

For and about FSU people
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FSU Celebrates Achievements of Spring 2024 Graduates



Commencement speakers, from left, are **Brianne Helmstetter**, **Alivia Melius** and **Daniel Baiyeshea**.

FSU will celebrate the student achievements of its spring 2024 graduating class at the 164th Commencement Ceremony on **Thursday, May 23**, in the Corbitt PE Center Main Arena. Graduates from the College of Education, Health and Natural Sciences will be recognized at 9:30 a.m., and graduates from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social and Behavioral Sciences and the College of Business, Engineering, and Computational and Mathematical

Sciences will be recognized at 2 p.m.

This year's commencement speakers are **Brianne Helmstetter** from the College of Education and Health and Natural Sciences; **Alivia Melius** from the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social and Behavioral Sciences; and **Daniel Baiyeshea** from the College of Business, Engineering, and Computational and Mathematical Sciences.

Helmstetter, of Frederick, Md., will graduate with a bachelor's in elementary/middle school education with a specialization in science. Her hard work has earned her a spot on the Dean's List since 2021, and in 2020, she received an Award of Academic Excellence from the Teacher Academy of Maryland. Helmstetter currently serves as the vice president of the Frostburg Student Education Association and is a teacher intern at Braddock Middle School. She has also participated in the Ruby Payne and Project Learning Tree professional development workshops and the Zaner-Bloser handwriting course, and she has facilitated professional learning sessions for fellow students. In addition to her teacher internships, Helmstetter has worked as a substitute teacher and a youth soccer coach as well as organized a summer sand volleyball league for high schoolers.

Melius, of Saxton, Pa., will graduate with a bachelor's in English literature. She is an active member of several organizations on campus, including Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, Student Government Association, Phi, Kappa Phi Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Melius also serves as an office assistant for TRIO Student Support Services. Most impressively, however, is her travel abroad experiences in Tokyo to study intermediate Japanese language. Melius is visually impaired and uses her unique perspective to inspire other students like her to see the world despite the differences they may feel hold them back. As an ambassador for the Knowledge Exchange Institute and student representative for FSU's Advisory Council for International Education, Melius provides guidance to fellow students searching for work, study or internship programs abroad. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to pursue her master's in education.

Baiyeshea, of Gaithersburg, Md., will graduate with a bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in marketing. As a first-generation college student whose parents immigrated to the United States, he was always taught the importance of a good education. At FSU, Baiyeshea transformed the Marketing Club to the American Marketing Association (AMA) collegiate chapter and has had the opportunity to attend AMA International Collegiate Conferences in Chicago and New Orleans. He is also the director of marketing for FSU's Center for Advancement of Natural and Outdoor Experiences (CANOE), a member of the Student Business Leadership Council, a Student Alumni Ambassador and a member of the President's Leadership Circle. Baiyeshea also represented FSU as a student panelist for the University System of Maryland's Student Success Symposium. Following graduation, Baiyeshea will serve as a teaching assistant in China as part of FSU's collaborative program in economics and finance with the Hunan University of Technology and Business.

Tickets are required to attend Commencement. For info, visit the FSU Commencement webpage at <https://www.frostburg.edu/annual-events/commencement>. The ceremony will also be streamed live online. For the livestream link, visit FSU's website at www.frostburg.edu on the day of the commencement.

FSU Once Again Extends Decision Day Deadline From May 15 to June 1

The U.S. Department of Education revised its Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form last year to simplify the application process and help more students qualify for federal aid, but since its release in December, technical issues associated with the updated form have caused significant delays for colleges to receive student information.

Given continued delays in receiving FAFSA information, FSU's Decision Day deadline is once again being extended, **from Wednesday, May 15, to Saturday, June 1**. The additional extension will allow students more time to consider their aid offer before submitting confirmation deposits and will give FSU and the Maryland Higher Education Commission time to post the most accurate and secure award packages possible.

It is important to note that FAFSA delays don't mean a student's aid will be rescinded or reduced. In fact, if students are eligible for federal aid under the new FAFSA, that aid, in its full amount, will be forthcoming.

FSU's Admissions Office is always available to help students make the best choice for themselves and their families. Anyone with questions should reach out at FSUAdmissions@frostburg.edu or call or text 301-835-2528.

Help for Students

PAWS Pantry

The PAWS Pantry at FSU provides food and basic necessities to FSU students at no cost. The pantry is open and available to all students. Students will complete a brief survey and paperwork to register as a pantry member during their first visit. During regular hours, students may come to the pantry and shop from the selection of non-perishable foods and hygiene products (when available).

The pantry is located at Braddock House at 20 Braddock Road. Walk-up hours are noon to 6 p.m. on **Mondays**, 3 to 8 p.m. on **Wednesdays** and 1 to 7 p.m. on **Thursdays**. Other weekdays are by appointment. To schedule an appointment, email pawspantry@frostburg.edu. For info, visit <https://www.frostburg.edu/student-engagement/student-life/service/paws-pantry/PAWS-Pantry.php>.

PAWS Pantry Community Garden Open for Registration

Request your garden bed at <https://shorturl.at/zW018>. Paws Pantry will provide everything you need to garden, including seeds, plants and tools. Your group of three or more just has to register and pay a \$45 fee to access the garden **through Thursday, Oct. 31**.

Space is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis, so register soon!

