



Connect Collaborate Innovate

A Newsletter From The Provost's Office

MAY 5, 2021

Here Comes the Sun



Dr. Eileen DeLuca,
Provost

I was born in New York City. My family moved to Florida when I was in elementary school, and then I lived in New York again as an adult, where I had my first teaching job at a high school in the Bronx. As a child, I loved the snow and winter weather, but as an adult I easily grew weary of arriving to my apartment at 4:30 p.m., with it already so dark and cold I wanted to do nothing but run right upstairs (a five-floor walk up, so "run" may not be the

most precise verb here) and curl up under a blanket.

Though I love so many things about New York, I could never as an adult re-acclimate to what I perceived as nine months of isolation each year. With all fairness to New Yorkers, there are many who know how to stay connected and active in low temperatures, but that is not me.

After surviving one particularly long and cold winter, I was on the

phone with my sister who was enjoying the beautiful early April Florida sunshine and I looked out the window to see snow flurries drifting down from the sky; symbolically dashing my hopes that spring was imminent .

"How the hell do people live here?" I vented to my sister.

"*YOU* live there," she reminded me without even a hint of sympathy. Alas the sun, as it did each year, finally did come out.

New York, like many northern cities seemingly comes alive each spring and summer, and we stood on stoops and conversed through open windows, visited parks, gathered at backyard barbecues, attended summer concerts, and enjoyed being with other people, without having to dig our cars out of snow or wait in crowded coat check lines.

This last year, living through a

global pandemic, in many ways has felt like a long, cold winter, right down to the urge to simply curl up under a blanket rather than gather with others.

But since January and slowly building until now there has been a steady turn of events that for me harken back to the days when I was looking out the window, watching the leaves finally turning green.

Here at FSW, the arrival of spring has brought an increase in the number of "live" or "hybrid" events. In this final newsletter of the academic year I thought I would share some highlights.

Sigma Theta Tau Charter

In December 2020, FSW's RN to BSN Program was approved to charter a chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Sigma). A core



Sigma Theta Tau Officers (L to R)

Julianne Settanni, Marsha Weiner, Marti Jenner, Susan Torres, Elizabeth Robinson, Gayle Dean and Carrie Carty

Susan Torres, President

Carrie Carty, Vice President

Dr. Marsha Weiner,
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Gayle Deane, Treasurer

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Dr. Donna Johnson-Byrd, Governance Committee Member

Dr. Julianne Settanni, Leadership Succession Committee Chair

Bobby Holbrook, Leadership Succession Committee Member

Janice Cousino, Leadership Succession Committee Member

Sigma Theta Tau
Alpha Alpha Phi
Chapter



Honored to stand among
FSW's Nursing Faculty
Pantheon

group of FSW nursing leaders in conjunction with several of our community partner nursing leaders diligently worked on the application process for about one year resulting in FSW being the first community-based college in the nation to have an approved Sigma chapter, a most prestigious distinction.

On April 20, FSW Nursing faculty presided over a chartering and induction ceremony with both face-to-face and remote components. The inaugural inductees included 25 BSN students. Congratulations to all!

Research Expo and Honors Capstone Presentations

FSW's Office of Sponsored Programs & Research, a part of Team AASPIRE, in conjunction with the Honors Scholar Program (HSP), and the Visiting Writer Series

hosted an historic hybrid expo. Poster sessions, presentations, and lectures had both in-person and remote components. This year's expo included author Josh Woods discussing the role of monsters in literature, folklore, and pop-culture. Also, Dr. Brandon Jett, Washington Post contributor and author of *Race, Crime, and Policing in the Jim Crow South: African Americans and Law Enforcement in Birmingham, Memphis, and New Orleans, 1920-1945*, discussed the history of the lynching of Henry Patterson in LaBelle in 1926.



Dr. Joseph van Gaalen introduces Dr. Brandon Jett to the attendees in two sites: Rush Auditorium and on Zoom.

