

Dec. 1, 2021

Good afternoon,

Welcome back from your Thanksgiving break. We are moving into the final weeks of the fall semester. Here are a few updates:

Health. Please continue to follow health protocols of masking, social distancing, handwashing and testing as we move into the beginning of flu and cold season. We've been fortunate on campus to have fewer cases of the COVID-19 virus relative to our region. The University System of Maryland leadership had an informational call today with medical experts on the need for boosters and an update on the new variant, Omicron. Abbott has reported that the rapid test we are using is able to detect the new variant. Campus members who are unvaccinated with approved exemptions need to continue twice-weekly testing. For those who are vaccinated, the on-campus testing is available as an option.

Listening Sessions. I appreciate those who have met with me over the past two weeks during my listening sessions in the Atkinson Room in the Lane Center. The last listening session for faculty and staff is scheduled for Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Campus events. Please visit www.frostburg.edu/events to find a myriad of events that will be happening on campus and in the community over the next couple of weeks.

Policy on inclement weather. The annual reminder on policies related to inclement weather went out today. Please read these carefully as some things have changed. I recommend signing up for Burg Alerts if you have not done so already. It's the easiest way to get updates and current information.

Commencement Ceremonies. We are planning on in-person commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 18. The morning commencement will be for December 2021 graduates. The afternoon commencement will be for graduates from May and December 2020 and May 2021 who did not have a formal commencement ceremony. Mask wearing will be required at both ceremonies. A reminder to December 2021 grads, you have until tomorrow to nominate a faculty or staff member who had a positive impact on your time here at FSU. The faculty and staff members do appreciate the recognition.

Faculty/Staff Holiday Party. We will be holding our annual holiday party for faculty and staff on Friday, Dec. 17 in Lane Center Manicur Hall. Look for more details as we get closer to that date.

Public Recognitions. Congratulations to two members of our FSU community! Professor Rich Raesly's expertise was highlighted in a [story](#) in Baltimore Sun, as well as other outlets ([Washingtonian](#) and [Field and Stream](#)), on the extinction of the Maryland darter fish. And Assistant Vice President Bill Mandicott was [honored for his work](#) and achievement with AmeriCorps.

I hope everyone continues to be safe and healthy as we wind down this fall semester.

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
President

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