Bobcat Career Closet



The Bobcat Career Closet provides professional clothing to FSU students. Available items include suits, blazers, shirts, trousers, skirts, dresses and ties. Students can choose from a variety of professional clothing for career events such as career fairs, job interviews, internships, first day on the job and conferences. The Career Closet is located in Pullen 110. Students should contact the Career and Professional Development Center to schedule an appointment at careerservices@frostburg.edu or CPDC Calendar at <https://shorturl.at/fALPW>.

Follow CPDC on Instagram [@frostburg_cpdc](https://www.instagram.com/frostburg_cpdc) for career events and job postings.

All clothing items have been donated by FSU faculty, staff, alumni and community members. These are new and gently used workplace-appropriate items.

For info, contact the Career and Professional Development Center team at 301-687-4403 or careerservices@frostburg.edu.

Music

Unless otherwise noted, events will take place in Pealer Recital Hall and are free and open to the public. Concerts will also be livestreamed; the link will be posted at www.frostburg.edu/concerts. For info, contact FSU's Department of Music at 301-687-4109.

Wind Studios to Perform Recital

FSU's Department of Music will present its Wind Studios Recital on **Monday, May 13**, at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will feature music majors from the Clarinet Studio of *Dr. Mark Gallagher*, the Saxophone Studio of *Dr. Brent Weber* and the Trumpet Studio of *Dr. Donald Albrecht*. *Dr. Joseph Yungen* will be the collaborative pianist, with guest artists *Peter Lewis* on bass, *Chassady Redhead* on violin and *Evie Shanholtz* on viola.

The program will include "Andante – Allegro" and "Allegretto" from "Fourth Trio for Clarinets" by Jacques Bouffil; "Two Jazz Duets" by John LaPorta; "Tuxedo" by Nick Holmes; the first movement of "Sonata for Trumpet and Piano" by Kent Kennan; "Moon River" by Henry Mancini, arranged by Max Partlow; the three movements, "Lebhaft," "Mässig Langsam" and "Lebhaft," of "Konzertstück für Zwei Altsaxophone" by Paul Hindemith; and "Salamander" by Wayne Siegel.

Bouffil was a prominent 19th-century French clarinetist and composer. His compositions for clarinet duet and trio are some of the most worthwhile written for the medium. They are full-scale works of considerable substance and were doubtless intended for performance by professionals.

LaPorta was a jazz clarinetist and composer. At one point it looked as if he would be one of the leading clarinetists in modern jazz, but he chose the educator's chair instead. He was a fixture at Berklee College of Music for many decades and played a pivotal role in the earliest stage of formalized American jazz education, shaping the unique Berklee curriculum. He wrote 15 books on music education and more than two hundred compositions.

Holmes is a musician, saxophonist, educator and musical mentor. "Tuxedo" is a musical score for two alto saxophones. It contains musical notation across three staves for each saxophone, including notes, rhythms, dynamics and other performance instructions. The score consists of multiple pages of music for the two instruments to play together.

Kennan was an American composer, author, educator and professor. His compositions include works for orchestra, chamber ensemble and solo instrument as well as songs and choral music. His "Sonata for Trumpet and Piano" is part of the standard repertoire for many collegiate trumpet studios.

"Moon River" is a song composed by Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer. It was originally performed by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 film "Breakfast at Tiffany's," winning an Academy Award for Best Original Song. Mercer wrote three sets of lyrics, his favorite version inspired by the full moon over a river near his childhood home in Savannah, Ga.

Hindemith was a German and American composer, music theorist, teacher, violist and conductor. As a composer, he became a major advocate of the *Neue Sachlichkeit* (New Objectivity) style of music in the 1920s. Hindemith composed "Concert Piece for Two Alto Saxophones" in 1933. Sigurd Raschèr, one of the best-known classical saxophonists of the 20th century, commissioned the work from Hindemith.

"Salamander" (2019) is a sequel to "Jackdaw," a piece that Siegel wrote 24 years earlier. The piece starts with a slow, dreamy section that is interrupted by a quick and lively section and that finally returns to a palindrome version of the first slow section.

Irish Traditional Music Group, The Consequences, at MCTA



FSU's Mountain City Traditional Arts will present the new Irish traditional music group, The Consequences, on **Tuesday, May 14**, at 7 pm. at 25 E. Main St. in Frostburg. The concert is free and open to the public. No tickets are required, though donations are greatly appreciated.

Driven by a passion for exploring the colors and complexities of Irish music, The Consequences are a band founded by Lexie Boatright (concertina and harp), Jake James (fiddle), Cara Wildman (bodhrán and dance) and Ryan Ward (piano and piano accordion). Award-winning soloists in their own right, the quartet comes together to create a dynamic and enthralling sound with a combination of traditional and original tunes.

Boatright is a multiple All-Ireland award-winning harpist and concertina player. She is the executive director of the Baltimore-Washington Academy of Irish Culture. Boatright also regularly teaches across the Irish music summer school and festival circuit.

James is a two-time All-Ireland fiddle champion from Queens, New York City. The Irish Echo called his 2018 album "Firewood" an "outstanding debut solo recording." Since then, he's released "In Reel Time" with fellow NYC flute player Brenda Dowling and toured throughout the United States, Canada and Japan with several esteemed groups.