This year's historic "hybrid" research expo also included the presentation of the Honors Scholars Capstone projects, demonstrating FSW's commitment to the strategic directions to "develop relevant academic and co-curricular programming that develops students as well-rounded scholars and enlightened global citizens," as well as to "support curricular and programmatic innovation to enhance the academic experience, facilitate transdisciplinary research and thinking, and engender student achievement."

Under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Chase and the Honors Advisory Council, the HSP "seminar to capstone" approach aligns with the mission and values of the Honors Scholar Program by helping students develop "intellectual curiosity that leads to exemplary

independent research and consistent engagement with the outside world.” During the event, I heard many students gush about the support they have had from faculty and Team AASPIRE in completing their research, applied projects, or creative works. Many thanks to Dr. Joseph van Gaalen and Dr. Wendy Chase for their leadership, and to everyone who contributed to the HSP student projects culminating in this most inspiring event: Dr. Jackie Davis, Professor Steve Chase, Dr. Brandi George, Dr. Mark Herman, Professor Ihasha Horn, Professor Emily Porter and Professor Dana Roes.



HSP student Ariana Reyes discusses her project, *Fashion Photography: Through the Globe Edition*



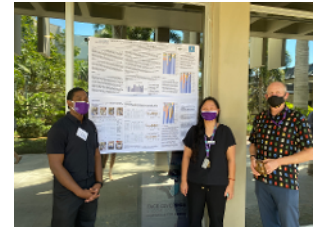
Mallory Valentine and Victoria Vernt present their project, *The Pink Tax: An Economic Injustice*



David Estevez shares his oral history project, *Is/a Bajo Castor: Island under Castro*



Sarah Wilson presents her project, *Patriarchy: The Framework for Rape Culture and Take Back the Night*



Michael Parris gives a poster presentation on his collaborative research on prokaryotic diversity in the Caloosahatchee River. Standing with him is one of his faculty collaborators Nina Infantado, and Dr. Don McGarey.

Play On!

On April 2-3, the FSW Theatre under the direction of Stuart Brown presented 8 short plays outside the NE corner of the L Building on the Lee campus. The student performers, as well as the stage tech crew, demonstrated their talent by alternating quickly among characters and sets.

Music in the Garden

Dr. Tom Smith and the faculty of the Music Program led the students in stunning live performances as the

sun set near the Meditation Garden.



Professor Reiko Niiya-Chow performs with her students.

Thanks also to Ron Dorion, Reiko Niiya-Chow, Julius Davis , Kevin Mauldin, Kelly O'Neil and all involved in this amazing evening!



Ron Dorion accompanies the student choir ensemble, enchanting the socially-distanced audience.

Salty Dogs

Following the Music in the Garden performance, FSW 's faculty Rock band, the Salty Dogs featuring Professor Mike Molloy, Dr. Russell Swanson, Dr. Leo Mera, and Dr. Jeff Allbritten performed at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

Fans enjoyed an engaging rendition of a selection of tunes from the 70's and 80's highlighting the talent of our FSW family.



The Salty Dogs take a bow after leaving it all on the stage at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

Jazz Fest '21!



Jazz Fest '21 lights up the night in Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

This year's Jazz Fest was an amazing event with truly an all-star group of performers, to include featured artists Vince DiMartino, Dave Cooper, and Al Hood as well a musician and festival director, Dr. Tom Smith and the FSW Jazz Ensemble and Stardust Memories Big Band.

The event had a packed house (with social distance measures) and truly spoke to FSW's role in providing top notch cultural events to our region.

Retirement Gala

Gloria Kitchen, Kelly Westfield, and Nashali Rivera Cruz hosted a virtual retirement reception, honoring the service of 16 faculty on April 23. Colleagues of retiring faculty shared their memories and sentiments in a lively and engaging virtual experience. Best wishes to the 2020 and 2021 retirees:

Leroy Bugger, Cindy Campbell, John Connell, Nancy Costello, Frank Dowd, Laurice Garrett, Deborah Johnson, Margaret Kruger, Bertram Lawrence, Lisa McGarity, Michael Nisson, Katie Paschall, Andrea Storrie, Marjorie Thrall Moller, Myra Walters, and Patricia Zebrook.

