

Good morning, Bobcats.

I hope you're doing well! I'm excited to share some good news and a few quick updates across the FSU community. Thank you, as always, for your continued engagement and support for our students and for each other.

Maryland Zoo Bobcat Exhibit

I'm happy to share that Frostburg State University is once again sponsoring the bobcat exhibit at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. This partnership increases FSU's visibility with the zoo's approximately 400,000 annual visitors and includes a 15% discount on family memberships for FSU employees and students. Details will be forthcoming about how to secure this discount.

Planetarium Grand Reopening

We are excited to announce the grand reopening of our Planetarium following a significant upgrade. The renovated facility now features state-of-the-art projection technology and a new sound system, creating an immersive experience for students, faculty and staff and the broader community. The Planetarium will once again serve as a hub for learning, discovery and public outreach, supporting academic programs and community presentations. Looking ahead, an exhibit hall in the CCIT atrium will feature interactive displays and memorabilia from FSU alum and NASA astronaut Ricky Arnold.

This revitalization project was made possible through a combination of funding sources, including a federal community funding earmark from NASA and generous private donor support. An invitation-only event will be held later this month to recognize the contributions, support and generosity of our community and government partners. In advance of the grand reopening, we are pleased to offer three special shows for our campus community:

- Monday, April 20 from 1-2 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 21 from 10-11 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 22, from 1-2 p.m.

I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to experience our beautifully renovated Planetarium and join us in celebrating this exciting enhancement to our campus.

Regular Planetarium programming will begin in June.

We look forward to welcoming you to upcoming shows and events in this revitalized space.

Renaming of the Children's Literature Centre

I am pleased to share that the Children's Literature Centre will be renamed The Nowaczyk Family Children's Literature Centre thanks to a generous gift from Maureen Lavan, Dr. Nowaczyk's widow. This recognition reflects the Nowaczyk family's support and longstanding commitment to literacy, education, and the FSU community. The Nowaczyk Family Children's Literature Centre will continue its important mission of fostering a love of reading and supporting scholarship in children's literature for generations to come. Details of the dedication ceremony will be announced later this month.

Brownsville Hall Housing Update

Brownsville Hall will not be available for the fall semester as it undergoes necessary renovations. It is expected to reopen for the spring 2027 semester. Thank you for your understanding as we work to improve our residential facilities and enhance the student living experience. This fall, students will receive information on how to request an assignment to Brownsville for spring 2027. The campus community will also receive renovation progress updates over the summer and fall.

I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD
Interim President