Wildman is a highly sought-after bodhrán player at the cutting edge of the instrument's modern development. She credits a large part of her musicality to growing up playing western swing in Dorchester, Texas. She has toured with Joanie Madden, Oisín Mac Diarmada's Irish Christmas in America, Máiréad Nesbitt and more. Wildman was the 2021 All-Ireland Fleadhfest champion.

Known for his driving, yet sensitive, and dynamic accompaniment style, Ward is an award-winning pianist and accordion player hailing from New York City. He is a Senior All-Ireland Accompaniment Champion, has performed extensively across the Feis circuit and is a highly sought-after accompanist in the New York area.

For info, call 301-687-8040.

Dr. Joseph Yungen in Faculty Artist Series Concert

FSU's Department of Music will present **Dr. Joseph Yungen** in a Faculty Artist Series concert on **Tuesday, May 14**, at 7:30 p.m.

Yungen will perform "Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 874" and "Prelude and Fugue in G Minor, BWV 885" from "The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2" by Johann Sebastian Bach; "Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm (Nos. 148-153)" from "Mikrokosmos, Book 6" by Béla Bartók; "Six moments musicaux, Op. 16" by Sergei Rachmaninoff; the three movements, "Das Lebewohl (Les Adieux – The Farewell)," "Abwesenheit (L'Absence – The Absence)" and "Wiedersehen (Le Retour – The Return)," of "Piano Sonata No. 26 in E-flat Major, Op. 81a," known as "Les Adieux" ("The Farewell") by Ludwig van Beethoven; and the seven movements of "Fantasies, Op. 116" by Johannes Brahms. The following text is from Yungen's program notes.

The "Clavier" is part of Bach's 48 preludes and fugues that explore the 12 major and minor keys. Bach had been coming from meantone temperament, which allowed for a handful of keys to sound beautifully in tune, but with the tradeoff being that other keys would sound particularly harsh and discordant. Well temperaments make more keys accessible by redistributing and minimizing the imperfect intervals. The result is that each key has its own color and character, which Bach exploits in WTC. So, rather than demonstrating that "all keys are equal," as is a common misconception, Bach is demonstrating how all keys may now be used on the keyboard, and they are all wonderfully different.

Originally written as a collection of pedagogical studies for his son, and still used for beginning piano instruction to this day, Bartók's "Mikrokosmos" spans six volumes, beginning with simple unison melodies and culminating in complex virtuoso concert works. The

“Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm” at the end of the final volume showcase Bartók’s work in collecting folk music from the Balkans and integrating it into his modern musical language.

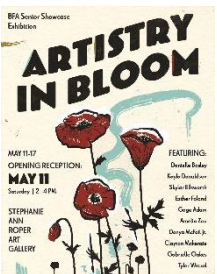
Drawing upon traditional forms such as the nocturne, virtuoso etude, song without words, barcarolle, and theme and variations, Rachmaninoff’s “Opus 16” was inspired by Franz Schubert’s “Six Moments musicaux.” Although Rachmaninoff composed these pieces to dig himself out of a financial hole after being robbed on a train, they are of the highest quality and demonstrate the maturation of his compositional technique for the piano.

Beethoven’s “Les Adieux sonata” marks the end of the master’s middle period and the start of his late period. The piece paints a picture musically and pianistically of a departure and heartfelt goodbye. The sonata opens with a descending horn motif. As the music unfolds, one can hear the rhythm of horses galloping away into the distance while the pianist’s hands move farther and farther apart, with the Lebewohl motif recurring throughout. The second movement, “The Absence,” evokes the emptiness of the friend’s absence, with harsh dissonances and moments of false hope. However, the despairing mood is alleviated at the end of the movement, changing from suspense to anticipation as it leads into a joyful reunion in the final movement.

Written in his final years, Brahms’ “Fantasies, Op. 116” are highly concentrated compositional gems. These bittersweet, mostly melancholy pieces are full of interesting contrapuntal ideas, independent voice leading and pianistic effects. Most likely written with his beloved friend Clara Schumann in mind, with whom Brahms had a rather complicated relationship, these short piano works span the range of expression from vehement passion to intimate nostalgia.

Exhibitions

Department of Visual Arts Presents Senior Show, ‘Artistry in Bloom’



FSU’s Department of Visual Arts is hosting its Spring 2024 Senior Exhibition, “Artistry in Bloom,” **through Friday, May 17**, at the Stephanie Ann Roper Gallery in FSU’s Fine Arts Building. This exhibition is free and open to the public.

The student artists are as follows:

Gage Adam will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, with a focus in painting. He expresses his emotions in visual form, and his goal in art is to create a realm of being of emotional reactions strung together. He plans to pursue a career in tattooing.

Danielle Bosley will graduate with a bachelor’s in illustration and a minor in business administration. Her goal is to freelance, writing comics, and eventually open her own restaurant.

Kayla Donaldson will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, with a concentration in painting, a minor in art history and a minor in critical gender studies. After graduation, she plans to continue to share her feminism and African diaspora with the public through her work and to inspire Black female artists to follow their dreams.

Skylar Ellsworth will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, with a focus in graphic design and illustration. After graduation, she plans to work as a junior graphic designer for an advertising agency.

Esther Foland will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, with focus areas in illustration and photography. After graduation, she plans to work in illustration while still doing photography on the side.

Donya McFail Jr. will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, a dual concentration in graphic design and photography and a minor in graphic design. After graduation, McFail plans to pursue a master’s in teaching at FSU and continue pursuing freelance graphic design and photography work.