Honors Cord Ceremony

Dr. Wendy Chase presented Honors Scholar Program graduates with their honors cords at a ceremony with both live and remote participation on April 28.

Participants enjoyed a video including student recollections of the program, awards for the Honors Capstone Project winners, as well as the announcement of Dr. Jackie Davis, as the student-nominated "Life Changer" award winner. Also recognized by the students was Honors Scholar Program staff assistant, Tori Frisina.



Dr. Jackie Davis celebrates with Honors Scholar Program graduates, Amy Rodriguez, Ramir Delancour and Victoria Vernet.

Education and Nursing Pinnings

The Nursing Department held three virtual pinning ceremonies for the A.S. Degree graduates on Collier, Lee, and Charlotte campuses. Each ceremony had inspiring student speakers as well as video tributes

to each cohort. Thanks to Dr. Patricia Voelpel, June Davis, Dr. Angela Vitale, Judy Sweeny, and Dr. Donna Johnson-Byrd and all the faculty and staff who made each evening special for the students.

The School of Education held an outdoor ceremony to honor the Spring 2021 graduates from the B.S. in Elementary Education program. Thanks to Dr. April Fleming, Dr. Joyce Rollins, and presenters Dr. Anne Angstrom, Dr. Caroline Seefchak, Dr. Michelle Propper, and Liz Perdomo.



Dr. Joyce Rollins and the faculty from the School of Education share words of wisdom with the teacher candidates.

Commencement

FSW held three live ceremonies for the completers of College Credit Certificates, the A.A. and A.S. degrees, as well as Baccalaureate Degrees on April 30 in the Suncoast Arena. On May 1, both Lee and Charlotte FSW Collegiate High Schools each held a live ceremony in Suncoast Arena.



A historic socially distanced commencement ceremony presided over by President Allbritten, Academic and Student Affairs Leadership and members of the Board of Trustees.

Many thanks to Dr. Michele Yovanovich, Michelle King, Jeanne

Cortes, Brenda Knight and Dr. Christy Gilfert for their leadership on the three College ceremonies. Thanks also to Dr. Angela Vitale, Dr. Russell Swanson and Dr. Jackie Davis, each who represented the faculty in the role of the mace bearer. Congratulations also go to Principal Michelle Weir, and Principal Brian Botts and their teams for providing our high school graduates a safe and celebratory commencement.

Also, a special thanks to Terrace Myles for producing a spectacular student video that honored the lives and successes of our graduates. Make sure you check out the video and event photos on the FSW Facebook page.

Finally, thanks to the nearly 100 volunteers who ensured that the ceremonies were safe, orderly with all of the magic of a

pre-pandemic ceremony.



Graduates salute their loved ones for all their support.

Here Comes the Sun

Wrapping up the academic year has left me both tired and inspired. Engaging with our amazing students live and remotely reminds me the the resilience of the human spirit. I am so proud of every member of the FSW family who did not allow the global pandemic to impede goal attainment.

As we look ahead to the Fall 2021 semester, we will all remain

vigilant in regards to the global situation and will continue to communicate any related policy changes throughout the summer. As guided by the successes of the live and hybrid events this spring, we expect that there will be even more opportunities for live engagement in the fall. Stay tuned for plans about Convocation that will have both live and remote components to set our course for AY 2021-2022.



Enjoy your Summer!

While the *Connect Collaborate Innovate* Newsletter will go on hiatus for the summer semester, look forward to continued communication from the Provost's Office regarding the SACSCOC Reaffirmation Timeline, FSW's QEP 2022, Summer Institutes, and other Academic and Student Affairs initiatives. I hope you all find time this summer to enjoy some sunshine. It is out there for you.



Eileen DeLuca holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Florida, a Master's of Arts degree in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida, a Master's of Science degree in Multicultural/Bilingual Education from the College of New Rochelle, and a Bachelor's of Science degree in English Education from the University of South Florida. She has a long and complicated history with the institution we call Florida SouthWestern State College and now sits in an office in the building where she once took classes as a student at Edison Community College. She plans to get in as much beach time as possible this summer.

Reach out via email: Provost@fsw.edu

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