

# the 411 on Academic Affairs

## Opening Night at Suncoast Credit Union Arena

On Tuesday, November 29, FSW's Women's and Men's basketball teams held their home openers at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena. It was wonderful to see so many faculty in attendance for the Buc Bash Tip Off Celebration and for both basketball games. In addition to our student-athletes putting on two great (and winning) performances, Dr. Tom Smith coordinated the FSW Drum Line and Pep Band which added to the excitement for the fans. Danielle Dease, a student studying voice at FSW, did a magnificent job performing the national anthem. The excellent student attendance is a testament to their engagement with our institution. It means so much to students to enjoy these extracurricular events in the company of the faculty that they respect and admire.

## FSW Collegiate High Schools

Congratulations to our FSW Collegiate High Schools, which have both received recognition from Governor Rick Scott on outstanding test scores.

FSWC-Charlotte ranked in the top 10 percent in 4-year graduation rates as well as in the top 10 percent in several other categories.

FSWC-Lee ranked #1 in the state among all High Schools (out of 445) in 4-year graduation rates and #1 among all Charter High Schools (out of 66) in 4-year graduation rates. It also ranked in the top 10 percent in nine separate test score categories.

FSWC-Lee was also recently named one of the Top 10 High Schools, 2015-2016, of Florida's Best High Schools by *Florida Trend*. It is because of the dedication our Collegiate High School teachers and administrators have for our students' success that we continue to be a leader in the state.

## International Education Week

Earlier this month, we celebrated International Education Week with a variety of events and performances throughout the week. The most striking was a week-long visit by the Tibetan monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery. Over five days, the monks created a beautiful mandala sand painting before pouring it into the water on campus, to symbolize the impermanent nature of existence. Thanks to Dr. Laura Weir, Dr. Mireille Lauture, Dro Seelochan, Dayami Martinez and Sarah Pasppe for putting the week's events together for our FSW community and the local community.

## Academic Affairs Accolades

The FSW Theater Program recently performed its fall production Paragon Springs in the FSW Black Box Theatre. Through the work of Professor Stuart Brown, the program also hosted Dr. Marc Edwards of Virginia Tech. Dr. Edwards presented his work exposing the recent water crises in Washington D.C. and Flint, Mich., and spent additional time speaking with our Theater Program and Honors Scholar Program students. Thanks to Professor Brown for providing this outstanding opportunity to our students.

The Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, and the College Choir and Orchestra recently performed their annual holiday concerts in the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Many thanks to Professor Tom Smith, Professor Ron Doiron and Adjunct Faculty Member Rodolfo A. Castillo for organizing and continuing this annual college tradition.

The School of Education recently held its annual family math night. This event for students in kindergarten to grade 8 features fun math games created by teacher candidates in FSW's School of Education, demonstrating how mathematics doesn't only need to be something you use at school. Thanks to Dr. Mary Robertson for organizing this annual event.

Thanks to Dr. Julia Kroeker for hosting the School of Education's second annual pop-up play event in partnership with the Lockmiller Early Childhood Development Center. Pop-Up Adventure Playgrounds are free, public celebrations of child-directed play, stocked with loose parts (such as cardboard boxes, fabric, tape and string), and introduce themes of risk and freedom by welcoming people of all ages and abilities to play together.

The FSW School of Education recently held its first alumni reunion, welcoming 120 alumni and their families for a barbecue luncheon. Thanks to Dr. Joyce Rollins for coordinating this wonderful event.

Congratulations to Dr. Terry McVannel-Erwin, professor, Human Services, who was recently selected by the Council for Standards in Human Service Education to assist in accreditation processes, evaluating self-studies and participating in site visits to Human Services programs seeking accreditation.

## Bucappellas

FSW's newest student vocal ensemble, the Bucappellas, along with the student Guitar Ensemble, will hold their first Holiday Concert, Friday, Dec. 2, noon, in Building J, Room 117, Thomas Edison Campus. Thanks to Professor Candace Sundby and Professor Ken Puls for creating another opportunity for our students to showcase their talents.

## Student Art Exhibition

Stop by Building J, Room 118 through Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., to view the student art exhibition, Amalgamation. A closing reception will be held Dec. 5, 5-7 p.m. Thanks to Professor Dana Roes for curating this exhibition. It is always a pleasure when we get to see the talents of our students on display.

As always, please feel free to email any questions or comments at [jeff.stewart@fsw.edu](mailto:jeff.stewart@fsw.edu).