Clayton McKenzie will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, with a focus in Illustration and a minor in graphic design and art history. After graduation, he plans to work on comics and webtoons.

Gabrielle Oakes is graduating with a bachelor’s in art and design and concentrations in illustration and painting. After graduation, she plans to have her own studio and find a job as a courtroom sketch artist.

Tyler Wetzel will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design and a minor in graphic design. Following graduation, he plans to utilize his skills within Adobe Suite to join a company’s design team. Eventually, he would like to work independently on a contractual basis.

Amelia Zou will graduate with a bachelor’s in art and design, with a focus in Illustration. Her plan after graduation is to continue working on her shop MilaPinDesigns on Etsy and sell her creations at anime conventions.

For this show, the Roper Gallery is open **Mondays through Fridays** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For info, contact Jackie Brown at jbrown@frostburg.edu.

Points of Pride

Lambda Nu Chapter of Beta Beta Beta Welcomes New Members

FSU’s Lambda Nu Chapter of Beta Beta Beta, a national biological sciences honor society, welcomed new members this spring.

Congratulations to the following exceptional students: **MacKenzie Freeze, Joshua Hershey, Makenna Lowery, Brady McKinley** and **Skylar Slimmer!** **Dr. Frank Hughes** and **Dr. Kumudini Munasinghe** are the faculty co-advisors.

2024 Faculty Achievement Award Winners to Be Honored at FSU Convocation

Outstanding Graduating Seniors Also Recognized for Academic Excellence and Leadership



Faculty Achievement Award winners are, from left, Dr. Michael Murtagh, Dr. Jodi Welsch, Gerry LaFemina and Dr. Justin Dunmyre.

Four recipients of the 2024 Faculty Achievement Awards will be honored at the FSU Honors Convocation on **Wednesday, May 22**, at 6 p.m. in Pealer Recital Hall. The awards are made possible through generous gifts to the FSU Foundation, Inc. In addition to the faculty awards,

outstanding graduating seniors will also be recognized at the convocation by their departments for academic excellence and leadership.

This year's award winners for teaching are **Dr. Michael Murtagh**, Department of Psychology, and **Dr. Jodi Welsch**, Department of Educational Professions. The Academic Achievement award winner is **Gerry LaFemina**, Department of English and Foreign Languages, and the recipient of the University and Community Service award is **Dr. Justin Dunmyre**, Department of Mathematics.

Murtagh has revolutionized counseling psychology education with his commitment to empirically validated interventions. Not only has he enriched the graduate program with essential courses and specialized training on PTSD, but his innovative teaching techniques are also very impactful and bring enjoyment to the educational process. Known for his rigorous feedback mechanisms, Murtagh offers detailed critiques that significantly enhance students' counseling skills. His multifaceted instructional methods, from case studies to multimedia, engage students to foster a thorough understanding of complex material, and his dedication to high academic standards ensures the development of competent therapists.

Welsch has demonstrated continued success throughout her career as an education professor. She teaches courses in literacy education and guides seminars in teacher education for undergrad and graduate programs. Welsch brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role. She is dedicated to enhancing student learning experiences, demonstrated by her commitment to effective student-centered teaching through continuous growth and adaptability. Welsch constantly refines and improves her course designs, content and teaching practices to ensure alignment with changes in the field. She has started to include social-emotional learning in her course organization and activities to ensure equity for all students. Focusing on practical applications of learning, the content Welsch teaches is applicable to her students' field experience and future careers.

LaFemina's contributions to poetry and creative nonfiction are exemplary. His recent accomplishments include two book publications, an edited book and more than two dozen published poems in an assortment of journal outlets. He has made significant contributions as an English professor to his academic discipline, serving on panels, publishing scholarly work and through a collaborative exchange of ideas at a residency in Lichtenstein, and he was also the recipient of multiple grants devoted to the honing of his craft. LaFemina's literary prowess celebrates the region's history and culture at venues that span the local to the international.

Dunmyre's commitment to service is evidenced not just by his long history of membership on multiple committees but by his dedication to their work through the many leadership roles he has assumed. These include serving as vice chair of the Faculty Senate, chair of the General Education Review Committee, co-chair of the Faculty Evaluation Working Group, co-director of the Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Group and co-chair of the FSU self-study working group for accreditation standards focused on the design and delivery of the student learning experience for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Dunmyre was instrumental in developing the FSU ACHIEVE Mathematics Initiative and serves his profession as a Teaching Support Group mentor for early career math faculty. With this award, he becomes the sixth FSU faculty member to have been honored in all three Faculty Achievement Award categories.

FSU Earns 2024-2025 Military Friendly School Designation for 13th Consecutive Year



FSU has once again received the Military Friendly School designation marking the 13th straight year earning this honor.

The Military Friendly Schools list honors colleges, universities and trade schools across the country that go above and beyond to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-2025 survey, and FSU was among 537 earning the Military Friendly appointment for going above the standard.

Methodology, criteria and weightings were determined by Viqtory, which serves military personnel and their spouses transitioning into civilian life, with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in higher education. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's ability to meet thresholds for retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence and loan default rates for all students and specifically, for student veterans.

