

Good afternoon, Bobcats.

As we begin the final week of this semester, I would typically be writing to you about all the celebrations and accolades that we have hosted to recognize and honor our students, faculty and staff. However, this has been a difficult two weeks for the Bobcat community. Two of our student-athletes were injured during play but, thankfully, are now both home and expected to make a full recovery.

Then tragically, Terence Liley, a rising senior here at FSU, passed away unexpectedly last week. Details of a vigil for Terence are being finalized, and a campus announcement will be shared later today. I encourage all members of the FSU community to attend the vigil to celebrate the life of this young man. Please continue to keep Terence and his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

While many of us look forward to the unofficial start of summer this weekend, please take the chance to reflect on the deeper meaning of the upcoming Memorial Day. This observance is a time to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country to protect our freedoms.

Memorial Day, and other similar observances, also serve as reminders that parting ways leaves a lasting impact on our lives - whether it's saying goodbye to a loved one, a colleague, a fellow student or a chapter in our lives. It is important to remember to be kind to one another and to support each other through transitions, both big and small.

With that being said, I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge those faculty members affected by retrenchment. Their dedicated service to FSU and the impact they had, and will continue to have, on our students is invaluable. Saying goodbye to any faculty is difficult, and I believe that I speak on behalf of the entire University when I say thank you.

So, as we close out the semester, please be sure to acknowledge and appreciate the people around you who make your lives meaningful.

With FSU pride,
Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD