vice Provost, Academic Affairs



No



Definitely No



Really



Finally, Yes

'When not to Collaborate' is unfortunately easy too. Remind your students not to cheat (really, we must do that?). Explain (again) that plagiarism is not acceptable. The online environment seems to have made some students forget some of these simple academic rules. Some recent (paraphrased) conversations include:

"I didn't cheat" appeals the student.

"I can see the reflection of your cell phone in the Proctorio video; a cell phone is not a syllabus-allowed aid during exams", says the professor.

"I didn't cheat" appeals the student.

"The Proctorio video clearly shows your hands in the air while the answer is being

typed into the computer - someone else was controlling your computer", says the professor.

And now there are those masks!



Sigh.

The FSW College Catalog outlines our Academic Integrity Policy and provides examples of actions that violate the policy. This is a good reference as we remind students about our expectations.

'Not to innovate'. This one is tougher. I know: don't 'innovate' the title of Connect, Collaborate and Innovate through negotiation – this newsletter is supposed to be inspiring. So, to avoid 'not innovating', I will chat about what has inspired me these past couple of weeks. When I returned to work on campus during the summer, the campus was quiet. Very quiet.

I could have sworn I saw a coyote one early morning. Certainly, wildlife was much more prevalent than humans. When the Fall semester started, I began to see small groups of students walking between building during the day, but only during the time between classes. On-campus events seem to be a thing from before the "Shut Down." As a point of reference, the Shut Down happened on the previous Friday the 13th– Friday March 13th, 2020 was the day when the College suspended all Spring face-to-face classes. However, last week the walkway between the flagpole and library on the Lee campus gained a structure, and not a small structure at that. A stage



had appeared taking up the width of the walkway (with just enough room for the golf carts to carefully pass on each side). Then, the following week, students stood on the stage (with masks and social distancing, of course) and rehearsals began. The play, *The End of the Rope*, written by our own adjunct faculty member, Michael Scanlan, remembers the history of Fort Myers natives. A difficult





history, but one that should not be forgotten (for more details, plan to see the play on either November 20th or 21st at 7 PM; admission free though you might have to bring your own chair). And the play is not the only on-campus, outdoor event happening, nor is it the first. The Music department has and will continue to entertain us and engage us with events in the beautiful settings of the

Lee campus over the next few weeks, check out the Buc Bulletin and the Campus Events Calendar for these and other upcoming events.

Perhaps finding approaches to maintain our regular events in new ways is a way 'not to innovate'; 'not to innovate' so that we don't lose our identity. The ways we are resisting the loss of our amazing cultural events

inspire me because they hint that we are getting back to a full College experience for our students. We have done so well in maintaining academic programming during the past eight months and online social programming has met the immediate need for human interaction, but it is so nice to begin getting back together. I am not sure that I could be on of Asimov's Spacers.



*Dr. Martin McClinton hails from the United Kingdom and was the Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Science at Florida SouthWestern State College from 2015 to 2019. His recent promotion to Vice Provost occurred in Fall of 2019. He really enjoys Bloom County cartoons.*

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