The 2024-2025 Military Friendly Schools list will be published in the May and October issues of G.I. Jobs magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

FSU is home to a Veterans Center that proudly welcomes student veterans and dependents of veterans and ensures that they receive the academic benefits, resources and representation that they have earned. Additionally, members of the Student Veterans Association often perform community and alumni outreach activities through fundraisers and programs.

FSU is also home to a chapter of SALUTE, the first national higher education honor society for student veterans and military service members. SALUTE members are recognized at ceremonies biannually.

For info about FSU's services to military and veteran students and their dependents, contact Clarissa Lang in the FSU Veterans Services Office at 301-687-4409 or calang@frostburg.edu.

Students Honored at FSU's Leadership and Engagement Awards Celebration

Dedicated Students Recognized for Their Contributions to the University

On May 2, a myriad of FSU students was honored at the 2024 Leadership and Engagement Awards reception for their dedication and contributions to the University's leadership. This eclectic group of individuals tirelessly serve the campus community in a variety of capacities, lending their time and talents to everyone they encounter.

The process for nominating a student for an award is open to anyone who has witnessed exceptional leadership and service of a scholar, peer, mentor or friend. Selection committees ultimately chose the award recipients after thoughtful review of the submissions.

The evening's student award winners are as follows: Outstanding Cultural Programming Award, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, for "Hop Into Your Hair-itage"; Outstanding Social Programming Award, The Wise, Open-Minded, Motivated, Empathetic Noble (W.O.M.E.N.) for multiple events that bring the University campus together; Outstanding Educational Programming Award, **Chase Connor** and **Dustin Muir** for the Active Assailant training video; John C. Armor Jr. Memorial Outstanding Student Organization Award, Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Emerging Leader Award, **Marissa Thomas**; Unsung Hero Award, **Brianne Helmstetter**; Civil Citizen Communication Award, **Hailie Toro**; Student Government Association Outstanding Senior Service Award, **Caleb Heller**; Derek Thomson Sheely Leadership Award, **Laura Gilford**; Student Employee of the Year, **Kaitlyn Custer**; Social Change Award, **Kayla Donaldson**; the Father Ed Hendricks Award, **Rachael Michalski**; and the William Mandicott Pillar of the Community Award, **Jamie Roberts**.

Additionally, the 2024-2025 President's Leadership Circle (PLC) members were introduced. This small, selected cohort of senior student leaders will be exposed to personal and professional development leadership opportunities facilitated by FSU's president and the Division of Student Affairs. New PLC members include **Ashlynn Cooper**, **Hayden Crowe**, **Sophia Dispirito**, **Carson Lawrence**, **Reagan Mangum**, Michalski, **Lydia Nebiolo**, **Ava Rankin**, **Hailey Unger** and **Rebecca West**.

As part of the evening's awards, **Dr. Artie Travis**, FSU's vice president of Student Affairs, presented awards to several individuals who have made an impact on and contributed to the effective operations of FSU's Division of Student Affairs. Recipients included the 7-Eleven store in Frostburg in recognition of positive service to FSU students; **Corrine Donoway** in recognition of her creativity and inclusion; and **Lisa Clark**, director of ASTAR AmeriCorps, in recognition of her community engagement and service at FSU. Additionally, FSU's Student Government Association made a special presentation to **Robert "Coop" Cooper**, assistant vice president for Student Engagement, for his commitment to Bobcats and Belongingness.

Special recognition should be given to the program's speakers, including current PLC member, **Daniel Baiyeshea**; **Al Delia**, acting president and vice president of Regional Development and Engagement; and keynote speaker, Dr. Nancy S. Shapiro, associate vice chancellor for Education and Outreach for the University System of Maryland.

Award presenters included **Jamie Winters**, **Pauline Pascariello**, **Dr. Sharman Siebenthal**, Robert Cooper, Clark, **Dr. Katie Weir**, Travis, **Dr. Elesha Ruminski**, Crowe, **Carrie Saunders**, **Dr. Michael Flinn**, **Ashley Daniels**, Michalski and **Father Ed Hendricks**.

FSU's Dr. Kate Sheehan Makes Groundbreaking Research Trip to the Great White North



A black guillemot being processed for chemical contaminants before it is carefully placed into the community freezer for consumption

Dr. Kate Sheehan, an assistant professor in FSU's Department of Biology, recently returned from Nain, Newfoundland, where she collaborated with the Nunatsiavut, the Inuit-governed region in Newfoundland and Labrador. Sheehan's visit during the spring break of 2024 was aimed at combining community service with advanced research in environmental health and wildlife conservation.

Invited specifically to assist and engage with the Nunatsiavut community, Sheehan played a pivotal role in preparing wild birds – willow ptarmigan, common eider and black guillemot – for community food access. These birds, key to the local diet, were meticulously processed for culinary purposes and served as critical samples for Sheehan's research on chemical contaminants and their impact on indigenous food sources.

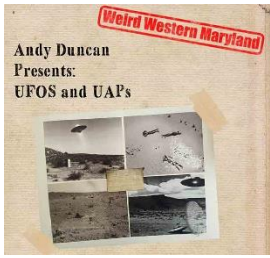
Sheehan's findings confirmed parasite infections in two of the three bird species studied, findings that are vital for understanding and mitigating health risks associated with consuming these birds. This collaborative effort between FSU and the Nunatsiavut government highlights the importance of indigenous knowledge and scientific research in addressing environmental health concerns.

Sheehan plans to establish a regular research trip to work more closely with Nunatsiavut community hunters, aiming to enhance the community's understanding of bird-foraging patterns and ensure the health and prosperity of the region. This project will also provide invaluable applied research opportunities for FSU students.

A highlight of the trip was the community freezer event, underscoring the spirit of shared resources and sustenance in Nain. Providing access to essential and culturally significant food items like moose meat, wild birds, Arctic char fish and other staples, the event was a testament to the community's unity and commitment to sustainable living practices.

To help support these and other wildlife disease activities, consider making a charitable gift to Sheehan's research program through the FSU Foundation Account 70110 – "Diversity in Food Webs fund."

Andy Duncan to Present ‘Weird Western Maryland: UFOs and UAPs’



Andy Duncan, a professor in the Department of English and Foreign Languages, will present a public talk, “Weird Western Maryland: UFOs and UAPs,” on **Tuesday, May 21**, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the South Cumberland Library, 100 Seymour St. Come for a lively discussion of local sightings!

Since their launch in October 2023, Duncan’s Weird Western Maryland public pages have reached 166 published items, complete with sources, totaling 25,000 words; the home page is <https://www.frostburg.edu/personal-arduncan>.

For info on the event, visit <https://allegany.librarymarket.com/event/weird-western-maryland-ufos-and-uaps-19471>.

FSU’s Kim Hinds-Brush Receives Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award



At the 2024 FSU Leadership and Engagement Awards celebration held on May 2, **Kim Hinds-Brush**, FSU’s director of Residence Life and advisor for the Mu Omicron chapter of Phi Mu Delta Fraternity, was honored with the Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award for support and contributions that go above and beyond her current duties as a staff member.

Hinds-Brush volunteers her time to advise students in Phi Mu Delta. She has spent countless hours printing flyers or banners to advertise events, purchasing recruitment T-shirts, helping members meet deadlines and understand risk management and supporting the chapter plan and implement events.

The mission of FSU’s chapter of Phi Mu Delta is to provide a “positive fraternity experience for today’s college man, encouraging high personal standards, morally, mentally and spiritually, and to help its members live the ideals of its founders: democracy, brotherhood and service.

Four FSU Management Students Win 2nd Place at International Conference



A team of four FSU Management students, **Teresa Wolf**, **Mychael McKay**, **Eric Denham** and **Shannon Casey**, won second place in the Written Case Competition at the Society for Advancement of Management’s 2024 International Business Conference held in Orlando, Fla., March 21-23.

Faculty advisors, **Dr. Michael Monahan** and **Dr. Amit Shah**, accompanied the group.

The team competed against nine other teams from various universities in the category of Written Case Competition, defending their analysis of Affordable HealthCare Network – America.

Additionally, Wolf won third place in the Extemporaneous Speech Competition.

FSU Students Honored at Annual Teachers of Promise Institute



FSU’s 2024 Teachers of Promise are, top row, from left, **Max Chumbris**, **Jackson Frazier**, **Kourtlan Copeland**, **Channa Powell** and **Dr. Christina Durham**, a lecturer in the Department of Educational Professions; and bottom row, from left, **Andy Matthews**, **Brianne Helmstetter** and **Ciera Davisson**.

On April 19, a group of seven senior and MAT education students selected by FSU’s Department of Educational Professions faculty were honored at the Annual Teachers of Promise Institute in Baltimore, sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education. The students joined other education students from 17 Maryland colleges and universities at the institute to interact with and learn from top educational professionals, including teachers of the year, Milken educators and other award-winning educators. During the institute, the students met with their award-winning mentors who will guide them through the spring and summer until the new graduates are placed in their schools in the fall.

Office of Sponsored Programs Successes/News

On May 3, project director Jason Litten **Jason Litten**, co-director, Western Maryland Regional GIS, was awarded \$250,000 by the Appalachian Regional Commission for the project, Using Remote Sensing Technology in Western Maryland to Assist in Land Reclamation.

On March 29, project director **Don Swogger**, director of Substance Abuse, S.A.F.E. Office, was awarded \$5,000 by the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling for the project, Problem Gambling Prevention, Awareness, Research.

For info, see OSP’s Successes/News webpage at <https://www.frostburg.edu/osp/Successes%20News.php>.

Take Note

Nominations Open for President's Distinguished Faculty and Staff Awards

Nominations are being sought once again for the annual President's Distinguished Faculty and Staff awards. The faculty award recognizes faculty members who advance the University in ways consistent with its mission and the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. Nominations are also being sought for the staff award. Similar to the faculty award, this award is intended to recognize and encourage FSU staff members who provide exceptional service to the University and who have helped to advance its mission, goals and priorities. The awards will be presented during the State of the University Address and each award includes a \$2,500 monetary prize.

Faculty Award

Examples of qualifying activities for the faculty award include focusing learning on the acquisition and application of knowledge, providing engaging experiences that challenge students to excel, expanding regional outreach and engagement and aligning University resources – human, fiscal and physical – with strategic priorities.

Applications must be made through a letter of nomination by FSU colleagues. Self-nominations will not be accepted. Activities outlined in the nomination letter should have occurred in the fall 2023 and/or spring 2024 semester(s). The letter should consist of a narrative of no more than two pages in the form of an executive summary, plus any supporting documentation.

