

March 16, 2018

Good afternoon,

Here's an update on a few items:

Spring Break. As spring break starts, I hope the students have a safe and enjoyable break. I want to thank those students who are taking advantage of alternative spring break activities to give back to those who are in need. I know we will have students headed to New York, West Virginia, and Uganda helping those who are in need, just as we had [students serving in Ireland and Guatemala](#) over winter break.

Phi Kappa Phi. The initiation of the Frostburg State chapter of PKP will take place today. We are extremely pleased to be recognized by PKP for our commitment to student academic achievement. Once the chapter is initiated, we will begin inviting outstanding juniors, seniors, and graduate students to join PKP as the initial class in our chapter. PKP provides scholarship opportunities for PKP students which I hope we will pursue.

Ricky Arnold, Class of '85 and NASA. Our alum, Ricky Arnold, is scheduled to [return to space](#) next week on Wednesday March 21 at 1:44 p.m. EDT. The launch will be broadcast live on NASA TV, which can be seen on [NASA.gov](#), with coverage starting at 12:45 p.m. We have a tentative schedule from NASA for the morning of April 9 for a live downlink from the space station to campus. More on that as we get closer to the date. We're very proud of Ricky on his second trip to space. He will be conducting some of the experiments that Christa McAuliffe was unable to do because of the Challenger tragedy.

Strategic Plan. A new webpage will be up soon with all of the public information on the strategic planning process, strategic themes, and strategic goals. I've asked VPs to respond to the action items that arose from discussions last semester to develop implementation plans. The action items are tied directly to the strategic goals. In early April, we will hold some open meetings on those items and plans to finalize them. I've attached the info on planning process, themes, and goals. These were completed and finalized at the end of the 2017 academic year.

Study Assistance. As we approach the final weeks of the semester, the PASS office asked me to remind everyone of available academic services:

For students who could use some help, we have tutoring available for most 100- and 200-level courses.

- For tutoring in math, natural sciences, business (accounting and economics), and computer science courses, go to 151 Pullen Hall
- For help with writing for any course, go to the Writing Center, 151 Pullen Hall
- For tutoring in social science and humanities courses, go to the PAL (Peer Assisted Learning) program, 150 Pullen Hall

Tutoring appointments can be made either by going to the Pullen location or through TutorTrac:

<https://tutortrac.frostburg.edu>.

Students who would like help with time/workload management, study strategies, test-taking strategies, etc., should go to the PASS Office, 150 Pullen Hall.

History. 120 years ago, the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates were debating the bill to create Normal School #2 in Frostburg. While there were two "successful" readings of the bill, the third reading never occurred. What happens next occurs on April 1!

See everyone soon. Be safe!

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