Staff Award

Staff and faculty are invited to nominate staff colleagues who they know have a recent record of significant contributions to the success of the University. Examples of qualifying activities could include, but are not limited to, suggesting new methods to help increase enrollment or student retention; involvement with innovative student activities to promote safety and well-being; providing leadership for a project or initiative making a favorable impact on the campus community; efficiency and effectiveness efforts leading to significant savings of cost, time, labor or other resources; community relations to help strengthen ties between FSU and local residents or businesses; assisting in FSU's contribution to economic development in Western Maryland, the region and the state; and other contributions deemed to be far above and beyond the staff member's regular job duties.

Regular exempt and nonexempt staff employees with at least three consecutive years of service to FSU are eligible to be nominated. Colleagues may nominate an eligible staff member with the knowledge and consent of the nominee. Contractual staff employees, faculty members and student workers are not eligible. Vice presidents, deans and other senior leadership are excluded.

Nomination for the staff award is to be made through a letter from FSU staff and/or faculty colleague(s). Multiple nominations for the same staff member are acceptable. Self-nominations and anonymous submissions will not be accepted.

Addressed to the president, a nomination letter should identify an eligible staff member and clearly document why their service is worthy of this award. Activities outlined in the nomination should have occurred during the 2023-2024 academic year. A nomination must be concise, summarizing the staff member's outstanding accomplishments and positive impact in one or two pages, plus any supporting materials not to exceed three additional pages.

Submit nominations to Donnell VanSkiver in the Office of President at dhvanskiver@frostburg.edu, send in campus mail or deliver to Hitchins 218 by **Friday, May 31**.

Popsicles on the Patio



The Career and Professional Development Center, the Residence Life Office and the Center for Academic Advising and Retention will host Popsicles on the Patio on **Thursday, May 16**, noon to 3 p.m. on the Library Patio.

Take a break, de-stress with your friends and cool off with some free popsicles while playing backyard games like corn hole, putt-putt golf, spike ball and more. You can also relax with puzzles, coloring and fun board games.

Graduation Expo 2024



The FSU Alumni Office and the Career and Professional Development Center will host the Grad Expo on **Wednesday, May 15**, noon to 4 p.m. in the Lane Atkinson Room. All spring 2024 graduating seniors are invited.

Come hang out and craft your cap, take a photo with Bob E. Cat and get a free professional headshot! Prizes, giveaways and some free Bobcat Career Closet clothing items will be available, too.

FSU eSports Club Hosting Gaming Fundraiser

The FSU eSports Club will host a gaming fundraiser on **Wednesday, May 15**, at 2 p.m. in Gira Center 270. Faculty are being asked to challenge students at a game of their choice. A faculty/staff member from each department is encouraged to be present so students from all over campus feel they can participate.

If you are interested in being an opponent for a student to 1v1 you in one of the games, sign up at <https://forms.office.com/r/Nvde5qNhjQ>!

Students will pay \$1 to play against you.

For info, contact Becca Flinn at rflinn@frostburg.edu or Steve Kennedy at sdkenney@frostburg.edu.

Summer Music Academy

Applications Still Being Accepted



The FSU Summer Music Academy welcomes musicians to FSU **Sunday, July 21, through Sunday, July 28**, for a week of intensive study and music making that will enrich their knowledge, technique and musicality. Register today at <https://forms.frostburg.edu/150>.

Activities will include the Alexander Technique; private lesson; chamber music coaching; ensembles; evening faculty performances; exposure to internationally renowned musicians, soloists and teachers; masterclasses from FSU faculty and guest artists; outdoor activities in the Allegany mountains; the Telford International Competition; and the SMA Gala Concert.

SMA participants between the ages of 10 and 22 are eligible and encouraged to participate in the Telford International Competition, which offers more than \$1,000 in prizes.

SMA aims to promote classical music education all over the world. SMA's mission is to deepen the younger generation's appreciation of culture through musical experiences. The academy brings leading artists from around the world to the Western Maryland region to inspire students and local residents and help to grow interest in music programs of all types of educational systems.

For info, contact Dr. Karen Lau, director of SMA and strings instructor at FSU, at 301-687-7458 or sma@frostburg.edu.

Deadlines

Graduate Grade Changes

The last day for graduate grade changes, including the removal of incomplete grades for the fall 2023 and Intersession 2024 (15-week session GRAD, 7-week session I GRAD and 7-week session II Grad) is **Tuesday, May 14**.

Jobs

OCE Is Hiring Civic Engagement Student Employees

FSU's Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) is hiring enthusiastic and committed student staff members who are passionate about promoting active citizenship, community engagement, voter participation and fostering inclusive dialogues and discussions. This position offers a unique opportunity to contribute to and shape civic engagement activities on campus and in the broader community. As a member of the OCE Student Staff Team, you and others will help plan and implement a variety of programs aimed at enhancing community engagement, dialogue and voter participation among students.

Key Responsibilities

Voter Engagement: Plan and implement initiatives to increase voter registration and turnout among students. This includes voter education, registration drives and providing resources on voting procedures.

Dialogue and Discussion: Plan and market forums, workshops and discussions, such as Times Talks, that encourage open, respectful and constructive dialogue on a range of societal and campus-related issues.

Community Engagement: Coordinate community projects that allow students to engage with and contribute to the local community. This involves partnering with community organizations, planning events and mobilizing student participation.

Program Implementation: Assist in the development, execution and assessment of civic engagement programs. This includes event planning, marketing and outreach efforts, and evaluating program effectiveness.

Collaboration: Work closely with University departments, student organizations and community partners to promote civic engagement activities and initiatives.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions, complete the application at <https://shorturl.at/auJRO>.

For info about these staff positions or the hiring process, contact Patrick O'Brien at civicengagement@frostburg.edu or 301-687-7599.

Community

Pollinator Planting



Are you or your students looking for one more, relaxing opportunity for FSU to make a positive impact in the community? Consider joining Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 16 Washington St. in Cumberland, on **Saturday, May 18**, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. as they convert nearly an acre of their property to native pollinator-supportive habitat.

There are roles for every age and ability level and morning, afternoon and evening shifts that can be signed up for.

Be sure to sign up early at <https://bit.ly/pollinator-sign-up>, so the church will have sufficient food for everyone.

Health and Safety Messages

Summer Vacation Safety Tips



Know the warning signs of sharks. Compared to other summer vacation safety threats, shark attacks are extremely unlikely. However, they do happen. Here are a few tips for avoiding sharks: don't swim at dawn or dusk, or after heavy rains; don't swim near fishing piers, where sharks may be attracted by bait; if you see small fish schooling and jumping out of the water, a shark may be nearby; sharks are attracted to mouths of rivers, channels, deep drops and areas between sandbars; and watch for blue or purple flags, which indicate sharks, jellyfish or other dangerous marine life.

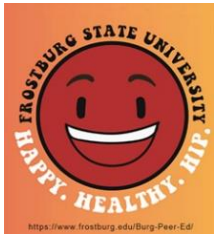
Know your vehicle load limits. A rooftop carrier makes packing for your summer vacation much easier. Read the car's manual first to figure out the dynamic weight limit for the roof rack. On average, 165 pounds is the maximum. And remember that adding rooftop cargo raises the center of gravity, which can cause an SUV to sway or become less stable on the road.

Don't trust your GPS/phone maps. Always have a backup plan. Paper maps are a good idea to carry, along with emergency water, food and other supplies.

Steer clear of wildlife. Many wild animals are drawn to campgrounds because they can forage in trash or snag snacks from tourists. The key thing to remember is that most animal attacks are provoked. Never, never feed or harass wildlife, even if you see other people doing it. And remember that bees, deer, dogs and cows kill a lot more people than alligators and bears.

Spray your shoes. Picking off a few ticks used to be a normal rite of summer vacation. Now it's cause for alarm, as scientists have discovered more than 14 diseases spread by ticks, including Lyme disease, babesiosis and Powassan virus. Ticks are spreading, and reports of disease have shot up. Be sure to spray children's and adults' shoes with permethrin and do daily tick checks.

Happy, Healthy, Hip Tips From the BURG Peer Education Network



Mental Health Monday: Mental Health Doesn't Take a Summer Break

<https://youmatter.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/mental-health-doesnt-take-a-summer-break>

Tell Yourself Tuesday: Affirmations to Tell Yourself During the Summer

<https://healingbrave.com/blogs/all/summer-affirmations-enjoy-your-company>

Wacky Wednesday: How Sunlight Improves Our Mental and Physical Health

<https://www.healthline.com/health/depression/benefits-sunlight#sun-safety>

Thankful Thursday: Thirty-Day Summer "Thank You" Challenge

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/money/careers/2018/06/25/dont-wait-till-thanksgiving-try-30-day-summer-thanks-challenge/725981002>

Fun Friday: Activities to Try, Right Here in Western Maryland!

<https://www.visitmaryland.org/list/things-see-and-do-western-maryland>

Social Saturday: Keep in Touch Over the Summer!

<https://www.whereicanbeme.com/keep-in-touch-a-guide-to-maintaining-friendships-in-the-summer>

Self-Love Sunday: Self-Love Summer

<https://vibranthealth.com/summer-of-self-love-14-ways-to-embrace-your-body-love-yourself-this-summer>

VALUES AND VISION: FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2023

CORE VALUES

Frostburg State University is a place where every student can experience a myriad of opportunities both in and out of the classroom, fostered by a sense of inclusion and close mentoring relationships with faculty and staff.

Frostburg State University is committed to developing cultural competence and cultivating understanding of and respect for a diversity of experiences and world views that encourage each person's ability to "take the perspective of the other."

Frostburg State University is committed to a system of shared governance that allows faculty, staff and students to learn about the issues the University confronts and that provides a structure for meaningful input into University decisions.

OUR VISION FOR FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2023

Frostburg State University is a regionally acclaimed and nationally recognized academic institution that provides distinctive programs to support state and regional workforce needs. Faculty, staff and students foster collaboration in a welcoming and inclusive campus culture.

Students value the opportunities open for them at FSU and form close mentoring relationships with faculty and staff, who are committed to their success and well-being. Students apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to internship, civic engagement, study abroad and research experiences to meet the challenges of a complex and changing global society.

The University is integrated into the fabric of the community as a valued and respected regional asset. We are committed to making changes that secure our future while celebrating the values that reflect our history.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Focus learning on the acquisition and application of knowledge.

Provide engaging experiences that challenge our students to excel.

Expand regional outreach and engagement.

Align University resources – human, fiscal and physical – with strategic priorities.

To view FSU's Strategic Plan 2018-2023 online, visit www.frostburg.edu/strategicplan.